



What do you think of when I say Christmas Star? Like me, you probably envision that amazing light that led the Magi from the east to Bethlehem. Thoughts travel to a humble manger. Mary and Joseph are there with an assorted group of shepherds, sleepily keeping watch. Let your imaginations grasp this scene for a moment. Do you hear it? Muffled sounds cascade down from the crowded streets of Bethlehem. Visitors who have traveled from afar come to pay their taxes, bedding down for the night. The chilliness of the evening is settling in and Joseph arranges the cloak more tightly around Mary as she struggles through her labor. There is bleating of sheep now and then but the cattle lie undisturbed by the sounds. As darkness overtakes the dusky edges of the sky, streams of light are cast brilliantly across the fields, a light of intense proportions. Does anyone notice? This Star, this beacon of revelation will illuminate the greatest of all miracles, the greatest of all gifts.

"...a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord."

Dear Friends,

Once again the music, the aromas and treats of the season are awakening our senses to the glorious announcement that Christmas is coming. The advent of our Savior's miracuilous birth is being heralded, and we find ourselves preparing for a celebration.

Our family is thankful for health (with a few bumps along the road), education and work opportuinities for grandchilodren, and our wonderful busy life here at the Spires. All the planets aligned this year to give championships in football (Georgia), basketball (Kansas),

and baseball (The Braves), plus another wonderfull summer was spent at our Minnesota cabin delighting in the joys of nature, family visits, and long lasting friendships.

Our blessings are many, and we are grateful for each one. May your Christmas be filled with the joy of the season.

Love, Anita and Stu

