

# PASTOR SCOTT'S

## MONTHLY MESSAGE



### Can You Guess?

His description bore the terms "foul," "vile," "heel," and "sinful sot." Do you recognize this person? No, it wasn't King Herod or Emperor Caesar Augustus. Not even Napoleon, Hitler, or Stalin. Let me give you another hint. He was also called "cuddly as a cactus." Got it now? Not Ebenezer Scrooge, either. OK, a little more help; how being characterized as having a "brain full of spiders" and a "heart full of unwashed socks." Still not sure, well this ought to clinch it - he was likened to a ♪ "three decker sauerkraut and toadstool sandwich with arsenic sauce." ♪ Clearly, I'm referring to the Grinch, who stole Christmas.

It seems the sounds from Whoville celebrating Christmas wafted all the way up Mt. Crumpit unabated, and these reverberations grated most severely on the Grinch's nerves. So, he hatched a plan to take away their reason for celebrating; he'd steal the presents, the decorations, and the elements of their feast.

But, as you know, it didn't work! Come Christmas morning all the Whos gathered in center of their town, joined hands and began singing. They were singing joyously about the birth of Christ.

We, too, celebrate this season. We appreciate that people seem to be in good cheer; a bit kinder, more generous, and more outgoing during this season. We enjoy getting together with friends - new friends, old friends, friends we've seen recently, and those we may not have seen for some time.

Our senses are tingled by all the decorations and accompaniments. The sparkling, colorful lights. Christmas trees adorned not just with lights but lovely ornaments as well. The pleasant scents of fir trees, wreaths, and garlands - not to forget the aroma of cookies baking in the oven, cinnamon spice, and nutmeg on top of eggnog. Snow is still novel this time of year, and we find the blankets of white alluring and wonder at how snowfall mutes the sounds of the hustling world, ushering in a sense of stillness and calm.

All the above warm our hearts, tease our senses, and stir fond memories. We marvel at the beauty and gayety of sights, sounds, and practices that are largely absent from the rest of the year.

While all this is truly wonderful and pleasing, let us gather throughout Advent and on Christmas Eve, join hands, and joyfully sign of our excitement over the birth of Jesus. Let us proclaim (loudly) our gratitude for the gift that chooses to put us in right relation with God. May we truly feel more excitement and anticipation over the babe in the manger than the gifts, decorations, parties, and delectable food. May we give the best gift we can to Christ, ourselves without reservation or agenda. May we not just be happy, but truly joyful - joyful about the amazing gift of God incarnate that we have received - just as the Whos are on Christmas morn.

Peace,

*Pastor Scott*