

## You Must Not Love Jesus!

During a time of year that much of the world's attention is focused on the birth of Jesus, many find it odd that we, a church that bears the name of Christ, is not joining in the celebration. Where is the nativity scene? Why is there no special program or service planned? Why don't we have signs and banners reminding the world that "Jesus is the reason for the season?" When asked about it, our response of, "we don't celebrate Christmas as the time of Jesus' birth" is often met with shock, bewilderment, or even offense. "Don't you believe in the virgin birth? Aren't you thankful for Jesus' coming? You must not love Jesus!"

So before we go any further, let's get one thing straight: we absolutely, unequivocally believe in the reality and truthfulness of every detail of the Biblical account of Jesus' birth. It was a marvelous and miraculous event that took place just as the prophets had foretold it and in a way that defies any natural explanation. As Christians, we are extremely thankful for and praise God for the gift of His Son, including the extraordinary manner in which Jesus came into this world.

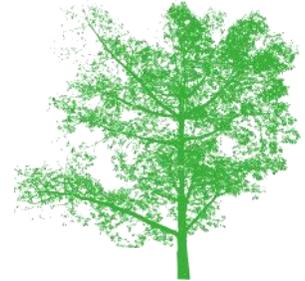
With all of that being said, the question still remains, "why do we not celebrate the birth of Jesus during the Christmas holiday?" In answer to that question, some would point out that we do not know the exact day of Jesus' birth and that there is even some evidence to support the argument that it could not have been December when these events took place. Others might argue that some elements of the traditional story of Jesus' birth are actually not accurate according to the Scriptures and, therefore, should not be encouraged. While there is certainly truth and legitimacy to both of these ideas, let me suggest a much more important reason why the birth of Jesus is not celebrated in a special way by His people. In reality, every day and every facet of Jesus' life is worthy of our praise, adoration, and, yes, celebration. With joy in our hearts and praise on our lips, we are to live daily lives that proclaim the greatness of our Lord and our love and adoration for Him. Yet, among all that Jesus accomplished in this world, there is one, and only one, event that He specifically commanded us to commemorate in a special way—His death. While the Bible contains no command or example that would encourage a yearly celebration of Jesus' birth, there is a very clear command and precedent for a weekly commemoration of Jesus' atoning death (see Matthew 26:26-29 and 1 Corinthians 11:23-26). Thus, we, in our desire to express our love and devotion to God in ways that are pleasing and acceptable to Him, participate, each and every Lord's day, in the memorial that Jesus Himself established. May God be glorified and Jesus be exalted in all that we do as His people.

*Rusty*

## To Our Guests

We are so pleased and honored that you have chosen to visit with us today! Chase Park is a wonderful Christian family, devoted to serving God through our lives and work. We are excited to share our love for Christ with others and we are thankful to have the opportunity to meet you and to have you join us for worship.

As we worship together today, our desire is to worship God according to the New Testament pattern and in a way that is pleasing and acceptable to Him. It is also our prayer that our time together is uplifting to those who are here including you, our guest. If you have any questions about anything that you see or hear today, please ask us. We would love to speak with you about those things and help you in any way that we can.



### Chase Park Church of Christ

#### Ministers

Rusty Hills ..... Pulpit

Pat Cowden ...Evangelism Minister

Andrew Lamica..... Youth Minister

#### Elders

John Denney

Curtis Hill

Sam Kachelman

Dennis Lawson

Greg Parker

Barry Todd

#### Missionaries

Jaime Mendoza .... Chalco, Mexico

Liborio Encarnacion. Ecatepec, Mexico

Slava Savkovsky .....Ukraine

Barton Kizer..... Peru

Dewayne Tapscott..... Southwest

## Lamifications—*Andrew Lamica*

It's that time of year once again! The holiday season is upon us! The older I get, the quicker it seems to come around.

I love the holidays. My favorite part of this time of year is how life seems to slow down just a little bit. It is during the holidays that we seem to have more concentrated time with family than any other time of the year.

It is also during this time of year that the world seems to focus on Jesus more than any other time. The aspect of our Lord's life that the world focuses on during this time of year is usually his birth. Unfortunately, the rest of the story, the fact that the baby grew up and called the world to Himself is often overlooked!

I have often wondered what is the appropriate way for a Christian

to act during this time of year. Too often it seems we, as the body of Christ, are tempted to dismiss the notion of His birth all together during the holiday season for fear of being misunderstood by brethren and those of the world. While it is true that we do not know for sure when Jesus was born, nor are we directed in Scripture to celebrate it, the fact that He was born is great news for humanity! Without the birth of Christ, there could be no life to model ours after, no death as payment for our sins, and no resurrection which defeated death once and for all.

This holiday season I issued myself a challenge. The challenge is simple, view the holiday season as an opportunity, an opportunity to start a conversation, a conversation which might open a door to

someone coming to a right relationship with the Son of God. Instead of shying away when someone ties the holidays to the birth of Jesus, use it as an opportunity to point to the culmination of God's plan, the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lamb of God for the saving of the souls of man.

The holidays are a wonderful time to spend with family and friends. This holiday season, let each of us look for opportunities to help those around us become a part of the wonderful family of God, the church.

## Outreach News—*Pat Cowden*

Last Sunday was amazing! It started with the Lamica's coming home with good news about Silas' surgery. Then we got to hear a wonderful lesson from Rusty about children and our attitudes towards them and responsibilities to them. In the afternoon, several gathered to hear from representatives from Freed-Hardeman University. In the evening services, we got to hear David Shannon, FHU president, speak to us about mustard seed faith and our leavening influence. After worship, we got to ask questions and hear responses from Bro. Shannon and others from FHU about Christian Education and then spent time in fellowship together.

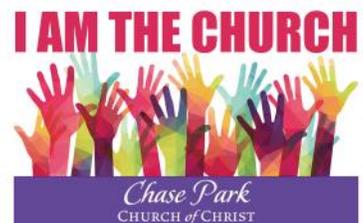
I am excited about how 2017 is

closing and how 2018 is shaping up! I truly believe it will be a year to remember in respects to the growth and development of Chase Park. As we learned from Rusty and David, we have opportunities and responsibilities involving children and the church. My prayer is that we look at these as "works which God has prepared beforehand that we might walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10).

We have some Bible studies that have started and are going well, and we have some members that are assisting with those studies. It is my vision that we ultimately have a team of folks who are fully capable of handling any Bible study effectively and to the glory of

God. One person assisting mentioned in the middle of one of these studies this week how enjoyable the study was. If you have an interest in participating as an observer, or assisting, or just to give support, I would love to have you as a partner. If you are reading this and you are not a Christian, I would love to study with you.

Remember, I love you in the Lord and want to go to heaven with you.



## News Of Interest

### Sick

#### Huntsville Hospital

Edna Crowe. Broken hip.

#### Regency Rehab

Gabie Luna

**Home:** Carol Layne and Donell Parker.

### Sympathy

We express sympathy to **Ken** and **Angie McGee** in the death of Ken's mother in Mississippi.

### Pantry Item

Paper Towels and Toilet Tissue.

### Holiday Information

Church offices closed Friday, December 22; Monday, December 25, for Christmas Day.

Offices closed Monday, January 1, 2018 for New Year's Day.

### Sunday, December 24, Worship Schedule

Will have the regular a.m. worship and Bible Class, then return to auditorium for shortened service. No 5:00 p.m. service that day.

### Gifts For Our Deputies Who Direct Our Traffic

**Collections for our Deputies will continue through today.** We will present the gift bags to the officers on Wednesday, December 20. You may leave your donations at the Hospitality Desk. We will be distributing the donations between 4 officers this year. **Please do not put a name on your donation.** You may make 4 different envelopes of donations, gifts, gift cards or surprises. Or you can make one donation and we will take the single donations and split them up between the deputies.

## Today and Upcoming at Chase Park

### Regency Retirement Service

Today: 1:30 p.m.

Speaker: **Barry Todd**

Song Leader: **Ray Brown**

### Hospital Visitation

Team #3 (**Suddarth**), please pick up your assignments following evening worship.

### Children's Ministry Devotional

After p.m. service today.

### Balance Class

Tuesday, December 19. This is the last class for 2017. Class will resume Thursday, January 4.

## January 2018 Birthdays

1	Paula Johnston	16	Mary Ann Sellers
2	Jerry Smelser	18	Rossin Lamica
	Mac Landman	19	Kaye Albright
	April Hand	20	Colene Horst
6	Hannah Griffin	21	Scotty Campbell
	Emily Griffin	22	Tara McDonald
	Terrell Suddarth		Abby Rosenblum
8	Edie Burton	23	Parker Cothren
9	Jon Rosenblum		Traci Chrisco
	Freida Sadler	25	Don Kimery
10	Bea Moore	26	Sheila Landman
	Dot Crowson	27	Sharon McLaughlin
	Chad Ennis		Hollis Todd
11	Sam Kachelman	28	Taylor Rosenblum
13	Sandra Moore		Tara Crawford
	Lincoln MacLean		Julia Sharp
14	Naaman Goode	29	Darren Crowden
15	Cindy Kachelman	30	Ellie Brake
	Gerald Bishop		

## Worship Participants

SUNDAY AM December 24, 2017	
READING .....	Anderson Todd
F PRAYER.....	Hollis Todd
LS PRAYER.....	Stephen Trammell
C PRAYER.....	Jerry Wilhoite

SUNDAY PM December 24, 2017	
READING .....	Paul Brumlow
F PRAYER.....	Rusty Hills
C PRAYER.....	Fred Wells

## Thank You

"Thanks so much for your expressions of concern with cards, phone calls, food and especially prayers during my recovery from back surgery. I was not expecting my recovery to take so long and be so difficult. It helped to know that my friends from Chase Park were thinking of me. Sincerely,"

*Jerry Dugan*

"I am grateful for your prayers, cards, and kind words in the death of my nephew. Thank you also for your prayers and concern for my brother, Bernard Andrews and Ann. He will begin radiation treatments on Thursday. Please keep them in your prayers. Love,"

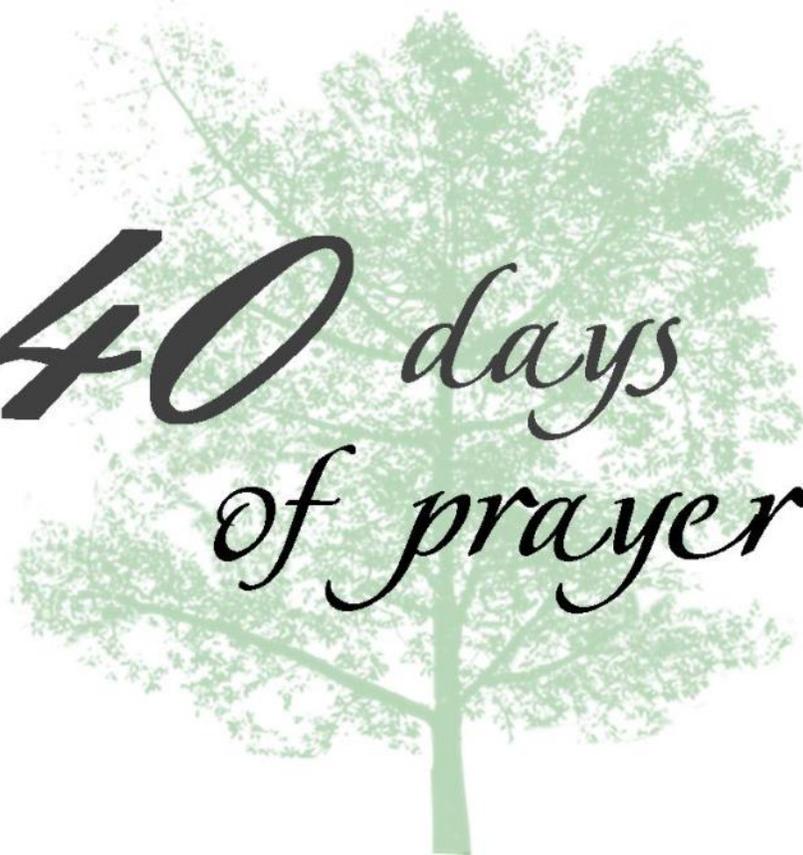
*Mary Milam*

"Thanks to each of you for all the love and concern shown us during our illness. Your prayers, the many beautiful cards, delicious food, phone calls and visits were greatly appreciated. A special thanks to those who sat with my family during my surgery. We are blessed to have a church family like Chase Park. In Christian love,"

*Morris and Ruth Bridges*

es

# 40 days of prayer



## 2018 Calendars Are Ready!



They are available  
this morning at the  
hospitality desk.

**December 12, 2017 - January 20, 2018**

### Statistics

**Sunday, December 10, 2017**

AM Worship .....	334
Month Average .....	354
Bible Class .....	294
PM Worship .....	260
Wed., Dec. 13 Bible Classes .....	245
Regency Ret. Worship .....	37
Offering .....	\$18,306.78
Budget .....	\$18,000
Average '17 .....	\$17,860
Under Budget for year .....	-\$6,999
<b>Building Fund .....</b>	<b>\$65.00</b>

### Services

#### *Sunday*

Worship..... 9:00 a.m.  
Bible Class ..... 10:15 a.m.  
Worship..... 5:00 p.m.

#### *Wednesday*

Super Seniors ..... 10:00 a.m.  
Bible Class ..... 6:30 p.m.

#### Web Site Home Bible Studies

<https://www.epcofc.org/home-bible-studies>

#### **(Lesson 1 Link)**

**The Bible—God's Holy Word**

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