



Community Fellowship *news*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | DECEMBER 2016

LIVING A SONG-FILLED LIFE

By Pastor Roger

Singing songs has always been a part of our Christmas celebrations. As we enter this very special and festive time, I want to remind us of some of the timeless truths of the message of Christmas thru the singing of the Christmas songs. We begin with "A Song of Hope" as the message of salvation brought hope to all of creation. When we realize there is hope we sing "A Song of Joy" as our heart rejoices in

Christ our Savior. Then out on the hillside with the shepherds listening—there is "A Song of Good News" that is for every person. And finally "A Song of the Messiah" as Jesus comes to earth and we join not just around the manger, but an empty tomb signifying a living Lord – Jesus!!! Join the celebration of song as we rejoice in the Good News – Jesus Is Born!!!

Hanging of the Greens Service-6 pm

Bring your family to a special holiday service tonight at 6 pm. We take this opportunity to finish decorating the sanctuary and prepare our hearts for the Christmas season. **Bring an ornament to put on the tree.** Special music, responsive readings, cookies and hot chocolate after the service make this a special time for everyone. Let's ring in the advent season together as a church family.

Church Events

- Dec 3rd - Orwig/Stivener Christmas Party
- Dec 9th – Least of These Breakfast
- Dec 10th – Spross Christmas Party
- Dec 16th - 19 North Christmas Party
- Dec. 17th - Adventure Zone Practice and Party
- Dec 18th - Adventure Zone Children's Program
- Dec 21th - GET R.E.A.L. Student Christmas Party
- Dec 24th - Christmas Eve Service/Communion Prior
- Dec 25th – Christmas Service (No Sun. School)

If He Commands Us He Will Enable Us

*Helping a friend follow Jesus more closely—
Intentionally...on purpose*

It is a haunting question, "Who am I discipling, and who is discipling me?" Jesus plainly instructed His followers, "Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples." That can't just be for preachers or teachers. Surely the mission is for every one of us. Indeed, if Jesus commanded us to make disciples, he enables us to do just that. We can make Christlike disciples.

On purpose, we can help our family and friends follow Jesus more closely as we follow Jesus. St. Paul said, "Follow me as I follow Christ."

Imagine what your life will look like when you intentionally invest yourself in prayerfully-selected people to help them follow Jesus more closely. Imagine having a friend that loves you and is

helping you become more like Jesus than you are today. Imagine your Sunday School class or small group filled with friends who love each other enough to hold one another accountable for a Christlike life?



Christmas Morning Service

10:45—11:45 am

Bring your family to an "old fashioned," one hour Christmas Service.

Christmas carols with piano and organ, special Christmas message by Pastor Roger and Christmas craft for the children.

Woodie Stevens
SDMI Director

Why In the World?

A four-part Small Group Study by Andy Stanley beginning December 11 @ 9:45 am

This small group Bible study takes a closer look at one of the unique things Christians believe: God became one of us. Why in the world would God do that?

Why would God leave the comfort and recognition of heaven to live on this ball of dirt in a time before morphine

and indoor plumbing when the best conditions barely paralleled the worst of modern-day conditions? Why?

We think we know why He died. But what compelled him to live as one of us?

Join us beginning Dec. 11 at 9:45 am in Room 102 to find out.

GET R.E.A.L. Elf Games Saturday, Dec. 10 @ 6 pm



This is going to be a night of FUN! Meet at the Youth Center at 6 pm. Bring \$5 and a friend! Come hungry! Food provided.

Kingdom Kids Day Care

We are so excited for the January 2, 2017, Grand Opening of Kingdom Kids Day Care and Academy. Our director, Karrie Horn, is working with the Board of Directors to put the finishing touches on our policies and hand book.

Watch for upcoming changes to our facility to make our day care one of the nicest, safest in the city. See Pastor Roger or David Ash to volunteer to help with those changes.

We are needing to purchase items for the day care and kitchen. To donate for those things, mark your check or pushpay "Day Care." Thanks to all who have already given to make this venture possible.



One Silent Night

By Pastor Judi

Curled up in my comfy chair, my thoughts drifted to "one silent night" over 2000 years ago. Dusk was falling as Mary and Joseph entered the little town of Bethlehem. Joseph had one thought in mind; finding a place where Mary could rest. He knew the long journey had taken a toll on her. Time was drawing near and her child was soon to be delivered.

The small town had swollen with visitors, all there to register and be counted in the census. Joseph had knocked on the door of several inns only to be turned away as they were already overflowing with weary travelers. In desperation he accepted a place in the stable offered them by an innkeeper. The reluctant, soon to be father, realized a roof over their heads was better than being in the elements for the night. The decision was a wise one as little time elapsed before the Christ Child made his appearance before dawn.

Just outside Bethlehem, on the hillside, the shepherds were bedded down for the night with their sheep. The night was serenely quiet except for the occasional bleat of a lamb looking for its mama and a warm drink of milk. Not far away in a manger of hay, a small baby boy's cry pierced the quiet night with the same thought in mind; milk to fill His little tummy.

Was it His tiny cry that summoned the angels to fill the sky? Was it the word of the prophet Isaiah echoing, "For unto us a child is born, to us a Son is given?" Did all of heaven take part in the events of that Holy Night? However it happened, it did happen; one silent night in Bethlehem. God himself reached down to us!

Mary, "overshadowed" by the Holy Spirit, gave birth to a baby boy with DNA that is both human and divine. His arrival changed everything. We too, can be overshadowed by His mighty love. And that, changes everything. Accept it and Celebrate Him!

Christmas Eve Service

Bring your family to our annual evening service of Christmas carols, special story, and family communion. This one hour service ends with a time of carols by candlelight.

Communion begins at 4:00 pm and the sign up sheet is at the Welcome Center. There are a limited number of spots, so please sign up early.

Cookies and hot chocolate are served during the communion time in the Fellowship Hall. This gives families time to fellowship with friends they might not see often. Make plans to attend this beautiful service.



Christmas Parties

- **Orwig and Stivener Christmas Party** Dec. 3 @ 6:00 pm Join us at the Hinnen's home. Women bring a women's gift, men bring a men's gift—\$10 or under. Bring finger food to share.
- **Spross Class Christmas Party** Dec. 10 @ 4:00 pm Join us in the fellowship hall for our annual Christmas Party. Bring a gift to exchange and finger foods.
- **19 North Ministry Christmas Party** Dec. 16 @ 6:30 pm Brad is preparing a great meal for you at the Youth Center. Come hungry and bring your family and a white elephant gift.
- **Adventure Zone Kids** Dec. 17 from 2 to 4:30 pm Children's Christmas Program practice and Christmas Party in the Adventure Zone
- **GET R.E.A.L. Student Ministries Christmas Party** Dec. 21 @ 6:00 pm Come hungry to the Youth Center and bring \$2. Food provided.



From the Church Office

Home Bound: Bettie Hughes, Annetta Cotton, Barbara George, Rosemary McCoy, Joyce Litke, Eulen Vaughn

Health: Jenny Swezey, Rachel Scott's mother (cancer), Betsy Frix's grandson, Eulen Vaughn, Garrett Gullion (nephew of Rochelle, open heart surgery)

Today's Prayer Partners: Linda Gibbs, Sharon Dean, Tina Allen, Kathy Dean

December Food Pantry Needs: Mashed potatoes, canned yams, box dressing, toilet paper, money for turkeys and frozen pies, shampoo, laundry soap

Contact Information:

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Forget your checkbook or cash? You can give to CFC through the Pushpay app. Available at the app store or Google play store for the Iphone or android. It's fast and easy. You can also visit our website, cfnazwaco.com and click the "giving" button.

December Birthdays:

Judy Murphy	Dec. 7
Jorge Carmona	Dec. 9
John Lewis	Dec. 10
Gary Vaughn	Dec. 10
Thela Hinnen	Dec. 17
Rosemary McCoy	Dec. 17
Alana Morales	Dec. 22
Frances Gilham	Dec. 23
Jim Allen	Dec. 27
David Baumgartner	Dec. 30
Joyce Litke	Dec. 30

December Anniversaries:

David and Carol Ann Ash	Dec. 15
Joseph and Rachel Scott	Dec. 29

- ◆ If you are visiting for the first time today, please stop by the Welcome Center in the foyer and pick up a welcome bag. We are so glad you are here today.
- ◆ Audio devices are available at the Welcome Center for those having difficulty hearing the service.
- ◆ Wi-Fi Connection...**CFCNAZ-guest** and enter the password **potato94**

December 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3 Orwig/Spross Party 6 pm
4 Men's and Women's Connection Groups 6 pm	5 19 North Connection Group 6:30 pm	6	7 GET R.E.A.L. Activities 6 pm	8	9 Mission Waco Breakfast	10 Spross Class Party 4 pm GET R.E.A.L. Elf Games 6 pm
11	12 19 North Connection Group 6:30 pm	13	14 GET R.E.A.L. Activities 6 pm	15	16 19 North Christmas Party 6:30 pm	17 Children's Play Practice/ Party 2-4:30 pm
18 Children's Christmas Program 10:45 am	19 19 North Connection Group 6:30 pm	20	21 GET R.E.A.L. Party	22	23 Office Closed	24 Christmas Eve Service/ Communion
25 No Sunday School/Service @ 10:45 am	26	27	28 No Youth Activities	29	30	31

****No Sunday night activities during the month of December, except for Men's and Women's Connection Groups on Dec. 4**