

Eastwood Epistle

December 10, 2023 Volume 45 Number 48
Available on-line at www.eastwoodchurchofchrist.org

2023 Blue Ribbon Christmas Gift Campaign
Giving the gift of Christmas to Children at Child Protective Services. BE A SANTA TO A CHILD IN NEED. Pick up/ Drop off is December 13. Decide which age you want. Ages are from days old to youth to age out of foster care at 18. List will be sent out the first week of November if you would like to participate. Call **Cristina 915-593-2772** so I can make arrangements with Maritza 915-309-3595
email: maritz.hernandez@dfps.texas.gov.
More info or to adopt a child Call: 915-201-7974 Amber Hansen,
email: amber.hansen@dfps.texas.gov

Christian Schools of El Paso CSEP is having a Papa Eric's Burgers fundraiser, \$8.00 per ticket. Tickets expires at the end of December. call Diana William for Info. 915-593-5011



Recycle - Remember to save your aluminum cans and other aluminum for recycling. You may bring them in the foyer or toss your bag into the fenced compound to the trailer. If you crush the cans, we can get more in the trailer. We usually get several hundred dollars.

Men to Serve
Sunday, December 10
Song Leader:
Junie Chavez

Opening Prayer:
Enrique Carrillo Spanish
Ron Lindsey English

Lord's Supper/Contribution:
James Grant

Scripture Reading:
Chuck Buckley



BE COMPLETELY
humble & gentle;
BE PATIENT,
BEARING WITH
one another in love.
Ephesians 4:2, NIV



Together

The holiday season is a time that takes us back to memories. Memories of when we were children and perhaps when we had children. The excitement that comes from decorating and anticipating something good in our future. The gathering of family all together in a day of fun and activities. Two older sisters, meant I had brothers in law and nephews to toss the football around after the turkey was devoured.

As stated previously, it has been said that during the long nights and short days of winter, if there was no holiday to celebrate, we would make one up. It is too depressing and we like to be happy. So enjoy the days and even decorate if you like. Eat some of your favorite treats and be glad to be a child of the Lord God.

The holidays can be sad for some people. They may be living alone or struggling with a difficult problem and it actually hurts to see everyone else smiling and laughing. You feel out of place in the world and it's your fault because "you don't deserve to be happy." Well, that's not true.

We need to focus on the real reason we should be happy. Jesus Christ is the reason for our joy and hope. Jesus is our savior. We have an eternal home that far exceeds this life on earth. This life on earth is good because that is the way God made it, but we do have problems. Our task is to look beyond this life to the next life with Jesus.

Have the strength and faith to smile and wish others joy and happiness. Jesus is the reason we should smile everyday, 365 days a year. You may grieve over loved ones who have gone before us, but remember them with love and laughter. They would want you to remember them that way. Yes, you may have difficult problems, but the chances are there are other people in the world who would envy what you have and where you are. You do have blessings.

All of us should look around and seek to encourage others. Do good with your life and your faith, make good memories now.

Charles M. Clodfelter

Did you speak to our Guests on Sunday? Look for them.
www.eastwoodchurchofchrist.org

Schedule Services

Sunday

Bible Class - 9:00 A.M

Morning Worship - 10:00 A.M.

Children's Class 9:00A.M.

Wednesday

Bible study 7:00pm

**No Children's hour
after communion**

Our Ladies Tuesday Class 10am

Questions call Teri Dove 915-822-2419

Happy Birthday

Dec 1, Israel Alvarado, Dec 8, Joe Shepherd

Dec 8, Israel Alvarado Jr, Dec 10, Howell Ramsey

Dec 11, Robert Muñoz Jr

Dec. 12, Christy Gutierrez

Dec 12, Venson Oliver Sr

Dec 19, Carol Baker

Dec 31, Sharlette Hernandez



Happy Anniversary

Dec 4, Hershel & Virginia Honea

Dec 4, Howell & Kim Ramsey

Dec 10, Juan & Virginia Najera

Dec 12, Terence & Gricelda Wade

Dec 26, Joe & Debbie Shepherd

Dec 31, Julio & Brenda Alcala



Positive Things to say to your Child

1. It's your decision.
2. If you really believe in something, it's important.
3. Don't give up.
4. I could never stop loving you.
5. You can try again tomorrow.
6. Don't compare yourself to anyone else.
7. You are enough.
8. It's OK to be scared.
9. Even if you make a mistake, you can fix it.



www.facebook.com/groups/ecocmembers/

Sunday Morning Sermon

Speaker - Charles Clodfelter

Sermon: God's Grace, Present, Future

Scripture: Rom 5:17-18

YOUR GIVING MATTERS

Giving is a difficult topic of discussion for most preachers. A reason for this is because in small groups the offering is barely enough to pay the preacher's weekly stipend. Another is that some members are under the impression that the preacher goes through the checks and knows how much everyone is giving. Still another is the general idea that it is too personal.

It has been noted that there are more scriptures on giving than on baptism. This suggests giving is an important subject to God. Giving Matters to God.

The Old Testament reveals that God required those who believed and followed him to give. Under the Mosical period you frequently read of the tithe which Israel was required to give. The tithe was ten percent of the increase, on closer inspection you will discover there were three tithes commanded for Israel. Two were annual and the third was every third year, coming to a total of 23 percent. Additionally, they gave free

will offerings for thanksgiving, special events or blessings, etc. All of which would greatly increase the amount by total and percentage. Giving matter to God.

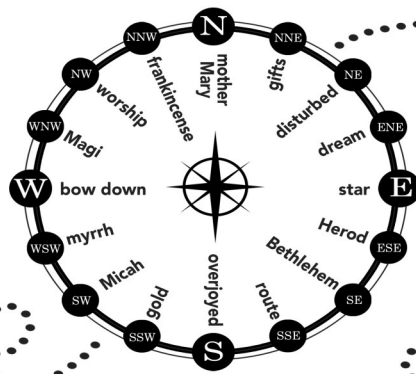
A tabulation of IRS tax forms reveals that middle wage earners average 4% or less, those under 25K give around 12% and those above 200K under 3%, those above 2 million 5% +. This is for all non-profits or charities, some of which spend upwards to 90% of their donations in fund raising.

Can you imagine on the Day of Pentecost in Acts chapter two that some devote Jew is born again into the Kingdom of Christ and is rejoicing that his giving has been reduced from 23% plus to only 5%? No, I can't either.

Giving is a reflection of our love for God, not about paying the utilities or the preacher. It reflects our commitment to the cause of the kingdom of Christ.

Charles M Clodfelter

Puzzle!



Use the compass guide (and read Matthew 2) to answer questions about special visitors to young Jesus.

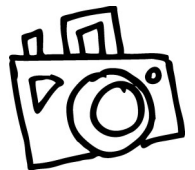
- Who was king at the time of Jesus' birth? _____ (ESE)
- Who came from the East to worship the one born king of the Jews? _____ (WNW)
- How did King Herod feel about Jesus' birth? _____ (NE)
- Which prophet did the chief priests and teachers of the law quote when King Herod asked where the Christ would be born? _____ (SW)
- In what city would Christ be born? _____ (SE)
- King Herod lied to the wise men, telling them to search and report back so he, too, could do what to Christ? _____ (NW)
- What did the Magi see in the east and follow to find Jesus? _____ (E)
- When the star stopped, how did the Magi feel? _____ (S)
- Who else did the Magi see with Jesus? His _____ (N)
- Before they worshiped the child, what did the Magi do? _____ (W)
- Name the three treasures the Magi brought for Jesus. _____ (SSW) _____ (NNW) _____ (WSW)
- These three treasures were all brought for Jesus as _____ (NNE)
- What warned the Magi not to return to Herod? A _____ (ENE)
- The Magi had to return to their country by another _____ (SSE)

Answers: 1. Herod; 2. Magi; 3. disturbed; 4. Micah; 5. Bethlehem; 6. frankincense; 7. star; 8. overjoyed; 9. mother Mary; 10. bow down; 11. gold; 12. gifts; 13. dream; 14. route

Church Potluck, December 31 please bring a dish for everyone to share. All invited after service at our fellowship hall.



Directory Pictures December 31. We will set up at church foyer for those who would like to update your picture in the membership Directory.



In the introduction to his book *For All God's Worth*, theologian N.T. Wright says, "Christmas is God lighting a candle, and you don't light a candle in a room that's already full of sunlight. You light a candle in a room that's so murky that the candle, when lit, reveals just how bad things really are. The light shines in the darkness, says St. John, and the darkness has not overcome it."

For that reason, Wright explains, Christmas isn't a dream or a momentary escape but reality. And the same is true for Christianity. "Either Jesus is the Lord of the world and all reality makes sense in his life, or he is dangerously irrelevant to the problems and possibilities of today's world," he adds. "There is no middle ground. Either Jesus was, and is, the Word of God, or he, and the stories Christians tell about him, are lies.



Elders

Mike Dove - (915) 822-2419
Abel Hernandez - (915) 449-1546
Ray Rivera - (915) 592-8930

Deacons

Enrique Carrillo, Samuel Hooper, Alberto Morales,
Venson Oliver, Lorenzo Porras, Bob Walker,

Minister

Charles Clodfelter - (915) 433-4227

Church of Christ in Eastwood

Office - (915) 593-2772

Español - (915) 593-2880

(Monday - Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.)

Fax - (915) 593-2775

E-mail: coceastwood@gmail.com

Website: www.eastwoodchurchofchrist.org

In Our Prayers

OUR FAMILY

Teri Dove - Teri is back home from taking lab test . Prayers for continued healing . Teri can be contacted on her cell phone at 915-637-0351.

Alberto Morales - Prayers for no dizziness & better sugar Level. Need to go to otolaryngologist and cardiologist...

Robert Muñoz Jr - (Alberto & Cristina Morales grandson) Thank you for prayers, need prayers for successful legal Issues....

Lulu Ochoa - Thank you for Prayers and thanks to the Ladies Bible Class for cards. Just started chemo therapy. Lulu has had no cancer pain lately. God has been so good to her for cancer treatment....

Venson Oliver - Keep Venson in your prayers for his Deployment. Send cards to SFC Oliver, Venson, B Co, 47th BSB 2-1 AD, Fos DPTA Konotop, Apo, AE 09754...

Bob Walker - Thank you for prayers. Thank you for cards. Waiting for results on radiation, chemo tests if needing more radiation.....

SHUT-INS

Mike Baron - Is on dialysis, prayers

Jill Breitingner - In home care with dementia, prayers

Teresa Dalke - Prayers for stronger immune system

Christine Hooper - home and recuperating

Our EXTENDED FAMILY

Luis - Prayers for procedure and results....

Maria Montanez - (ESL student) Prayers. Swift healing from cancer procedure..

River Russell - Keep him in your Prayers (Ida Russell's son) for his deployment .

Fred Sierra—Prayers for good results from MRI...

Mario Venegas - Prayers, was sent to Houston hospital for more than 3 months after his car accident, prayers for healing, prayers for his mom Lupe. (Cristina Morales's friend Rosa Trevino)....

Please remember in prayers the military & policeman in harms way.

Please call the office to update our prayer list. Names not updated 4 weeks will be deleted.

Our Records

December 3,2023

Morning Worship – 60
Wednesday - 13

Regular Offering: \$6009.14

Year to Date

Week

Baptisms - 0

Identification - 0

Year to Date

Year to Date - 2

Year to Date - 0

Can Contribute on-line at www.eastwoodchurchofchrist.org

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