

# The Casting Floor

---

*Community Presbyterian Church of Bellefonte, Kentucky, was built on the casting floor of a 19th Century iron blast furnace. We use "The Casting Floor" as an image for the power of the Spirit to form us.*

**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS**

## Scout News



**Food Drive:** Boy Scout Troop 154 and Cub Pack 154 collected 2150 items of food in the local annual Christmas Food Drive. They also collected clothes, books, toys, bicycles, games, stuffed animals and money. These donated items went to 27 different families and to CARES. Many people hurting and in need were helped through the great efforts of these fine young men. Several of the church family assisted in sorting and distributing the items. May God bless all who had even the smallest part in this effort.

**Monday, February 8, 2010 is the 100th  
Anniversary of Scouting**

**Boy Scout Troop 154 is proud to announce that William Van Deren has become the 51<sup>st</sup> scout to attain the coveted rank of Eagle Scout in the troop's history of 56 years.** For his Eagle Service Project, William collected donated personal items thru out the Russell School system and raised over \$700 that was used to purchase items of need for Safe Harbor. William is the son of Dr. John and Heather Van Deren of Bellefonte.

## Letter from Jesus about Christmas

It has come to my attention that many of you are upset that folks are taking My name out of the season. How I personally feel about this celebration can probably be most easily understood by those of you who have been blessed with children of your own.

I don't care what you call the day. If you want to celebrate My birth, just GET ALONG AND LOVE ONE ANOTHER. Now, having said that let Me go on. If it bothers you that the town in which you live doesn't allow a scene depicting My birth, then just get rid of a couple of Santas and snowmen and put in a small Nativity scene on your own front lawn. If all My followers did that there wouldn't be any need for such a scene on the town square because there would be many of them all around town.

Stop worrying about the fact that people are calling the tree a holiday tree, instead of a Christmas tree. It was I who made all trees. You can remember Me anytime you see any tree... Decorate a grape vine if you wish: I actually spoke of that one in a teaching, explaining who I am in relation to you and what each of our tasks were. If you have forgotten that one, look up John 15: 1 - 8.

If you want to give Me a present in remembrance of My birth here is my wish list. Choose something from it:

1. Instead of writing protest letters objecting to the way My birthday is being celebrated, write letters of love and hope to soldiers away from home. They are terribly afraid and lonely this time of year. I know, they tell Me all the time.
2. Visit someone in a nursing home. You don't have to know them personally. They just need to know that someone cares about them.
3. Instead of writing the President complaining about the wording on the cards his staff sent out this year, why don't you write and tell him that you'll be praying for him and his family this year. Then follow up... It will be nice hearing from you again.
4. Instead of giving your children a lot of gifts you can't afford and they don't need, spend time with them. Tell them the story of My birth, and why I came to live with you down here. Hold them in your arms and remind them that I love them.
- 5 Pick someone that has hurt you in the past and forgive him or her.
6. Did you know that someone in your town will attempt to take their own life this season because they feel so alone and hopeless? Since you don't know who that person is, try giving everyone you meet a warm smile; it could make the difference.
7. Instead of nit picking about what the retailer in your town calls the holiday, be patient with the people who work there. Give them a warm smile and a kind word. Even if they aren't allowed to wish you a "Merry Christmas" that doesn't keep you from wishing them one. Then stop shopping there on Sunday. If the store didn't make so much money on that day they'd close and let their employees spend the day at home with their families.

8. If you really want to make a difference, support a missionary – especially one who takes My love and Good News to those who have never heard My name.

9. Here's a good one. There are individuals and whole families in your town who not only will have no "Christmas" tree, but neither will they have any presents to give or receive. If you don't know them, buy some food and a few gifts and give them to the Salvation Army or some other charity which believes in Me and they will make the delivery for you.

10. Finally, if you want to make a statement about your belief in and loyalty to Me, then behave like a Christian. Don't do things in secret that you wouldn't do in My presence. Let people know by your actions that you are one of mine.

Don't forget; I am God and can take care of Myself. Just love Me and do what I have told you to do. I'll take care of all the rest. Check out the list above and get to work; time is short. I'll help you, but the ball is now in your court. And do have a most blessed Christmas with all those whom you love and remember.

## Spicy Molasses Cookies

- 1 cup Sugar
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cups Crisco (vegetable Shortening)
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cups Molasses
- 1 whole Egg
- 2 cups Flour
- 1 teaspoon Cinnamon
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoons Ground Cloves
- 1 teaspoon Ground Ginger
- $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoons Ground Cardamom
- $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoons Salt
- 2- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoons Baking Soda

### Preparation Instructions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Mix sugar, shortening, molasses, and egg together until well combined. Dump in dry ingredients, stirring dry ingredients together lightly. Mix together until dough is combined.

In your hands roll dough into walnut-sized balls, then generously coat each ball with sugar. Place balls on a baking sheet and bake for 9 to 11 minutes, allowing to bake for about a minute after cookies begin to crack.

Remove cookies from baking sheet and allow to cool...though these are delicious while still warm.

Fun variation: drizzle melted white chocolate in decorative stripes over the top of each cookie. Allow to harden before serving. Or: dip half of each cookie in melted white chocolate. Yum.

Another fun variation: make sandwiches using two cookies and a scoop of cinnamon ice cream. Yikes.

Another really fun variation: eat all the cookies yourself, then hide all the evidence.



---

605 Bellefonte Princess Rd  
Ashland, KY 41101

Phone: 606-324-6484  
Fax: 606-324-8744  
Email: [cpcb@zoomnet.net](mailto:cpcb@zoomnet.net)



*Church Service on Sunday at 10:45 AM*

We're on the web!

[www.communitypresbyterian.org](http://www.communitypresbyterian.org)

### A Christmas Memory

“What is one of your favorite Christmas Memories?” This question was asked of me recently, and I found my thoughts going back to my childhood. Toys that I had loved, family, Christmas candy, Mom cooking in the kitchen, the Christmas tree. Although these memories are so precious to me, I remember one that has to go in my favorites. Many years before I came to work here, while my children were small, we were out driving, looking at Christmas lights, when we came across a live nativity scene at a church. It was all lit up and a booming voice was telling of the birth of Christ while people in biblical costumes acted out the events. My husband, Tim, turned the car around and we went back to observe the scene. That first year we did so from the car at the top of the hill. Since then, we have done so every year.

Sometimes from the car, others from the front yard of the church, Community Presbyterian Church of Bellefonte. You touched a family profoundly all those years ago and have continued to do so ever since. It has become a family tradition that we cherish so much.

The Living Nativity is a reminder that we need every Christmas season to keep us true to what we know Christmas is really all about. Thank you for the Christmas memory and thank you for your generosity to me and my family. Merry Christmas!

Linda Stephens