By Joe Shouse

Christmas birthday party

First of all, let me wish everyone a very Merry Christmas. There I said it, Merry Christmas! Not Happy Holidays and not Seasons Greetings. Actually it's rather simple. The true meaning of Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus. So, I guess more importantly than saying Happy Holidays or Seasons Greetings would be to say Happy Birthday, I mean, after all, we are talking about the birthday of the Savior of the World.

At our house or at our church, during the celebration of Christmas, it is the tradition to have a birthday party. A birthday party for the King of kings. There is something about having cake and ice cream and singing happy birthday to the one who gives us the reason for celebrating Christmas. To be honest, I like that more than celebrating my birthday that reminds me I am a year older.

Everyone is always looking for an excuse to have a party, especially the "happy holiday" folks. They say things such as, "Let's celebrate the holiday and go to a movie and dinner." "Let's celebrate the holiday and go shopping and spend money." "Let's celebrate the holiday and have too much to drink in order to forget about the holiday." "Let's celebrate the holiday and go to Florida." "Let's celebrate the holiday and give a gift."

Oh, but that sounds like, not a holiday, but Christmas. Not so much about giving gifts but being reminded of why we give the gifts.

We know the wise men brought gifts; expensive gifts to the Babe born in Bethlehem. But, we need to remember why God gave us a gift. He gave us his Son, Jesus, born that first Christmas night. And for 33 years he lived in the flesh on this earth.

God not only gave us his Son in life but also in death. For on a cross Jesus died for us. Wow, what a gift. It's a gift for each one of us, but for any gift to be truly ours we must accept it. To accept not only the birth of Jesus and to celebrate his birth we must complete the celebration by allowing Him to be the Savior of our lives. Friends, that is worth celebrating and so this Christmas, why not have a birthday party for the One who gave us every reason to celebrate.

Why not invite Him to His own birthday party? Then it will be easier to say, "Merry Christmas." There, I said it again.

Joe Shouse is a correspondent for the Paulding County Progress.

The opinions stated are those of the writer, and do not necessarily reflect that of the newspaper.