

FOR THE RECORD

Week of December 31st, 2017

Bible Study.....	NA
Sunday Worship.....	384
Sunday Evening.....	NA
Wednesday.....	174
Weekly Giving.....	\$22,071
Weekly Budget.....	\$17,306
Year-to-Date Giving.....	\$856,141
Year-to-Date Budget.....	\$917,218

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

January 7

Sue Ann Jernigan & Lenore Tripp

January 14

Susan Bratton & Donna Frick

December Communion Prep

The Holman's

GREETERS

January 7

Judy Lamb.....	East
Mark Bryant.....	North
Kenny Freeman.....	West

January 14

Thom & Tami Robinson.....	West
Larry Duvall.....	East
Richard Loveland.....	North

COMMUNION

January 7 & 14

Table 1: Phil Sims, Josh Harrell, Bobby Smart, Chandler Russell, Jackson Sorrells

Table 2: Clay Reed, Paul Senn, Mike Spurlock, Charlie Richards, Bert Page

RAISING * ARROWS

Children's Ministry Grades K-5: Meets ^{Peak 1273-5}
Sunday at 9AM, and Wed. at 6:30PM

Teachers beginning **January 3** are...

Creators Canvas

Tiffany Clem

Museum

Brent & April Ruple

Noah's Arcade

Dale & Christina Brooks

HolyWord Studios

Rebekah Grace

Kids for Christ

Kids for Christ is for ages 2 – 2nd grade, in room #2, and is announced for dismissal **during the sermon.**

January

Word / Scripture of the Month

Kindness / 1 Thessalonians 5:15

"...be kind to one another..."

January 7

2 Year Olds: Michele Todd

3 & 4 Year Olds: Amy Jones

K - 2nd Grade: Teri Mitchell

Puppets: Josh Greer, Katie Clem, Emmy

May

January 14

2 Year Olds: Michele Todd

3 & 4 Year Olds: Judy Holman

K - 2nd Grade: Jessica Davis

Puppets: Josh Greer, Katie Clem, Emmy

May

January Helpers

Emmy May, Angela Gomez, Ally Foster,
Sara Beth Francis

CONTRAST

January 7, 2018

Tim Tripp

Perhaps you, like me, have had the experience of being in a cave and turning the lights off. When you do that, you experience a kind of darkness like no other. It is frightening. It is disorienting. It is paralyzing. You can't sense movement. Your world becomes one dimensional. What a contrast when the lights are turned back on! The world becomes multi-dimensional again. When I was in the cave, someone turned on a light and tried to cover it with their hand but the light just made their hand glow and it was plainly visible. Light overcomes darkness.

In the gospel of Matthew, in the passage often referred to as the 'Sermon on the Mount,' the writer recalls Jesus' words as he told the crowd of his followers that they were the "light of the world," (Matthew 5:14). He also reminded them that they were to "let your lights shine before men, that they might see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven," (Matthew 5:16). When it comes to light and darkness, contrast is the point. When someone follows Jesus as a disciple of his, their lives should, even must, provide a contrast to those in the world. Allow me say that less delicately. If your life is not lived in sharp contrast to the world, I don't know who or what you are following, but it is not Jesus. You cannot be light and live in darkness. You cannot claim to be light and then treat your light like a cheap flashlight turning it on and off as it serves you.

Ultimately, God is the source of all light. Though Jesus said we, as his followers, are light, he does not mean we are the source of the light. We merely reflect his light. The only way to turn the light off is to turn back into the darkness and away from the source of the light. Jesus said that the purpose of the light is not to be hidden but to boldly step into the darkness that the light may shine for all to see.

Contrast can be difficult. When you are light you dispel darkness wherever you go. Some people like darkness. Some people would rather live in a one-dimensional world filled with their own passions and desires and do just what they want. When light threatens their comfortable self-centered darkness allowing them to see the spiritual, altruistic dimension, it scares them. They are confronted with what to do about these other dimensions. They must either explore them or ignore them. Those who choose to explore are the ones we can reach to and try to disciple. The ones who choose to ignore and turn back toward darkness will not be comfortable in the presence of light and some will be downright hostile. Sometimes it might seem easier to switch off the light and fade back into the darkness. That is not what Jesus wants. He wants his light shining continually and without interruption to have its impact on the world. There are those living in darkness whom he will call to the light. We must continue to shine for them.

Contrast is important. If you are a Christian, you are the light of the world, so...be light!

STARTING POINT

Welcome to West Side! Are you interested in learning more about us? Be sure to visit the Starting Point room in the back of the auditorium after each Sunday service.

LADS TO LEADERS

The Lads to Leaders Conference is March 19 - April 1, 2018. If your child is interested in participating or if you are interested in attending, please see Kyle Lamberson or Chad Mitchell.

MNFTM

MNFTM is in need of **fruit cups** and **Little Debbies** for the homeless.

STITCH AND TIE GROUP

Stitch and Tie group needs cotton or cotton blend fabrics for pierced tops on fleece throws to be given to cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy treatments at St. Mary's Cancer Center. See Margaret Grant or Ethel Jackson.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

The children's ministry is working to make a children's wing. These changes have started taking place. All children's classes will be on the west end of the building! This is allowing us to provide a more secure area for our children. If you have any questions, see Lee Henson or call 479-747-0421.

A Look Ahead...

January 7: Morning Bible classes will resume as normal at 9:00 am. Worship at 10:00 am. // Bible Bowl at 3:00 pm. // Share Groups at various times.

January 8: MNFTM will meet at 5:45! // CR Ladies Step Study at 8:00.

January 10: Bible class at 6:30. // CCSC Midweek at 7:00.

January 12: Celebrate Recovery

January 14: Class at 9, Worship at 10! // Zac & Christina George Potluck Reception immediately after services in the FC Kitchen/Class area. // Bandanza & Rentfro Shower from 1:00 - 3:00 in the Rock. // Bible Bowl at 3:00. // Share Groups at various times.

January 15: MNFTM will meet at 5:45! // CR Ladies Step Study at 8:00.

January 16: Stella Manor Birthday Party at Stella Manor Nursing Home at 2:00. Betty Chambers is bringing the angel food cake. Please be there at 1:50 to help.

January 17: Bible class at 6:30. // CCSC Midweek at 7:00.

January 19: Celebrate Recovery

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Christina Betterton and Zac George. They were married in a small ceremony Sunday, December 31. We invite you to celebrate their marriage with us January 14th right after services for a Potluck reception in the Family Center.

WEDDING SHOWER

There will be a wedding shower in honor of Jeni Bandanza and David Rentfro and their upcoming marriage on January 14th from 1:00 - 3:00 in the Rock. They are registered at Target, Bed, Bath & Beyond, and Millyn's. They would also appreciate Disney gift cards for their honeymoon. Please join us as we celebrate their marriage.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

The winter/spring Ladies Bible Study will be starting January 25. They will meet on Thursdays at 9:30. The study will be on Paul using the workbook titled "Paul: By The Grace of God" by Cassandra Martin. If you are interested in joining, please see Mattie Martin so she can order your book.

DIOS LE BENDIGA (GOD BLESS YOU)

BY ARIS ORTIZ

Our first Sunday of 2018!

What a blessing to start the year on this first Sunday and have a bilingual service to God.

Singing and praising God in two languages is great. Praying to our Father in Heaven in English and Spanish is awesome. Participating of the Lord Supper together and to have that moment of communion with the Holy Spirit is a beautiful experience and to listen the message in both English and Spanish is powerful!

This shows that the Word of God has power to change hearts and make people not matter from where, or what language they speak, the Word will unite souls from everywhere. Most importantly, the Word of God will reach, and people will be saved by hearing from it, believing and obeying the Gospel of Christ.

And that my brothers and sisters, is our mission. To call, to teach, to preach, to reach another soul for the Lord, and more will be added to the church and more languages will proclaim that Jesus is the Lord!

Here at Westside, is happening!!

God continue blessing this congregation.

PRAYER LIST

-Hannah Fugate was hit while riding her bike home from work December 30. She is at UAMS in ICU and suffering from multiple injuries.

-Connie Koerner is having gallbladder surgery on January 10 at St. Mary's. Please be praying for the procedure and her recovery.

-Patti Page will be having surgery on January 12 on her heel and achilles tendon. Please pray for her and her recovery.

-Richie Schilling is battling colon cancer. He is fighting and in a lot of pain at MD Anderson. Please pray for comfort and healing for him, his body, and his family during this time.

THANK YOU - 2017 CHRISTMAS BASKETS

The Bible tells us to remember the poor and needy. Thank you West Side for your generosity in helping us to help the poor and needy in our community. A total of \$3,537.74 was collected by our members to help those in need. Because of you, we were able to help 32 families have a better Christmas. This provided them with food. We also delivered to 19 people in nursing homes and shut-ins. They were gifted a poinsettia, candy and a card.

We would also like to thank Doug Bailey and his daughter, Libby, for helping us to deliver these.

"Blessed is he who is generous to the poor and needy..." - Proverbs 22:9

"They asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do." - Galatians 2:10

Thank you West Side,
Joe Russell and Frank Foster

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

To submit an announcement for the bulletin, please contact the office using the email:

office@westsidear.org

To reach Britney directly, email: britney@westsidear.org