

Teen News

"God of grace and God of goodness, teach me to be ever kind, always gentle and forgiving, with the Savior first in mind." - Brandt. I thought this would be a cool quote to share, especially this time of year. We should always keep our Savior, Jesus Christ, at the forefront of every decision that we make and strive to please him in everything we do. We will have a fellowship tonight following services, time and place to be determined.

Blake

Those who have not made their contribution to the "Loaves and Fishes" program at Central Texas Children's Home, can give your money to Toni Warren. We appreciate those who made the commitment to help a few Wednesday Evenings ago when Carol Lee was here.



TWO ROADS

"As God's people, it is so wonderful to look at that time when we made a choice to follow the path less traveled." The last three lines of the Robert Frost poem, "The Road Not Taken" are: "Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—I took the one less traveled by And that has made all the difference." Just as the great poet remembers the time when he came to a point where the two roads diverged in a wood, each of us comes to those points in our life where we look, and the paths open in two directions. We must choose. Which shall we take? It is not a new dilemma. Eve faced it (and took the wrong path) in Genesis 3:1-6. Joshua faced it. He told the people, "Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve," Joshua 24:15. Esther faced it. She said, "If I perish, I perish" (Esther 4:16b). Daniel faced it. "Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to God, just as he had done before" (even though it had been decreed that anyone doing so would be put to death [Daniel 6:10b]). The Apostles faced it. Jesus said, "Come," and they followed Him. As God's people, it is so wonderful to look at that time when we made a choice to follow the path less traveled. We were, at one time, faced with the roads that led in two directions. Isn't it a tremendous feeling to know we have chosen the right way? We should rejoice every day that God showed us the way ... that He guided us by the Holy Word in the direction we should go, that He lifted our burdens to walk with Him. We, as Christians, should be the happiest of people because, as the poem says, "And that has made all the difference." How has it made a difference? In your life. Jesus said, "JUST TWO ROADS Matthew 7:13-14, "Enter by the narrow gate; narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it."

DOOR GREETERS

Dec. 25, 2011
Mark & Linda Johnson

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Dec. 25, 2011
Lorelee Reeder

Gospel Worker

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MINISTERS

Dan D. Manuel
Pulpit Minister
 Blake Baker
Youth Minister
 Bernie Baur
Personal Evangelism

ELDERS

Dan D. Manuel
 Dale Sparks

DEACONS

Henry Baker
 Sam Ellis
 Dwight Franklin
 Adam Harding
 Kyle Lock

SECRETARY

Lorelee Reeder

MISSIONS & OUTREACH

Brown Trail School of Preaching, Bedford, TX
 Jose Cuadras—Mexico
School of Preaching
 Hershel Bearden
India Mission
 Ken Upchurch
Tanzania Africa Work
 Central TX Children's Home—Buda, TX
 Tipton Children's Home
 Tipton, OK
 Gospel Broadcast Network

ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sun: 9:30 AM Class
 10:30 AM Worship
 5:00 PM Evening
 Wed: 7:00 PM



Merry Christmas
From
The Church Staff



Holiday Fellowship at the David Sparks Home tonight after services



From Dan's desk:

Next Sunday is Christmas Day and our service schedule will remain as usual. We hope you will choose to come for Bible Class and Worship at our regularly scheduled time. It is a time for us to show our children, grandchildren and the world who is more important. We should never be guilty of neglecting our Lord. Sunday is His Day. If you are visiting with us this morning we want to invite you to come again. It is good to have you with us. We had several visitors last Sunday and this is always the case during the holidays. Several of our members here are already traveling and going to family and friends for the Christmas Holiday. We encourage you to be safe and we will continue to pray for your safety while you are away from us. The next two weeks on Wednesday evenings we will be having devotionals in the church auditorium with power point presentations and numerous men of the church participating in the services. We hope you will also join us for these times of spiritual renewal. David and Jennifer Sparks have opened their home again this year to the congregation for a fun evening of good food, fun, fellowship and singing. We appreciate their hospitality and we will look forward to joining them this evening after the worship service. They have asked that you bring your favorite finger food and join the excitement. Children's Bible Hour will not be meeting tonight, nor on Dec. 25th or Jan. 1st. Many will be out of town for the holidays, but the program will resume on Jan. 8th. Please make a note of this change. We will look forward to seeing each of you tonight at the evening service at 5 P.M. Don't forget. Old habits die hard.

PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES



**TO KEEP
IN OUR PRAYERS**

PLEASE REMEMBER THESE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

MARLENE THOMPSON is recovering from knee Surgery in Houston.

PATRICIA MANVILLE is in Room 317 at Palestine Regional with pneumonia.

GENE CHANDLER, brother of Bill Chandler is also recovering from colon surgery in the hospital in Tyler.

LIAN LOWE, great nephew of Virginia Stanaland & Doug Lowe, is in grave condition.

Others who have been ill are improving.

CONTINUE TO REMEMBER: Ed Furman, Dennis Ellison, Gary Oliver, Bill Hogan, Toby Williams, Toni Degelia, Maggie Larsen, Orville Shelton, Billy Whitley, Becky Johnson, Benny Joe McInnis.

Servicemen: Blaine Kline, David Sims, & Jason Mottern.

Take It Like It Is

It's easy to say it, but to actually live it is another story. We talk all the time about what we need to be doing, but we always seem to have excuses as to why we cannot do it. Jesus told a story in Luke 14 of a man who made a great supper and invited many to come. He sent his servants out to bid them to come into the feast, and they one by one began to give excuses as to why they could not attend. Most of the excuses were very lame. I believe we put ourselves in that same boat all too often. When was the last time you had a personal Bible study with someone? Surely, you agree that this needs to be done. Why isn't more of this happening? There are people who need to be studied with, but it doesn't seem to be happening as much as it needs to be happening. Think about your life for a moment. If you're a Christian, you will probably say that God comes first in your life. This is as it should be. But, are you living that way? Do you attend every service?

TO OUR BIBLE SCHOOL TEACHERS

There's a time and place that's special each week
Where we're eager to learn of the Word that we seek.

The lessons are studied and scripture is read
But let us go back a few days instead.

Your week is so busy and filled with "to do's"
Like everyone else not a minute to lose.

Your family, your business, your work never ending
You're precious few minutes you're still ever lending.

But you make time to prepare for Wednesday or Sunday
When you know someone will listen to the words that you say.

So with love for God's Truth, with prayer and with time
You prepare for each Bible class, the Word we can find.

Thank you for giving us an hour each week
Knowing it is the Word of the Lord that we seek.

And today we are blessed and grow more each day
Because you dedicate your love of the Lord in this way.

CHRISTMAS PARTY TONIGHT

Tonight immediately after services David & Jennifer Sparks will be opening their house for their annual Christmas Party. Please bring your favorite finger food and join us.



HOLIDAY DEVOTIONAL

This coming Wednesday night the devotional in the church auditorium will feature a power presentation and the men of the congregation will be leading the service. Make plans to be with us at 7 P.M.