



**WORSHIPING
SERVING
FELLOWSHIPING**



Westworth Church of Christ

WELCOME 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.

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



Reflections on Slavery

We have traced slavery from the Old Testament days, through the time of Christ, into the Middle Ages, and into modern times. Here are some final observations about the blight on humanity called slavery.

Slavery and its impact are a flash point today. The impression one gets from many in our country is that it started when white slavers captured Africans and shipped them to the English Colonies in America. Nothing could be further from the truth. Slavery had been established in most cultures four thousand years ago. It was primarily used for criminals, prisoners of war, and debtors. The result of being a slave was loss of freedom. As slavery evolved forced labor and sex were added as reasons for slavery. Today slavery is alive and well. In 2018 North Korea had 2,500,000 slaves. That year China was reported as having 3,800,000 slaves. Afghanistan had 740,000 slaves. I could go on but the list of nations with legal slavery is too long. Even the United States, where slavery is outlawed, there were 400,000 people living in conditions of modern slavery.

Second, the slavery issue is race. Throughout history slavery has traversed all racial and cultural barriers. The first means of gaining slaves was conquering the neighboring countries. So, the Assyrians captured the Northern Kingdom of Israel, and its citizens became slaves. When Rome was in power their slaves came from Germany, Spain, Greece, Palestine, and North Africa. When the Islamic nations started flexing their muscle, they enslaved millions of Europeans. In one respect Christian and Islamic nations were similar. They both frowned on having slaves that were members of the accepted state religion. Later Muslim and European slave traders discovered a new source of slaves. It was Africa. African slavery was thousands of years old. The reasons were the same as anywhere else in the ancient world and the main means of acquiring slaves was warfare. But at this point in history African tribes like the Ashanti and Yoruba became involved in the slave trade by encouraging intertribal warfare. Consequently, by the 16th century in the parts of Europe where slavery was allowed most slaves were black. Some would have us believe that when slaves were transported to the English Colonies it was racial: a crime committed by one race upon another. This is in fact false. There

were many black slaveowners in the United States. John Hope Franklin, an African American historian, admitted that some free Black people used slaves to enhance their economic status. In 1830 there were 3,776 free black slave owners in the United States. Some owned one and others owned between twenty and eighty. That the number of white slaveowners dwarfs that of the free black slave owners does not nullify the following truth. When any one of any race steals the freedom of another human being for economic gain it is a sin against God.

The last thing is that governments and institutions are either unwilling or incapable of stopping slavery. For a civil government to act decisively against slavery requires overwhelming public support and a powerful spokesman. William Wilberforce, and Abraham Lincoln are 19th century examples of individuals who brought about positive changes. The 20th century's only achievement was when the United Nations created an International Day for the Abolition of Slavery in 1949. Today the U. N. estimates there are forty million people in slavery. Whether it is a government or a religious organization they have for four thousand years bowed to the desires and threats of the economically powerful to bend laws, morality, and ethical behavior for economic gain.

In the scripture God allows slavery, but I wonder if he allowed it for the same reasons, he allowed divorce. People have hard hearts, but in the beginning it was not so (Matt. 19:8). You get a glimpse of what God thought about slavery when he told the Israelites not to return an escaped slave to his master (Deut. 23:15-16). In the New Testament Paul puts pressure on Philemon to free Onesimus (Philemon 8). Finally, he tells slaves that if they could gain their freedom do it (1 Corinthians 7:21-23). God desires physical freedom for all, but his major concern by far is to give both slave and free alike spiritual freedom.

David Keller



Colossians 3:15-16

¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

CELEBRATE

January Birthdays

Blair Montgomery	Jan 2		Richard Reeves	Jan 18
David Keller	Jan 4		Max Lisle	Jan 22
Lori Robison	Jan 6		Carson Lindsey	Jan 25
Bob Lane	Jan 10		Peter Lisle	Jan 29

January Anniversaries



Brian & Susan Flaherty	Jan 8
Joe & Melva Campbell	Jan 23

BULLETIN ARTICLES

For the past several weeks, you have been able to enjoy a series of articles by David Keller inspecting Slavery from ancient times to current day situations. The last in that series appears in today's bulletin.

It has been proven in the past that we have a number of fine writers in the congregation. We may even have an "unknown" writer, just waiting for the opportunity to "Shine". Even if you don't consider yourself a "writer" your thoughts and inspirations are always welcomed.

Here is your chance...

Please consider writing an article—one or many—for publication in the church bulletin. Inspirational, Informational, or both... just not political, please. (I know none of you would do that anyway) It doesn't have to be lengthy but you can have as much as 2 pages in the bulletin if your inspiration calls for it.

Again, please consider this request and let me know if you want to contribute to our weekly bulletin.

Thanks, Sherry

Jonah Jewell had to return to his duty station on Saturday. It was so good to have him home for a visit—especially at the holidays. He did not yet know what his new address will be, but as soon as it is available, we will pass it along for your use in sending cards, letters, and notes of encouragement.

Jessica Snell—still serving at the Texas-Mexico border—the latest info I have is that she does not yet have an address.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **NEXT SUNDAY—JANUARY 9**

Trustees and Preacher meeting. Immediately following morning worship services. If there is a matter you would like to see the Trustees consider, please be sure to make it known to them prior to the meeting.

- **JANUARY 16**

3rd Sunday Lunch. Mark your calendars and join in the 3rd Sunday Lunch—everyone is welcome. There is always plenty of food and great fellowship. Take a few minutes to visit with your brothers and sisters and share a bit of life together.



- **JANUARY 22**

Youth Event— 6pm-9pm here in the Activity Bldg. Volleyball and/or Balloon Badminton (if outside activities are prohibited by weather). Chili Pie Bar will be the fare for the evening.



Susan Flaherty has developed a youth activity plan for the year, and lots of exciting events are planned for our young people. There will also be ad-hoc events when undeniable opportunities present themselves.

- **JANUARY 30**

5th Sunday lunch. This is the first of four instances of a “5th Sunday” in 2022. Plan to join in the fellowship following services. You will be missed if you don’t make it.

- **FEBRUARY—EXACT DATE TBD**

”Family Meeting”. The entire “Westworth Church of Christ Family” is invited—yes even encouraged—to attend the meeting following services on the date to be announced.

This meeting is intended to provide information regarding the “business” of the church, and answer any questions you may have about what is happening “behind the scenes”.



Details such as exact date, time, etc. will be developed at the Trustee’s meeting next Sunday and provided to members as soon as it is available. If you have a particular topic you would like to have addressed for the benefit of the entire congregation, please let one of the Trustees know ahead of time in order for them to provide complete and accurate information.

DIRECTORY UPDATES



Plans are in work to produce a new member directory in the near future. If you have made any changes to your contact information recently—within the last year—please jot down that information on a 3x5

card (available in the North foyer) and drop it into the box provided. If you are unsure, just leave your information, and I'll check it out to make sure your directory entry is correct.

Thanks for your help with this.



NEW PUBLICATIONS

Basic Christianity—a publication of South Hills Church of Christ, Fayetteville, AR

- This issue focuses on “Saved by Grace through Faith”. Scott Gage leads the reader through many examples of God’s mercy and grace toward his creation and illustrates that mankind’s proper response to this Grace is Faith in God. Then Steve Ellis of Pasadena, Tx. looks at the powerful image of the Baptism of Jesus

The Christian Chronicle— an international periodical for Churches of Christ

- This issue includes stories about a Christian University that has had to close its doors recently; a Bi-vocational minister (a minister who works a secular job); an elder at the Andrews Church of Christ who was driving one of the school buses in the caravan of students from Andrews to Sweetwater; and a write-up about how numerous churches are using “The Chosen” as a bible study tool and other stories of good works around the world.

House to House/Heart to Heart—published by East Ridge Church of Christ, East Ridge, TN

- This issue includes:
“Why does the church of Christ put so much emphasis on “Christ”?; “Is it a sin to live together without marriage?” and a brief article about how people who attend church enjoy better health.

These current issues are in the north foyer. Most offer free subscriptions if you would like to receive a copy at home..

Be sure to take a look at the updated sign out front



For some time, the marquee sign had not been operational—making it look as though we might be “closed”.

The Trustees reviewed what would be necessary (cost and software issues) to restore the digital sign to operational status, and made the decision to go “old school”.

Thank you Brian Flaherty for making the panels that now prominently announce our Sunday service time. The simple refresh lets the community know we are here and still serving God and the community.

Additional thanks to Eric Kreger for his long-time service trying to keep the digital sign going (and all the aggravation that came with it). And to Randy Feters for helping to remove the digital panels (not light-weight items) so the new panels could be installed.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Date	Today— January 2
Open	Curtis Thompson
Usher	Brian Flaherty
Songs/Close	Eric Kreger
Communion	Bill Jones
Prayer	Ernie Brawley
Bible Story	Curtis Dunson
Reading	James Kreger
Lesson/Sermon	Mike Lisle
A/V	Susan Flaherty

COMING WEEKS

Date	Jan 9	Jan 16	January 23
Open	Brian Flaherty	Curtis Dunson	Randy Fetters
Usher	Eric Kreger	Eric Kreger	Bill Jones
Songs/Close	Samuel Flaherty	Christian Lindsey	Curtis Dunson
Communion	Mike Lisle	Johnny Box	Mike Lisle
Prayer	David Keller	Max Lisle	Wayne Kreger
Bible Story	Curtis Thompson	Eric Kreger	Brian Flaherty
Reading	Andy Jewell	Marty Montgomery	Samuel Flaherty
Lesson	John Jewell	TBD	John Jewell
A/V	Randy Fetters	Christi Kreger	Susan Flaherty

Communion Preparation January: Janice Stanfield