

The P.C.R.C. Press



"I PRESS ON TOWARD THE GOAL TO WIN THE PRIZE FOR WHICH GOD HAS CALLED ME HEAVENWARD IN CHRIST JESUS"

PHOENIX CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

December 2011

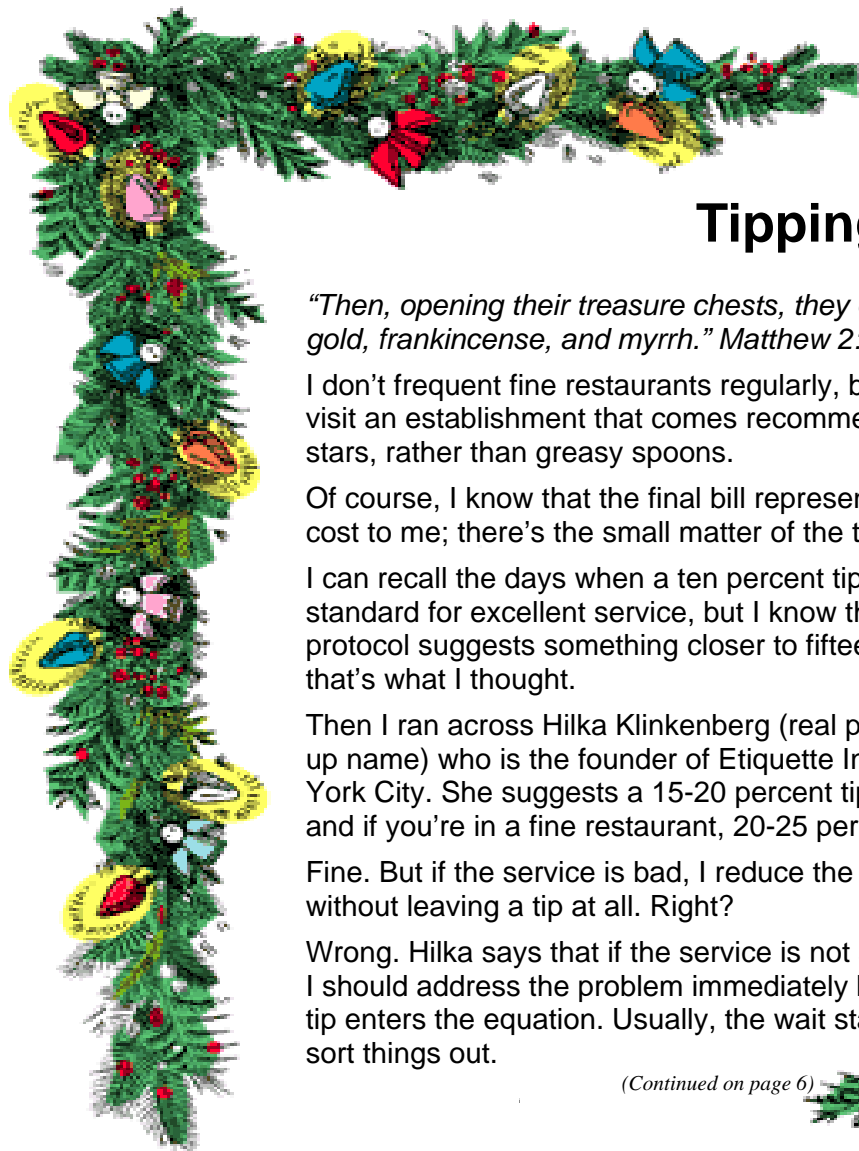
PHILIPPIANS 3:14

"Unto you is born this day a Saviour"

Which is Jesus Christ the wondrous Lord;

Not a "teacher," not a "good example,"

But the Son of God, the Living Word.



Tipping Etiquette

"Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." Matthew 2:11b

I don't frequent fine restaurants regularly, but occasionally I will visit an establishment that comes recommended with several stars, rather than greasy spoons.

Of course, I know that the final bill represents only part of the cost to me; there's the small matter of the tip.

I can recall the days when a ten percent tip was considered standard for excellent service, but I know that nowadays tipping protocol suggests something closer to fifteen percent. At least that's what I thought.

Then I ran across Hilka Klinkenberg (real person—not a made-up name) who is the founder of Etiquette International in New York City. She suggests a 15-20 percent tip at a *diner*, and if you're in a fine restaurant, 20-25 percent!

Fine. But if the service is bad, I reduce the tip, or depart without leaving a tip at all. Right?

Wrong. Hilka says that if the service is not satisfactory I should address the problem immediately before the tip enters the equation. Usually, the wait staff can sort things out.

(Continued on page 6)



INSIDE This Issue:

Tipping Etiquette, Kids Page, OOPS!	1 - 2
Crossroad Bible Institute News, Schedules	3 - 4
The 12 Days of Christmas, Community Events	5 - 6
Church Mouse, Calendar	7 - 8

SAVIOR ORNAMENT

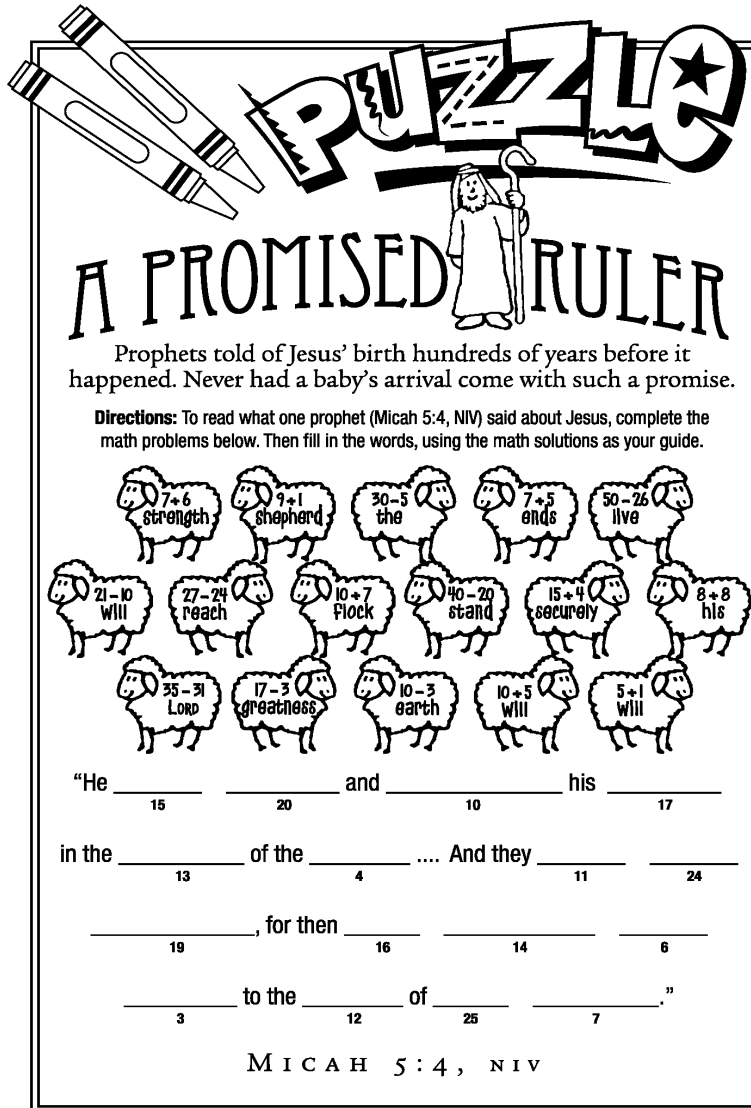
This Christmas, celebrate Jesus' birthday by making this keepsake ornament.

What you need:

- Wooden clothespin with round end
- Black permanent marker
- White cloth or felt
- Small wooden star (available at craft stores)
- Yellow paint
- Paintbrush
- Gold glitter (optional)
- Glue gun (and an adult)
- Straw-colored raffia
- Palm-size wicker wreath (available at craft stores)
- Ribbon

What you do:

1. On the clothespin's round knob, draw two dots for eyes.
2. Wrap the white cloth around the clothespin, like a swaddled baby.
3. Paint the star yellow; add glitter, if desired.
4. With the glue gun and adult supervision, glue the raffia to the bottom inside of the wreath. Then glue the swaddled clothespin atop the raffia and glue the gold star atop the wreath.
5. Tie a ribbon around the top, near the star.
6. Hang the ornament on your Christmas tree or tie it on a gift.



PUZZLE

A PROMISED RULER

Prophets told of Jesus' birth hundreds of years before it happened. Never had a baby's arrival come with such a promise.

Directions: To read what one prophet (Micah 5:4, NIV) said about Jesus, complete the math problems below. Then fill in the words, using the math solutions as your guide.

$7+6$ Strength	$3+1$ Shepherd	$30-5$ the	$7+5$ ends	$50-26$ live
$21-10$ will	$27-24$ reach	$10+7$ Flock	$40-20$ stand	$15+4$ securely
$35-31$ LORD	$17-3$ greatness	$10-3$ earth	$10+5$ will	$5+1$ will

"He _____ and _____ his _____
15 20 10 17

in the _____ of the _____ And they _____
13 4 11 24

_____, for then _____
19 16 14 6

_____ to the _____ of _____."
3 12 25 7

MICAH 5:4, NIV

Answers: "He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth." Micah 5:4, NIV

**Sorry
looks back.**

**Worried
looks
around.**

**Faith
looks up.**

The P.C.R.C. Press

A publication of the Phoenix Christian Reformed Church
 2438 E. Earll Drive
 Phoenix, AZ 85016
 602-956-5440
 Office email - secretary@phoenixcrc.org

Interim Pastor:
 Harry Weidenaar
 hweiden774@aol.com
 602-954-7289 (office)
 206-595-9852 (cell)

The P.C.R.C. Press is published monthly to keep members and friends informed of programs of the church and to report news about our P.C.R.C. family.
 P.C.R.C. website: phoenixcrc.org
 For C.R.C. denominational news, visit crna.org

Editor:
 Marsha Frieling
 Deadline for copy: the third Sunday of each month.



From a worship bulletin in Baltimore, MD

**Peach on earth,
goodwill toward all.**

Wishing everyone a peachy, peace-filled Christmas!



So long, farewell, Auf Wiedersehen, adieu

As you may have heard, or maybe not, the time has come for me to “retire” from editing and printing the PCRC Press. This will be my final publication. It has been a wonderful privilege to be a part of this ministry for the Lord and to you, my church family. But, it’s time for a fresh vision.

Over the years, since 1999, there have been many writers and contributors to our newsletter and I would like to say a great big, “Thank you,” to all of them. (Including the several people who have been responsible for the Mouse column, *you know who you are!*).

I look forward to hearing that soon we will have a new editor and know he/she will be blessed as I have been.

—Adieu, adieu
To you and you and you.
Marsha Frieling, Editor
P.C.R.C. Press



Soul Searching

“I am well aware that many people will tell you there is no God because no one has ever seen him ... But has anyone ever seen electricity, an idea, love, the wind? Yet no one will say they do not exist.

“A medical student dissected a cadaver completely. Then he said, ‘I opened every organ of the body and found no soul, so how can religious people say a soul exists?’

“The medical student was asked, ‘When you opened the brain, did you find an idea?’ ‘No,’ was the answer. ‘When you cut open the heart, did you find love?’ The medical student replied in the negative. ‘And when you dissected an eye, was vision seen?’ Once more the answer was, ‘No.’ ... because some things are not seen and/or proven conclusively to exist, is no reason to conclude that they do not.”

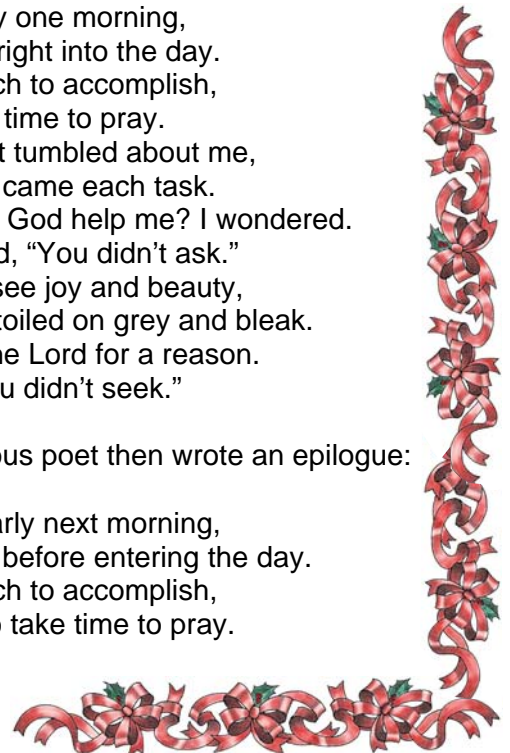
—as told by Dr. Benjamin Alexander,
American University

I Got Up Early One Morning

I got up early one morning,
And rushed right into the day.
I had so much to accomplish,
I didn't have time to pray.
Troubles just tumbled about me,
And heavier came each task.
Why doesn't God help me? I wondered.
He answered, “You didn't ask.”
I wanted to see joy and beauty,
But the day toiled on grey and bleak.
I called on the Lord for a reason.
He said, “You didn't seek.”

An anonymous poet then wrote an epilogue:

I woke up early next morning,
And paused before entering the day.
I had so much to accomplish,
That I had to take time to pray.



Those Who Bring Good News

By Stacy Ladenburger

Crossroad Bible Institute Instructors represent an array of ages, nationalities, denominations and experiences. Yet they share a deep concern for God's people in prison and, together, embrace CBI's commitment to disciple these men and women and prepare them for reentry. This month, we acknowledge the diverse stories of those who serve with us.



—Used by permission:
Crossroad Connection/Crossroad Network News
Crossroad Bible Institute, P O Box 900, Grand Rapids, MI

When Eileen, an Instructor in California, heard about CBI in 1999, her response was simple and straightforward. She thought, "I can do that! I like to write letters." These many years later, she reflects, "I've learned how much paying attention to those who are very lonely means to them."

... A longtime Instructor in Texas, John, says of his students, "I have been blessed to correspond with some strong, deeply faithful Christians. They have strengthened my faith, I can only imagine the impact they are having upon those around them."

CBI Singapore Instructor Philomena summarizes the reflections that first prompted her involvement. "I felt that inmates should be given the chance to know God, as many people will not associate with these marginalized people. I asked, 'Who then will reach out to them, if we don't?'"

Indeed, Paul ponders the same question in Romans 10:14: "How can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?"

With willing hearts, over 5,000 men and women around the globe have joined with CBI to reach out in response to this call. Instructors, as we thank you, we echo again the words of Romans 10: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring the good news!"

Contact Harry Stone if you would like information on how to become an Instructor for the Crossroad Bible Institute.



So — you think you know everything?

- *The winter of 1932 was so cold that Niagara Falls froze completely solid.*
- *Tigers have striped skin, not just striped fur.*

Okay.....Now you know everything!



December

4th
11th
18th
24th
25th

Nursery AM Service

Mandy W, Nicole, & Amanda K
Mary, Sandy & Lynola
Jenna, Andrea F & Barb
Sara B & Gina
Carol, Deb V & Andrea R

Little Lambs
Preschool

Sara M & Breanna
Sheila & Raquel
Mandy A & Amanda VH
No Little Lambs
Courtney & Breanna

Little Lambs
Elementary

Kate
Jenifer
Rebekah K
Christmas
Caitlin

Library

Betty
Ruth
Florence
Eve
Marie



The 12 Days of Christmas



PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE

1 Jesus Christ who died on a tree
as a gift from God

TURTLE DOVES

2 Old and New Testaments —
another gift from God

FRENCH HENS

3 Faith, hope and love — the three gifts of
the Spirit that abide (I Corinthians 13)

CALLING BIRDS

4 The four Gospels which sing the
song of salvation through Jesus Christ

GOLDEN RINGS

5 The first five books of the Bible,
also called the “Books of Moses”

GEESE A-LAYING

6 The six days of creation

SWANS A-SWIMMING

7 The “seven gifts of the Holy Spirit”
(I Corinthians 12:8-11, Romans 12,
Ephesians 4, I Peter 4:10-11)

MAIDS A-MILKING

8 The eight beatitudes

LADIES DANCING

9 The nine fruits of the Holy Spirit
(Galatians 5:21-23)

LORDS A-LEAPING

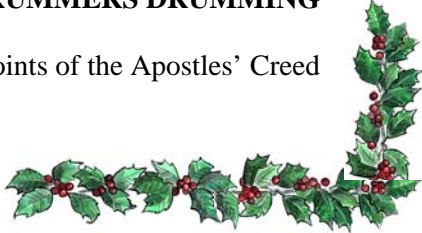
10 The Ten Commandments

PIPERS PIPING

11 The eleven faithful disciples

DRUMMERS DRUMMING

12 The twelve points of the Apostles’ Creed



“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory”
(John 1:14).

Lord Jesus, we’re filled with wonder and praise at the miracle of your birth.



Community Events



Don't forget to sign up for poinsettias. Each year poinsettias are a beautiful part of the Christmas decorations here at our church. A list will be provided for sign up. The plants make a great gift for your friends and family. Did you know, here in Phoenix you can plant your poinsettias out in your yard? You can have Christmas all year round!



PHOENIX ELECTRIC LIGHT PARADE DECEMBER 4

This free event begins at 7 p.m. on Central Ave, just south of Bethany Home Rd. For full info visit phoenix.gov/parks.



**Sunday
December
11th
6 pm**
**PCRC
Social Hall**

Carols

& Cookies

See you
there!



**6 PM
December 24**

BRING A FRIEND



**9:30 AM
December 25**

(Continued from page 1) **Tipping Etiquette**

The wine steward — naturally — should be tipped separately and in cash, up to fifteen percent of the bottle's cost, or \$2 to \$5.

And we should never reduce a tip because of factors that are beyond a server's control.

There you have it. It is now safe for you to go out in public again without the local wait staff whispering behind your back, damaging your magnanimous reputation by suggesting instead you're a parsimonious, penurious ingrate.

The situation for the Magi is slightly different. They are guests in someone else's home, even if that home is an animal shelter full of bleating animals and foul smells. The frankincense, tactfully offered if not graciously received, no doubt alleviated some of the stench during their visit.

It has always seemed to me that the tableau that is laid out before us suggests that we are called to bring our gifts to Jesus. The fact that he is an infant here, probably less than two years old, suggests to me that our gifts are offered not to a child, but the *godhead* dwelling in the child. We bring our gifts to Jesus as we would to God, and indeed the action is one and the same.

Of course, fifteen percent will not do either at Chez Henri's or Chez Manger. Only 100 percent is acceptable. It is, as the apostle says, "Our reasonable service" (Romans 12:1).

Used by permission from CSS Publishing Company, Inc. in Lima, Ohio from the book *Lectionary Tales For the Pulpit* by Timothy F. Merrill.

IF YOU HAVE ANY TIDBITS OF INFORMATION, ADDRESS THEM TO THE CHURCH MOUSE & PUT THEM IN THE NEWSLETTER / C. MOUSE MAIL SLOT (AFTER ALL, I CAN'T BE EVERYWHERE AT ONCE.) (The identity of the Church Mouse is a secret.)

We invite defeat when we remember what we should forget.

Church Mouse reporting for duty...

Say it isn't so! I am so sad that this will be the last time I get to tell you what the mousettes and I have been up to around here! I hear that our dear editor, Marsha Frieling, is retiring from publishing the PCRC Newsletter! (It sure seems like there has been a lot of 'retiring' going on around here lately-you fortunate people you!) It has been such a joy to share with Marsha all the goings on that you people get up to at this great church. She has done a marvelous job and we have been encouraged, inspired and entertained with her publication. THANK-YOU does not seem like enough to say but we have appreciated her dedication and talents!



As always, there have been a lot of things happening around here. Unfortunately, we have had to say good-bye to a couple of wonderful men in our church. Lloyd Haglund and Pete Kamstra died within a week of each other and it was a sad and yet joyful time in remembering them and their love and devotion to the Lord.

Bible studies for the ladies' groups and TnT's, and Crossfire are all in active mode. The Happy Hands are busy creating those awesome afghans. Kate Steenstra and all of her fabulous Little Lambs & Sunday school teachers are keeping up with our ever expanding group of 'little people'. We have been truly blessed and inspired by Pastor Harry and so glad he & Grace have joined us during these last several months. And of course, as last Sunday proved, our Social Committee keeps knocking our socks off (ok, no we mice don't wear socks... but I can't think of a better expression) with their creative, scrumptious get-togethers. Their next fun event will be our Carols & Cookies night on December 11th... check your bulletin.

We had a beautiful wedding shower for Rebecca Van Hofwegen who will be married on December 27th. It was fun to see all of her presents to help her as a newlywed but we were most fascinated with the chocolate fountain!! Oh, yes... warm, luscious chocolate with all sorts of things to dip into it. FUN!

Our newest church family baby girl is Caitlin Kim Bremer born Nov. 4th to Jason and Emily Bremer. Congratulations to Jason and Emily!

The Happy Hands are happy and the homeless will be a little warmer these cool nights. Desert Mission was the recipient of 37 lbs of "clothing"; which translates to 5 afghans and a combination of hats, scarves and hand warmers. The Happy Hands haven't finished. They still have a delivery to make to Phoenix Children's Hospital and the Crisis Nursery. It may be the end of the calendar year, but not the end of the continuing efforts of the Happy Hands. (Clap, Clap, Clap!!!)

Well, as we move from a thankful Thanksgiving into Advent and the birth of our Savior, the mousettes and I hope to keep seeing all of you and listening in on what you have been up to. I hope that one of you will be my new editor one of these days... so if you take over the Newsletter make sure and look for me so I can fill you in. Until, then... have a Blessed Christmas and Wonderful New 2012!

Love, Your church mouse and family

PLACE
POSTAGE
HERE

Phx Christian Reformed Church
2438 East Earll Drive
Phoenix, AZ 85016





December

In addition to our regular services and study groups, mark your calendar for...



Sunday, December 4 ~ Phoenix Electric Light Parade, 7 p.m. Parade starts on Central Ave. just south of Bethany Home Road.

Sunday, December 11~ Carols & Cookies, 6 p.m. Here at PCRC, in our Social Hall

Monday, December 19 thru Tuesday, January 3 ~ Christmas Holiday at Phoenix Christian School PreK-8

Saturday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve Service, 6 p.m.

Sunday, December 25 ~ Christmas Day, Morning Worship Service, 9:30 a.m. NO change in regular time for service.

Sunday, January 1 ~ Happy New Year!

