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THE LIGHTHOUSE
Official Newsletter of
Stone Creek Fellowship Church



**From the Pastor
Jeremy Tennery
"Christmas Message"**



Hello Friends,

Hopefully your holiday season has been wonderful so far and let me wish you a very Merry Christmas. I pray that during this Christmas Season, you will have a chance to be surrounded by family and friends, share a laugh, or a memory, and enjoy a great meal together. Most of all, I pray that you will take a moment (or two) and truly remember what this most wonderful time of the year is really about: the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Our Stone Creek Fellowship family is celebrating Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy; through our Advent sermon series, "He is Here". This series will remind each of us just how much God's presence is with us each and every day, His presence came to earth through Jesus Christ, His one and only son, and that His presence in our lives brings us our salvation.

I pray that God's Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy will fill your life in every way this Christmas and beyond. As our family has begun the Advent Study, I am reminded just how grateful to God I am that each Christmas we can celebrate our "Immanuel" (God with us). Without Christ's presence among us, we would be lost. Christ brings healing, transformation, reconciles us to be made whole through the presence of God's working within us and through us. I pray you all have a fantastic holiday season.

From our family to yours, Merry Christmas!

Pastor Jeremy

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Bible Verse of the Month

Matthew 1:21

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

December Events

- **December 10th**—The Gift of Christmas—Prestonwood Baptist Church—Plano, TX
- **December 11th**—Business meeting following the morning service
- **December 18th**—6:00 PM Candlelight Service in the sanctuary
- **December 25th**—No Services



Prestonwood Baptist Church—Plano, TX presents "The Gift of Christmas" in early December. A church wide trip is planned to go to the event on Saturday, December 10th. and tickets are already sold out. Watch the church bulletin and announcements for more information.





MEET THE STONE CREEK FELLOWSHIP PRAISE BAND

At Stone Creek Fellowship, praising God through song and music is one of the principle ways we express our love, faith and commitment to God, His son, Jesus, and to His church. Each Sunday, the praise band performs traditional and contemporary Christian music with a passion and spirit of praise.

The members of the band include Jessie Skyvara, our music leader, keyboardist and vocalist, Pamela Parker, an accomplished gospel vocalist, who began singing as a young child with her family performing as a gospel group all over Texas, Jake Tennery, our guitarist and background vocalist, our

pastor, Jeremy Tennery, one of our lead singers and Bill Parker on drums and background vocals.



The group has been together for more than a year and looks forward, every Sunday, to bring music and song that lifts the spirit and ministers to the hearts, emotions and minds of the congregation. Each band member brings a special talent and spirit and style to the group that results in a unique style of praise music. *“Our main focus is to create a worship atmosphere that brings people together to worship God and His Son through praise and music”* says leader, Jessie Skyvara. Praise God!

BIBLE TRIVIA

(Answers on page 4)

- How many miles did Mary and Joseph have to travel to get to Bethlehem?
- Who was the prophet that foretold a virgin shall give birth to a son called Immanuel?
- What are the five names of Jesus found in the Bible?

TRUE OR FALSE

(Answers on page 4)

- The Bible says Jesus was born in December.
- Christmas wasn't celebrated for over 300 years after Jesus died.
- The story of the Little Drummer Boy is found in the book of Mark.
- Joseph is the father of Jesus.
- The Bible says sheep and other barn animals were present at Jesus' birth.
- Did Herod have all of the 3 year old babies killed?
- Joseph married Mary immediately after the angel appeared to him.
- The wise men were three kings from the orient.



Dr. B.L. Worsham, Th.D. Power of Prayer “A Christmas Prayer”

“In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God.” (John 1:1)

Jesus Christ--“Divinely anointed of God!” -- “Son of God!” -- “Co-equal with God!” (John 1:1-14)

Giver of eternal life. (John 17:2) Savior of Believers. (Ephesians 2:8-10) Creator and Judge of all life here and hereafter. (Isaiah 40:28) Rewarder of every believing soul. (Acts 13:39); we come with bended knee, and joyful hearts to celebrate your Incarnation---Christmas!

This time of sacredness is set apart from all other days, to celebrate “the fullness of time” when you graced the earth in order to show us the way of salvation. We lift our hands, our souls, and our prayers to thank you: That you gave your life so that whosoever will believe in you may live in eternity.

We pray that your Kingdom will come, and your will shall be done on earth as it is in heaven. We pray for the time when “peace on earth, good will to men” will be the first wish and act of every human. We pray that the holy spirit will enter the hearts of all leaders of all lands and wars and strife will cease.

We pray for forgiveness for ourselves, our families, our nation of America, and every lost soul. Lord we rejoice where you have said, “Surely I come quickly”, and in Jesus name we repeat.

“Amen, even so, come, Lord Jesus” (Revelation 22:20)



Christmas Recipes

Whole Berry Cranberry Sauce

Ingredients:

- 1 cup water
- 1 cup sugar
- 3 cups Ocean Spray (Fresh or frozen) Cranberries
- Optional: Chipped walnuts, pecans, pineapple, grated orange peel

Directions:

- Bring water and sugar to a boil in medium saucepan. Add cranberries and return to a boil. Reduce heat and boil gently for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally.
- Pour sauce into a bowl, cover and cool completely at room temperature. Refrigerate until serving time.



That Old Peach Oven Cobbler

Ingredients:

- 1 can sliced peaches (drained)
- 1 cup Bisquick mix
- 1 cup Milk
- 1/2 tsp nutmeg
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- 1/2 cup melted butter
- 1 cup sugar
- Vanilla Ice Cream

Directions:

- Preheat oven to 375 degrees
- In a 8x8 baking dish, stirring Bisquick mixture, milk, nutmeg and cinnamon until well mixed. Stir in melted butter.
- In a bowl, mix sugar and sliced peaches. Pour mixture on cobbler crust mix.
- Bake in oven for 45 minutes to an hour until golden brown
- Serve with vanilla ice cream

Slow Cooker Honey-Glazed Ham

Ingredients:

- 1 bone-in spiral sliced ham (6 to 8 lbs.)
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1 cup light brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/4 teaspoon paprika
- 1/2 teaspoon salt



Directions:

- Trim ham as necessary and place in slow cooker.
- In a small bowl, stir together butter and honey, then rub over ham, pushing mixture into slices. Cover and cook on low 4-5 hours.
- Towards the end of the cooking time, preheat oven broiler on high and line a roasting pan with foil.
- In a small bowl, stir together brown sugar, garlic powder, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, paprika, and salt. Press half of the mixture into the top of the ham.
- Broil until bubbly and caramelized, about 3 minutes, then remove from oven.
- Add remaining sugar mixture to a small saucepan and place over medium heat. Add 3 tablespoons of the ham liquid from the slow cooker (or water). Bring to a boil, stirring occasionally.
- Let boil 1 minute, then remove from the heat. Brush glaze over ham, then broil once more briefly, just 1-2 minutes.
- Let ham rest at least 5 minutes before serving. Enjoy!

Baked Mac and Cheese

Ingredients:

- 12 oz dry macaroni
- 1/4 cup butter
- 1/4 cup flour
- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 1 cup light cream about 10-12% MF
- 1/2 teaspoon dry mustard powder
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- salt & pepper to taste
- 1 can condensed cream of cheddar soup optional 10.75oz
- 4 cups sharp cheddar divided
- 1/2 cup fresh parmesan cheese



Directions:

- Preheat oven to 425 degrees.
- Cook macaroni according to package directions.
- Drain and run under cold water.
- Melt butter over medium heat in a large saucepan.
- Whisk in flour and let cook 2 minutes while stirring.
- Slowly whisk in cream, milk, mustard powder onion powder, salt and pepper to taste.
- Cook over medium heat while stirring until thickened.
- Remove from heat and stir in parmesan cheese & 3 cups cheddar cheese until melted.
- Add soup if using.
- Toss cheese sauce & macaroni noodles together.
- Pour into a greased 9x13 pan.
- Top with remaining cheese.
- Bake 18-24 minutes or until bubbly. Do not over cook.
- Cool 10-15 minutes before serving.

HOW TO TOP BAKED MAC AND CHEESE

Grated cheese (my personal favorite – and what I've done here in these photos) Buttered panko breadcrumbs (feel free to add some herbs to this as well) Bacon pieces/panko breadcrumb combo

HOW LONG DO YOU BAKE MAC AND CHEESE

This recipe doesn't bake long at all, but I've actually baked it longer before, and it's still every bit as delicious! Most baked Mac and cheese recipes call for it to be baked 15-30 minutes. My kids aren't huge fans of the cheesy "crust", so I bake mine at 325, but 350 or even 375 work as well. It's a very forgiving dish!

We are always on the lookout for awesome recipes for our newsletters. If you have a favorite comfort food recipe you would like to share, we invite you to send them to us by email to bparker@stonecreekfellowship.org or you can give a copy to either Emmett Williams or Bill Parker and we will add them to the list for





CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Video: <https://vimeo.com/656834026/e649796667>
Or scan QR code to view DR Christmas video



Sometime in October Christmas lights start to appear around Dominican towns in anticipation of the coming holiday. Humble homes often boast one string of tiny flickering lights and people gathered on the porch sipping ginger tea. In the Dominican Republic Christmas is usually celebrated with family, which for many means traveling by a series of public transport vehicles (guaguas and caritos), back to the campo (countryside) where they were born.

Churches host a variety of events, often including an 'Acto de Navidad', a Christmas drama reenacting the birth of Jesus, and a Christmas dinner. 'Villancicos' (Christmas carols) are sung in churches and at gatherings. Occasionally, the youth group or young adults will travel about late into the night blessing chosen homes with songs. The often-surprised recipients provide food for singers before they move on to their next stop.



Prior to Christmas many will save money for a new outfit and for a special dinner on the 24th, La Noche Buena. Dinner preparations start days before and come to full force on the day of the 24th, with all hands-on deck in the kitchen preparing special seasonal foods such as roasted pork and chicken, potato and green salads, pastas, and rice dishes. A little green package tied with string, 'pasteles en hoja' are a Christmas specialty which are a plantain/root vegetable dough filled with meat then wrapped in a plantain leaf for boiling. The goal is to cook so much food that leftovers can be eaten for days!



Dominican culture values relationship and family, so many times a small home is overflowing with family and friends for the Noche Buena meal. Animated and gregarious by culture, loud and lively conversations and storytelling takes center stage as everyone enjoys the meal. And, true to an island where sugar cane is grown and sugar produced, desserts are plentiful and sweet! 'Gomitas' (gum drops) are usually found among the 'postré' along with very special apples, imported and therefore expensive and not usually part of the day-to-day diet of most Dominicans.

December 25 is a day of eating left-overs, rest, and enjoying family and friends. Many visit surrounding neighbors, catching up and reminiscing about the old times over a cup of ginger tea or coffee.

HUMOR FOR THE SOUL

Not Talking To you

At our weekly Bible study, the leader asked an elderly gentleman, Walt, to open the meeting with prayer. Walt did so in a soft voice. Another man, straining to hear, shouted, "I can't hear you!" Walt replied, "I wasn't talking to you."

Awkward Wedding Colors

A little girl finally got to attend a wedding for the first time. While in the church, the girl asked her mother: "Why is the bride dressed in white?" The mother replied to the girl: "because white is the color of happiness and it's the happiest day of her life today."

After a little bit, the girl looks up at her mother and says: "But, then why is the groom wearing black?"



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Sunday

Sunday School 9:30 AM
Sunday Worship 11:00 AM
Children's Church 11:00 AM

Tuesday

Praise Team Practice 5:30 PM



Trivia Answers:

1. 80 Miles
2. Prophet Isaiah
3. Jesus, Immanuel, Christ, the Mighty God, the Prince of Peace 10

True/False Answers:

1. False—The Bible does not state the exact date of Jesus' birth.
2. True—The first Christmas was celebrated on December 25th, 336 A.D.
3. False—The Little Drummer Boy is a fictional story.
4. False—Trick Question! God is the Father.
5. False—No animals were specified or mentioned in scripture.
6. False—Herod decreed that all 2 year old and under males be killed. (Matthew 2:16)
7. True—His obedience was quick, cheerful and complete (Matthew 1:24)
8. False—The number of wise men is not mentioned. They were not Kings.