

Westgate Church of Christ

Welcome Members and Guests

Directory Wall Picture Day

Today is the last chance to get your directory wall picture taken. If you need a new picture, please see Steve Templeton after services in the first classroom in the west hallway.



Christmas Candlelight Service

This **Wednesday, Dec. 15th**, please join us for the annual Christmas Candlelight Service at **7:00 p.m.** There will be no separate Bible classes as we will all be gathered together in the auditorium. Feel free to invite your friends and family to this beautiful night of worship.



Pizza, Pajamas, and Prizes

The Westgate ladies are going to kick off 2022 in style with a Pizza and Pajamas Ladies Supper on **Tuesday, January 11th, at 6:00 p.m.** We will **sign up for Ladies' Committees** for the year, so please make plans to come. The menu is pizza and salad, and the dress is pajamas or comfy clothes. Babysitting will be provided. Please contact Heather or Clair with any questions.

Reminders

Just a few reminders as we approach Christmas and New Year's Day: We will have the Christmas Candlelight Service this Wednesday night, but we will not have evening services the next two Wednesdays after that (**12/22 and 12/29**). **December 26th** we will have a worship service only at **10:00 a.m.** (no classes), and **January 2nd** we will bring in the new year with a Breakfast Fellowship at **9:00 a.m.** (no classes).

Sermon Title: Gabriel's Visit

Scripture: Luke 1: 26-38

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Prayer Concerns

~Our sympathy to **Mollie Varnado** in the loss of her beloved husband **Jerry**. Funeral services are scheduled for **2:00 p.m. today** here at the building.

~**Bill Jackson's** wife Lorraine passed away on Thursday night. Our heartfelt condolences to the Jackson family.

~**Jerry Herttenberger** has been moved to Hendrick North Room 4111. He is more alert, but still very weak. Please pray for strength and healing.

~**Steve Smith** was finally able to have his neck surgery Wednesday. He is at home recuperating. He is doing okay, but is in pain. He is having throat issues, which is to be expected. Prayers for a full recovery.

~Continued prayers for Brenda Smith, **Sherry Hurst's** mom, as she recovers from a broken pelvis. She is at home because no rooms were available at the rehab hospital. She has home health coming in.

~**Nell Hopper's** sister, Claudia Kemp, passed away last Saturday. Claudia's husband Glenn is fighting cancer. Our sincere sympathy to Nell and her family.

~**Ashley Simon's** dad's biopsy went well. He will be in the hospital for a few days until the chest tube comes out. Please pray doctors find some solutions to effectively treat him.

~**Don Walker (Mickey Walker's son)** is having spine surgery in Austin on Thursday, Dec. 16th. Doctors are hoping the surgery will increase his mobility. Please remember to pray for Don, especially on Thursday of this week.

~**Clarissa Pyeatt's** mom's husband, Ervin Spain, has a malignant tumor on the common bile duct. Please pray for his body to stabilize, a successful tumor removal, and full healing—along with peace for Clarissa's mom.

~**Shelley Doremus's** dad had a relapse of pneumonia, but is at home and on a new antibiotic that will hopefully help.

Those unable to join us:

- ~Laverne Horn
- ~Ethel Gumm
- ~Pat Suba

Ongoing prayer concerns:

- ~Peggy Allen
- ~Deana Frazier
- ~Bill Jackson
- ~Nell Hopper
- ~Dwight Painter
- ~Lue Gray
- ~Chester Lynd
- ~Melody Loveland
- ~Larry Loveland
- ~Hope Hodges
- ~Jerry Herttenberger
- ~Bradi Williams
- ~Steve Henderson
- ~Donna Scott
- ~Steve Smith
- ~Patsy Williamson
- ~Jim and Joyce Waddell
- ~Mickey Walker

Missionaries:

- ~Doug & Marge Reeves- Sunset International Bible Institute, Lubbock, TX

KEITH LANCASTER
PRAISE & HARMONY
SONGFEST
Experience passion in your worship after Keith Lancaster presents a Praise & Harmony weekend in Abilene!
SATURDAY, JAN. 1
HILLCREST CHURCH OF CHRIST
11 A.M.-1 P.M.

SONGFEST at Hillcrest

Hillcrest Church of Christ, Keith Lancaster, and Acappella Ministries invite you to SONGFEST on Saturday, Jan. 1st from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Hillcrest Church of Christ. This will be a time of learning new songs like Called Me Higher, Only You Are Holy, O Praise the Name, and many more.

Thank you note:

Bill and the family would like to thank you for the wonderful Thanksgiving meal you delivered. We really appreciate all the church does. God Bless, Bill Jackson and family

Welcome new members:

Victoria Cooper
Kaidynn, Kaisynn, Le'Andre
Victoria's address is available in the church office.



A CHRISTMAS BLESSING

During this Christmas season, may you be blessed with the spirit of the season, which is **peace** the gladness of the season, which is **hope** and the heart of the season, which is **love**.



Happy Birthday:

Dec. 15th: Autumn Meeks



Happy Anniversary:

Dec. 17th: Randy & Julie Bibb, Mark & Lydia Lyon

Dec. 18th: Kevin & Christie Pruitt



Our Calendar:

Dec. 12th: Youth Group Christmas Party

Dec. 15th: Christmas Candlelight Service 7:00 p.m.

Dec. 22nd: No Wednesday night service

Dec. 25th: Christmas Day

Dec. 26th: Worship Service only – 10 a.m. (no Bible Class)

Dec. 29th: No Wednesday night service

Jan. 1st: New Year's Day

Jan. 2nd: Breakfast Fellowship 9:00 a.m. (no Bible Class)

Jan. 11th: Ladies Supper 6:00 p.m.

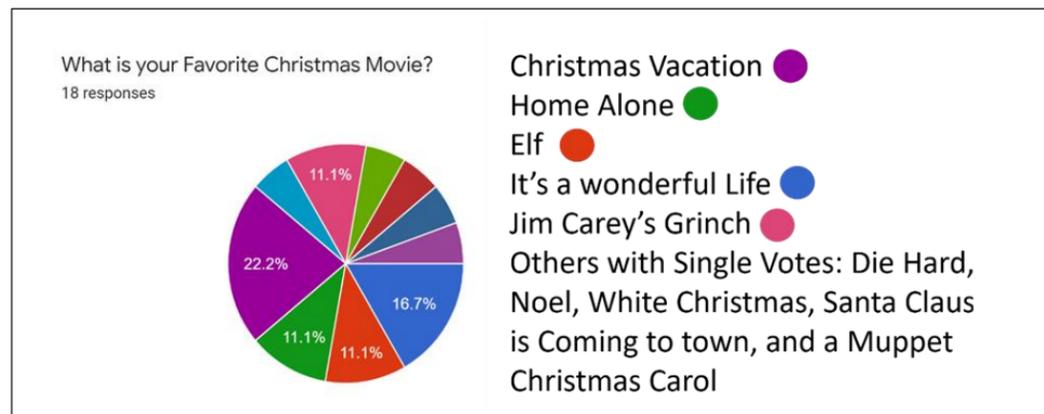
The Evolution of Tradition Part 2—by Brady Horner

One thing I've noticed at Christmas is that some people are lax about following tradition, while some are, for lack of a better term, "Tradition Nazis." They insist you follow each tradition to a T. I've seen family members insist we must all look at lights on Christmas Eve, not a day early and not a day late. Some insist on an early present on Christmas Eve, and when Santa comes Christmas morning, we will all be in cheesy pajamas. For my grandma, it does not matter if her grandkids are in their 30's and balding, she will read you *The Night Before Christmas* on Christmas Eve.

It's easy to point at these "Tradition Nazis" as Christmas legalists, only concerned about following rules, but it could also be that they just really love these traditions. I'm lax on tradition until someone tries to take away my chili supper or *Die Hard*. It's hard to let go of traditions we love, and luckily, we don't have to! However, traditions become a problem when we make them into laws that we force on others. It's ok if you love eggnog and it's a Christmas tradition, but don't call me a grinch because I think the stuff is disgusting.

Sometimes without knowing it we make our church traditions into laws. Some people think it's a sin to not offer an invitation at the end of a sermon, to not wear nice clothes to church, or to not have Sunday night church. All those things are traditions that we have turned into law! There is no explicit command to do any of that in Scripture, they are just nice, man-made, traditions. It's ok to have, love, and celebrate our traditions, but let's be careful to not make them into law. On several occasions Jesus and the disciples chose to not follow traditions that the Pharisees treated as law. This was partially to show how their adding so many laws made accessing God extremely difficult (almost as if they were slamming the door to the Kingdom in people's faces). Whenever we find ourselves upset about things being done differently in our church, or other churches, we need to objectively ask, "Am I upset about this because it is a breach of God's law, or is it really just a breach of tradition?" If we are getting mad about breaches in tradition, we are really just getting mad about a breach in our preferences and comfort.

Survey results from last week:



Children's Ministry News

In Exodus 3:1-4:17, God appears to Moses in a bush that's on fire but not burning up. God tells Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, where they're slaves. Moses doesn't want to and has a lot of excuses. But God assures him, "I Am Who I Am." God doesn't change; He's the same God today!

Summary Verse: "...The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth. He never grows weak or weary. No one can measure the depths of His understanding." Isaiah 40:28

Please continue to pray for our Westgate educators. "...I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you..." 3 John 1:2

Thank you to everyone who assisted with the children's program. Melissa was head photographer and chief prop wrangler, thanks so much for her help. Appreciation to Sharon and Vince the sound room experts, Cody Bob the pizza man, Luke the hanger and remover of the North star, and the Chaney crew for moving furniture. Jill and Anthony provided tech help and Emory was invaluable as extra hands. Many thanks to parents for their patience and support.

A special thanks to Barbara, Melissa and the Breakfast with Santa elves for a fun morning. Appreciation to Briana and Misty for decorating the parlor and giving parents an amazing background for pictures. Please pray that we will continue to fellowship and encourage each other as we grow in Christ.



Youth Ministry News

Join us on **Sundays at 9 a.m. and Wednesdays at 7 p.m.** for class.

If you are a youth parent, please join us in the **youth house** after worship today to go over details concerning the mystery trip and summer plans.

The progressive dinner Christmas party is tonight! Please meet at the church building at **6 p.m.** and bring a White Elephant gift. We will be back by **9:15**.

Mark your calendars for a Mystery Trip on MLK Day weekend in January!

Please pray for our students to finish the semester strong!

Layla Horner decorating the youth house for Christmas!



Services at Westgate: Sundays—Bible Class 9:00 a.m., Worship 10:00 a.m.
Wednesdays—Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

Offering

Dec. 5th:
Contribution: \$5,120.31
eGive: \$4,249.00
Total: \$9,369.31
Budget: \$6,076.00
Be A Blessing: \$38.60

Lead Minister: Brady Horner cell: (325)260-1903 email: pbhorner@gmail.com

Youth Minister: Clay Howell cell: (615)879-0983 email: sch16a@acu.edu

Children's Education Coordinator: Jackie Lee cell: (325)518-4767
email: lee-jacqueline@sbcglobal.net

Elders: Randy Bibb, Jim MacDonald, Steve Stovall, Troy Tom

Deacons: Don Bell, Manny Carneiro, CJ Chaney, Jon Cogburn, Eric Gumm, Adam Lott, Chris Meeks, Matt Waldrip

Building Lock-up:

Dec. Chris Meeks
Jan. Matt Waldrip