

## For the Record

480- Sunday Morning

65- Life Group

312- Sunday Classes

179- Wednesday Evening

75- Sunday Evening

## Our Ministers

### Trent Arnold

Worship and CR Minister  
479-790-2273  
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### Harry Fitzgerald

Adult Education &  
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### Caleb Tomlinson

Youth Minister  
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### Tithe.ly Giving Option:

Go directly to RACOC's quick  
link: <https://tithe.ly/give?c=77262>

## Our Shepherds

### Ron Dowdy

870-612-2385

### Richard Keen

479-306-4081

### Kevin Mayhew

479-751-6292

### Joe Mohorn

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### Rodney Pless

479-871-7702

### Pano Poulos

479-445-5696

### Marlyn Shafer

402-618-2596

### Gary Turner

479-361-8115

### Harry Ware

479-957-4919

### Keith Whitehead

479-841-3667

## Our Staff

### Shannon Bowman

Administrative Assistant  
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### Tamzen Bryant

Administrative  
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### Denise Pless

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## A Redemption Carol: Living in the Present

### Sermon Notes – Dec. 15, 2019

- Life is better \_\_\_\_\_!
- Jesus' birth brought people \_\_\_\_\_.
- Heaven cares about \_\_\_\_\_.

How can we live in the present?

- Share our \_\_\_\_\_  
with those in need (generosity).
- Make ourselves \_\_\_\_\_ (presence)

Living a redeemed life now...

- Love \_\_\_\_\_.
- Receive the \_\_\_\_\_ of God

## ELDER TO CONTACT

Elder to contact in December with prayer requests:  
**Rodney Pless 479-871-7702**

## REGULAR WEEKLY MINISTRIES

**Life Group** - Sundays at various homes and times  
**Granddad's Devo** - Tuesdays at 10:00 am in R5  
**Ladies Bible Class** - Tuesdays at 10:00 am in Rm FC 4  
**The Christian and Grief** - February 2 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm R5  
**Single & Parenting Class** - Sundays at 9:00 am in G13  
**DC4K** - New Session February 2020  
**DivorceCare** - Sundays at 4:00 pm in R1  
**Financial Peace** - New Session February 2020  
**Celebrate Recovery** - Thursdays at 6:30 pm (Meal at 6:00 pm)

# Robinson Avenue this week

Welcome to Worship

**DECEMBER 8, 2019**

**WELCOME**

CHILDRENS  
PROGRAM

SHINE JESUS SHINE

THE FIRST NOEL

SILENT NIGHT

**COMMUNION**

SURROUND US LORD

**DISMISS CHILDREN**

HARK THE HAROLD  
ANGELS SING

**SERMON**

AGNUS DEI

MAGNIFICAT

**PRAYER**

## Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

A call for men and women to be of good courage

Welcome to Robinson Avenue on this cold December morning! We are so glad that you are here. If you are visiting with us today as we are especially glad that you are with and we pray that today will be a blessing to you. We also hope that you'll be encouraged to return and to continue to get to know our church family and to allow us the privilege to get to know you.

Our current sermon series is entitled A Redemption Carol. We are examining some themes from Charles Dicken's wonderful novel A Christmas Carol and comparing those to an even larger story of redemption found in the Bible. Today we will focus on living redeemed lives in the present.

Interestingly there is only one Christmas carol that is referenced in the novel A Christmas Carol and that is God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman. When you look closely at the first line of that classic song you'll notice that a comma is placed between the words "merry" and "gentlemen" – this comma often baffles those who notice it. We are accustomed to singing about merry gentlemen but in

the song "merry" is actually an adverb that modifies "rest" and not an adjective that modifies "gentlemen"! But what does the phrase "rest ye merry" even mean? You have to go back to old English to decipher the lyric. In those days "rest" could also mean "create" or "make" and "merry" often meant "mighty". And so to paraphrase the first stanza of the hymn: "May God make you mighty! Don't be dismayed! Jesus has been born into the world that we might be saved from Satan's power. So be comforted and be joyful."

Jesus' birth was just the first chapter in the great story of redemption. Jesus' birth signaled that God was putting a plan into motion to bring about the ultimate defeat of Satan. Believe it or not – that tiny, vulnerable baby boy was the key to God's redemptive plan! God rest ye merry.

-Keith Kilmer

The Bible in a Year

## Daily Reading Schedule (Chronological Order)

Monday 16 Ephesians 1-6

Friday 20: 1 Peter 1-5

Tuesday 17 Phillippians 1-4

Saturday 21 Hebrews 1-6

Wednesday 18 1 Timothy 1-6

Sunday 22 Hebrews 7-10

Thursday 19 Titus 1-3

Robinson Avenue Church of Christ

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Grow. Reach. Glorify.



Grow. Reach. Glorify.

Adult Education

### Adult Bible Classes

**Sunday Morning Adult Classes:** The Character of Christ

**Singing Class:** Trent Arnold, In the gym

**Discipleship Class:** Sabino Rodriguez

**Wednesday Night Adult Classes:**

**FUEL:** “Unlocking Revelation,” Keith Kilmer

**WPW Sessions:** “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”( by Linda Smith )

taught by Savanna McCain, Alice O’Neil, Sandy Ware, Bridgette Tomlinson, and others.

**Tuesday Ladies’ Bible Study:** “Fulfillment of Christ in Judges” taught by Charity Mohorn, Stacey Smith.

Family

### Tell Me the Story of Jesus

Our Dec 26 devotional at 7:00 pm is titled “Tell Me the Story of Jesus.” It will cover inspirational stories from birth to death

Help the Needy

### Angel Tree

You must return these items by Wednesday night, December 18th with packages marked clearly with the same number of the angel you selected!

Military Ministry

### Care Packages For Troops

We continue to mail packages to our deployed troops. We have just passed the ten year mark for this ministry having sent 480 packages in this time. Four soldiers are currently receiving packages from us. We enjoy sending to any deployed soldier whether family, neighbor, or someone you just met at the store. Give your soldier’s address to the church office or Cathy Hudson and we will get a package to him/her. We also need to know the length of time your soldier will be at this address.

Family

### Annual Meeting of the Members

Notice is hereby given of the Annual Meeting of the Members of Robinson Avenue Church of Christ and its Board of Trustees to be held in room B2 at 1506 W. Robinson Avenue, December 15, today after morning worship..

Youth Ministry

### Caleb Says...

Tonight – Din Din and Devo hosted by the Waugh’s

Dec. 31 – New Year’s Activity

Jan. 24-26 – Ski Retreat, Sign-up on raveyouth.org

It’s a great day to be alive and I am happy to be spending it here with each of you! I’m thankful for you and the chance we have to worship together.

Have you ever read through the Proverbs before? Bridgette and I read through them when we were still dating as part of a couple’s bible study. We would look at the Proverbs together and talk about the ones that stuck out to us. Large parts of the book are made up of seemingly disjointed and unrelated fortune cookie-like sayings. At least that’s how I initially perceived it. However, there is a common theme that brings them all together which can pretty much be summed up by Proverbs 1:7.

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

I was a third-year bible major at Harding when I read this verse for the first time. I was taking 18 hours of bible related classes that were designed to increase my knowledge, but I still felt like it was meaningless at times. All the knowledge I was gaining seemed empty. It felt like I was learning purely for the sake of learning without a greater aim. Can you relate? Solomon, the author of parts of the Proverbs and the next book, Ecclesiastes, certainly could.

In Ecclesiastes 1:1-2, we get a clear picture of Solomon’s attitude about his pursuits. He says, “‘Meaningless! Meaningless,’ says the teacher. ‘Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless!’” I’m not sure what you think about that, but I think it’s a pretty bleak way of looking at things. He goes on to say “Look, I have increased in wisdom more than anyone who has ruled Jerusalem before me; I have experienced much of wisdom and knowledge. Then I applied myself to the understanding of wisdom, and also of madness and folly, but I learned that this, too, is chasing after the wind.”

I’ve wondered about Solomon and why he had this sort of outlook. He was the wisest king to ever rule over Jerusalem. He was immensely intelligent, and he could do anything he wanted. Why then did he come to believe that it all was meaningless?

I want to take you back to Proverbs 1:7. “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.” Learning for the sake of learning will always feel empty and meaningless because the fear of the Lord isn’t the foundation. As we worship today and learn, we have to have a respect and desire for God first. Otherwise, we are only here to fill a pew which is meaningless.

### Family Time

**SUNDAY**

9:30 AM Bible Study

10:30 AM Worship

6:00 PM Worship

**WEDNESDAY**

7:00 PM Bible Study

Family

### Illness and Recovery

**Marlene Jackson** had heart valve replacement surgery Wednesday, December 4. She is at home recovering.

**Jesse Brawner** had a cornea transplant on Thursday, December 5. He is home recovering

**Mary Sue Cate** had cataract surgery on December 9, and will have her other eye done December 23.

**Hannah Hinson** will have open heart surgery to reappear a hole in her heart.

Project

### Auditorium Update:

Budget amount: \$625,000

Funds reserved and received; outstanding commitments received - total \$573,819 as of December 11 (92% of target). God be praised!

Budget amount remaining to be funded - \$51,181

Should you have any questions, please see any of the shepherds.

The shepherds THANK each of you for your willingness to participate and the positive comments regarding the auditorium renovation! May God be glorified and praised!

Family

### Divorce Care

### Surviving the Holidays

Christmas is tough if you are divorced or separated. We will have a special session of DivorceCare - Surviving the Holidays on Wednesday, Dec 18 from 6:30-8:00 pm in Room G13. Please invite those you know to come.

Family

### Special Song Service

We will have a special song service on December 18 to get ready for our Praise and Harmony Workshop that will be held on January 4. We will continue learning some of the songs for that day. Please plan to join us for a night of singing and worship. Please note that the Praise and Harmony/learning new song nights are for EVERYONE – not just those who are participating in the Praise and Harmony recording. All Classes meet int he auditorium.

Our

### Prayer List

*Names will be printed on this list for up to 4 weeks at a time unless further updates are received in the office.*

### Family/Friends

**Arvin Allen**, father of Jimmy Allen

**Liz Bernecker**, the sister of Ben and Tom Kilpatrick  
**Rhonda Evans**, the daughter of Peggy Sue Gibson

**Brooklyn Haney**, granddaughter-in-law of Helen Gillmore

**Sonny Homer**, nephew of Lester Harrison

**Elizabeth Norris**, the sister-in-law of Helen Gillmore

**Dwyane Shepherd**, the son of Peggy Sue Gibson  
**Ryan Thurber**, grandson of Connie Thurber

Those

### Shut In

**Cecil Cook**

**Dee Dearman**

**Cleo Drevs**

**Hazel Fletcher**

**Glenda Garrison**

**Donna Gaston**

**Dan Hash**

**Don McClane**

**James Price**

**Roberta Simpson**

**Verna Tackett**

**Elsie White**

**Dorothy Yeager**

Continue to

### Remember

**Danny Allen**

**Mary Allen**

**Lucy Allen**

**Beth Clem**

**Lee Pense**

**Joan Pense**

**Scott Phillips**

**Speedy Williams**

**Melba Watts**

**Linda Wray**

Those

### Battling Cancer

**Mary Allen**

**Charlean Howell**

**Peggy Huckeba**

**Freida Hughes**

**Ajeanna Kernes**

**Robert Kernes**

**Seth Mohorn**

**Salina Wilson**