

A newsletter for the Gardner's friends and family

Gardner Newsletter

Special Points of Interest:

- Rev. John D. Scott, Sr., former pastor of the East Charleston Nazarene Church, has a new Christmas message for the Gardner Family and their friends.
- The Gardner Newsletter somehow got the Magi to sit down for an exclusive interview. Read it in this issue.
- Relive Rev. Phil and Margie Chatto's pastorate at the East Charleston Nazarene Church back in the 50s.
- You can feel like you attended Nita's moving memorial service by reading a first-hand account of the day family and friends gathered together to say goodbye.

I have enjoyed reading the material provided by GARDNER family members.... many of whom we have memories.

Our family seems to continue to expand with our grandchildren marrying and moving on with life. This last summer Ryan (Alan's oldest son) was married in Wareham, Mass. to Katelynn Shaw. They are in the Kansas/Missouri area. He enrolled in Seminary and she in Mid-America Nazarene University. This month Chris got back to Ft. Riley in Kansas after a year in Iraq... and we give God our thanks and praise!!!

Doris and I remain active - walking most mornings at our enclosed mall. We are able to attend most of our local church services and I teach Sunday School classes and supply pulpits as the need arises.

Again, thanks for allowing me to interject an item from time to time.

Rev. John D. Scott, Sr.

Rev. John D. Scott's 2004 Christmas Message to the Gardners

LISTENING TO AND HEARING FROM GOD

One of the most important aspects of a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ is a willingness to listen for, and an anticipation of, hearing His voice. In a study of the lives of Mary and Joseph, one notices their willingness to listen for - and to - the messages received from God. The Gospel of Luke tells of Mary's experience. The Gospel of Matthew gives us Joseph's initial contact with an angel of the Lord. While modern day experiences may not be quite as spectacular, yet, God still has His ways of com-

municating with us. He demands our attention and submission as well, as He did for Mary and Joseph.

While most of us are familiar with the details of the birth of Jesus, allow me to review some of that information. Probably through the grapevine of gossip, Joseph heard that Mary, his beloved, "was with child" and he knew he was not the father. In Matthew 1:19 we learn that he was considering a divorce, privately, as was allowed by Jewish Law. Then comes this message from God by way of an angel. Mary's condition had nothing to do with unfaithfulness on her part. He



Mrs. Doris Scott and Rev. John D. Scott, Sr.

then *immediately* took her home with him as his wife. "but had no union with her until she gave birth to a son." (Matt. 1:25a)

Mary's encounter with the angel, Gabriel, allowed her to question His message. Yet, in her questioning, there is no indication that she

(Continued on page 2)

The Gardner Newsletter's Exclusive Interview with the Magi

Gardner Newsletter:

Thank you for agreeing to this interview. You three kings show up every year around Christmas time. Who are you people?

Gaspar:

Well, we aren't really "kings" but more accurately "wise men" be-

cause ancient rulers valued and sought our advice. Our ancestors were Zoroastrian priests. Zoroastrianism is an ancient religion founded by the Persian prophet, Zoroaster.

Melchior:

Zoroaster believed that there is a

supreme deity as well as a cosmic contest between two spirits, one good and one evil. When Rome ruled the world we were recognized as physicians and astrologers. In those days medicine and astrology were almost always linked together.

(Continued on page 2)

“Both Mary and Joseph had their lives transformed because of their willingness to hear and obey God’s instructions.”



(Continued from page 1)

planned to object or refuse. Her question was simply, “How can this be since I am a virgin?” Gabriel simply replied, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you...” nothing is impossible with God! (Luke 1: 34-37) Later, a tax was levied and this couple were required to register in Bethlehem. There Jesus was born in a stable and laid to rest in a manger. Here the shepherds found the one about whom the angels sang.

After the Magi’s visit an angel awoke Joseph with words of urgency... “GO TO EGYPT!”

Slipping away by night, they made their way to Egypt where they stayed until, again, an angel appeared to Joseph. This time the message was “GO TO ISRAEL!”

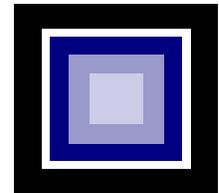
Again, *immediately*, Joseph arose and took his family to Israel. On the way, he heard again from God and turned aside into Galilee to the city of Nazareth. The Old Testament prophet had said, “He will be called a Nazarene.” (Matthew 2:23b)

I would challenge you to open your heart to God’s voice and respond as did Mary when she said ... “I am the Lord’s servant.

May it be to me as you have said.” (Luke 1:38)

Both Mary and Joseph had their lives transformed because of their willingness to hear and obey God’s instructions. Obedience to God allows His will to become your will.

John D. Scott, Sr.
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*Happy
Holidays*

*See you this
winter in 2005!*

“The Bible records that we brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.”

(Continued from page 1)

Balthasar:

That’s right. We were very well known throughout the ancient world including Mesopotamia, Syria and Persia. Some of us were from Parthia, which encompassed a large area to the east of the eastern frontier of the Roman Empire. In fact, Roman art depicts us wearing Parthian garments.

Gardner Newsletter:

Tell us about the gifts you presented to the Christ Child.

Gaspar:

Well, the Bible records that we brought gifts of gold, frankin-

cense and myrrh.

Melchior:

But what most people don’t know is that, according to a book written by Marco Polo in 1298, we brought the gold so that we might know if he were an earthly king.

Balthasar:

Yes indeed. We brought frankincense so that we might know if he were God, and we brought myrrh so that we might know if he were a mortal man.

Gardner Newsletter:

How did you know that the supernatural star you observed referred to the King of the Jews?

Gaspar:

Good question. God communicated to us in dreams. Don’t forget, after our visitation He warned us to return home another way in a dream. Furthermore, we (as well as those magi before us) have been around Jews for many generations.

Melchior:

Yes, when the Babylonians conquered Judah and Jerusalem, they deported the vast majority of the population to Babylon where they lived as exiles for 70 years.

(Continued on page 5)



The Magi: Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthasar



Rev. Philip and Margie Chatto

The Chatto's Share Some Stories about Their Very First Pastorate at The East Charleston, VT Church of the Nazarene

Thank you for letting us share some stories about our very first ministry in East Charleston, Vermont. I had just graduated from Eastern Nazarene College in May, 1950. So when we were called to East Charleston we were thrilled – even at the salary of \$15.00 a week! We were both very excited. Before graduation, we went up ahead of time and Nita, Lyndol, and Terry Ames helped us dig up a space in back of the church for a garden. As I remember, it didn't do much.

We developed a close relationship with all the people, especially Will and Olive Gardner. They were the foundation of the church and the church was a large part of their life. When we were there, the church grew. We helped the church grow too, as our first daughter, Rebecca, was born during that time.

As the church grew, we felt the need of having a real church building. The Church Board responded to our challenge to give lumber for a new building. Rev. Cyril Palmer of the Newport church and I went into the woods to cut and harvest it. The

wood was contributed to the church by Will Gardner, Lyndol Ames, and Herbert Carr. We borrowed Brother Gardner's mare to bring it out. When we returned the horse to the farm, she stumbled, throwing me off – and then she turned a somersault. I was more worried about the horse than about me. I walked the rest of the way and she returned unharmed!

We finally settled on a block building; and after using the lumber for the roof, they sold the rest of it. The building was finally completed at a cost of around \$7,000. It was a lot of



ATTN READERS:

Lois Cardwell no longer spends the winter in Florida. Here is her new contact information:

**Lois Cardwell
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Lois Cardwell

“Nita’s Special Commitment to Christ has Lasted Through the Years”

hard work, prayer, and volunteer help. Brother Gardner purchased a special fiber board for finishing the walls. We purchased some stained glass windows from an old Methodist church.

While it has never been a large congregation, it still continues today and has been a blessing to the Gardner, Ames, and Davis families as well as many others. Only eternity will reveal how many lives that have been

touched by that church. Brother Gardner wanted to be sure the church continued and left money to represent his tithe for ten years. It was used just about three years ago to pay off the mortgage for the church parsonage.

Some of the Gardner girls and their families continue to worship there regularly. Nita Ames' husband, Lyndol, was converted while we pastored there. They were very faithful and deeply

committed. We were very close to Nita and Lyndol as we worked in their sugar bush when we were short of money and spent time at their farm when the road was impassable. They introduced us to “sugar on snow” for the first run of sap in the Spring.

Nita's family have always had a special place with Margie and me as they are like are own family. Dawnita and the boys have

(Continued on page 4)

"We Went on to Build Four More Churches!"

(Continued from page 3)

always been very precious to us. Nita's special commitment to Christ has lasted through the years.

We could relate so many wonderful memories about our pastorate in East Charleston. The church people showed such patience in their dealings with a "green" pastor and his wife. But they loved us, and we loved them.

We went on to pastor churches in Maine, Prince Edward Island, Toronto, Waltham, Massachusetts, Allentown, Pennsylvania

and then we retired from Manchester, Connecticut in 1992.

We went on to build four more churches.

In recent months, we have gone through two severe hurricanes.

We were without electricity for 19 days and then we had to get to work repairing all the damage.

You might be interested to know that we have two other daughters, in addition to Rebecca, - Lynnette and Martha.

We now have three grandsons, one granddaughter, and one great granddaughter. They are all serving the Lord for which

we are thankful.

May God continue to bless the Gardner family and all its descendants. You have a great heritage!

Sincerely,

Philip R. Chatto
Margie M. Chatto
620 S. W. Cynthia Street
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Raymond Gardner

"Guarding the Corn"

By: *Raymond Gardner*

For many years one name was sufficient to identify a person. When things became more crowded, there was a need to add a second name. For instance, the son of John might be called "Johnson." If John had more than one son, they might be called "Paul Johnson" and "Arthur Johnson." Another way to acquire a surname was by the person's occupation, such as Baker, Smith, etc. A person could acquire a surname by where he lived, such as "Hill," "River," etc.

Another way was by the characteristics of the person, such as "Brown," "Smart," etc. This is oversimplifying it, but you get the idea. Sometimes the word usage has changed. The name *Farmer* mean collector of taxes. The name *Banker* was one who lived on a hillside or bank. The name *Gardner* seems to fall into this category. It has nothing to do with a garden. The Anglo-Saxons had no gardens; they had orchards.

Surnames would change from one generation to another. If the names were written down, it would be written down as the clerk thought is should be.

In the book British Surnames by John Kennedy, he writes: "The broad range of ethnic and linguistic roots for British surnames reflects the history of Britain as an oft-invaded land. These roots include, but are not limited to, Old English, Middle English, Old French, Old Norse, Irish, Gaelic, Celtic, Pictish, Welsh, Gaulish, Latin, Greek and Hebrew."

The French name "*Garnier*" (alternate spellings: Garner, Garnar, Gerner, Garneau, Guernier) means:

(1) Keeper of the grainery. This "

is from the old French "gerner" or "gernier" meaning storehouse for corn.

(2) Variation of the French surname "Varner" and German surnames "Warner" and "Werner" from the German elements "warin" meaning guard and "heri" meaning army.

This name could have been every easily corrupted into the name "Gardner." The German word "warden" is interchangeable with "guardian" and both have roots in the archaic meaning of "gatekeeper."

The definition of "Garnier" as a storehouse for corn had me baffled. How could the name Gardner have anything to do with corn when the earliest Europeans could have had corn was in the

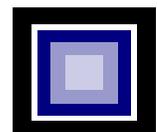
late 1400s? We know that the Gardner surname was used in England long before that date.

Raylene set me straight on that. She writes, "Yes corn, known as 'maize,' is indigenous to the Americas. But the meaning of the word 'corn' has changed too (just like the words 'farmer' and 'banker' as we talked about earlier)!"

An older definition of corn is the kernel of a grain crop, more specifically, the most important grain a country grows. So, wheat was the "corn" of Britain and rice would be the "corn" of China. The Pilgrims called maize "Indian corn" (meaning the most important Indian grain); and for some reason, Americans corrupted the word and maize became commonly called "corn."

There was a Richard Gardner on the Mayflower. He survived the first tough winter and then went back to England. I think he was a sailor. We also have the Gardner name on Mother's side. Thomas Gardner, who arrived in Salem, Massachusetts in 1623, was our ancestor. But we don't get our Gardner name from him. His daughter, Sara, (who is our ancestor) married Benjamin Balch.

We get the Gardner name through our Great Grandfather James Gardner, who lived in Windsor Mills, Quebec. The census records there show that James Gardner was from Lancashire England.



“The Child had been revealed as the Messiah and the King of the Jews. That was our great epiphany.”

(Continued from page 2)

Balthasar:

The Persian kings, most notably, King Cyrus, let the Jews return to Israel to build the temple, but many continued to live in the Persian empire, or in the “east” as the Bible refers to it. All this is recorded in that book and is corroborated by the historical record. We had lots of exposure to the Hebrew scriptures which foretold the coming of the Messiah. The prophet, Daniel, was a famous man in Babylon and

among the Medes, and he had many key Messianic prophecies in his book.

Gardner Newsletter:

What do you think is the significance of your visit to the Christ Child?

Gaspar:

The modern church refers to our visit as “The Holy Epiphany.”

Melchior:

I’m sure everyone at one time or another has experienced an

“epiphany” – that is to say, when something is suddenly revealed to you wonderfully and clearly!

Balthasar:

Yes, when we experienced the dreams from God and followed the supernatural star, we knew that the Child had been revealed as the Messiah and the King of the Jews. That was our great epiphany. The Jewish prophet, Simeon, had prophesied that Jesus would be “a light of revelation to the Gentiles.” And that’s what we are, Gentiles! So Jesus is truly the light of the



“I hope that from now on you won’t think of us just as three kings on camels following a star.”

world, - for Jews and Gentiles alike!

Gardner Newsletter:

Well, thank you for your insights. You’ve given our readers a lot to think about.

Gaspar:

You’re very welcome.

Melchior:

I hope that from now on you won’t think of us just as three

kings on camels following a star.

Balthasar:

Our hope for your readers is that each one of them experiences his or her own personal epiphany about the Christ Child.

Gardner Newsletter:

Here is a short compendium of what is known about our three guests gathered from historical fact and mythical lore.

While oftentimes conflicting lore muddles the story of the Magi, those bearing gifts for the Christ Child are Gaspar of Tarsus, Melchior of Persia and Balthasar of Saba. Weary from desert travel, the Magi humbly offer their gifts.

Gaspar is young, European and offers gold. Gold finances the Holy Family’s coming flight to Egypt and also symbolizes Christ’s immortality and purity.

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“Christ is the light that forever burns in the darkness.”

For his generosity, Gaspar receives the gifts of charity and spiritual wealth.

Melchior is middle-aged, Persian, and offers myrrh. Myrrh is a fragrant gum, which the ancient Israelites believed to strengthen children. This symbol of Christ’s mortality was

blended with wine and offered to Him on the cross, and also mixed with aloe to wrap His body for the tomb. Melchior receives the gifts of humility and truth.

Balthasar is elderly, Ethiopian, and offers frankincense. Frankincense is a resin used in incense

for worship and also symbolizes prayer and sacrifice. Balthasar receives the gift of Faith. And Christ, humbling himself to become man, offers us the greatest gift of all, the light that forever burns in the darkness.



In Memoriam — Nita Alice Ames

October 6, 2004 dawned bright and beautiful. It was one of those crisp, crackling Vermont autumn days that makes the residents of the Northeast Kingdom thankful they live there and the visitors and tourists wish they did. For the Ames and Gardner families and their friends, though, it was a day they would never forget. They gathered together (and filled) the United Church in Derby, Vermont to mourn the passing and to celebrate the life of Nita Ames.

The pastor of the East Charleston Nazarene Church, Rick Smith, began the tribute to her life by reading the newspaper obituary which reported on Nita's death and listed the basic facts of her life. He elaborated on that by going to the main theme of his moving eulogy - "love." He touched upon Nita's love of life, laughter, family, friends, cooking, gardening, church, children - all this deeply rooted in her unwavering faith and in her personal relationship with Jesus Christ. She loved the Lord most of all and this was the source of her fountain of love that constantly erupted like an inexhaustible geyser.

When Pastor Smith finished speaking, the congregation was asked to share their thoughts and memories about Nita. As if to validate and to corroborate everything that had just been said about her, people began (spontaneously and without rehearsal) to share their heart-felt remembrances of how Nita had touched and changed their lives. There was

one for whom Nita had gone out of her way to pick up and take to church. This was a life changing event for this woman (who was a little girl at the time) and led to a new life of church attendance and service to others. There was the neighbor who suffered from depression, another lady who learned to pray from Nita's example, and then there was the



constant friend of over 18 years working together with Nita to conduct and promote Bible study. From the family, Dawnita Ames, daughter, and Teresa Vasko, niece, expressed their love for Nita and reaffirmed her urgent wish that the family remain close and together. One of Nita's final caregivers recounted how she knew immediately when she entered Nita's hospital room that she was in the presence of someone very special and deeply spiritual, even though Nita couldn't utter a word!

After the service a long procession of cars moved slowly, almost thoughtfully, through the pastoral countryside to the Mead Hill Cemetery where Nita would be buried next to her beloved Lyndol. As the prayers were being said and as the immediate family placed the last bouquets of flowers on Nita's casket, the sun became obscured by clouds and a cold

wind blew across that panoramic view of Jay Peak and its surrounding area. This was a powerful portent of the unforgiving Vermont winter just ahead and a symbolic reminder that the world is now a colder place because of Nita's absence.

The funeral procession snaked its way out of the cemetery and back to United Church's fellowship hall. Everyone enjoyed a wonderful meal, reminiscent of those Nita used to prepare, and renewed acquaintances, reconnected with family members, and simply enjoyed one another's company. Perhaps there were

those who resolved to stay in touch more often and to become a better extended family, as Nita fervently wished.

All-in-all, everyone agreed it was a day of ... - yes - "love." L-O-V-E, - that four-letter word we bandy about and so often trivialize. Nita Ames raised the bar. She dignified and brought a new dimension of meaning to the word. Nita lived her life on a higher plateau of caring and understanding. Let's hope we all can learn to do the same.