

## FOR THE RECORD

Week of December 11, 2016

Bible Study.....	243
Sunday Worship.....	466
Share Groups.....	142
Wednesday.....	215
Weekly Giving.....	\$45,526.02
Weekly Budget.....	\$18,165.00
Year to Date Giving.....	\$850,721.91
Year to Date Budget.....	\$908,250.00

## NURSERY ATTENDANTS

### December 18

Brenda Holmes & Wanda Melton-Reed

### December 25

Teri Mitchell & Beverly Mason

## DECEMBER COMMUNION PREP

Harris Family

## GREETERS

### December 18

Joel & Ginger Tippit .....	East
Gerry & Joyce Bequette .....	North
Gordon Dunn .....	West

### December 25

Joel & Ginger Tippit .....	West
Gerry & Joyce Bequette .....	East
Gordon Dunn.....	North

## LORD'S SUPPER

### December 18 & 25

**Table 1:** Rocky Jones, Dale Lamberson, Chance Nesbitt, Lew Howard, Charles May

**Table 2:** Ben Janelle, Glenn Holmes, Kevin Mason, Scott Johnson, John Lee

## Kids for Christ

Kids for Christ is for ages 2 – 2nd grade, in rooms #17-20 during the sermon time.

### DECEMBER

#### Word/Scripture of the Month

Christmas Story / Isaiah 9:6

### DECEMBER 18

#### Kids for Christ Christmas Program (During Main Worship Service)

Rena Baker (2 yrs)  
Sue Ann Jernigan (Helper)

#### Kids for Christ Program at Brookdale Senior Living Center

*Kids for Christ will be delivering crafts and performing part of the Christmas program for residents. Those able to participate need to meet at Brookdale at 1:30PM.*

### DECEMBER HELPERS

Lorelei Harris, Reagan Mitchell,  
Chiane Nesbitt

## Raising Arrows

Raising Arrows is the children's education ministry for grades K-5. Current teachers are...

### NOAH'S ARCADE

Deanna Cole

### MUSEUM

Brent & April Ruple

### CREATOR'S CANVAS

Teyah Jarra

### HOLY WORD STUDIOS

Lee & Andrea Henson

### Theme Verse

Psalm 94:14

## CHRISTMAS & GRACE

December 18, 2016

By Tim Tripp

Matthew, in his gospel, tells the story of Jesus' birth from the point of view of Joseph, Jesus' earthly father. In chapter one verses 18-19 Matthew makes it abundantly clear that Joseph was not told of Mary's pregnancy until she was already expecting. He found out that she was pregnant before he knew that the baby was a result of the



work of the Holy Spirit. It seems a little harsh doesn't it? I'm sure Mary told him of the visit of the angel and the miracle of her conception but I think we would admit that it seems a little farfetched. Perhaps it was an opportunity for God, through Matthew to let us know the kind of man Jesus' earthly father was. Matthew tells us that Joseph's first thought was to divorce her quietly. In those times engagement was just as binding as marriage though no sexual intimacy was involved. It would have been scandalous for them both had her pregnancy been publicly discovered in their home town. However, he could have brought charges against her using her pregnancy as evidence of unfaithfulness and escape disgrace himself. Joseph obviously loved Mary and wanted to do what was best for her. When he was told in a dream that the baby was of the Holy Spirit, he obediently took her as his wife and the two of them picked up their lives and moved. The trip to Bethlehem was necessary for compliance with the law but convenient as well so that the baby was born afar and avoided the chatter from the local gossips regarding "the math not working out."

Joseph is not only a godly man but also a man of grace. His response to Mary's awkward situation is in her best interests thinking little of his wants, his rights or his hurts in the situation. He submitted himself to potential disgrace for the good of the kingdom. It would later be said of his son that he, while "being in very nature God did not consider equality with God something to be grasped but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness." (Phil. 2:6-7). Jesus, like his earthly father, welcomed disgrace for the benefit of those he loves.

Rather than giving his children what they deserve, he gives them grace because of his love for them. As Jesus was born into the world he defined the word grace in a single person and in the face of the Christ child we still see reflected the love of God.

## **YOUTH MINISTRY** [westsideyouthministry.org](http://westsideyouthministry.org)

### **WSYM Midweek:**

The youth ministry meets on Wednesdays at 5:30PM for pizza and hang time. Bible study then begins at 6:30PM.

### **Gulf Coast Getaway:**

GCG is on January 13-16 and is for HS Juniors & Seniors.

## **CHRISTMAS BOXES**

Donations for our annual Christmas food boxes are now being accepted by Joe Russell & Frank Foster. The boxes will be delivered the week before Christmas.

## **DEEDS FOR NEEDS**

If you have a home task or problem you can't find help with or accomplish on your own, feel free to call or text Lynn Donnell at 479-970-4447 or call our office.

## **CHRISTMAS SERVICE HANDOUTS**

All are invited to grab a Christmas service mailer from the lobby. These mailers would be great to send or hand friends to invite them to our special Christmas Day service at 3:00PM.

## **RAISING ARROWS ANNOUNCEMENT**

December 21 is the only class in the next rotation. All grades K-5th will go to Holy Word Studios on that Wednesday for a special Christmas class.

## **MONDAY NIGHT FOR THE MASTER**

MNFTM will *NOT* meet until January 9, yet they *WILL* continue to provide meals to the homeless during the break.

## **LIBRARY NEWS**

There has been many recent additions to the church library (Room 9). There is a good selection of inspirational fiction as well as books for in depth Bible study. See Pat Kee for help or more information.

## **CELEBRATE RECOVERY**

CR meets on Friday nights in the Cornerstone. Dinner is at 5:45PM. Worship is at 6:30PM. Free childcare. If you have questions please email CR@westsidear.org.

CR is having Launch Party on Friday, January 6 at 5:45PM in the Family Center. The night will feature live music from Some Guy Named Robb.

## **WEST SIDE WEBSITE**

Be sure to check our website [www.westsidear.org](http://www.westsidear.org) for a plethora of information about all things West Side – ministry descriptions and updates, bulletin postings, sermon videos, Bible study resources, and more! On the site you are also able to sign up for announcement emails and there is also a place to give online.

## **COMMUNION PREP**

If you are willing to prepare communion for a month in 2017, please sign the list in the foyer.

## **RIGHTNOW MEDIA**

We are excited to share that our church now has access to an extensive, new video library called RightNow Media! If you have not received an invite via email yet, please contact the office.

## *Holiday Schedule*

### **December 25**

3:00PM Christmas Service.

### **December 28**

All classes cancelled.

### **January 1**

Morning classes cancelled.  
Worship service at 10:00AM.

# THANK YOU WEST SIDE!

## *For Your Harvest Sunday Giving*

## **DIOS LE BENDIGA** *(God Bless You)*

By Aris Ortiz

It's a wonderful time that is coming soon when families get together. The joy, laugh and happiness of being together is always a great blessing. But for many, these are times of sadness specially after losing love ones on this time of the year. 6 years ago, on Christmas eve, I was preaching on my mother's funeral and every year, I will have a mix of feelings about missing my mother and enjoying my family. But the best part is to know that one day I will be reunited with my mother! And that my friend, is the promise of God. So, let's continue our journey to Heaven here in earth, by walking in the Light of the Lord and doing our part in teaching, preaching and showing Gods Love to our family and friends!

Phrase of the weekFeliz Navidad (Merry Christmas)

## **PRAYER LIST**

### **Nursing Homes**

Madge Alverson (Atkins #312), Mary Barton (Atkins #107), Mirl Helms (Stella Manor #221), Imogene Taylor (Brookdale #211), Wayne Nordin (Brookdale #219), Glennette Price (Stella Manor #305), Margaret Bell (Rsvl. Nursing Ctr #312), Elizabeth Wyatt (Legacy Heights #43).

### **Cancer Patients**

Gladys Norwood, Helen Stephens, Mary Grice, Mary King, Tiffany Lutrell, Carla Ford, Jeri Shay, Doug Hart, Jerry Thompson, Julie Session, Ruby Kite, Sherilyn Russell, Kelly Owens, Don Martin, Lavada Gordon, Tami Lemley, Ray Fullerton, Amy Baker, Delba Parrish, Kirk Benson, Bob Baker, Jim Valentine, Ali Winters, Debbie Gann, Hobart Summers, Debra Leaming, Lorri Petty, Joyce Gage, Ruth Kelley, Steven Watson, Linda Elkins, Hazel Anderson, Johnetta Hunter, Dianne Skipper, Suzanne Gatewood, Kim Kersh, Richie Schilling, Greg Standridge, Ella Allison, Rex Roberts

### **Military**

Dale Nelson, Justin Dollins, Steven Renfrow, Nicholas Randel, James Cole, Jr., Micah Hunter, Steven Cawyer, Charles Pitney, Joseph Roberds

### **Additional**

Aris Ortiz, Jr., Burnis Shay, Patsy Parnell, Nora Smith, Jean Smith, Jeremiah Martinez

### **Missions**

James & Abigail Rucker-Haiti, WBS Students

## *Bulletin Announcements*

To submit an announcement for the bulletin, please contact the office using the email: [info@westsidear.org](mailto:info@westsidear.org).