

Volume 6, Issue 5

December 2017-January 2018

**Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year!**

A Tested String

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*For You, O God, have tested us; You have refined us
as silver is refined . Psalm 66:10*

A talented violinist was scheduled to play before a very critical audience. Although she had a fine instrument, she was not satisfied with the quality of its sound. So she said to her father, "This violin must yield its full resonance and vibration of tone. I'm going out to buy some tested strings."

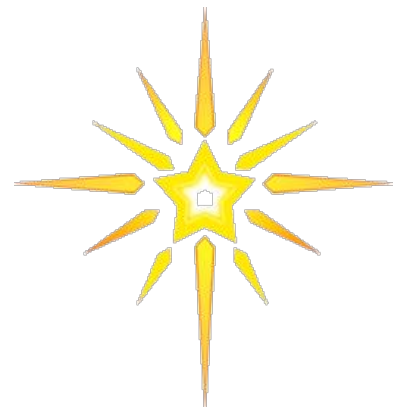
When asked what tested strings were, she replied, "First they're put on a rack and stretched and strained to take all the vacillation out of them. Then they are hammered and put through an acid test. This is what enables them to produce a perfect and full tone." When she attached the tested strings and tuned the instrument, the music was noticeably more warm and rich than before.

If our lives are going to produce beautiful music for the Lord, testing is imperative. We all tend to vacillate. Sometimes we are up, sometimes we are down. Sometimes we are hot, sometimes we are cold. This hinders the spiritual tone God desires. Although we don't enjoy the stretch, the strain, and the stress, what God-honoring results they can produce!

Just as a tested string gives the highest quality of sound, so Christians who accept their trials and learn to profit from them are able to bring the greatest glory to the Master Musician.

*When difficulties come our way,
We want to run and hide;
But God will give stability
To those who have been tried. - Sper*

**The trials of life are intended
to make us better, not bitter.**



ARE WE LIVING IN THE LAST DAYS...?



Lately I have been hearing people talk about all the “stuff” that’s going on in the world, and ask the infamous question... “Will now be the time that Jesus will return?... I mean, it can’t get much worse, can it?” The Bible does give us some very black-and-white things to say in moments like these. I usually respond that we cannot know the year, and that even Jesus Himself, when He was on earth, said that He didn’t know the exact time when He would be coming back (Matthew 24:36; Mark 13:32). I also take the opportunity to emphasize that if anyone says that he knows, that person is false. Then I add that even though I don’t know what year Jesus is coming back, I do know that his coming is near. And by “near,” I mean what the New Testament means when it tells us, multiple times, that His coming is near.

We are excited here at Woodville Community, because at New Year’s and throughout the winter we will be delving into the mysteries given to us in the book of Revelation in a new series called, ***“Escape the Coming Night.”*** We will be going through the letters to the seven churches in our Wednesday Night Service as well. Throughout this series, we will look closely at the time of the rapture of the church and the judgments that follow. This will be a time of deep reflection upon us as a culture, as well as our own personal lives. Until that time, we have some thoughts about what we can know about Christ’s return.

The Next Big Thing

God calls His church, in every generation, to live in light of this remarkable truth: Nothing now stands in the way of Jesus’s return. After His perfect life, sacrificial death for us, resurrection from the grave, and ascension to heaven to pour out His Spirit on His church, the next major movement in the history of the world is the second coming of Christ.

In the church age, we Christians have no definite unfulfilled list of events which must transpire before His return. What the Bible promises will happen at the end is already happening, in significant measure, around the world today — and has been happening, in some sense, since the earliest days of the church.

As long as Jesus tarries, we do indeed have the concrete directives of the church age to continue pursuing, like the evangelization of the nations (Matthew 28:19) and the hastening of his coming through holy living (2 Peter 3:11–12). And yet we have no firm, certain list of unfulfilled conditions about which Jesus could not surprise us. His coming is the next big thing and could happen at any moment. That’s what the New Testament means when it says his return is *near*.

continued on next page

Could Jesus Come Back Today?

As early as Acts 2:17, just after Jesus had ascended to heaven and poured out His Spirit on His church, Peter declares that the “last days” prophecy from Joel 2 is being fulfilled in their midst: “In the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.” Then Paul writes in 2 Timothy 3:1, “Understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty.” And the times of difficulty he refers to were already happening for his readers. He was saying, in effect, “Don’t be surprised that life is tough; these are the last days, remember?” And 2 Peter 3:3 makes a similar assumption and gives a similar reminder: “Scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires.” For Peter’s readers, and for us, the scoffers aren’t future; they are here now. We are living in the last days.

Perhaps most prominent of all, and unmistakable, are the first two verses of Hebrews: “Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son.” The first coming of Christ ushered in this final season of world history — these last days — and His second coming is the next major step in history. Unlike many other major systems of belief around the world, Jews and Christians view history as linear.

History is God’s story, and it is going somewhere. It had a beginning, and it will have an end. There were first days, there were the days of the patriarchs and the many seasons (so many ups and downs!) in the history of Israel, and there were four hundred years of prophetic silence, and then the days Jesus walked the earth.

And since then, we have been living in the last days. We don’t know how long this present season of history will last. It has been almost two thousand years so far. But we do know that this present season of history, which began with the early church, is the last one until Jesus comes.

The next major, literally epoch-making event to come is not some especially great persecution (as if Christians haven’t been persecuted for the last two thousand years and aren’t being persecuted in horrible ways around the world today); the next big step is that Jesus is coming back. That’s what the New Testament means when it says His return is “near” or “at hand.” It’s not about shortness of time as we conceive of it, but about nearness in history as God crafts it. And it should make us a people who anticipate it, pray for it, and live in light of it.

The second coming of Christ is near. This is what we teach our children, and remind ourselves. We are living in the last days.



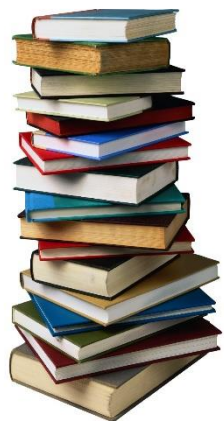


Woodville Community Church Christmas Eve Service

The Christmas Eve Service will be a special time of worshipping our blessed Savior. Please invite your family and friends to join in for a time of singing and meditating on what our Heavenly Father has done by sending His only Son to earth as a baby.

Sunday, December 24th at 7:00 p.m.

Library Highlights



New Books

New DVDs

Book Bags

There are so many wonderful books just waiting to be read in our beautiful library.....so dig out those reading glasses and pick up a title or two!

- New titles available, including many series that are now complete.
- New DVDs have been added.
- The Biblical Counseling material has been moved to the new shelving surrounding the white board.
- Book bags are available for use in carrying your items.

Know Your Sections?

Orange – Fiction (F)
Green – Nonfiction (NF)
Red – Youth Nonfiction (Y NF)
Yellow – Youth Fiction (YF)
Yellow – Children (Vertical Title)
Blue - Biblical Counseling (BC)

New Titles Added Recently By These Authors:

Terri Blackstock (F)	Charles Swindoll (NF)
Ted Dekker (F)	Kurt Koch (NF)
Dee Henderson (F)	Max Lucado (NF)
Steven James (F)	Beth Moore (NF)
Beverly Lewis (F)	Warren Wiersbe (NF)
Mindy Starns Clark (F)	Steven Curtis Chapman (NF)
Kevin Belmonte (NF)	Charles Stanley (NF)
Corrie TenBoom (NF)	

.....and many more!



December 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Greeters for October: <i>Carolyn Bushre & Rylee Kelley</i></p>					1 Women's Bible Study/ Exodus	2 Elders Prayer Time
<p>3 Sunday school</p> <p>Worship Service <i>Ministry Shares Offering</i> Sunday school</p>	<p>4 <i>Ladies Aid</i> Women's Bible Study/ Exodus</p>	<p>5 AWANA</p>	<p>6 Wednesday Night Service</p>	<p>7 Praise Team practice</p>	<p>8 Women's Bible Study/ Exodus</p>	<p>9 Elders Prayer Time</p>
<p>10 Sunday school</p> <p>Worship Service Sunday school</p>	<p>11 Women's Bible Study/ Exodus</p>	<p>12 AWANA</p>	<p>13 Christian Women's Club Wednesday Night Service</p>	<p>14 Praise Team practice</p>	<p>15 Board Meeting</p>	<p>16 Elders Prayer Time</p>
<p>17 Sunday school</p> <p>Worship Service <i>Church Potluck</i></p>	<p>18 <i>Ladies Aid</i></p>	<p>19 AWANA Christmas Party</p>	<p>20 Wednesday Night Service</p>	<p>21 Praise Team practice</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 Elders Prayer Time</p>
<p>24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> Worship Service <i>Christmas Eve Service</i></p>	<p>25 <i>Christmas Day</i></p>	<p>26 No AWANA</p>	<p>27 No Wednesday Night Service</p>	<p>28 Praise Team practice</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 Elders Prayer Time</p>
<p>31 New Years Eve</p> <p>Worship Service</p>						

Sundays

Worship
Services
10:00 a.m.
Sunday school
9:00 a.m.
11:45 a.m.

Monday

1st & 3rd
Ladies Aid
10 a.m.

Tuesdays

Supper
5:30 p.m.



6 p.m.

Wednesdays

Night Service
7 p.m.

3rd Friday

Board Meeting
6:00 p.m.



December Birthdays

5: Paul Morse	20: Lily Mortensen
9: Gene Fisher	20: Renee Cook
13: Larry Frontjes	21: Gordon Witte
16: Carol Maring	24: Carolyn Bushre
16: Adriana Beckwith	24: Tim Mortensen
17: Stefanie Mortensen	26: Larry Gravelin
19: Gayle Knuver	27: Reece Mortensen

December Anniversaries


2: Jeff & Teri Ouderkirk
4: Wes & Barb Knight
12: Pastor Brett & Shelly Werner
27: Eric & Pam Morgan
29: Glenn & Marilyn Patrick

Items on this calendar are subject to change



January 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Sundays Worship Services 10:00 a.m. Sunday school 9:00 a.m. 11:45 a.m.	1 <i>New Years Day</i>	2 No AWANA	3 Wednesday Night Service	4 Praise Team practice	5	6 Elders Prayer Time
7 Sunday school Worship service Sunday school <i>(Building Fund Offering)</i>	8 <i>Ladies Aid</i>	9 AWANA	10 Christian Women's Club Wednesday Night Service	11 Praise Team practice	12	13 Elders Prayer Time
14 Sunday school Worship service Communion Service Sunday School	15	16 AWANA	17 Wednesday Night Service	18 Praise Team practice	19 Board Meeting	20 Elders Prayer Time
21 Sunday school Worship service <i>Potluck</i>	22 <i>Ladies Aid</i>	23 AWANA	24 Wednesday Night Service	25 Praise Team practice	26	27 Elders Prayer Time
28 Sunday school Worship service Sunday school	29	30 AWANA	31 Wednesday Night Service			Greeters for January: <i>Dave & Sue Meyers</i>



January Birthdays

1: Teresa Adams
8: Glenn Patrick
10: Joe Richards
12: Ormand Hook
18: Pattie Morse
19: Peg Peters
24: Kathy Weeks
31: Chris Rottman
31: Tim Cook



January Anniversary

21: Bob & Mary Cook

Items on this calendar are subject to change

Life-Giving Prayers

by Sandra Higley

for Your Church

Encourage our *pastoral staff* when ministry gets tough. Help them remain faithful with the things You've entrusted to them (2 Cor. 4:1; 1 Cor. 4:1-3).

Teach us to respect and honor our *elders/deacons*. May they give wholehearted attention to prayer and ministry. Keep them devoted to their families and above reproach. May they be gentle, honest, and wise as they carry out their responsibilities (Acts 6:4; 1 Tim. 3:1-2, 5:17; Titus 1:7).

Appoint *worship leaders* who stand in awe before the splendor of Your holiness. Use their praise to defeat the enemy. May they be true worshipers who worship in spirit and in truth. Let them glory only in You, Jesus (2 Chron. 20:21-22; Jn. 4:23-24; Phil. 3:3).

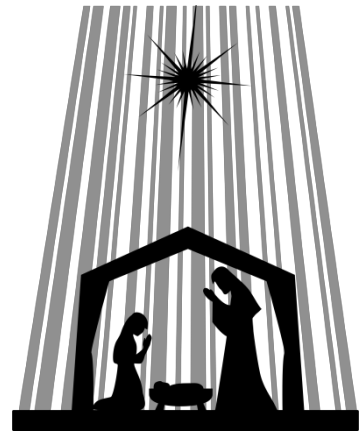
May every *speaker/teacher* correctly handle Your word of truth, admonishing and teaching wisely. Let them speak with faith that springs from relationship with You (2 Tim. 2:15; Col. 1:28; 2 Cor. 4:13).

Let our *youth workers* set examples in speech, life, love, faith, and purity. Cause them to be strong, alive-in-the-Word overcomers. Give them discernment to deal with troubled youth as they teach them Your life-giving principles (1 Tim. 4:12; 1 Jn. 2:14; Prov. 7:7,2).

Thank You for every *behind-the-scenes worker* who is devoted to service. Bless them for their obedience and generosity—may You receive praise as a result! Reward them for serving You humbly and wholeheartedly rather than seeking to be noticed by others (1 Cor. 16:15-16; 2 Cor. 9:12-13; Eph. 6:7).

Increase our number through new converts. Let the gospel be presented to *the lost* among us with power, the Holy Spirit, and deep conviction, not only through the words of the sermon, but also through our lives. Teach us to make the most of every opportunity as we spread everywhere the fragrance of Christ (Acts 2:47; 1 Thess. 1:5; Col. 4:5; 2 Cor. 2:15).

May *the hurting* come to know You as El Roi, the God who sees them. Bind up the brokenhearted. Set the captives free. Replace mourning with Your oil of gladness. Comfort them so they will have a ministry of comfort to others (Gen. 16:13; Is. 61:1-3; 2 Cor. 1:3-4).



Christ Is The Light Of Christmas

Christmas joy and lights aglow;
Christmas songs to warm and cheer
Excitement is on the children's faces
As anticipation fills the air —

But for some, it can be lonely
When loved ones have passed away,
Memories are all that linger
As the years begin to fade

But Christ's light should never dim;
It should ever shine out bright
Our ray of hope in this troubled world
Is our joy of eternal light

Christmas, when spent with Jesus,
Can warm our hurting hearts,
For as His light shines within us,
Its glow warms our deepest parts.

© By M.S.Lowndes

Food For Thought...

Cheese Ball

Prep 15 m

Ready In 2 h 15 m

Ingredients

- 2 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese, softened
- 3 1/2 cups shredded sharp Cheddar cheese
- 1 (1 ounce) package Ranch-style dressing mix
- 2 cups chopped pecans
- 4 pecan halves

Directions

In a large bowl, mix together cream cheese, Cheddar cheese, and dressing mix. Form into one large ball or two smaller balls. Roll in chopped pecans to coat surface. Decorate the top with pecan halves. Refrigerate for at least 2 hours, or overnight.



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Sausage and Cornbread Dressing

Prep 1 h

Cook 45 m

Ready In 1 h 50 m

Ingredients

- 2 (8 ounce) packages corn bread mix
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 pound spicy pork sausage
- 2 onions, chopped
- 2 apples, cored and chopped
- 4 stalks celery, diced
- 3/4 cup chicken broth
- 1/4 cup unsalted butter, melted
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley
- 2 teaspoons rubbed sage
- 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1/2 teaspoon dried rosemary
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper

Directions

Bake cornbread according to package directions. Cool and crumble into a large bowl. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). Heat oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Cook sausage until brown and crumbly, remove from the skillet but keep the oil in the pan. Add onions, apples and celery; cook stirring occasionally until tender, about 5 minutes. Toss the cooked mixture and the sausage into the bowl with the crumbled cornbread. Stir in the chicken broth and melted butter. Season with parsley, sage, thyme, rosemary, salt and pepper. Blend well and press into a 9x13 inch baking dish. Bake in the preheated oven for 35 to 45 minutes.



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“...A merry heart doeth good like medicine...”



More Ridiculous State Laws

Maine-

You can be fined for keeping your Christmas decorations up after January 14th.

Massachusetts-

Mourners may eat no more than three sandwiches at a wake.

Minnesota-

It's unlawful to cross state lines with a duck atop one's head.

Nebraska-

If a child burps during a church service, his or her parents may be arrested.

New York-

A person riding an elevator must talk to no one and must fold his hands while looking at the door.

North Carolina-

Elephants are not allowed to be used to plow cotton fields.



ACTIVITY PAGE

 **CHRISTMAS STORY**



V	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	A	C	I
M	Q	M	Z	D	L	O	G	J	S	H	O
Y	S	A	G	J	O	S	E	P	H	R	K
R	A	N	G	E	L	M	V	Y	E	I	C
R	V	G	N	S	T	A	R	H	E	S	A
H	I	E	I	U	Q	R	X	C	P	T	T
P	O	R	K	S	J	Y	B	A	B	M	T
T	U	D	R	O	L	B	I	N	N	A	L
F	R	A	N	K	I	N	C	E	N	S	E

angel	inn	shepherd
star	manger	Lord
Christmas	King	cattle
Jesus	Myrrh	baby
Mary	Frankincense	sheep
Joseph	Gold	saviour




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Have a
Blessed
Christ-mas



Guide
Mary and Joseph
to Bethlehem.

JESUS is
the Reason
for the Season.