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Calendar

December 2
Church Meeting & Christmas Party

December 8
GTTV

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Youth Christmas Party

December 24
Christmas Eve Service 5pm

Every Sunday Night
Prayer Meeting 6pm

No Wed. Night
Study in December

No Christian's University
in December

January 9
Wednesday Night Study Returns

Christmas Celebration

Written by Susan Layland

Over 2,700 years ago Isaiah foretold the birth of Christ in the familiar passage, *"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over His Kingdom to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord will do this."*

As we approach the Christmas season, we need to think about what we are celebrating. Beyond all the decorations and gifts is the humble birth of our Lord and Savior to a teenage virgin in a dirty barn. **Jesus willingly gave up the perfection of heaven and came down to earth to live a perfect life in an evil world in order to save us from our sins.**

Our culture has hijacked Christmas by making it sparkly, colorful, loud, greedy, and empty of Christ.

Let us, with our families, reclaim this sacred celebration. Some Christians do not recognize Christmas. It was banned by the Puritans and was illegal to celebrate in Massachusetts from 1659-1681 because December 17-23 was originally the Roman pagan celebration of Saturnalia, which honored the God of Saturn (an idolatrous holiday celebration).

The Bible does not direct us to remember Christ's birthday as a day to celebrate. But, it does give us clear directions for remembering His death and resurrection (as we do at SCC every Sunday) through communion.

We don't need to opt out of Christmas, but rather, take the opportunity to teach our children and grandchildren what it's really all about - and to remind ourselves as well.

- Remember Advent in your home with candles and a calendar leading up to Jesus' birthday.
- Limit the number of gifts given to your kids.
- Display a nativity scene and explain all the figures.
- Read the Christmas story from **Luke 2:11-20** on Christmas Eve.
- Attend our Christmas Eve Worship Service.
- Resist the temptation to overdo gifts and remember:

"For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord."

The Church Body

One of the biggest problems the church faces today is how it is perceived by those within. For many people, the church is viewed simply as a building or a gathering spot to listen to a sermon, and once that sermon is over they leave for the week. Those who have this view often find themselves with very few close relationships within the church and have almost no connection with the life of the church. It is the same group of people who are most often the first ones leaving the church because they didn't feel like they had any close friends or felt left out of the "Family".

For others, their view of the church is much closer to the design that we see set forth in Scripture. We see believers meeting outside of Sunday mornings and fellowshiping in their homes and in the community. These are the people who share one another's burdens and enjoy one another's triumphs. They invite each other over for meals, visit one another in hospitals, and even sing Karaoke in their living rooms. The church is a body of believers who exist to glorify God in various ways, and one of the ways that we glorify Him is by strengthening each other.

Are you plugging yourself into the fellowship that is available at Southwest Christian Church? Or do you find yourself on the outside looking in at the close-knit relationships that you see within the church? There are many ways in which you can grow closer to the people you sit next to each and every week. For starters, we have **Christian's University** at 10:45am every Sunday morning, which is a time to not only sharpen your theological



The Church Body

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swords, but also a time of community as we sit in a small group and grapple with the truths of Scripture. We also have **Wednesday Night Bible Study** which begins at 6pm with a meal and a time of fellowship followed by Bible study at 6:30pm. (There is something for every age at our Wednesday night study.) In addition to these weekly meetings we have the **Young Adults Group** that meets every other Friday, the **Gospel to the Valley** and our **Mali Evangelism** (they meet once a month).

There are so many ways in which you can plug yourself into the life of the church. Please don't stand on the outside and look at all the fun, fellowship and building up that happens within the body at Southwest.

Get yourself plugged in!

Submitted Anonymously



Something to be Thankful for

By Karen Enfield

It may seem kind of silly or redundant, since we just celebrated Thanksgiving, but I am very thankful as we enter the Christmas season. Our special worship service on November 18 was very meaningful. We took the time to think a little deeper about some specific things. If you missed the service, be sure to read the new display of what we are thankful for (on the sanctuary wall). Also, as a challenge to everyone, be thinking about these things more often. Maybe you could start a journal or at least jot down more things to be thankful for. The three categories that we discussed were:

1. **The Providence of God in our own lives**
2. **The Providence of God in our church**
3. **The Providence of God in the future.**

Does Karen realize that she put a picture of a toilet in the church newsletter? Yep! She sure did. (At least she used the back page and not the front page!)

TVKPC - Thank You!

We are blessed to have the Temecula Valley Presbyterian Church share our facility with us. Be sure to notice their contribution outside by our mailbox of some new landscaping. There are drought resistant plants and some beautiful rocks out there. They took this upon themselves to make a nice improvement for our church and we are grateful!



Romans 10:15-17

... "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Restroom Renovations!

Submitted by Karen Enfield

We are super excited that our restroom renovations are underway. This has been quite an undertaking! Jason Taylor has been instrumental in getting the work planned, organized, started and finished! (We are still working on the totally finished part, but we are making great progress.)

Joe Enfield tackled the little restrooms and got them renovated and operational. Did you even know that we have two small restrooms? They are back to back behind our large restrooms. The new floors, cabinets and toilets look so nice in their little space. (Thank you to Alicia and Jason Taylor for picking out the cabinets, they are beautiful.) Thank you Jesse Konrad for the drywall work and thank you Jason Taylor for painting. The little restrooms are very helpful during our worship service for our children. Make sure that you peek in and see how nice they are!

For the large restrooms we needed a bigger crew to help. We hired Jesse Konrad and his crew to get this big job done professionally. The men's restroom should be completed shortly (maybe even before this newsletter hits your hands). The women's restroom renovation will begin shortly, but not before our men's room is finished.

Many years ago we raised and set aside money for our all church renovation. We have been benefiting from the beautiful renovation for a long time. The restroom renovations complete our current renovation plans and we used the last bit of our renovation budget for this project.

We would like to give a great shout out of appreciation to some wonderful volunteers in our church for their amazing contributions to this project.

Thank You...

Jason & Alicia Taylor, Joe Enfield, Jesse Konrad (and his crew), Tom Burke, Cyrus Cajudo, Houston Groves and Luke Kirkendall

Sermon Series For December

December 2

"Why the Virgin Birth?"

December 9

"Why Those Parents?"

December 16

"Why the Shepherds?"

December 23

"Why the Wise Men?"

December 24

"Why the Baby?"

