

# The Echo

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Saint Rebecca P. B. Church 330 Grimwood Road Hazel Green, AL 35750

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Christmas is most truly Christmas when we celebrate it by giving the light of love to those who need it most.





In the commercialized Christmas world, it's good to remember the real meaning of Christmas. Unlike any other baby, the one born that night in Bethlehem was the most unique in all of history. He was not created by a human father and mother. He had a heavenly pre-existence. This is why Christmas is called the incarnation, a word which means "in the flesh." In the birth of Jesus, the eternal, all-powerful and all-knowing Creator came to earth in the flesh.

Why would God do such a thing. Why did He come as a baby instead of appearing in power and majesty? Why make himself a true man and live among us, when He knew how terribly He would be treated? It was LOVE! So when we celebrate Christmas, our thoughts should be on the miracle of God's mercy, grace, and forgiveness towards us. Christmas is not about who can spend the most money, give or receive the biggest gift or, being nice to people. It's all about the Son of God who was born for the cause of redeeming man.

Do you know why you give gifts at Christmas. Is it just a tradition? Gifts are given because God gave us the ultimate gift—the gift of eternal life. We give out of grateful hearts that know we have been forgiven. We give out of love for God, who first loved us and sent His Son to die for us.

Christmas is a time to remember all that God has done for us. Through adoption, we are in God's family and have been granted a new life in Christ. We have a place in heaven when we leave this life. Praise God, for He is good! That is the true meaning of Christmas.

May the love of God be first in your hearts during the Holiday Season.



## **Helping Others**

The Food Pantry Ministry has done it again. On Monday before Thanksgiving, the Ministry provided food boxes to the patrons that included everything needed to make a holiday meal. The boxes were distributed on Monday, November 20, 2025. Preparation for distribution started early with a group of willing volunteers helping to sort items for the boxes. Later, volunteers helped put things in the boxes for pick up.

The Food Pantry Ministry is grateful to everyone who helped pack and distribute the boxes. The Pantry prepared more than 25 boxes. It is a blessing to the community and it is only as strong as those who give their time and resources. The members are always acceptant of help and contributions. If you have a desire to assist, please let Sister Eunice Townsend know. The committee will be happy to have you.

Congratulations to the ministry on your continued desire to minister to those with a need. Please remember that the Food Pantry is not just for the community, it is for our members as well.

## **Needs Being Met**

Minister Yutta Tibbs has a heart and a gift of help. She has been ministering to those who occupy what is known as Tent City in Huntsville Alabama. The occupants are in need of the basic necessities in life. They need many of the things that most people take for granted. Yutta has been cooking and serving hot meals, providing clothing and other items to them. She visits regularly and feeds their spiritual body as well as their physical one.

As we approach the Holiday Season, Yutta has developed a theme. It is, "If We Can Just Help Someone!

Just ONE! It is her prayer and the prayer of those wo assist her, that they will pay it forward. We all fall own, but, with God's help we get UP!. She and her group go with the understanding that it coul have been all of us. But God's Grace and Mercy continues to keep and protect.

Yutta thanks everyone who have given in any way to help this ministry viable and relevant. There are still needs to be met. Right now, the need is for hats, gloves, blankets, and toiletries. Anyone wishing to give, contact Yutta and she will gladly arrange to secure your donation. Another trip to Tent City is scheduled for December 13, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. Please feel free to assist in this effort.



## Monthly Thought

As the holiday season quickly approaches, we give thanks for the birth of our savior who was born to set us free. We encourage each of you to take a moment and reflect on the year and acknowledge the goodness of God. Perhaps you are not where you anticipated, or have not accomplished all that you planned, but, He is still God and in his own time everything will work out just as it should. But in the meantime, and in all things, give thanks. During this time of advent we pray peace up on each of you. We ask that you continue to keep Christ as the focal point of your celebration. Do not allow the commercialized Christmas to interrupt your praise or shake the foundation of your faith. Use this time to draw closer to God and desire a better and deeper understanding to just who he is and what he is in your life. Spend quality time with family, and if you're traveling be safe. Keep God first and lean on Him for your very need.



Jeremye Garner 1st Jamie Garner 1st. Lawanda McClendon 1st. Drucilla Fulwise 1st Diane Howard 1st Timothy Hereford 1st Korben Humphrey 1st Claude Townsend 2nd Levi Rice 4th Michael Greer, Jr. 5th Joel High 7th Jana Robinson 8th Leigh Ann Pruitt 10th Zachary Hereford 10th Celestine Horton 13th Evelyn Drake 14th Tony Parker 14th Xavier Crutcher 14th JeMya Brown 15th Brent Thompson 17th J. C. Fletcher 18th Loretta Townsend 21st Torrence Graham 21st Jevon Parker 22nd Phyllis Garner 23rd Alex Humphrey 23rd Gabriel Townsend 23rd Matthew Townsend 23rd Cameron Thompson 26th Taemon Logan Garner 27th Dexter Garner 30th Shane Townsend 30th Byron Stewart 31st

Carl & Jada Parker 9th Kenneth & Tiajuana Wherry 11th Dea. Jimmy & Mary Andrews 20th Rocky & Minister Janice Parker 21st Darrell & Chanda Crutcher 29th Donell & Jana Robinson 31st



Warm, cheesy, and full of hearty flavor, this Ground Beef Casserole is the kind of meal that brings everyone to the table. Layers of savory beef, melted cheese, and tender veggies come together for the ultimate family favorite.

#### Ingredients:

1 lb ground beef

1 medium onion, finely chopped

1 green bell pepper, diced

1 red bell pepper, diced

2 cups shredded cheddar cheese (divided)

1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese

1 can (10.5 oz) cream of mushroom soup

1/2 cup sour cream

1/2 teaspoon garlic powder

1/2 teaspoon onion powder

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/4 teaspoon black pepper

3 cups cooked pasta or cooked rice (optional, depending on preference)

1 tablespoon olive oil or butter for sautéing

#### **Instructions:**

Preheat the oven: Set your oven to 375°F (190°C). Lightly grease a 9x13-inch baking dish.

Cook the beef: In a large skillet over medium heat, warm the olive oil. Add the ground beef and cook until browned, breaking it apart with a spoon. Drain excess fat.

Add the vegetables: Stir in the chopped onion, green bell pepper, and red bell pepper. Cook for 3–4 minutes, or until softened.

Mix in seasonings: Add garlic powder, onion powder, salt, and black pepper. Stir well to combine.

Combine the creamy layer: In a medium bowl, mix the cream of mushroom soup and sour cream. Add this mixture to the skillet with the beef and veggies. Stir until evenly coated.

Assemble the casserole: In the prepared baking dish, layer half of the cooked pasta (if using) or spread the beef mixture directly on the bottom. Sprinkle with half of the cheddar and mozzarella cheese. Add the remaining beef mixture, then top with the rest of the cheese.

Bake: Place the dish in the oven and bake for 20–25 minutes, or until bubbly and golden brown on top.

Serve: Let it cool slightly before serving. Garnish with extra diced peppers or fresh parsley for color, if desired.



### **Christian Humor**

One night a Viking named Rudolph the Red was looking out the window when he said, "It's going to rain." His wife asked, "How do you know?" "Because Rudolph the Red knows rain, dear."

It was Christmas and the judge was in a merry mood as he asked the prisoner, "What are you charged with?" "Doing my Christmas shopping early", replied the defendant. "That's no offense", said the judge. "How early were you doing this shopping?" "Before the store opened."

Two little boys were sitting together in a church during a wedding ceremony. As the couple said "I do", one of the little boys leaned over to the other and asked, "I wonder how many wives can a man have?" The second little boy looked at his friend like he was an idiot and said, "He can have 16 wives." "How do you know that?" The first little boy asked. "Weren't you listening? The priest just said it. Four better, four worse, four richer, and four poorer."

## Monthly Thought

As you shop and prepare for all the festivities this month, stay ever mindful of those who are less fortunate and lend a hand to those in need. God has blessed you so that you can be a blessing to someone else.

Don't be guilty of spending more than you can afford. And definitely don't charge more than you can repay in one month. Don't allow yourself to get caught up in the commercialized Christmas and forget that bills still have to be paid next month and the month after. God is expecting us to be good stewards, even at Christmas time.

God grant you the light of Christmas, which is faith; the warmth of Christmas which is Love; the radiance of Christmas, which is purity; the righteousness of Christmas, which is justice; the belief of Christmas, which is truth; the all of Christmas, which is Christ.



**BETHLEHEM CANDY CANE CARPENTER CHIMNEY CHRISTMAS TREE DECEMBER DECORATIONS FAMILY GIFT WRAPPING GINGERBREAD HOUSE GOODWILL HOLIDAY SEASON MERRY CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS** SANTA CLAUS **SNOWFLAKES** STOCKING STUFFERS WINTER SOLSTICE WINTER WONDERLAND WONDERFUL **WREATH**