

# Message of Light



Reverend
Paul
Carpenter
Senior Minister

#### NOVEMBER ATTENDANCE

4th 9: 00 AM-240 11:00 AM-58 Sunday School-94

11th 9:00 AM - 235 11:00 AM - 55 Sunday School - 113

18th 9:00 AM - 213 11:00 AM - 54 Sunday School - 107

25th 9:00 AM- 193 11:00 AM- 47 Sunday School-114 reetings!!! I hope this issue of The Light finds you well. Mary Norman, our Administrative Assistant, challenged us to submit a picture from our childhood. I couldn't find any with Santa Clause, but this is one with my family of seven. I'm the kid at my mother's left shoulder. The Staff at FCC prays that all of us with have an Advent and Christmas season that is as magical and beautiful as it was when we were all children.

Each Christmas season I look forward to singing one hymn in particular – "O Come, All Ye Faithful." This is the grand announcement to the Shepherds, the Wise Men, and to all nations even to today, to come and receive Jesus as God's greatest gift.

This hymn helps set the tone each year. Before we hear the call to follow Christ and well before the cross or the resurrection, we are invited to "come and behold him, born the King of angels." "O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!" Here are just a few thoughts as we enter this season:

First, Christmas is about joy, victory, and triumph. This time of year can be distracting for some, and even depressing for others. All the traditions and ribbons attached to Christmas can steal our eyes from the centrality of the season – Our wait is over, God has sent the Christ and his name is Jesus! Can you imagine living in the eras before Jesus came? "The people who have walked in darkness," describes life before Jesus' birth. "Have seen a great light," describes life ever since! Pray today that

the Holy Spirit would lead you and all the faithful to the manger as victors, beholding the One who holds our fate – Jesus Christ.

Second, Christmas is about invitation. "O come, All Ye Faithful" gives the Church the words to proclaim to those who wander in darkness today. Christmas is a natural season to share the Good News of Jesus Christ - it's not about a doctrine, it's about a person. The same Jesus who was Lord at his birth and who entertained royal wise men, is still drawing mankind to his feet to adore him today. He uses the Church to herald the news of his presence. Who will come to Christ this season through you? What stranger will you meet who God will make into your brother or sister in Christ this December? Come adore Jesus, and call out to the world!

Third, Christmas is about singing. Don't miss a chance to sing this Christmas. Go caroling, get to church on Sundays to join your voice with others, and hold your candle on Christmas Eve with a song in your heart and on your lips. Hum, whistle, sing this Christmas. God loves to hear His children sing.

A quick reminder that our Sunday morning schedule is 8:30 AM Prayer Service, 9:30 AM Sunday School, and 10:40 AM Traditional Worship. I hope you make the most of this season with FCC. O come, all ye Faithful!

Merry Christmas, Pastor Paul

### Sharing the Light



"Each of us is wishing for you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year"

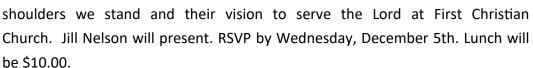
First Christian Church, 1949, Lubbock, Texas

From the First Christian Church Records,
Southwest Collection, Special Collections Library,
Texas Tech University

#### Keenagers

#### Our Windows Revealed – December Event

When you approach our church building, you are invited in by lovely stained-glass windows. Throughout the church you are comforted by their beauty and charmed by their stories. On Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am, the Keenagers will take a longer look at all of our windows and their stories. Additionally, we will take a brief walk down memory lane and find out about the men and women on whose





In 1966 the discovery of oil in Dubai changed the country beyond recognition and led Dubai to become one of the most vibrant and modern cities in the world. Skyscrapers rose out of the sky, including the tallest building in the world, the Burk Khalifa which rises 2,717 feet. Dubai has been the site of an extremely large skyscraper building boom and has amassed one of the largest skylines in the world. We invite you to kick off the New Year with a trip to Dubai with Dwayne and Elizabeth Tidwell as they share some of the highlights of their visit to Dubai and Abu Dhabi last year.





#### Page 4

### Message of Light

#### "Descend to Us, We Pray" . . . Marilyn Wragg

Throughout the Old Testament, God's people relied primarily on intermediaries to relate to God on their behalf. Leaders like Moses talked with God and relayed His instructions to the Israelites. Priests offered sacrifices on behalf of the people. Prophets relayed God's words of warning and encouragement.

All along, God was pointing to a time when He would relate personally to each of His people. His prophets spoke of a time when all God's people would know Him; when He would be their God, they would be His people, and God Himself would dwell with them.

"They will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. *Jeremiah 31:34a*My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be My people. *Ezekiel 37:27* 

"Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us." *Matthew 1:23* 

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son...

Hebrews 1:1-2a

And so it came to pass that, in the town of Bethlehem during the reign of Caesar Augustus, Mary gave birth to Jesus. Thus was fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy that a child would be born called Immanuel, "God is with us."

Living on this side of Jesus' birth, death, and resurrection, we can each relate directly to our Triune God. Because God Himself came down to us, each—from the least to the greatest—has the privilege of speaking to and hearing from God.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray.
Cast out our sin, and enter in;
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell
O come to us, abide with us,
Our God, Emmanuel.

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" v.4

That ability to pray one-on-one to the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Lord Israel—our Heavenly Father—is a priceless gift. May we never take it for granted, and may we be especially intentional to employ it this season.

"O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, abide with us, our God, Immanuel."





## Light it Up

#### **Warring King**

"For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet." 1 Corinthians 15:25

It isn't always something that we think about whenever Jesus comes to mind, but it is clear throughout scripture that Jesus is a Warrior King. He came to wage war against the powers of this world and bring them all under His authority. He came as a lamb and while it is promised that He will return like a lion, it cannot be disputed that

Jesus is skillfully at work,



overwhelming the enemies of His Kingdom. As 1 Corinthians 15:25 states, Jesus will succeed in putting all of the enemies of God under His reign. Which is good news! It means that there will be a promised time where peace and love will reign. There will be a time when fear is like a

fossil, never to terrorize anymore. A time where pain wont be experienced or even recollected. A time where we get to walk in paradise with our king...forever. Advent is the time where we celebrate the start of that Kingdom invasion. A time to recognize how God displayed the start of His Kingdom's invasion not through intimidating legions of angel armies, but rather through a baby boy. This is Advent! A season to acknowledge that the word Emmanuel became the new standard of living...where forever God will be with us as our King.



Scott Hall on left with his brother

Scott Hall University Minister (806)283-0566



# Youth of Light

The call that we are given as Christians is a mighty one. As we continue to advance in our faith and mature in our relationship with the Lord, I believe our call to action and servitude also grows. Missions are no joke in the kingdom of heaven, and I'm not referring to our mission. What I mean is the mission of the Lord God Almighty. The mission that He is actively involved in, the mission that He has commissioned from the beginning of time, the mission that has been engaged by God himself. The thing about the Lord's mission is that he doesn't just exclude us from this reality but is actively calling us into participation! How beautiful is that? The lord wants you and me to help not because it is necessary but because it's beautiful. Imagine yourself as a young child helping your Father fix something around the home, he most likely didn't need your help but desired after your inclusion. This is the narrative that we live in; a Father that wants us to take part in his mission of reconciliation as we grow and mature. My prayer for you during this season is that this desire to serve and join in the Lord's work is kindled within you. May God bless you.



Derek Jerezano Youth Minister





Christmas 1997





### Children of Light



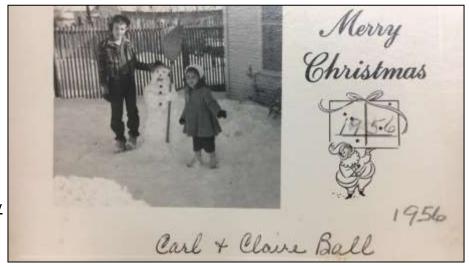


Holly Jessen Children's Minister

### Noah's Nook...Claire Dulaney

Noah's Nook is celebrating the addition of 55 new books and much needed supplies! Come by during December and see them on display!! Thank you Deacons for recognizing this need for our FCC and CDC children.

And thank you Linda Taylor for giving an absolutely beautiful book to Noah's Nook entitled What Every Child Should Know About Prayer.
It's a remarkable book for children and parents!



The Advent booklet, "Peace on Earth," has daily reflections, prayers, and action suggestions to draw us daily into a closer relationship with Immanuel, "God with us."

This booklet is an annual gift to our congregation from the Deacons of First Christian Church.

# Give the Light

#### SAVE the DATES

#### **DECEMBER**

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Book Wrapping Party			
5 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday Night Fellowship (Youth) at the Ritchey's			
9 <sup>th</sup>	Family Christmas Caroling 4:30 pm			
16 <sup>th</sup>	College Graduation Sunday			
19 <sup>th</sup>	Youth Christmas Party at the Toelle's			
14 <sup>th</sup>	CDC Christmas Program 7:00 pm			
25 <sup>th</sup>	FCC Church Office Closed			

#### **JANUARY**

<b>1</b> st	FCC Church Office Closed			
6 <sup>th</sup>	Back to School Devotional (Youth)			
20 <sup>th</sup>	Fellowship Gathering (Youth)			

### Juliette Fowler Communities Christmas Eve Offering

For many years, First Christian Church has had the privilege of extending love and joy to the residents of Juliette Fowler Communities. On the eve of Christmas, we gather to worship and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas in communion, song, lighting of candles, and offering gifts to those less fortunate. Those gifts are given to Juliette Fowler Communities, an outreach of the Disciples of Christ (Christian Churches) in Dallas, Texas.

Fowler Communities continues to offer loving care to those whose bodies have been broken and whose spirits have been broken. Your gifts help to heal. Your gifts heal those at Pearl Norden Center who need extended care, memory care, and assistance in their daily lives. Jackson Living Center allows those who are able to live independently in their twilight years. Fowler Christian Apartments offer secure and safe housing for the elderly whose income qualifies them to live in government subsidized quarters.

Fowler is a unique community in that it is an intergenerational community. Care is extended to the young as well. PCHAS continues to place children in foster care homes and trains loving families to welcome children who need safe and caring environments after they have been removed from their homes. Additionally, The Ebby House continues to be an example to other organizations who want to provide a home, education, and work experience for young women who have aged out of the foster care program.

This Christmas you are encouraged to give hope to the residents of Fowler Communities. Let them prosper and have a future with your gifts given with joy and love.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." – Jereminh 29:11



Adult Class Christmas 1997

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Get away from the busyness of life and the pressures of parenting and spend time in the presence of the Lord.

Join us, February 8-10th for worship, prayer and fellowship in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Dr. Bob Utley will host a series of workshops to help us move forward in our journey into Christ likeness.

You will have the opportunity to worship, rest, and explore beautiful Santa Fe while staying at the Hilton Santa Fe located on the Historic Plaza.





#### **Upcoming DECEMBER Gatherings & Meetings...**

- **Church Offices CLOSED December 25th and January 1st**
- Bible Babes, Mondays, 7:00pm, Church Parlor i◊
- Noon Bible Study, Every Wednesday Afternoon, 12:10-12:50pm  $| \rangle$

(no Bible Study Wednesday, December 26th)

- Bean Elementary Book Wrapping Party, Sunday, December 2nd, 3:00pm
- Elders Meeting, Wednesday, December 5th, 7:00pm | ◊
- I⊹ Deacons Meeting, Wednesday, December, 5th, 7:00pm
- Christian Women's Fellowship, Tuesdays, 6:30pm, Cattle Baron
- Family Day Christmas Caroling, Sunday, December 9th, 4:30pm, Lakeside Rehabilitation | ◊
- Finance Meeting, Monday, December 10th, 11:45am, Conference Room
- ◊ **Executive Committee Meeting**, Tuesday, December 11th, 11:30am
- General Board Meeting, Wednesday, December 12th, 7:00pm, Chapel Parlor | ◊
- Children's Program, Friday, December 14, 7:00pm
- ١٥ South Plains Food Bank Food Vouchers Issued, Wednesday, December 19th, 9am-12pm
- Foundation Meeting, Tuesday, December 18th, 4:00pm, Conference Room | ◊
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Services, Monday, December 24th, 4:00pm and 6:00pm

### Music of Light



Brittney Hardin, Music Minister

Advent is here! We invite you to join us on Sunday December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:40 AM for a combine Hanging of the Greens service and special presentation of the Gospel through song and drama in *The Greatest Gift*. This first Sunday of Advent we will center our hearts, minds, and spirits on the manger and remember the reason we celebrate, the greatest gift of all, the gift of Jesus Christ given to the world.

The Children's Development Center Christmas Program will take place on December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary. Afterwards we will all gather in Kuykendall Hall for cookies, punch, and a visit from a VERY special guest!

Please come to support these children and spread the love of Christ this Advent season.





#### **Know Your Foundation**

For more than 50 years the First Christian Church Foundation has funded seminary students as they strive to obtain their Masters of Divinity degree. Some of those awarded scholarships you may know or are familiar with include; Sara Beckman, Mark Bender, John Bowers, Michael Davidson, Michael Hutton, Greg Kraus, Nick Koontz, David and Karakay Kovaly, Nathan Loewen, Barry Loving, Jedd Maison, Andy Mangum, Beth Ann Pattillo, B.J. Tapley, Tyson Taylor and Todd Wyrick. All of these individuals received their degrees and have gone on to serve the Lord in various capacities of the church universal. If you happen to meet one of these people, congratulate them their accomplishments.



Lynn Williams with her brother

## Bless the Light

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Military News And Concerns

#### Lt. Brant Brock-Norfolk son-in-law of Brenda Hendricks

Christopher Colgrove Kuwait nephew of Laurie Williams

#### Lieutenant Colonel **Ethan Diven** Fort Stewart, GA husband & father of Sabrina, Jacob & Kendall and son-in-law of Jerry & Brenda Stanfield

1<sup>st</sup> Lt Nicholas Swanson USAF, Tinker AFB, **Oklahoma City** grandson of Virginia Myers Dorman

#### Capt. Nathaniel Swanson USMC, Oceana Naval Station, Virginia grandson of Virginia Myers Dorman

#### We lift up in prayer our Friends and Family

**Members**: Robbie Bedker, Glenda Cole, Marcy Lawless, Gloria Meitzen, Gary Moore, Pat Renfro, Randell Resneder, Karen Slay, Joy Turner, Jackie Williams

**Friends**: Bear Brock, Marilyn Brinkley, Joe Gillispie, Katelyn Harlow, Will Jordan, Shannon Layman, Sue Lotz, Chris Mackey, Leroy Montoya, Michael Oman, Jed Schroeder, Jackie Shaw, Nortina Stewart, Darnell Vandivort, Pauline Webb, Carol White

#### **Homebound & Home Communion Prayers**

Kenneth Davis, Kaye and Stumpy Greer, Lynise McDonald, Frances Evans, Cara Irvin, Ruby Power, Virginia Vincent, Marty Wells, Shelly and Burt Nelson

#### **Baptism**

Walker Belew was baptized on November 25th during the traditional service.

#### Our Deepest Sympathy

- We lift up Barbara Miller in the passing of her husband, Herb Miller who passed into Heaven on October 30th.
- We lift up Marsha Teichelman in the passing of her friend, Glen Fonner who passed from this life on November 17th.
- We lift up Jim Evans in the passing of his friend Carter Wiechmann who received his Heavenly calling on November 16th.

Plan to Attend our December Services
December Worship and Sunday School Times:

8:30 a.m. Prayer Service
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:40 a.m. All-Church Worship in the Sanctuary

### Message of Light

#### Beans... and Much More

**: 我我我我我我我我我我我我我我我我我我我我我我我我我我我我我!** 

Have you ever wondered about the story behind the "Disciples Beans" that are part of our beans and poinsettia donations each Christmas? The beans are sent to Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries (SWGSM), a ministry that serves legal refugees, orphans, the poor, and other special causes in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas and adjacent areas of Mexico. FCC has supported SWGSM financially for over 30 years, and has sent a number of mission teams to the Valley.

Some years ago the Coastal Bend Area churches recognized the hunger needs in the Valley and began sending Disciples rice, grown in that area, to SWGSM. Rev. Ernie Williams from FCC Lubbock was the SWGSM moderator, and felt that the Hi Plains Area could supply local pinto beans. Through the years, Disciples rice and beans became a major food resource for many people.

In the last year, your gifts of Disciples beans have fed refugees from many countries, including a large group of Cubans trapped in camps in Mexico by changing US immigration policies. They have also served over 60 children in an orphanage, a community of poor people living on a roughly reclaimed landfill in Matamoros, and many poor parishioners of Hispanic Disciples churches in the Valley. Over \$12,000 of rice and beans were distributed, but the needs are still greater than the supply.

You can make a difference with your gift of Disciples beans during our Christmas beans and poinsettia drive. Donations can be made in honor or in memory of friends and family. You will provide a gift of simple food to those who truly know hunger.

: 张刘斌就就就就就就就就就就就就就就就就就就就就就就就就就

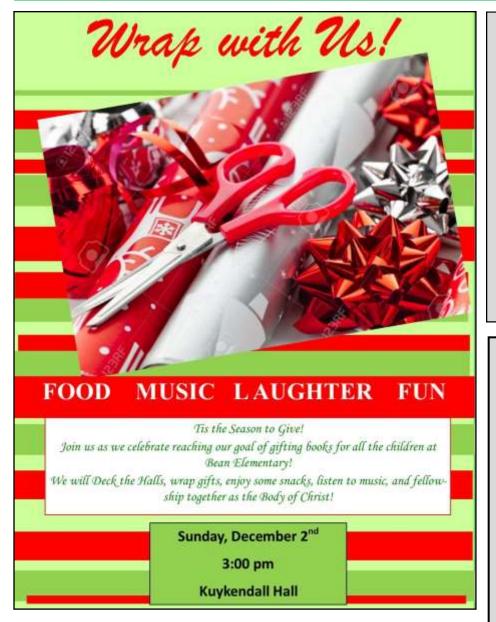
### Poinsettias & Disciples Beans Orders

Poinsettias will be on display in our Sanctuary as memorials to loved ones and expressions of appreciation to family and friends. There is also an opportunity for outreach through the function of the lower Rio Grande Valley.

The <u>firm</u> deadline for orders is Wednesday, December 19th, at noon. Make checks payable to "First Christian Church" and note "poinsettias and/or beans" in the memo section. Turn in order forms and payment to the church office or place in the offering plate during worship. Net proceeds from poinsettia sales will be used for local outreach. Orders cannot be received without payment.

Members will deliver poinsettias to our homebound/hospitalized members & friends after the last Christmas | Eve Service.

# Share the Light



#### 

#### **Church Office Holiday Dates**

The church office will be <u>closed</u>
Tuesday December 25th for the
Christmas Holiday and Tuesday,
January 1st for New Year's Day.
Minimal staff will be available
December 26 - December 31st.
Merry CHRISTmas & Happy New
Year to you and your family from
the staff at First Christian Church!

The Light is published monthly January-December.

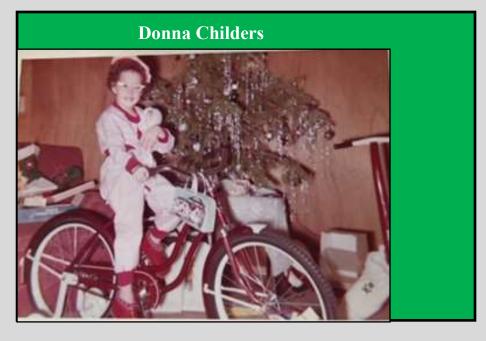
The Light informs members of congregational news/activities

Managing Editor-Mary Norman

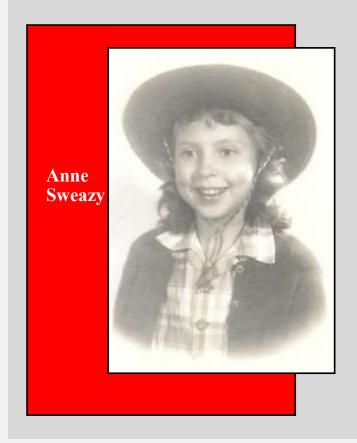


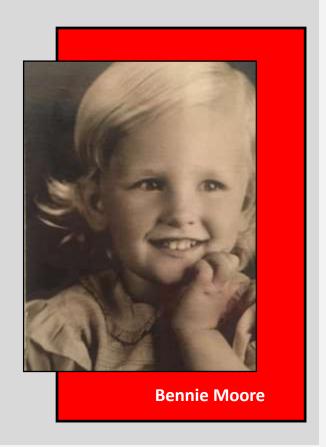
# Message of Light

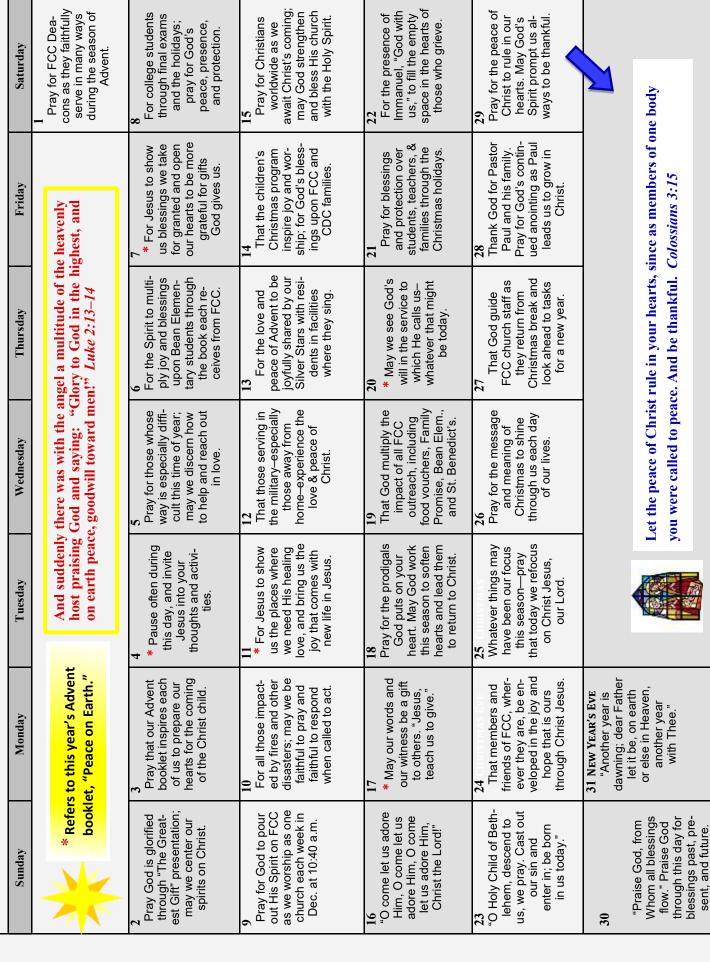
### MERRY CHRISTMAS from our wonderful Office Volunteers!











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#### Especially for:

### **DECEMBER-**Worship Times

Sundays: Prayer Service: 8:30 a.m. Chapel

#### **Traditional Service:**

10:40a.m. Sanctuary

**Sunday School:** 9:30 a.m.

#### **OFFICE HOURS**

Monday-Thursday

8:30 a.m.-Noon 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Friday 8:30 a.m.-Noon

#### **OFFICE PHONE**

806-763-1995 **Fax:** 806-763-5904

Family Life Community Center 747-5962 Office Hours: 3-6 p.m.



#### MISSION STATEMENT OF FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Empowered by the Holy Spirit we will **NURTURE:** help individuals become more Christ-like, **SHARE:** lead people into a relationship with God through the love of Jesus Christ, and **REACH OUT:** call each member to respond to the needs of others in Jesus' Name.

### **DECEMBER Birthdays**

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Elise Vinson
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Virginia Vincent James Yaeger	Dick Tarr Brian Dulaney	<b>**</b>	Rhonda Monroe	Zoe Phillips Emma Pierce	Arlano Funderburk	Sue Sexton Darryl Berry
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Jan Holmes Pat Renfro Brax Wright	Elaine Chaney Allyson Vinson	Tayden Sanders Joaquin Santillan	Bethany Santillan	Susan Evans	Ryan Carr	Chris Toelle
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Dianne Moseley Ethan Kitten	Randy Meador	Kylie Peebles	BIRTHD	Georgianna White Victoria Henderson Nikolas Becker	Lisa Taulman Destiny Smith	Cliff Watt Otilo Castellano Sadi Young Linda Adams
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Debbie Mullins William Gibson Augie Rawe		Landon I auderdale	Gary Moore Gwen Davis Jackson Dodge	Trois Payne John Russell Travis Gibson		Jane Allison
30	31					
John Holt Dennis Reeves Jody Dean Taylor Young	Randell Resneder	HAPPY NEW YEAR				