Cold Spring church creates its own little town of Bethlehem

By BETTY WUND

WEST COLD SPRING — Four years ago, the congregation at First Assembly of God in Cold Spring decided they would change the way they celebrated Christmas. The church in the town of Cold Spring, located just across the street from the Washington Inn, decided they would create their own little town of Bethlehem, with people acting the way they would have lived at that time, Christy said.

The vision was to offer an interactive walk through the village of Bethlehem leading to a Nativity scene, according to Gary Chelty, one of the organizers of the event. The presentation wouldn’t be just a world with Mary and Joseph surrounded by live animals, visitors find a sign that reads: “Each year our gift shop in the village of Bethlehem, with people acting the way they would have lived at that time, is so favorably received,” he said.

The village is a reflection of the congregation’s expression of the true meaning of Christmas. “Bethlehem is the birthplace of Jesus, the village is a reflection of the congregation’s expression of the true meaning of Christmas,” said Chelty.

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