

Family Information

Holiday Schedules

Sunday Morning Bible Class in E44 - The class is taking a break for the holiday next Sunday, December 25, and will resume meeting on January 1.

Sunday Morning Bible Class in the Auditorium - The class is taking a break for the holiday next Sunday, December 25, and will resume meeting on January 1.

Sunday Afternoon Worship (4 PM) - The class is taking the rest of December off, and will resume in January.

Monday Women's Prayer Group - The prayer group is taking a break tomorrow (December 19), and it will resume meeting on December 26.

Tuesday Women's Bible Study - The Bible study is taking a break on December 27 and January 3, and will resume meeting on January 10.

Wednesday Outreach Meetings - The group won't be meeting for the rest of December, and it will resume in January.

Friday TGIF Bible Study - The group won't have regular meetings for the rest of December, and it will resume in January. For special events this month, see Leisha or Mike Evans for updates.

Offering Envelopes For 2023 Now Available

On the table on the right side of the foyer as you enter, there are boxes of offering envelopes for 2023, for those who have requested them. The names are written on each box. Please note that your envelope number may have changed. If you don't have envelopes and would like a set, see Ashley Dillinger or Glenn Culler.

On Line Bible Studies

New Small Groups - Sign-Up Sheets Available

Sign-up sheets have been posted in the foyer for anyone interested in joining a new small group sometime this winter. These will help in setting up the new group(s). There is one sheet for anyone interested in joining a group that would meet every 2 weeks, and there is another sheet for anyone interested in joining a group that would meet once per month. If you have any questions, please see Caleb or one of the elders.

Children's Classes

We currently have children's classes for ages 2-10 during worship (each of them begins after the Lord's Supper). See Mike Evans for further details. The children's education program needs helpers for all age groups. See Lynn Paden or Emily Graham if you can help.

Current On-Line Studies

Every other Friday at 7:00 PM - TGIF Bible Study led by Mike Evans. Contact him for details and the current schedule.

Mondays at 7:00 PM - Women's prayer group, hosted by Peggy Kaiser. Contact her for details. If you aren't able to join, you can e-mail prayer requests to Peggy.

Tuesdays at 7:00 PM - Women's Bible study "Abide In Christ", led by Karen Susenna. The current study is in Acts. Contact Karen for more details.

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$4183	\$4267
Designated:	\$100	\$69

Service Times	
Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:00 AM
Sunday Morning Worship	10:00 AM
Sunday Spanish Worship	10:00 AM
Sunday Ghana Worship	12:00 PM
Sunday Evening Worship	4:00 PM

Minister: Caleb Dillinger
Elders: Mike Evans, Jeff McVicker, Jim Robbins
Deacons: Lynn Champney, Perry Coate, Glenn Culler, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, John Lindsay, Don Milnor, Art Silva
Spanish Ministry: Luis Valdez

For sessions that are currently meeting on-line, see the announcements above.



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Glory To God In The Highest

As I backed my car out of the garage to go to Thanksgiving dinner with one of my sister friends and her family, I noticed my favorite radio station had made the switch to all holiday music. One carol sent me down a road of reflection of how my holiday seasons were celebrated in times past. It was a carol with shepherds and their experience from Luke 2: 8-14.

It prompted me to reflect, specifically, on the past holiday festivities enjoyed and all the school plays conducted while in my grade school in North Carolina. Allow me to clarify something prior to continuing. I am not a big fan of the holidays. However, I was a huge fan of those plays and accompanying festivities.

The festivities would begin with an assigned scripture to be memorized as part of our nine-week grade and later recited orally. Since I was a very conscientious student, I spent the time needed to commit whatever scripture was assigned to memory. Those assigned were usually Luke chapter 2 or Isaiah 9. The festivities would almost always end with the senior class portraying these scriptures in a play. The younger students would then recite their scriptures in the play. Every class would sing carols throughout the play. As we exited the auditorium, each student would receive a small gift bag.

Each year the students recited, the unskilled and sometimes skilled actors portrayed, and the carolers sang. I never grew weary of the play. I became more intrigued each year. The actors changed but the script never did. A decree always went out from Caesar Augustus, the young couple traveled to Bethlehem of Judea, there was no room in the inn, the mother swaddled her baby and placed him in a manger, shepherds were terribly frightened, and angels praised God. More importantly, a Savior was born. It was a great and joyful event for all. I did realize that all somehow meant me too, regardless to whether I was a fan of the holiday or not.

It wasn't until December 1978 and January 10, 1979, I realized the significance of the announcement to the shepherds in Luke 2: 10-11: 10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. (KJV) On January 10, 1979, was the day for me that God and sinner reconciled. This was thanks to a promise told to shepherds keeping watch over their sheep. It is with a grateful heart, I join with the angels in praising God and saying Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

- Donna Smith

The Annunciation

'Twas night upon Judea's hills,
And sparkling shone her thousand rills
Beneath a starry sky;
While shepherds, on the dewy grass,
Watched dark nocturnal shadows pass,
Till midnight hours drew nigh.

When, from the crystal walls above,
The white-winged messengers of love,
On joyous errand bent,
Sang through each upland, glade and glen,
Peace on the earth, good will to men,
Your Savior now is sent.

- Adelia Cleopatra Graves, 1821-1895

Writer and teacher Adelia Graves grew up in Ohio, and after completing school she moved to take a position at a women's college. She wrote on a variety of subjects, and was best known for her poetry. She also wrote some books for children, using the pen name "Aunt Alice".

As The World Around Was Sleeping

As the world around was sleeping,
In the calm and silent night;
While the shepherds watch were keeping
Came an angel robed in light.

Gazing on his matchless splendor,
They were troubled and dismayed;
But in accents kind and tender,
Soon He said, Be not afraid.

Lo! to you I bring good tidings,
Words of peace to all your race;
For in Bethlehem abiding
Now is born the Prince of Grace.

Hark! Heaven's hosts take up the story,
Praising God o'er Bethlehem's plain;
Glory in the highest, glory;
Peace on earth, good will to men.

- Horace Lorenzo Hastings, 1831-1899

Writer and public speaker Horace Hastings helped establish a religious publishing company as well as a monthly periodical, and he wrote the words to over 100 hymns.

MYSTERY VERSE WORD SEARCH #3

The words in the following list come from a certain book of the Bible, and they are all hidden in the diagram below. The words can be forwards, backwards, up, down, or diagonally. As you find them, shade in the letters that you use. There will be 28 unused letters, and reading from left to right beginning at the top of the diagram, they will spell out the mystery verse from this week's mystery book.

ABIRAM
AMALEK
BALAAM
BELIEVE
CANAAN
CHANGED
ELEAZAR

HERBS
INCENSE
MEETING
MIDIAN
PLEASING
POMEGRANATES

QUAIL
REPRESENTING
RESPONSIBILITY
SACRED ASSEMBLY
SELECT
SEPARATE

SIMEON
SLOPES
SPECIAL
TABERNACLE
THIRTY SHEKELS
WHOLEHEARTEDLY

S L E K E H S Y T R I H T W
E A T K E L A M A R I B A H
T H C H A N G E D E G G B O
A S B R E H N L O R N E E L
N E D E E E I M M I I L R E
A T A K L D S A T E T E N H
R A M I D I A N H I E A A E
G R T C E L E S E S E Z C A
E A F A A S L V S C M A L R
M P C B E O P I E E N R E T
O E E R P S H I A A M I N E
P S P E C I A L A U E B O D
N E S I M E O N Y O Q U L L
R E S P O N S I B I L I T Y

The answer, and a new puzzle, will be in the bulletin next week. Last week's mystery verse answer: *Consider what God has done.* - ECCLESIASTES 7:13

- Mark Garner