

## SERMON NOTES



### Jesus is Coming - Be Ready

#### • 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

- *Parousia* can be a general term used for the \_\_\_\_\_ of someone
- The Thessalonians were concerned about their friends and relatives who had \_\_\_\_\_
- Jesus is coming back to \_\_\_\_\_
- Are we ready to \_\_\_\_\_ Him?

#### • 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

- Train yourself to be on the \_\_\_\_\_!
- Preparation in terms of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_
- Think of those who were prepared at Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ (cf. Matt. 2:1-12; Num. 24:17)
- Welcome the King with \_\_\_\_\_!

## FAMILY UPDATES

**Members with health issues:** Larry Addington, Ray Binkley, LaFerne Caldwell, Kathleen Corns, Ernest Dean, Mary-Anne Dye, Juanita Farmer, Charles & Kathleen Holt, Lynn Hoppes, Terry Howard, Barbara Lakey, Sherry Meadors, Carole Medina, Leon Mills, Beckie Null, Glenna Pickel, Boone Roberts, Michael Robison, Willie Rose, Paul Schellhorn, Ann Thurman, Terry West, Mikey Yearly

### Prayer Requests

**Kathy Anderson:** friend, Tammy Ganem, recovery from medical condition  
**Joanie Brock:** mother, Vivian Lambert, complications with cataract surgery  
**Judith Carter:** at home recovering from hip surgery  
**Laferne Caldwell:** head injury from a fall, responsive now, and under hospice care.  
**Brian Deckman:** (former Youth Minister) diagnosed with stage 3 Multiple Myeloma  
**Rita Drummond:** great grandson, Ryland, upcoming surgeries in December  
**Lynn Hoppes:** praise for no fractures from fall; continued healing for leg  
**Lelia McNickle:** son, Clint Parsons, health concerns  
**Boone Roberts:** gastrointestinal health; Mayo Clinic appointment December 17  
**Pat Stufflebeam:** has lacerations on her face and two broken elbows from a recent fall in a parking lot.  
**Judith Stephens:** brother in law, Randy, cancer  
**Jerry Sorrell:** (former member) off dialysis and up and moving with assistance.  
**Mike Vann:** grandson, Taylen Dillard, diagnosed with Melas Disease

**Placing Membership**  
**Paula Earp:** 400 E 6th St, Apt 504, Sand Spring, OK 74063

**Member Updates**  
**James Grimes:** 715 N Zunis Ave, Tulsa OK 74110

**Thank You**  
I want to thank you for all the prayers and cards during my recent illness. I hope to see you soon. You mean so much to me. **Shirlene Roberson**



### Giving Statements

Internal Revenue Service regulations require contributions must be received or postmarked no later than Dec. 31, 2019 for them to be considered deductible donations for the 2019 tax year. If your donations were made by check or cash donations made within an envelope with your name upon it, you will receive a statement from the church office shortly after the first of the year. Please wait to file your 2019 income tax return until after you have received this statement if you are claiming charitable contributions. Statements can also be provided upon request reflecting contributions made to that date.

## TODAY >

**December 22, 2019**

**Christmas Caroling:** December 22, 3pm-5pm. This is for anyone who wants to go out and sing Christmas Carols to our shut-ins. Meet in room 122 at the building. We will return in time for Combined Life Group.

**COMBINED**  
**LifeGroups**

### TODAY AT 5 PM

All Life Groups will meet at the building. We will start with a period of singing and prayer, then move on to study time, in which we will be discussing questions related to the topic of this morning's sermon. Upon arriving, your family will receive a colored card. The leaders will randomly draw a color and you will follow the leader of the corresponding color to a designated meeting place of their choice. The Elders pray that all members and visitors will take advantage of this opportunity to connect, learn, and grow with your family here at Crosstown. If you have any questions, contact **Chris Clayton** or one of the Elders.

**Extra Fellowship:** Immediately following combined Life Group, members of the Life Groups invite you to join them for fellowship at the downtown Mazzio's (421 E 11th St).



### New Year's Eve Party

**December 31st**  
**From 7pm to Midnight**

Come fellowship with your church family. You are welcome to bring snacks and finger foods and your favorite board games. Group games and prayers will be offered on the hour leading up to Midnight. Come stay as long as you can and help us end 2019 together in fun. See **Kristy Snider** and **Logan Hackworth** if you wish to help out with the group events.



**Crosstown**  
Church Of Christ  
Reflect God's Glory • Transform Lives • Share Christ

TODAY >

**December 22, 2019**

## AMONG FRIENDS with Robert

The first Christmas was a work day. These days, Christmas is one of the few days of the year widely marked by time off. But for the first people to hear of Christ's birth, "Christmas day" was not a holiday, but a normal day: "*And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."*" (Luke 2:8-11)

There was no glistening tree, no holiday feast, no gift exchange, no melodic carols, and no time off to be with family when an angel appeared to some shepherds that first Christmas night. There was only another day at the office of the open field, with lots of sheep milling about. The first Christmas was a work day.

The holiday of Christmas is, of course, precious. I love to open gifts with my family and enjoy all the traditions and festivities that accompany this time of year. But if the message of Christmas is kept within the boundaries of the actual holiday of Christmas, the truth of Christmas will be quickly lost.

The heart of the Christmas message is that God became human in the person of Jesus Christ. He "took upon flesh and made His dwelling among us" (John 1:14). But Jesus did not become human to give us a holiday, as wonderful as that holiday may be, but to change our everyday. This is why Jesus poured Himself into twelve men for three years. This is why He healed the sick and fed the masses. This is why He taught the curious and rebuffed the self-righteous. He poured Himself into the everyday lives, struggles, and sins of people, not to give them another holiday, but to show them that He was for and with them every day.

Assuming the traditional chronology of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection is correct, I find it telling that the climax of Jesus' work – His death and resurrection – occurred between holidays. The Thursday night before Jesus died, He celebrated the high holy Jewish holiday of Passover with His disciples. The Saturday Jesus was in the grave was the holiday of a Sabbath. Jesus died on a Friday and rose on a Sunday. He accomplished His mission not on important holidays, but during two common days.

The message of Christmas extends long beyond the holiday of Christmas, for the message of Christmas reminds us that Christ is with us not just during a day full of carols, decorations, presents, and food, but "always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). So, as we celebrate Christmas on Wednesday, let's not forget why we need Christmas the next day – and all year long.

-- Robert --

## Contact Christmas Store Donations from Crosstown



**Thank You,  
Crosstown Family**

## MINISTRY UPDATES



### Children's:

**Bible Hour** — available for 2 & 3 year-olds and 4, 5, & 6 year-olds in our east wing. Children will be dismissed prior to the sermon.

**Bible Basics** — offered to 2nd-5th grades on 1st and 2nd Sundays of each month. Dismissed prior to the sermon to Rm. 128.

**Today's Volunteers** — Nursery: **Lynette B. and Meri-Sue B.**

2&3s Bible Hour: **Molly C., Megan P., and Sydney S.**

4&5s Bible Hour: **Lindsey K., Timothy A., and Jaiden B.**

**Sermon Notes for Kids:** a sheet for kids to use during the sermon is provided in the Connection Books on the pew or at the back of the auditorium.



### Food Pantry:

Our pantry is extremely low on some products. This month we would like **Soup and Tuna**. We are unable to purchase these items at the main Food Bank. Please donate by placing by the food pantry door or in a basket in the kitchen.



SMALL GROUPS

### Small Groups:

**Group Bible Study** — Led by **Keenan Meadors**. Sundays at 4pm at the church building. **Will not meet 12/29**.

**Life Groups** — Connect / Grow / Serve. Contact an Elder, a Minister, or **Chris Clayton** to join a group. On the 4th Sunday all life groups will meet at the building at 5:00pm.

**Monday Night for the Master** — Mondays from 3:30pm to 6:00pm in Hospitality Room. Write notes of encouragement to members and guests. Bring a dish and stay for a potluck meal at 4:30pm. **Will not meet 12/23 and 12/30 in December.**

**Visitation In Person (VIP)** — Mondays at 5:00pm. Visits to visitors or friends, relatives, shut-ins, and neighbors of our members.

**Will not meet 12/23 and 12/30**



### Security:

Class ~ Louis R. Worship ~ James H. and Scott H.



### Bible Study:

**Women's Bible Study** — Walking In the Light Daily. Thursdays at 9:30am in Room 123. **Will not meet 12/26 or 1/2.**

**Men's Bible Study** — Saturdays at 9:00am in Room 123. **Will not meet 12/21 or 12/28 in December.**

### Miscellaneous:

**Martha's Club:** January 11 at 9am . Open to all youth girls and women. We will be preparing individual meals (frozen) for our senior members. Please see flyer and sign up to attend in the foyer. This will be a quarterly event. See flyer for items that we need.

**Special Christmas Devotional:** Wednesday, December 25 from 7pm –8pm . Join your church family for a special Christmas devotional in room 123. Wear a Christmas sweater if you have one. We will sing Christmas songs, hear a message from God's holy scriptures, and devote ourselves to fellowship and to the breaking of (ginger) bread and to prayer. Sign up in the foyer with the dessert your family will bring. Coffee and homemade eggnog will be provided. \*In consideration of members and guests with severe food allergies, please no peppers of any kind, including paprika, at Crosstown functions and label any dishes with peanuts or tree nuts.

**Church Office:** will be closed December 23-December 26. If you need anything, please call an Elder or Minister directly. The answering machine messages will not be checked during that time.

**Small Groups:** Please look above and note dates your small group is not meeting.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

12/22 Christmas Caroling & Combined Life Group

12/25 Christmas Devotional

12/29 Tulsa Area End of Year Singing at 29th & Yale

12/31 New Year's Eve Party

## BIRTHDAYS

12/23 Dave Durand

12/23 Ann Thurman

12/24 Eve Beard & Pat Wells

12/29 Peyton Ostenberg & Julie Wade

  
**Area Wide End of Year Singing:** December 29 at 29th & Yale Church of Christ at 5pm. Join other Tulsa area Churches of Christ for a night to lift up one heart and one voice in praise to God.

## Crosstown Youth Ministry (6th - 12th Grade)

**Wed. Night Hangtime:** Wednesday nights at 6pm. Bible Class will follow at 7pm. Meal will be provided by **Sandy Angelo** on January 8.

**Martha's Club:** January 11 at 9am. Youth girls sign up in the foyer.

**Sunday Night Live (Tulsa Area Wide):** January 12 from 4:30pm -7:00pm. Join us for worship, fellowship, and games at 29th & Yale. Van leaves at 4:15pm and returns at 7:30pm.

## MEETING SCHEDULE

### Sunday

Bible Class ..... 9:15 am

Worship ..... 10:15 am

### Wednesday

Bible Class ..... 7:00 pm

### CONTACT US VIA EMAIL

> [info@crosstownfamily.org](mailto:info@crosstownfamily.org)

### GIVE TO CROSSTOWN ONLINE

> [www.crosstownfamily.org/donate](http://www.crosstownfamily.org/donate)

### PLEASE VISIT US ONLINE

> [www.crosstownfamily.org](http://www.crosstownfamily.org)

### WHERE YOU WILL FIND

- Info on events & ministries
- Our roster of Elders & staff
- Sermon audio & other resources

## CHURCH INFORMATION

3400 East Admiral Place

Tulsa, OK 74115-8227

Phone: 918-834-1395

## CHURCH STATS

Sunday, December 15, 2019

Bible Class Total	123
Worship Total	189
Weekly Budget	\$9,500
Contribution	\$7,036
Contribution YTD	\$446,261
Budget YTD	\$475,000
Difference	(\$28,740)

Wednesday, December 18

Bible Class 93