

Room Both Galore and Fitting for the Christ Child!

Throughout the year, we seek at NBBS to make everything about the seminary revolve around Christ, but the first school day after Thanksgiving Day, we focus specifically on the manifold significance of the incarnation of God in the Son, when the Word was made flesh (by “Word” is meant, “God’s chief vehicle of communication to man”; the express image of God’s person, as Paul put it in Hebrews 1:3; or as C.I. Scofield stated, “the collective thought of God.”).

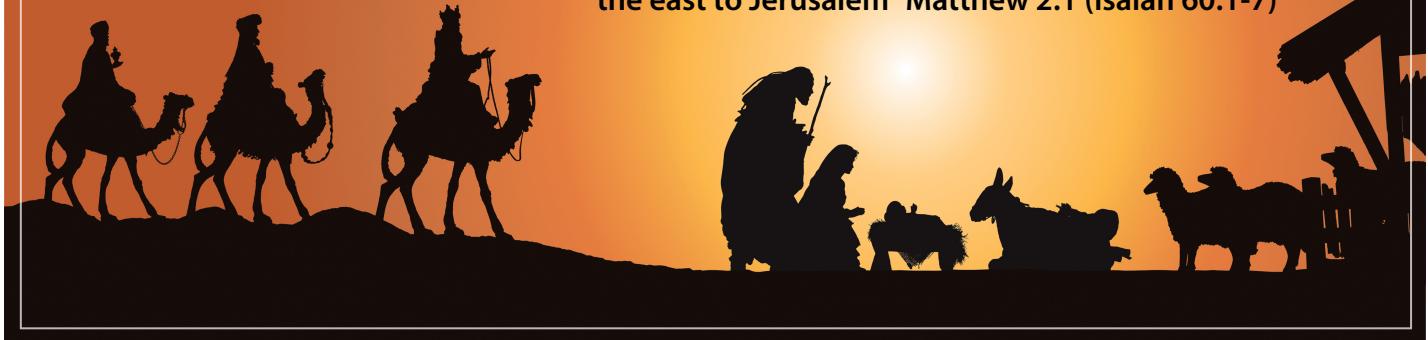
The **messages** preached (including those of students), the **songs** sung in chapel, all the Christmas **hymns** played in the office area, and in the morning on the school side as the students arrived, as well as **nativity sets** displayed throughout the school facility, are meant to impact faculty and pupil with the same glory as that which characterized that night in Bethlehem.

In the providence of God (regardless of the clutter that characterizes the annual observation of Christ’s birth, and the disputed timing of His birth) by ending the year with a strong focus on Him (in school, church and home), we can be spiritually refreshed for the new year (II Corinthians 3:18).

Zacahrias and Elisabeth, Joseph and Mary, the shepherds, angels, the wise men, Simeon and Anna, the Old Testament prophets, the Gospel Writers, and Paul communicate to us through the centuries via the Scriptures (I Peter 1:10-12) how the incarnation was fundamental to, and ornamental of the Gospel. Appropriate Christmas cards strike us with artistic expressions of that night, as do nativity sets, cantatas and sermons! *This is why there is plenty of room in the hearts of student and faculty, and hearts made fitting yearly at NBBS, as we celebrate Christ’s birth.*

Whether in a stable, a cave, or the Tower of Eder (Tower of the Flock) on the outskirts of Bethlehem wherein priestly temple shepherds may have been keyed into the event via the Luke 2:7 referenced sign of the “babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger” (as I was first introduced to in my Life of Christ class as a student back in the late 1970s, via the Jewish believer Alfred Edersheim’s book *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*, pp. 186-187, 1883), privacy, defilement, and shelter were the concern of Joseph that night. The signal from the angels may have depicted how sheep meant for sacrifice were handled at birth within the Tower, to protect them until they could later be more closely examined. Regardless, Mary’s husband, a just man, found a solution wherever it was, having had some time to do so (Luke 2:6). SEE: Leviticus 12:2ff; Genesis 35:19-21, Micah 4:1-8, 5:2.

"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wisemen from the east to Jerusalem" Matthew 2:1 (Isaiah 60:1-7)



Important Dates

First Day of School - Spring Semester
OPENING DAY RALLY - Tues., Jan. 15, 2019

Great News!

NBBS Representatives are ready to visit your church! Consider having Dr. Barber, Dr. Riggsby, Bro. Stewart, or any faculty member present NBBS to your people. We are always ready to share what makes the NBBS uniquely effective in the training of preachers.

Favorite Sayings

"Riggsbyisms"

"Procrastination is the thief of time."
Edward Young - Cited by Dr. Terry Riggsby
(Administrator of NBBS – 1984-1999).

Our Heritage Speaks

Ten Points About the Unknown God by Paul in Acts 17:23-31: 1) He is creator; 2) He is Lord. v. 24" *Studies in Acts*, Louis Entzminger

Alumni News!

Danny Medford, a 2018 NBBS graduate, is off to a great start in his new pastorate of the Jackson Summit BC in Millerton, PA (a church who came to know about NBBS through the *Searchlight*). The student body and faculty misses the Medford family's presence, but rejoices in their new ministry in the northeast.



The evening setting captures the warmth of the holiday season.



As we close out the year, may I encourage our supporting churches to continue to undergird the **Jarrod Tunnel** family, the **J.D. Young** family, and **Scott & Darla Griffin** by way of prayers and monthly financial support as they are on deputation. You invested in their training through NBBS, and therefore have a foundational part in their ongoing ministries.

Last Half of 35th Year Just Ahead!

We just completed maybe our best semester yet. Yes the student body numbers are as strong as ever, and the overall spirit of the school continues to be what it ought to be when training preachers, and pastors making up the faculty. The potential among the student body and their receptivity of content, bears witness to the enlightening ministry of the Holy Spirit. May it continue and even increase. We open every morning in prayer accordingly, and begin and close the classes likewise. Of course, some of the students have to work through health, job, and family issues, but they did so with perseverance evidencing further the call of God upon their lives.

The semester ended with the students immersed in Christology as it relates to the incarnation of Christ in the school program and their churches. We had a Norris Night Christmas Party wherein students preached sermons based upon Luke 2:1-40, sung seasonal songs of Christ, and fellowshiped around the things of Christ. There were some appropriate food items on hand too! For example, NBBS student

Weylin Fontan built an amazing "ginger bread" temple for the event!



Many of our students were involved in their church's Christmas programs. Several NBBS students, who are members of Worth BC, Ft. Worth, participated in the church's three night presentation, "In Bethlehem Inn." My wife and I, as well as Danny and Candy Frizzell, were able to attend Friday night, and we were warmed by the whole presentation and the clear Gospel challenge given at the end by their pastor Tyler Gillit. *Saturation in the things of Christ, especially this time of the year, is surely of God in the sense, there is no better way to be refreshed spiritually for the new year* (Colossians 3:10).



Set off by music and food, a dramatic portrayal of what it would have been like in the inn, was capped-off with an outside manger scene with live animals. Look at the children's faces!