

December
Dec 18 Seven @ Seven
Dec 24 No Evening Services
Dec 27 No Ladies Bible Class
Dec 31 6:00 p.m. devotional followed by New Year’s Eve Party in the Fellowship Room—Bring Snacks & Games

January
Jan 02 Devotional at Winfield Rest Haven; van leaves at 6:30
Jan 03 Teen Supper in the basement at 6:30 p.m.
Jan 14 Elders and deacons meet after evening services
Jan 17 Teen Supper in the basement at 6:30 p.m.
Jan 24 Bring cookies for Winfield Rest Haven

IF PRIDE DIDN’T GET IN THE WAY!

Have you ever thought about all the good that could be accomplished if people didn’t worry about who gets the credit, or whose responsibility it is, or if this task is below their dignity. Humility doesn’t worry about such matters! But, *pride* gets in the way!

Have you ever considered how many arguments, conflicts, wars, murders, divorces, accidents, suicides and deaths from disease could be avoided if people had more humility. But, *pride* gets in the way.

Have you ever noticed how much more people are interested in “WHO’S RIGHT?” than they are in “WHAT’S RIGHT?”? *Pride* is why people are defensive rather than transparent, strong willed rather than open minded, subjective rather than objective and vengeful rather than forgiving.

Pride (lack of humility) is the reason some people can’t accept new ideas, give others praise, admit they are wrong, say they are sorry, and recover from personal defeat.

No wonder the Scriptures give so much attention to the topic of pride and it’s counterpart, humility!

—Bill Oakley

if you can be anything

BE KIND

PRAYER IS THE KEY OF THE DAY
AND THE LOCK OF THE NIGHT



FROM THE PREACHERS DESK

As we discussed last week, the birth of Jesus was our hope. The world (aware or not) was in such need of an answer to its struggles. Homes were filled with people searching for a way to make it in this world. This season is so important because it reminds us of the moment in time when God showed up. Literally! God becoming flesh changed everything. Hope had arrived. The following is an article that so masterfully walks through the song, *O Holy Night*:

“We get to revel in the wide-eyed expectation and hope of who’s coming—Jesus. Jesus is coming! The world hears the songs of hope…”

Oh holy night!
The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of the dear Savior’s birth!

This is a powerful season for me—it has been in recent years. Especially this year. I cannot escape the thoughts and feelings that have surrounded our world the last few weeks: Ferguson, Eric Garner...and the Social Media malady which has made my heart groan.

How do God’s people respond to the hurt? The pain? The brokenness? I have seen a lot of venom. I have seen a lot of rants. I have seen a lot of writers suggesting “truth” and “justice.” What I haven’t seen is a lot of grace.

Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Till he appear’d and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!

Our world is weary. So very weary. We need hope. We need to see grace—experience grace. I have been part of a teaching team going through the gospel of John in our adult Bible classes at church on Sundays. As I have journeyed through John’s gospel, I can’t get away from this singular thought: if we want to know God, we have to take a good, hard look at Jesus. No matter what we think we know, what we struggle with...or cling to, in the Old Testament’s witness of God –the one thing we can know without a doubt is the fullness of who God is, is made manifest in Christ. And John tells us that if we know Christ, we will obey his commandments—and he tells us exactly what that means: Love. Selfless, cruciform love. Love that makes itself nothing, taking on the very nature of a servant, putting others before itself.

Truly He taught us to love one another
His law is love and His gospel is peace
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother
And in His name all oppression shall cease

(continued on back)

FAMILY NEWS

Aaron Hines will have surgery December 20 to have his spleen removed.

PRAYER LIST

Teresa Pierce, Richard Wartick, Rita Carroll, Jim Wilson, Tom McReynolds, Dalton Brownlee, Cecil Drinnen, Scott Callaway, Tim Evans, David Brundage, Matt Norris, Norma Gooch, Eliza Conwell, Larry Helton, Patsy Pierce, Allen Stone, Deedra Bostick, Crystal Anderson, Jack Edwards. *Shut-In’s*: Bertha Brown, Jerry Howell, Dorothy Lauterbach, Gene Deffenbaugh, Maxine Cole, Georgia Spencer, Bennie Jefferies.

CHANGES ARE COMING!!!

Changes are coming to our Life Groups and to Sunday evenings! Starting in January, we will be meeting on Sunday evenings in small groups, both in homes and in the building. The format will be primarily Bible study and discussion, with time for fellowship each week. We hope this will be an opportunity to develop closer ties within the church, as well as a good time to bring others in from outside. This will be done for 12 weeks on a trial basis, to see if it works well for this congregation. Plan to signup and participate as details are provided. See you at Life Group!

WHAT IS CHRISTMAS?

What is Christmas? Christmas is tinsel and holly and mistletoe. Christmas is wide-eyed children and carefully hung stockings. Christmas is great expectations. Christmas is the beep (it used to be jingle) of computerized cash registers. Christmas is fifty acre parking lot with not one empty space. Christmas is children caroling. Christmas is red and green lights strung from small town courthouses. Christmas is a blizzard in Kansas and skiing in Colorado. Christmas is a California hillside sub-division, every yard with its own 6 foot star. Christmas is memories of Grandma’s house. Christmas is egg nog and homemade candy. Christmas is late-night mechanical engineering on toys. Christmas is Santa Claus, Rudolf, Bing Crosby and Charlie Brown. Christmas is one lonely lopsided pine tree in front of a supermarket. Whatever else Christmas is, for each of us as Christians, Christmas is a time to remember that Jesus Christ, whenever He was born, came into the world of darkness and brought light, a world of despair and brought hope, a world of war and brought peace, a world of selfishness and brought the joy of giving. For you and yours may this be a most joyous and meaningful season of the year.

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That is where I cling to hope. Always in Jesus. Only in Jesus. And I anticipate Christ’s coming—both in the Advent season and in our already/not yet kingdom mindset—more and more every year. And so we sing of hope. For our world of hurt, pain, injustice, suffering and brokenness we sing our defiant songs of love, hope and anticipation of Jesus. Come, Lord Jesus, come!”

What do you hope for? Are you waiting and longing for the return of our Lord and Savior? Good news! He will return. Place your hope and future in Him! —Preacher



**THE NIGHT BEFORE
CHRISTMAS: BETHLEHAM**

The Shepherds:

1. Were in a _____ to _____ from God.

2. Were willing to _____ on what God _____ them.

Scriptures: Luke 2:1-20

THOSE WHO SERVE			
<u>SUNDAY, 10:30 AM</u>		<u>December 17</u>	
SCRIPTURE READING		Kevin Dodds	
PRAYER		Bob Pettegrew	
COMMUNION		Roger Brownlee, Rex Harris	
		Joe Church, Parker Dodds	
USHERS		John Wartick, Chuck Garver	
CLIPBOARDS		Riley Nichols, Daniel Garver	
DISMISSAL PRAYER		Tom Norris	
<u>SUNDAY, 6:00 PM</u>		<u>December 17</u>	
PRAYER		Michael Nelson	
COMMUNION		Rex Harris, Joe Church	
DISMISSAL PRAYER		Tom Norris	
<u>WEDNESDAY, 7:00 PM</u>		<u>December 20</u>	
LEAD SINGING		Rex Harris	
DISMISSAL PRAYER		Ed Newberry	
<u>ATTENDANCE</u>			
SUNDAY—December 10			
BIBLE CLASS.....		58	
A.M. WORSHIP.....		100	
P.M. WORSHIP.....		52	
CONTRIBUTION.....		\$2,132	
WEDNESDAY—December 13			
ADULTS...27		TEENS...8	KIDS...6
		TOTAL...41	
<u>COMMUNION PREP</u>		<u>COORDINATOR</u>	
December Kevin Dodds		December Alan Shields	

ELDERS		SCHEDULE OF SERVICES	
Rex Harris	Marvin Kline	<i>Sunday</i>	
Ed Newberry	Tom Norris	Bible Classes.....9:30 A.M.	
		Worship.....10:30 A.M.	
		Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M.	
		Children’s Class.....6:00 P.M.	
DEACONS		<i>Wednesday</i>	
Kevin Dodds	Aaron Hines	Ladies Bible Class....9:30 A.M.	
Leroy Lewis	Mike Neal	Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.	
David Pierce	Alan Shields		
MINISTER			
Michael Nelson			



“Reaching Inward, Outward
Upward, Downward”

Wellington Church of Christ

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ORDER OF WORSHIP	
December 17, 2017	
Call to Worship	
Song #1018	“Joy to the World”
Song #991	“This Is My Father’s World”
Song	“Ancient Words”
Prayer	
Song #997	“O Come, All Ye Faithful”
Communion	
Song#31	“Be Still and Know”
Collection	
Song #999	“The First Noel” (Children dismissed for Children’s Church)
Lesson	
Song #808	“Abide with Me”
Song #410	“He Leadeth Me”
Prayer	