

CHRISTMAS TRADITION

THE CANDY CANE

One of the most often seen symbols of Christmas is the candy cane. Not only are candy canes used as a sweet Christmastime treat but they are also used for decoration. How did this seasonal candy get its familiar shape, and when did it become part of Christmas tradition?

Many people have given religious meaning to the shape and form of the candy cane. It is said that its shape is like the letter "J" in Jesus' name. It is also in the shape of the shepherds' crook, symbolic of how Jesus, like the "Good Shepherd" watches over his children like little lambs. It is a hard candy, solid like a "rock", the foundation of the Church. The flavor of peppermint is similar to another member of the mint family, hyssop. In the Old Testament hyssop was used for purification and sacrifice, and this is said to symbolize the purity of Jesus and the sacrifice he made.

Some say the white of the candy cane represents the purity of Jesus and his virgin birth. The bold red stripe represents God's love. The three fine stripes are said by some to represent the Holy Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Others say they represent the blood spilled at the beating Jesus received at the hands of the Roman soldiers.

From its plain early beginnings to its familiar shape and color of today, the candy cane is a symbol of Christmas and a reminder of the meaning of the holiday.

Spokane Bible Church

9419 North Five Mile Road
Spokane, Washington 99208
www.spokanebiblechurch.com

SPOKANE BIBLE CHURCH

Sunday, December 2, 2007

Welcome to our Sunday morning Bible classes. Our services are designed to teach the Word of God, so believers can grow in grace and knowledge of their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

Sunday School

Bible Classes are available for all age groups ... from nursery to adult studies.

9:30 a.m.

Church Service

Welcome, Announcements, Grace Giving, Prayer

10:45 a.m.

Congregational Singing:

His Name Is Wonderful, 525

Congregational Singing:

What Child Is This? 540

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 27:1-9 by Ron Kellam

Congregational Singing:

What Gift In My Hand
(Tune "I Walk with the King," 427)

Communion

Congregational Singing:

Good Christian Men Rejoice, 543 (Verse 1)

Study of the Word of God:

"Obadiah," by Pastor Tod Kennedy

Congregational Singing:

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, 542 (Verse 1)

Benediction



SPOKANE BIBLE CHURCH

Opportunities for Spiritual Growth and Fellowship This Week

Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. Gospel of Matthew
Mid-Week Bible Class
Spokane Bible Church

Wednesday, 8:00 p.m. Prayer Groups. Gathering of believers to pray for our nation, community, church, missionaries, fellow believers, and for the salvation of unbelievers
Prayer Groups
Spokane Bible Church

Upcoming Events	
December 16, 2007 6:00 pm	Christmas Program
December 24, 2007 6:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service

Prayer Focus This Week



"Pray without ceasing,"
1 Thessalonians 5:17

- Dick Berg, Rocky Mountain Bible Church and Nursing Home Ministry, Fort Collins, Colorado
- American Freedom Assembly, Gary Horton
- Health Concerns:
 - Donna Morris: Healing of wound from fall on November 24th (arm scrape); discouragement
 - Eva Schmidt: Upcoming clinical trial treatment for cancer
 - Dody Frick: Surgery recovery
 - Frank Martin: Back pain
- Titus Kennedy: Teaching ministry at the Word of God Bible College
- New students for the Word of God Bible College
- Spokane Bible Church — Other Ministries
 - Each believer will recognize their area of ministry
 - The community around the church will become a major source of people for church growth
 - Believers will share the gospel and Bible truths with others and introduce them to the church
 - Evangelist to serve from Spokane Bible Church to community
 - Evangelistic Home Bible Classes