

December

Dear Church Family,

Christmastime is nearly upon us, and with it comes the most wonderful season of the year!

When I was a boy, my family would load up our old minivan and make the trip to west Tennessee to visit grandparents, uncles, aunts, and cousins. My maternal grandmother always kept the door to the formal living room locked—the room where the big Christmas tree stood in all its glory. One year, she caught me peeking through the keyhole, trying my best to catch a glimpse of the treasures inside. She teased me about that failed “sneak peek” for years to come.

Do you have some special Christmas memories like that?

Here at Towering Oaks, my hope is that you’ll make some wonderful new ones this year. Inside this newsletter, you’ll find a list of our major Christmas events. If you haven’t already, I encourage you to make it a tradition to stay fully engaged with your church family throughout this meaningful season. And please consider inviting your unchurched or dechurched friends to join you at our Christmas gatherings—these moments can be powerful opportunities for gospel impact.

I’ll close this article by sharing with you an outline from one of my favorite sermons by Charles H. Spurgeon—the beloved “Prince of Preachers”—entitled “*A Christmas Question.*”

I. A Personal Possession (To Whom is Christ Born?)

Spurgeon emphasizes that the birth of Christ must be personally appropriated. He explores who can claim “unto us”—shepherds, outcasts, and all who believe.

II. The Person Given (What is the Gift?)

He highlights the magnitude of the gift:

1. A Savior: not merely a teacher, but one who saves from sin.
2. Christ the Lord: the Messiah, the promised one, and the divine sovereign.

III. The Personal Question for the Hearer (Have You Received Him?)

This section forms the sermon's main appeal:

1. The Need for Personal Faith: challenging hearers to examine themselves.
2. The Consequence of Refusal: warning of the danger of neglecting the Savior.
3. The Joy of Acceptance: encouraging rejoicing for those who have accepted Christ.

Merry Christmas,

Dr. Jeremy P. Roberts
PASTOR

Don't Blink –

It seems 2025 just began, yet in just weeks it will come to its end. Yesterday, your kids were born.... Today, they're graduating or getting married... Who knows what tomorrow may bring? "Tempus Fugit" is Latin for Time Flies and is a reminder to value each and every moment.

The scriptures have much to say about "tomorrow" and the future. Yet, somehow, it is often difficult to choose what will occupy our present. We've all asked that question, "What will we do, today?"

As a believer – we don't know what tomorrow holds, but we know Who holds tomorrow. Eternal life is a gift to the believer (John 3:16, Romans 6:23, John 17:3, Matthew 25:46, John 5:24, Galatians 6:8). We can choose to merely live in the present, or to apply present opportunities to eternal good. It has been said, "If we really knew how little time we have, I bet we'd make different choices."

If we could peek into God's Eternal Glory, and realize the impact **Today** has into **Eternity**, every vice known to man would evaporate. Instantaneously, we would more deeply love God & that pesky dispute with our neighbor would be no more. The believer's focus would cease being on "today" and would forever be focused on "eternity."

Jesus said we should "lay up our treasures in heaven..." (Matthew 6:20) The greatest treasure in heaven will be the folks that will join us there. In this Christmas Season, remember to share Jesus.

Let us be "Eternally" Focused.

In His Grip,

Brother Greg



Words matter.

“Well, Mrs. Shelley, that’s an odd way to begin Christmas newsletter notes.”

Maybe. Or maybe not.

KidsMin has gifted parents a new way to approach the beautiful experience of Christmas as you gather with your children in coming weeks.

Preschool through 6th grade families will all have a “Names of Jesus” Advent Activity. How wonderful to daily countdown to Christmas by learning many of these names to help us understand the precious Gift given.

Living Water, Light of the World, The Word, Redeemer, Savior, JESUS!

Families will read corresponding scripture and children will, through the truth of the Bible, discover Jesus is far more than a sweet baby wrapped in cloth, laying in a cradle carved from stone.

Immanuel.

Yes, Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Christ but we need to recognize, just as the Christ child grew to be the Godman, our focus can transform, too. As you worship, read, sing, decorate, celebrate—please choose more words. Words you don’t normally use.

The Good Shepherd.

I’m excited to hear about your family altar time ... excited to see pictures of the countdown. Excited to know children are learning He didn’t remain a baby.

Lion of Judah.

I love Christmas. I love the lights, laughter, tastes, and smells. I love remembering the globe my great grandmother gave me. The scene of animals, shepherds, Mary and Joseph gathered around a baby in the center—turning ever so slowly, playing Silent Night, and filling my childlike heart with hope and mystery and peace.

Deliverer.

I look forward to celebrating all month with my children, grandchildren, families and the children of our precious church. My prayer for all of us is, as we enjoy the season, we will begin a new tradition. Let’s remember words matter.

Who is Jesus?

He is the Bread of Life, Mighty God, The Bright and Morning Star.

Merry Christmas! May you know Him—King, Cornerstone, Prince of Peace, Mediator.

I love you,

Mrs. Shelley

The Names of Jesus Advent isn’t just for kids. Come see me if you’d like your own copy.

Jesus

messiah

prince
OF
peace

EMMANUEL

CHRIST
THE
SAVIOR
IS BORN

Redeemer

November Youth News

Hello TOBC family and friends! Greetings from the Underground...

November has been another fantastic month in the Underground with our youth. We continue to see a lot of different faces from week to week but overall there is a strong feeling of community and discipleship being built amongst those who are there. It is a blessing to serve.

The theme for this month's Bible study has been "Lessons from the Teacher", the title Jesus was referred to between 45 and 60 times in the Gospels, depending on your version. One of the main ways Jesus fulfilled the role of a teacher was through the use of parables, teaching those who would listen the moral and ethical lessons that explain His kingdom. In our modern day world filled with hate, war, and sin unfettered, these parables ring as true now as they did 2,000 years ago.

Week 1: The Good Samaritan. Of course, start with an all time classic! The main point we wanted the youth to focus on was who the Samaritan was. Many people forget that this parable, as found in Luke 10:25-37 begins AFTER an "expert in the law" tested Jesus on how to inherit eternal life. Jesus asked him what was in the Law? The "expert" replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and with all your strength and all your mind. And love your neighbor as yourself." But this "expert" questioned Jesus further...and asked "Who's my neighbor?" You see, the Jews in Jesus's time despised the Samaritans and they lived right next to each other, like neighbors do. Jesus was making a point to this Pharisee that there are no loopholes here, we are all neighbors. It was the Samaritan who was willing to help someone who looked down on him and that makes this parable a powerful message to remember.

Week 2: The Prodigal Son, Luke 15:11-32. Of course, follow up an all time classic with THE classic parable! We concentrated this lesson on the point of view of the older brother, the faithful son because for many of us in our lives we will see "sinners" coming back to Jesus after we all, hopefully, spend our lives in His service. We should rejoice, not be mad or jealous, when we see a brother or sister RETURN to Jesus.

Week 3: The Rich Man and Lazarus and The Pharisee and the Tax Collector, Luke 16:19-31 and Luke 18:9-14. These are two powerful parables that show us the importance of humbling ourselves before God. Jesus did not mince words while he delivered these messages directly to the religious leaders of His time. Leaders and the wealthy of today's time should refresh themselves on these parables. Listening to God and humbling yourself before God is very difficult for the wealthy and the proud. Just remember Jesus said it was the tax collector, not the Pharisee, who was justified before God!

Week 4: The Sheep and the Goats, Matthew 25:31-46. According to many theologians, this was the last parable Jesus gave before his arrest. And if this is accurate, it is a very poignant parable to end on. Jesus warned that when He returns He will separate everyone (EVERYONE) into two categories: sheep and goats. What is interesting is the criteria he uses. To the sheep on His right He says, *"Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."*

Then the righteous will answer him, *'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'*

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

The goats didn't do this...

This lesson was completed by the reading of James 2:14-26, a personal favorite of mine. We are saved by Grace through our Faith but if we truly have Faith, a Faith that is unshakable and unconditional, then it will be evident in our lives and in our deeds. As James writes, *"What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."*

Maybe this was what Jesus was trying to get us all to see? Maybe His question for us is this,, **"Would the Good Samaritan be a goat or a sheep? What about a Pharisee?"** What about you?

Merry Christmas from Todd and Krystal

Christmas

Services

- **Sunday Services—November 30–December 21: Christmas Sermon Series—*Behold the Lamb***
 - o November 30 (a.m.)—A Lamb for a Man (Isaac)—Genesis 22:1–14
 - o December 7 (a.m.)—A Lamb for a Family (Passover)—Exodus 12:1–14
 - o December 7 (p.m.)—A Lamb for a Nation (Day of Atonement)—Leviticus 16:5–22
 - o December 14 (a.m.)—A Lamb for the World (John’s “Behold the Lamb”)—John 1:19–34
 - o December 21 (a.m.)—A Lamb Seated on the Throne—Revelation 5:1–14
- **December 11, 7:00 p.m., in the Worship Center: Towering Oaks Christian School’s Christmas Program**
- **December 14, 6:00 p.m., in the Chapel: A Christmas Music Presentation, ft. Children and Adults of Towering Oaks Baptist Church**
- **December 21, 6:00 p.m., in the Chapel: A Service of Remembrance—A time to remember those whom we miss during the Christmas season. This will be a very special service**

Dear T.O.B.C. family,

The school ministry would like to thank you again for your prayers and support, and we ask that you specifically pray for open ears and hearts on the evening of December 11th when we share about the joy we can have by knowing Jesus. If you would like to join us for a wonderful evening of praising our Lord and Savior, please come to the sanctuary that Thursday evening by 7:00.



Amy

■ PaceSetters

- December Gathering
- Monday, December 15 @ 11:30 am
- Christmas Fellowship & White Elephant Gift Exchange in Chapel
- Church will provide lasagna, salad, and drinks.
- Please bring a \$10-\$15 white elephant gift
- Sign up in Bible Study Groups/ in the Family Porch Area/ or in the Foyer



Join Us!



WE WANT TO HONOR YOUR
LOVED ONES WITH A

CHRISTMAS MEMORY TREE

LEAVE A PHOTO WITH YOUR NAME &
PHONE NUMBER IN THE BOX AT THE
FRONT PORCH

OR

EMAIL KRYSTAL AT
KCARPENTER@TOWERINGOAKS.ORG

TOWERING OAKS WOMEN'S MINISTRY
INVITES YOU TO A

WINTRY CHRISTMAS *Fellowship!*

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2ND

6 PM IN THE CHAPEL

FINGER FOOD PROVIDED!

HOT CHOCOLATE BAR!



we
wish
you a
merry
Christmas
and a
Happy new year



Church Offices Closed
Wednesday, December 24
Thursday, December 25
Thursday, January 1