

The Longest Night, A Service of Remembrance

For many of us, the Advent season is a joyful time marked by festive gatherings with friends and family. At the same time, there are a number of people in the Kansas City area who are dealing with the tragic loss of a loved one who was taken from them by crime. These families are struggling to get through their first Christmas season without their murdered relative. We want to remember and reach out to these grieving families through a special service called "The Longest Night" on Saturday, December 19, at 6:00 p.m.

The Longest Night is a memorial service for this

year's murder victims of Jackson, Johnson, and Wyandotte Counties. Our faith family will host a time of prayer and remembrance and share a message of hope. We will also invite law enforcement officers from the community to be present in order to show our appreciation for what they do to help keep our city safe.

You can be involved in this ministry opportunity by helping place white crosses with the names of the victims on our front lawn, by writing invitations to the families, by bringing cookies for the reception following the service, or by just being

present to offer a kind face and a hug to someone hurting. Please let me know if you are interested in serving.

-Pastor Adam



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LBC Preschool's Weekday Ed Staff Offering "Kids Night Out"

Do your kids need a fun night out? Sign them up for our first Kids Night Our event at Leawood Baptist Church. Weekday Education Staff will be present to provide kids with fun activities and entertainment. Dinner and light snacks will be provided. Kids of all ages are welcome. While your

kids are having a ball at our event, you can get some errands run, cross things off your Christmas list, or go on a much deserved date night. Mark your Calendar for Friday, December 11 from 5:00—8:00 p.m. The cost for one child is \$25, for two it is \$40, for three it is

\$50. To reserve your spot go to www.leawoodbaptist.com or call Jamie Sink, Director of Weekday Education at (913) 649-0921. All registrations must be received by Tuesday, December 8. Make checks payable to *Leawood Baptist Church*.



***“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.”***

Pearls From Peggy

When I was a child, I was raised in a fear-saturated atmosphere. I was literally afraid of everything—bugs, rodents, snakes, roller coasters, disease, being in a car wreck, poverty, failure, success, not pleasing adults, breaking a bone, being deformed, doing something that would cause my premature death, being tortured, fear of falling from a great height, and an abnormal fear of God. You get the picture. Some fear is a part of normal humanity; what I had was a phobia that included more than normal fears. They were consuming my ability to function normally in this world. God’s Word identifies this as a “spirit of fear.” (2 Timothy 1:7) After I returned to the Lord as an adult, little by little, fear, by fear, the Lord set me free from every one of those specific fears through the power of the living Word

of God, but most of all He delivered me from the power of a spirit of fear, and replaced it with the power of the Holy Spirit, the Love of God, and the mind of Christ.

So what does this have to do with Advent? Everything!! Each time an angel came in the Christmas story, their words to the quaking humans were, “Do not be afraid!” Zacharias, John the Baptist’s father, Mary, Jesus’ mother, the shepherds—all of them received the same greeting. And this is the greeting that the Lord is once again giving to us... “Do not be afraid!!” Do not be afraid of terrorists, because His Word says “He who takes refuge in the shelter of the Most High will be safe in the shadow of the Almighty.” Do not be afraid of any created thing, because the Creator is higher than any of those things!

Everything that has a name must bow the knee to the Name above all names – Jesus Christ. If our Father God could save His Son Jesus from destruction by an insane ruler when he was just a two-year-old, how much more can that same resurrected Son save you from whatever has been designed for your harm from the pit of hell. Read Psalm 91...commit it to memory. It will bring you to a deeper level of trust, faith, and love of the Lord like you’ve not experienced before. And then, soak in the wonder and mystery of the story of Christ’s birth. See that little helpless hand extend in the air, praising His Heavenly Father, touching the face of his mother, grasping the hand of Joseph, His earthly father. And let the Holy Spirit reveal to you His personal message of love this Christmastime. And “Do not be afraid!”

Christmas Post Office Is Here



The annual Christmas Post office is here as of December 6th! The annual Christmas Post Office is your easy way of sending Christmas cards to friends and family of Leawood Baptist Church. The best part of all is that you do not need to go to your local post office. Just drop your cards in the alphabetically-arranged mailboxes located in the Narthex, and let our children

be your postal carriers.

You will notice a donation box just to the side of the mailboxes where you can donate what you would have spent of postage, and anything over and above that amount that you would like to give. Proceeds will go toward Children’s Ministry. Checks should be made payable to Leawood Baptist Church with “Christmas Post Office” on the memo line.

Music As Medicine

Music has merged with medicine in the treatment and wellbeing of patients and the population in general. It goes way beyond the psychological smile and foot-tapping that favorite songs can induce!

Music affects heart rate and respiration, digestion, surface skin nerves, and it stimulates healing. You have only to watch the

monitor while a patient listens to favorite music to see the blood pressure go down, and the oxygen levels go up. There have been studies showing positive response to familiar chords and cadences in nursing homes as well as the general public. Music reaches to our inner core.

During an MRI, patients indicate when music is soothing,

and corresponding changes can be seen in the firing of neurons in the brain. Blood vessels dilate and blood flow increases. Hospitals and nursing homes use Music Therapists to work with patients, knowing that music causes a natural high that increases endorphin release and reduces pain levels... BRAVO!!

—Laura Farris



Order Your Poinsettias

Christmas is just around the corner, which means that it's time to order your poinsettias. Each poinsettia is \$10.00. Orders must be placed by Thursday, December 10th, so please call Sheryl in the church office, and let her know who you are honoring or remembering with your

poinsettia. Also let her know if you will be taking your poinsettia home after

Christmas or leaving it for delivery to the homebound.



The most common misconception about these plants is that they're poisonous to pets, which isn't true, says Therese Ciesinski, managing editor of *Organic Gardening* magazine. "Their toxicity has been way overblown," she says. "Their stems emit a bitter sap, which is toxic in quantity, but it tastes so nasty that most pets wouldn't take more than one lick."

Red is the most popular color for poinsettias accounting for roughly three-quarters of all sales nationwide, followed by white and pink.

Preschool Rummage Sale

Weekday Education Teachers have cleaned out their classrooms, we have sorted through toys and materials, and Jamie has cleaned out the teacher work room. This has created an abundance of things that the school no longer needs or items that are no longer appropriate for our program.

Materials will be set out in the Multi Purpose Room of the church on Tuesday, December 1 beginning

at 2:00, all day Wednesday, December 2, and until 3:30 on Thursday, December 3. Come take a look to see if can you find any new treasures. Most items will not be marked with prices, but we will simply ask that you leave a donation of your choosing in exchange for whatever you receive.

Happy Rummaging!





Get your charitable donation in before December 31, 2015.

The Difference A Day Makes (From the Finance Committee)

The IRS allows individuals to deduct from their charitable donations in the year the donations were *delivered*. Gifts delivered in person can be easily received and recorded on the same day. When a donation is mailed, the situation can get complicated, since donations delivered at the end of the year are not received by the church until the new year.

When receipting mailed gifts, the postmark date is used as conclusive evidence of when the donation was mailed. If the donor mailed the donation in the old year, but too late for the last mail pickup, keep in mind that the individual, not the church, bears the burden of proving when the donation was delivered. We will identify the postmark dates on all

mailed envelopes that come into the church office during the first part of January 2016. Therefore, please make sure your postmark is no later than Dec. 31, 2015, in order to be counted in the 2015 tax year. Feel free to contact **Linda Keller** at finsec@leawoodbaptist.com or 913/649-0100 ext. 14 should you have any questions.

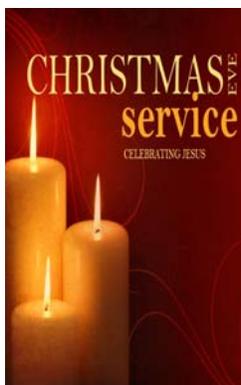
“Preschool families as well as church members are invited to attend.”

Preschool Christmas Program

The Preschool Program will once again be performing Our Annual Christmas Sing and Story of Christ's Birth. The program will take place in the Sanctuary on Thursday, December 17th at 10:00 am. Preschool families as well

as church members are invited to attend the program. There will be light refreshments and snacks in the Parlor following the program.

Jamie Sink
Director, Weekday Education



Thursday, December 24, 5:00 p.m.

Candlelight and Communion Service

Begin the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ by joining your fellow LBC members and guests on Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24 at 5:00 p.m. for our Candlelight and Communion Service.

Intergenerational Cookie Baking

Help our children decorate Christmas cookies for our ill and homebound members on Wednesday, December 16 beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Thanks in advance to Brenda Engel for baking the cookies. This is an intergenerational event so everyone is invited.



**“These Magoi
proclaimed
the birth of a
contender for
Herod's
throne.”**



It's time to roll up our sleeves and get to work.

Who Were the “Wise Men?” —<http://www.idolphin.org/birth.html>

The word that Matthew uses to describe the wise men is Magoi. The Parthian Dynasty was ruled by something equivalent to our houses of Parliament. They called it the Megistanes. The Lower House members were called the Sophoi or 'Wise Ones': the Upper House members were called the Magoi or 'Great Ones'. It was these Magoi, the king makers of their empire, that

come to visit Jesus. It was not the astrologers - It was the politicians - and there were more than 3, even if only three types of gift were given.

These Magoi proclaimed the birth of a contender for Herod's throne. Indeed, they had come to support this child-king, and their army was there to back them. It was no wonder that Herod was troubled, and all

Jerusalem with him. He had a small army from a foreign power at the gates of Jerusalem. And at a very inconvenient time too. Herod's garrison that normally protected Jerusalem was away helping fight the Homanadensian War. Jerusalem was virtually undefended. It was a very tense time for Herod, but he played his options very skillfully.

2016 Leadership Opportunities

Thank you to those of you who have already indicated how you would like to serve your church in 2016. There are still plenty of areas where we could use more volunteers. There are sign-up sheets available in the Narthex or you can call Linda Keller at home or church to let the Leadership

Resources Team know where and how you would like to serve.

We are always in need of more members who are willing to be Greeters and Ushers. The more people we have, the fewer times you will need to serve.

These are important posi-

tions in the life of our church because you are sometimes the first person a visitor will meet.

If you have not volunteered yet, please find a sign-up sheet and pray about how you can serve in 2016.

—Leader Resources Team

Sunday Bible Classes

Try joining one of our Sunday morning adult Bible classes. The one-hour classes are located at various places around the building and begin promptly at 9:30 a.m.

Better Together Class, led by rotating teachers, meets in the Conference Room.

The Seekers, led by rotating teachers, meets in Room 155.

Middle Adult I I, led by Rev. Ken Simpson, meets in the south end of the Multi-purpose Room.

The Eclectics, led by Dave Bradshaw and Randy Cooper, meets in the Parlor.

Young Adults, led by rotating teachers, meets in the south end of the Multi-purpose Room.

Do your best to present yourself to God as...a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. —2 Timothy 2:15





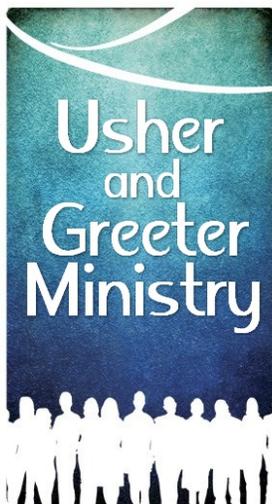
“Yet have regard to the prayer of your servant and to his plea, O LORD my God.”

—1 Kings 8:28

Prayer List (as of November 12, 2015)

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| Jean Christensen
(Charter Member) | Judy Holloman
(church member) | Donna Spencer , sister of church member Susan Napier Fox |
| Bob Davis , friend of church members Lana & Sam Gill | Wayne Hudson
(church member) | John Stone
(Charter Member) |
| Janna and Ron Dillon
(church members) | Ellen & Wendell Jones , parents of church member Carol Ann Sykes | Ben Cottle (Husband of church member Becky Cottle) |
| Ricky Joe Dorsey , brother of Lesa Young | Lee Lamar (church member) | |
| Phyllis & Don Evans
(church members) | Vera McCoy
(church member) | |
| Ernie & Jim Evans
(church members) | Fran Miller (homebound church member) | |
| Richard Lee Fox , grandson of church member Susan Napier Fox | Virginia Norfleet
(homebound church member) | |
| Bea & Charlie Francis
(church members) | Milton Overby
(homebound church member) | |
| Andrew Gill , youngest son of church members Lana & Sam Gill | Ida & Bill Pitts
(church members) | |
| Gary G'Sell son-in-law of church members Ernie & Jim Evans | Dorothy Plattner
(homebound church member) | |
| | Jennie Reid Russell
(Charter Member) | |
| | Frank Smist
(church member) | |

Please contact the church office at (913) 649-0100 for corrections, additions or deletions.



December Ushers and Greeters

Ushers:

- David Wildman
- Psul Forstad
- Bob Gibbs
- John Haley
- Linda Kinder
- Rich Nitsch
- John Tancredi

Greeters:

- Jodie Blackburn
- Joan Hopkins
- Carol Ann Sykes

Calendar

To view the church's most recent calendar, please visit our website at www.leawoodbaptist.com. Click on "Publications," then click on "Calendar," then click on the December calendar to open it as a .pdf.





December 2015

Leawood Baptist Church 913/649-0100

* 8:30 AM - Open Prayer (Parlor), 9:00 AM - God's First Musicians (RR), 9:30 AM - Bible Classes, 9:30-10:20 AM - Chancel Choir/Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary), 10:45 AM - Worship

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																								
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<p>6</p> <p>*</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:30 PM Pastoral Leadership Team (Parlor)</p>	<p>8</p> <p>8:30 AM Preschool/PDO 11:15 AM Staff Meeting (PO) 5:00 PM StageRight (FH) 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Daisy Troop 2028 (MPR)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>8:30 AM Preschool/PDO 6:30 PM Pastor's Discussion Group (HR) 6:30 PM Discipleship Groups (CR & Parlor) 7:30 PM Chancel Choir (ChR)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8:30 AM Preschool/PDO 5:00 PM StageRight (FH) 6:30 PM Property Comm (Parlor)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Kids Night Out (MPR & Rm 157)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Christmas Party (MPR)</p>																																																								
<p>13</p> <p>4:00 PM - 5:30 PM Jr. Scout Troop 575 (MPR) *</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7:00 PM Finance/Stewardship (CR)</p>	<p>15</p> <p>8:30 AM Preschool/PDO 11:15 AM Staff Meeting (PO) 5:00 PM StageRight (FH) 6:30 PM Church Council (MPR)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>8:30 AM Preschool/PDO 11:00 AM Round Table Book Club at Helen Watson's 11:30 AM - 3:30 PM Shawnee Msn DAR (MPR) 7:30 PM Worship Band Rehearsal (Sanct.) 6:30 Intergenerational Cookie Baking 6:30 p.m. Intergenerational Cookie Baking (MPR)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>8:30 AM Preschool/PDO 5:00 PM StageRight (FH) 9:00 a.m. Preschool Christmas Program (Sanctuary)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>PEGGY FORSTAD BIRTHDAY</p> <p>SMSD No School</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:00 PM "Longest Night" Memorial Service (Sanct.)</p>																																																								
<p>20</p> <p>10:15 AM Parish Nurse (BR) *</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>11:15 AM Staff Meeting (PO) RON HICKS BIRTHDAY</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:30 PM Chancel Choir (ChR)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>3:30 PM LBC Worship Rehearsal 5:00 PM LBC Christmas Eve Communion</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Christmas OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>26</p>																																																								
SMSD Winter Break																																																														
<p>27</p> <p>*</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>11:15 AM Staff Meeting (PO)</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>New Year's Eve</p>	<table border="1"> <tr><td colspan="7">Jan 2016</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>		Jan 2016							S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						
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10:00 AM - 2:00 PM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN			SMSD Winter Break																																																											

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter
in the mail, please advise the Church Office.

Leawood Baptist Church
8200 State Line Road
Leawood, KS 66206-1246

December Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 12/01—Jim Holloman | 12/24—Mark Sherrill |
| 12/02—Cleo Vetter | 12/24—Andrew Fuller |
| 12/02—Susan Fox | 12/25—Kelly Buckle |
| 12/03—Dave Bradshaw | 12/27—Jack Ballard |
| 12/04—Nancy Searcy | 12/28—Leanna Uniak |
| 12/05—Jim Evans | 12/28—Ethan Egbert |
| 12/05—Adrian Rossi | 12/29—Meghan Pitts |
| 12/08—Jackson Bear | 12/29—Joyce Deering |
| 12/09—Susan Nitsch | |
| 12/09—Mary Stone | |
| 12/10—Jodie Blackburn | |
| 12/10—Mell Henderson | |
| 12/10—Anna Sykes | |
| 12/11—Barbara Aldridge | |
| 12/11—Dennis Engel | |
| 12/14—Wayne Hudson | |
| 12/18—Peggy Forstad | |
| 12/20—Ann Doyle | |
| 12/22—Florine Jones | |
| 12/22—Helen Winter | |
| 12/22—Charlie Simpson | |



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We're on the web!
www.LeawoodBaptist.com