

Merry Christmas, Oasis!

Candlelight Christmas Service

Last night we celebrated the true meaning of Christmas together by candlelight with Christmas carols and a brief message from John's gospel. If you missed the service, you can listen to the message on our web site:

<http://www.oasisritaranch.com/exodus.htm>

I was encouraged by the packed house – we counted at least 137 people. That's a 37% increase over our regular, weekly attendance! What an encouraging way to begin Christmas week.

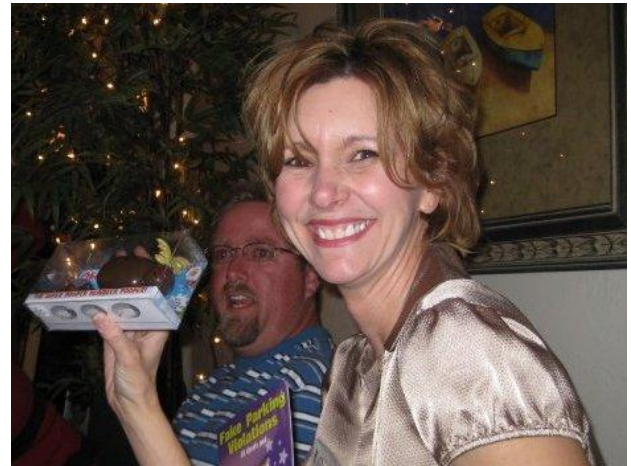
As you celebrate Christmas this week by waiting in long lines, looking for parking spaces, buying last-minute gifts, and enjoying good food, remember to take time to thank God for sending the Light of Christmas to dispel the darkness in our world and in our hearts. Jesus is the real gift of Christmas!

Alpha is Coming!

Beginning in early 2010, all of our home churches (and a few new ones) will gather together for the Alpha Course. Our leaders are still discussing the details, but Alpha will take place either on Sunday mornings or one evening during the week.

Alpha is a ten-week, practical introduction to the Christian faith. Each week, we eat together, listen to a practical talk, and discuss the topic in small groups. The Alpha Course has been described as "discipleship for nonChristians." So, this will be a perfect opportunity to bring an unchurched friend!

This is a good time to try a different home church (if you would like a change) or to start a new home church. If you would like to launch a new home church, please contact Pastor David (270-2969) and let him know you would like to be trained to lead an Alpha small group that will become a home church after Alpha.



Marcia enjoys the gag gift exchange at our annual Christmas party

Why a Newsletter?

Our board of directors discussed ways to save money next year, and this is one of them. An electronic newsletter is free to print and free to mail. A newsletter is also an effective way to get information to our spiritual family. So, a regular newsletter will replace our Sunday programs in 2010.

If you would like to announce something in the future, please contact the church office by email (oasisritaranch@cox.net) or by phone (207-6635), so that Annette can place the information in our next issue.

And if you would like to write an article for our newsletter, please contact Pastor David by email (dgainey@juno.com) or by phone (270-2969). Thanks!



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Keep Those Nominations Coming...

Stay tuned for our "Servant of the Year" award in January. If you know someone you would like to nominate, please provide the name of the person and the reason you would like to nominate him or her to Pastor David (dgainey@juno.com). Your candidate should be a model of Philippians 2:3-4.

**"OUR MISSION IS TO TURN
UNCHURCHED PEOPLE INTO
FULLY DEVOTED
FOLLOWERS OF JESUS."**

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Our Spiritual Family