



GOD WITH US

December

A name identified with Jesus at His birth was Immanuel or “God with us” (Mt.

1:23). At the end of His ministry, Jesus told His disciples, “Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world” (Matt. 28:20). **What does it mean for God to be with us?**

Ask Asa. He was attacked by an army of one million Ethiopians. He cried out to God and said, “Lord, it is nothing with You to help, whether with many or with them who have no power. Help us O Lord our God, for we rest on Thee and in Thy Name we go” (2 Chron. 14:11). Then he led his army of much fewer men to victory. After the battle, the prophet Azariah told him why he was victorious: “The Lord is with you” (2 Chr. 15:2).

Ask Elisha. The king of Syria sent an army to capture Elisha (2 Kings 6:13). Elisha’s servant discovered the army surrounding the city and cried out to Elisha, “Alas, my master, what shall we do?” He calmly responded, “Fear not. For they that be with us are more than they that be with them” (2 Ki. 6:15-16). Elisha then requested that God open his servants eyes and he saw that the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire protecting Elisha (2 Ki. 6:17).

Ask Enoch. Enoch was the seventh generation from Adam through Seth. Unlike others of whom it was said, “and he lived after” the birth of a promised son, of Enoch it was said, “and Enoch walked with God, after he begat Methuselah, for three hundred years” (Gen. 5:22). Then it is recorded, “and Enoch walked with God and he was not, for God took him” (Gen. 5:24). Enoch had a special relationship and intimate fellowship with God. One result for him was that he was translated into heaven and did not see death.

Because God was with him, Asa was victorious. Because God is with us, we too can be victorious as Paul states, “I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me” (Phil 4:13).

Because God was with him, Elisha was protected. John reminds us that we too are protected because God is with us, “You are from God, little children, and have overcome them (the demonic spirits and false prophets), because greater is He Who is in you than he who is in the world” (1 Jn. 4:4).

Because God was with him, Enoch had intimate fellowship with God. He did not see death. We know that because God is with us we have intimate fellowship with Him here and will not experience eternal death. When we do experience physical death, He is with us, “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me...” (Ps. 23:4). But there will be an entire generation of Christians who, like Enoch, will not experience physical death: “...then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord” (1 Thess. 4:17).

There is something else about God being with us. In the Upper Room, Jesus prayed for His followers, “As You, Father, are in Me and I in You, may they (His followers) be in Us so that the world may believe that You sent Me” (Jn 17:21). **God is with us so that others may believe in Jesus as their Savior.** “She (Mary) shall bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins., Now all this was done to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ‘Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son and they shall call His Name Immanuel, which translated means **God With Us.**’”



Lessons in Carols presentation Sunday evening by BCCYC December 3rd @ 5:30 p.m.



Nominating committee will meet Tuesday, Dec 5th @ 7:00 p.m.



Adult Christmas Fellowship, Friday, Dec 8th at Rodeos from 7-9 p.m. Sign up sheet on foyer table.



Children's Christmas Party! Saturday December 9th from 1-4 p.m.



Will be Sunday evening Dec. 17th, at 6:30 p.m. Those that want to perform are asked to contact Brian Rice at the Church by Dec. 10th. A finger-food fellowship will follow!



Poinsettia Plant Decorations

If you would like to help decorate our sanctuary with poinsettias, please purchase one and bring it to the church - if you would like to designate that plant "In Memory of..." or "In Honor of..." you may do so on the sheet on the foyer table. These plants will decorate our sanctuary for the month until our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at which time you may take yours home to decorate your house for the next day! (Put a piece of paper in the plant with your name on it to identify your plant.)



Community Caroling Opportunities

- 1. Saturdays**, December 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd. From 3-5 p.m. Sign up sheet on foyer table. See Brian or Li for more information.
- 2. Sunday**, December 10th from 3- 5 p.m. to our homebound church members.



Will meet on Sunday, December 10th.

Year -End Giving Opportunity and Collections on Sunday, Dec 10th.

For Christian & Missionary Alliance Great Commission Fund which supports and equips nearly 650 Alliance workers serving overseas. Designate gift as CMA

Ladies Christmas Social On Tuesday, Dec 12, we will have a Ladies Christmas Afternoon Social, 2-4 PM in the fellowship hall. Bring an item that reminds you of a fond/funny Christmas memory. Entertainment & Refreshments provided. See Rachel Rice or Casey Windrider for more info and to RSVP.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Sunday, Dec 24th @ 7:00 p.m.

New Year's Prayer time Sunday, December 31st from 3-6p.m. No Sunday evening service.

NO evening service Wednesday, December 20th or 27th.

Facts & Figures

Finances for November

For Nov 1 to Nov 30

General Operating Fund (GOF) Monthly Budget: \$ 18,655.00
 GOF Tithes and Offerings Received (4 Sundays): \$ 14,868.38
 General Operating Fund Weekly Budget: \$ 4,305.00
 GOF Avg. Weekly Tithes and Offerings (4 Sundays): \$ 3,717.10

For Year to Date 2017, (based on 11 months and 48 Sundays):

GOF Year to Date (YTD) Tithes and Offerings Budget (monthly basis):	\$ 205,205.00
GOF (YTD) Tithes and Offerings Budget (weekly basis):	\$ 206,640.00
GOF Year to Date Tithes and Offerings Received:	\$ 222,215.25
GOF Year to Date Budgeted & Non Budgeted Disbursements (\$5,955 for new Printer/copier) and Transfer to Other Funds	\$(208,029.79)
GOF Receipts vs GOF Disbursements and Transfers to Other Funds:	\$ 14,185.46
GOF Balance as of Nov 30 (241% of monthly budget):	\$ 44,923.54
Average Weekly Tithes and Offerings Received (48 Sundays):	\$ 4,629.48
YTD Avg Weekly GOF Budgeted & Non Budgeted Disbursements & Transfers:	\$ 4,333.95
Missions YTD Income: Receipts (\$9,244) & 24% of Tithes & Offerings (\$53,331.61):	\$ 62,575.61
Missions YTD Disbursements:	\$ (53,074.08)
Missions Fund Balance:	\$ 13,229.24
Building Fund YTD Receipts including \$3,000 In Memory of Gifts:	\$ 3,673.29
Building Fund Disbursements: New Telephone Switch System:	\$ (2,243.60)
Building Fund Balance:	\$ 5,315.18
Associate Pastor Fund YTD Receipts:	\$ 11,889.00
Associate Pastor Fund YTD Disbursements: Compensation out of Assoc Past Fund:	\$ (33,000.00)
Associate Pastor Fund Balance:	\$ 4,656.51