



**W**ELCOME VISITORS! Thank you for joining us today to worship the Lord. If this is your first visit here, please honor us by filling out a visitor's card found on the back of each pew. Your prayer requests may also be made on the flip side of the card. At the close of service, please put your card in the contribution box at the front of the auditorium as you exit. Or you can hand it to any member.

During the service we will celebrate communion. (Sacraments are available on the table in the entry foyer.) This is a time that we partake of unleavened bread and juice from the fruit of the vine to remind us what Jesus has done for us. Communion is not only about Jesus' death, but his resurrection and triumph over death and sin. His resurrection is the source of our hope that God will fulfill his promise of eternal life through Jesus the Christ.

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<b>Address:</b>	5728 White Settlement Road Westworth Village, TX 76114
<b>Office Phone:</b>	817-738-7536
<b>Services:</b>	Sunday 10:00 am
<b>Bible Study:</b>	Wednesday 7:00 pm
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.westworthcoc.org">www.westworthcoc.org</a>
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:Westworthchurch@sbcglobal.net">Westworthchurch@sbcglobal.net</a>
<b>Facebook Group:</b>	Westworth Church of Christ
<b>Trustees:</b>	Curtis Dunson, Randy Fетters, Brian Flaherty, Eric Kreger, Curtis Thompson
<b>Minister:</b> John Jewell	<b>Email</b> <a href="mailto:johnjewell96@att.net">johnjewell96@att.net</a>

- **Women's Bible Study (virtual)** —PAUSED until after the holidays
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## The Christmas Slave

When one thinks about candidates for the honor, or horror, of being the Christmas slave one might think of St. Nick. Almost everything we know about St. Nicholas is legend. He saved three Greek girls from becoming prostitutes. He dropped one bag of gold through their window on three consecutive nights thereby giving their father a dowry for each. Such was the beginning of Santa Claus. A fine act but does not make him a slave.

Maybe, we think we are slaves to Christmas. Presents seem to be expected if not required to have peace in the family. The same goes for the decorations, and the family Christmas meal. When you stand back and look at the cost in time and money it would be easy to equate Christmas with bondage. However, a slave loses the power to choose. So, when you peel back the cultural expectations we can still choose. We can control the amount we spend, whether we go or stay, and if we celebrate at all. That is not slavery.

Since I have been trying to look at slavery through the lens of the scripture, I came across this passage.

And Mary said, "Behold, the bondslave of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her. Luke 1:38 NASB

The word translated as "bondslave," doulee, is the Greek word for female slave. After learning exactly what slavery meant Mary's statement made me shiver. She sacrificed all of her future hopes and dreams for the uncertainty of tomorrow. Would they stone her? What would Joseph do? God did not say everything would be all right. Before this conversation she was young and engaged facing an honorable future with a good husband. She had visions of her children growing up and presenting her with many grandchildren. Her future was bright. When she surrendered to God, however, she lost her freedom, and her dreams of the future. The care and protection of God's son would become the primary focus of her life. That she was God's slave was probably to some extent comforting, but Moses was God's servant and the

Israelites wanted to stone him. So, on second thought being God's servant could be unhealthy. Her first problem was that she was an unmarried pregnant teenager, and according to the law she should have been stoned to death. We know how the story ended, but she did not. She was living the story. As far as we know God only spoke to Mary once. He did not communicate with her again. It is interesting to note that God communicated with Joseph three times (Mt.1:20-23, 2:13, 2:20). That is appropriate since Joseph was the head of the family.

This makes me feel sorry for Mary. God told her she was having His son, and then silence, silence, and more silence. But this shows the strength of Mary's commitment and faith in God. She consented to change the course of her life on a conversation that lasted less than ninety seconds. God's dreams became her dreams. That is the unwavering faith of the Christmas Slave.

She is my new hero in Faith. She did not make one request. She just said "yes" to God. Perhaps that should be our attitude as well. Just say "yes" to God without reservation, not focusing on our future success, or wellbeing. Instead focus on His will for our lives.

*David Keller*



## Celebrate

### December Birthdays

Joe Campbell	Dec 1		Darla Thornton	Dec 25
Bill Belich	Dec 3		Christy Snell	Dec 26
Curtis Thompson	Dec 4		Jack Lisle	Dec 29
David Burris	Dec 24			

### December Anniversaries



Bob & Betty Lane	Dec 23
Max & Nita Parker	Dec 25
Bill & Sherry Jones	Dec 30

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Date	Today— December 26
Open	David Keller
Usher	Bill Jones
Songs/Close	Curtis Dunson
Communion	John Jewell
Prayer	Mike Lisle
Bible Story	Max Lisle
Reading	Andy Jewell
Lesson/Sermon	TBD
A/V	Christi Kreger

## COMING WEEKS

Date	Jan 2	Jan 9	Jan 16
Open	Curtis Thompson	Brian Flaherty	Curtis Dunson
Usher	Brian Flaherty	Eric Kreger	Eric Kreger
Songs/Close	Eric Kreger	Samuel Flaherty	Christian Lindsey
Communion	Bill Jones	Mike Lisle	Johnny Box
Prayer	Ernie Brawley	David Keller	Max Lisle
Bible Story	Curtis Dunson	Curtis Thompson	Eric Kreger
Reading	James Kreger	Andy Jewell	Marty Montgomery
Lesson	John Jewell	John Jewell	TBD
A/V	Susan Flaherty	Randy Feters	Christi Kreger

Communion Preparation January: Janice Stanfield

If you have updated address, phone or email info please note on 3x5 and place in designated box in North foyer.

Thank You.