



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE



Last year we started a new Christmas Eve tradition of serving those in nursing homes on Christmas Eve. This year we got the chance to love on the residents at Park Bend and it was a great afternoon. Many of our families joined together to sing songs and read the Christmas story with the residents. It was great to see the smiles on their faces as we greeted and met the residents and to hear them sing with us. Many of you know Maxine Kendricks, she was so proud and happy to have so many from her church there to bless and encourage her friends. If this hasn't been a part of your Christmas Eve plans, I hope you will join us in 2014.

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DEACONS

The Deacons voted to make David Davenport the chairmen of the Deacons. Be praying for the Deacons as they help take care of benevolence and greeting on Sunday morning. The Deacons have decided to take on the welcome and greeting ministry going forward. Pray for them as they oversee the ministry.

CHRISTMAS GIVING

As a reminder of the greatest gift we have been given, Jesus coming to earth to redeem and restore our relationship to God, each year at Milwood we want to be giving people. There are many ways that we join together as a church to give to others. Take a moment to see how you have given the love of God to other people.

Verse of the Month:

Spiritual Blessings in Christ

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

Ephesians 1:3-10



LOTTIE MOON

Every year the Southern Baptist churches around the US take up the Lottie Moon Christmas offering to support the International Mission Boards missionaries. Milwood was blessed this year by a special gift that allowed us to give \$4000, and then match all other gifts donated. You donated \$3910 and that was matched. That makes our total giving to the Lottie Moon offering \$11,820. That is awesome and will go to help share the Gospel to the ends of the earth.



Midtown has gotten off to a great start! We are taking a "trip" through God's word and learning about His great love for us. Don't forget, Midtown will meet every Sunday! Please help your child learn the memory verse we sent home, and remind them to bring their Bibles each week.

Here are the details for KidCity:

DOWNTOWN (newborn - 4yrs.)

Downtown is our Sunday morning ministry in which we care for and teach our littlest ones. We worship the Lord through song and dance, have a small snack and hear teaching from Scripture. Weekly lessons are focused on our five foundational truths.

MIDTOWN (Kinder & 1st Grade)

Midtown meets on the 2nd floor every week. Midtown kids will leave the worship service at the end of the singing portion of the service and can be picked up on the 2nd floor when the service is over. Each week they will learn from God's word and spend time singing!

UPTOWN (2nd - 5th Grade)

KidCity Uptown meets on the 3rd floor the FIRST Sunday of every month for a time or Worship and Bible study. Kids leave at the end of the singing portion of the worship service and can be picked up on the 3rd floor when the service is over. The other Sundays they can pick up a notebook in the back of the worship center that they can use during the service to help them engage with God's word.

PRE-SCHOOL

The month December was a fun and busy month. We learned about the birth of Jesus. We learned quite a few Christmas songs and had wonderful program thanks to Jean Wahl, our music teacher. Our three and four old classes had a book exchange at their Christmas parties. Our toddlers and two year olds had very nice Christmas parties and made some amazing keepsakes for their parents.

Milwood Preschool has a wonderful group of teachers. It is a blessing to work with them and to see them minister to the families of our students with great love.

ANGEL TREE



We partner with the Texas Baptist Children's Home to sponsor one of their cottages for Christmas. In case you aren't sure what the TBCH does, let me explain. There are two main ways areas TBCH serves our area:

The Campus Life Program serves children who typically are placed in to foster care voluntarily by family members due to a temporary crisis in their home.

The Family Care program serves single mothers and their children in an attempt to strengthen fragile families in crisis, and prepare them for successful independent living after they leave the program.

Our Angel Tree serves a cottage of families in the Family Care program. Each cottage houses 3-4 mothers and their children as they strive to get back on their feet. We were blessed to serve Cottage 15, led by Brenda Harrison and the 4 mothers and their children, under her care. To make this encouraging for the mothers and their families, the gifts you donated to the children were given to the mothers, so they could in turn give them to their children. What a great way to bless the mothers at the same time as blessing the children. We also got the chance to pray for Brenda and her husband before we left. She is a blessing to these mothers and it was a blessing to meet her and share her heart.

ELDER UPDATE

MEETING

The Elders have continued to meet twice a month (1st and 3rd Tuesdays). We have spent great time in prayer for the church and productive time discussing the future of the church.

PRAYING AND PLANNING

The Elders have spent time praying for the church as a whole and for individuals of the church. We are excited to follow God in 2014! We've been asking the question "what is Milwood's purpose?" "what are we doing going forward?" We're excited to share with you what God has shown us and to hear from you, the church, as well.

RENOVATION

The Renovation team met with the Elders in December. It was determined that Larry Lindsey would serve as the chairman of the team. They have been working hard to finalize everything for our meeting regarding Renovation on January 26th.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE

Raise your hand if you love Church Discipline? This is a short book (138 6" tall pages) on the often unpopular and more often misunderstood subject. I've asked our Elders to read it in order to grow in their perspectives on church leadership and care for the flock. Really, church discipline is about love. God disciplines those he loves (Heb 12:6). In the book Jonathon Leeman says, "By abstaining from discipline...we claim that we love better than God loves" (pg 23). I want to love the church the way God loves even if it includes difficulties like discipline. Its a great read on the subject and has helped us think about how to love the church better.