

Children's Cantata

Grove Presbyterian Church

20 December, 2009

8:30 AM

Cantata at 11 AM

You want to have a baby? Here are some pointers from a healthy baby website:

Fuel up on folic acid (huh?)
Just say no to partying
Give that cup of joe the heave-ho
Get your weight in check
Stock your fridge with healthy foods
Create and follow an exercise program
See your dentist
Get in touch with your medical roots
Schedule a pre-conception visit
Avoid infections
Eliminate environmental dangers
Figure out when you ovulate
Call your health insurance company
Make an appointment with a financial adviser (definitely)
Get in touch with your mental health (you bet, you're going to need it!)

Oh my. Is this test strip really giving me a colored line?

Except, bear in mind (excuse the pun), it isn't that you only stop drinking and smoking after you've gotten a positive on your handy-dandy home pregnancy kit.

When should you get in baby-making shape?

You get rid of the toxins well in advance of even the merest hint of a thought or a glimmer in the gleam of someone's eye about having a baby.

You prepare. Why? For these little ones. So we can have them sing these Christmas cantatas. He, she is what you devout yourself to, every hour, every minute, fully, unconditionally, forever and ever and ever.

We prepare for this baby too. The ultimate meaning of life delivered unto us; for that which is God is that which is

the ultimate meaning, that to which we devote ourselves ultimately.

We cleanse our body, from the womb of our soul, the toxins of the unclean spirit.

This is what these strips represent. The Hebrews would wear sackcloth when they needed to publicly show they were very sorry for something they had done. When you take communion [at the end of worship] you are welcome to take a small strip -- tie them around your wrist, place them on your refrigerator, hang them from the rear view mirror - let them be our sackcloth and ashes, this our daily reminder of our sorrow, our hope, our needs.

"God cannot find room to take up residence in the hearts of the people if they are full of themselves" -- Meister Eckhart

- Which broken relationships need loving reconciliation?
- Which hurts, hang-ups, or bad habits do I need help from the Holy Spirit to purge from my body?
- Grievances that linger
- Angers that fester
- Disappointments for which I blame others
- Fears that chill and immobilize
- Apathy and indifference to the pain of others

We empty to receive...

And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."

Luke 1: 38