



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.

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| 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 Fetters, Brian Flaherty, Eric Kreger, Curtis Thompson |
| Minister: John Jewell | Email johnjewell96@att.net |

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



Philemon's Pickle Becomes Prickly

The next period of slavery spans the time from the end of the Middle Ages to the settlement of the New World. It was a time of contradicting Papal decisions and unforeseen dilemmas: when the demands of rising empires collided with the wisdom gained in the struggle for freedom in the Old World.

At end of the Middle Ages slavery had almost disappeared in Northern Europe. But the Mediterranean countries still involved in wars with Muslim countries continued the slave trade. During this period, the sub-Saharan African tribes were added as a source for slaves, and eventually white slaves were almost replaced by Africans. In addition, Spain and Portugal transported African slaves to the New World.

The church's desire to combat the institution of slavery came into conflict with its desire to appease the civil governments who demanded cheap, forced labor. Consequently, the laws forbidding enslaving Christians were overturned by Pope Martin V. Then Pope Eugene IV forbid the enslavement of natives of the Canary Islands. In 1554, Pope Nicholas, granted the king of Portugal the right to "subdue all Saracens, and other enemies of Christ wheresoever placed, and the kingdoms, dukedoms, principalities, dominions, possessions, and all movable and immovable goods wheresoever held and possessed by them and reduce their persons to perpetual slavery." There were reformers in the church like Bartolome de las Casas who championed the cause of freedom for native Americans. He was able to convince the king to institute the New Laws of 1542. But later the government weakened the laws to appease the conquistadors.

During this time slavery around the Mediterranean increased because of the constant warfare between Christian and Islamic states. The slaves were not just Africans. Beginning in the 1600s the Barbary Pirates, Muslims, raided the European coasts as far as England with the purpose of capturing people to be sold as slaves. By the time the United States and England stopped them the Islamic countries along the Mediterranean coasts had sold 1,250,000 Europeans and 2,500,000 people from the Black Sea area to Arab slave traders.

In Africa the Bono State, Ashanti, and Yoruba tribes engaged in the slave trade. They employed the Ibangala, and Nyamwezi tribes to capture Africans

through warfare for the slave trade. John Thornton and Linda Heywood, professors of History at Boston University, have estimated that 90% of African slaves were enslaved by fellow Africans. Though, Henry Louis Gates of Harvard correctly points out that this complex business would have been impossible without the involvement of the Europeans.

The question for next week is: Which country in the Americas had the most slaves.

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 31 |

Trustees and Preacher Meeting

Do you ...

- * Have a question you would like to pose to church leadership
- * An issue you feel should be addressed by church leadership



- * Have an idea for a project that you feel would be in line with Christ's will for this group of Christians

If so, please be sure to let one or all of the Trustees know.

The next Trustee and Preacher meeting will be
NEXT SUNDAY December 12, following worship service

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

| Date | Today— December 5 |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Open | Curtis Thompson |
| Usher | Eric Kreger |
| Songs/Close | Christian Lindsey |
| Communion | Max Lisle |
| Prayer | Curtis Dunson |
| Bible Story | Brian Flaherty |
| Reading | John Snell |
| Lesson/Sermon | Trustees |
| A/V | Susan Flaherty |

COMING WEEKS

| Date | Dec 12 | Dec 19 | Dec 26 |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Open | Brian Flaherty | John Jewell | David Keller |
| Usher | Randy Fetters | Brian Flaherty | Bill Jones |
| Songs/Close | Samuel Flaherty | Christian Lindsey | Curtis Dunson |
| Communion | Mike Lisle | Johnny Box | John Jewell |
| Prayer | Max Lisle | Curtis Thompson | Mike Lisle |
| Bible Story | Curtis Dunson | David Keller | Max Lisle |
| Reading | Johnny Box | Ernie Brawley | Andy Jewell |
| Lesson | John Jewell | John Jewell | TBD |
| A/V | Robby Robertson | Randy Fetters | Christi Kreger |

Communion Preparation December: Anita Gray

- **Next 3rd Sunday Lunch: Sunday, December 19**
- **If you have updated address or phone info please provide it to Sherry.**