

December
January
February

*O come
O come
Emmanuel*

By The Way

ISSUE 33

Dates to Remember

December -

- 3- Children's Home Sunday
Caregivers R Us - 2:00 pm The Library
- 6,13 & 20- Advent series @ ATLAS building
6:30 pm- meal
7:00 pm - Advent worship
- 24- Christmas Eve Service (There will be NO morning worship or Bible classes)
6:00 pm
- 31- AM Sunday Morning Worship Service. (There will be NO Bible classes)
10:30 am

January -

- 7- Famous Pancake Extravaganza!
9:15 am The Lower Level
- 10- Women's Ministry Wednesday Night event

February -

- 4- Open Door Sunday
- 14- Women's Ministry Wednesday Night event
- 18 & 25- Barry Stephens guest speaker
- 23-24 - Women's Ministry Retreat (Watch for more information)

Sing Holy

Karl Ihfe
Pulpit Minister



I've been doing some research recently on Christmas Carols as I prepared for my Advent sermon series this year. I didn't really know what to expect as I started my investigation, I've never given much thought concerning the songs we sing, I've just gladly sung along since I was old enough to do so. As it turns out, there are quite a few stories that go along with the carols of the season (you'll have to tune into the sermon series to find them out!). Ok, I'll share a couple of nuggets I learned just to whet your appetite.

Did you know that the earliest known Christmas hymn (*Jesus, Light of All Nations*) was written by St. Hilary of Poitiers in the year 336AD? Or that St. Francis of Assisi was the creator of the first nativity scene?¹ Me neither! It has been quite an experience delving behind the scenes of some of our most beloved Christmas tunes and learning that many if not most of them were created by Franciscan friars in the 1500s!

The goal of the Christmas hymn was to communicate the story of Jesus' birth to a world looking for hope. What began as chants in a monastery would evolve into tunes sung house to house by small groups (wassailers), and eventually into hymns sung in worship services all over the world. No matter where you heard them, their purpose was the same — to proclaim the good news of Jesus' birth, the long awaited Messiah had come, bringing with him peace on earth and goodwill to all people.

This is still their purpose today, and perhaps their hope has never been needed more, at least not in my lifetime. These hymns remind me that in the midst of so much darkness and suffering, there is a light shining, and if I'm willing and open, it can shine in and through me. Each season I have to stop and ask myself, am I willing to open up to the light again? Will I help shine the light into my world?

That's the question we're all wrestling with this holiday season, and is what we're trying to do in this issue of *By the Way* magazine. We hope in the subsequent pages you'll see and hear the hope of the Christmas season shining brightly in and through our church family. We're praying that you'll be inspired and encouraged to join in with us.

¹ "The Stories Behind Our Most Beloved Christmas Carols", Jeannette Williams, December 23, 2019, www.AscensionPress.com

A Christmas Wish for a Foster Child



Maria was a foster child who had been through many challenges in her young life, but her spirit remained unbroken. As Christmas approached, Maria found herself longing for the warmth and joy that the holiday season brought. She dreamt of a loving family, a cozy home, and the magic of Christmas morning. But deep down, she knew that her current circumstances made it unlikely for her dreams to come true.

One Sunday morning, as Maria walked through the church, she noticed a magical-looking Christmas tree adorned with handwritten tags. Curiosity sparked within her, and she approached the tree to read one of the tags. It said, "A Christmas wish for a foster child." Filled with hope, Maria plucked the tag from the tree and read it aloud. To her surprise, the tag held a simple request for a foster child to spend Christmas Eve with a kind-hearted family who wanted to share their love and holiday traditions. Maria couldn't believe her luck; it was as if her wish had been heard!

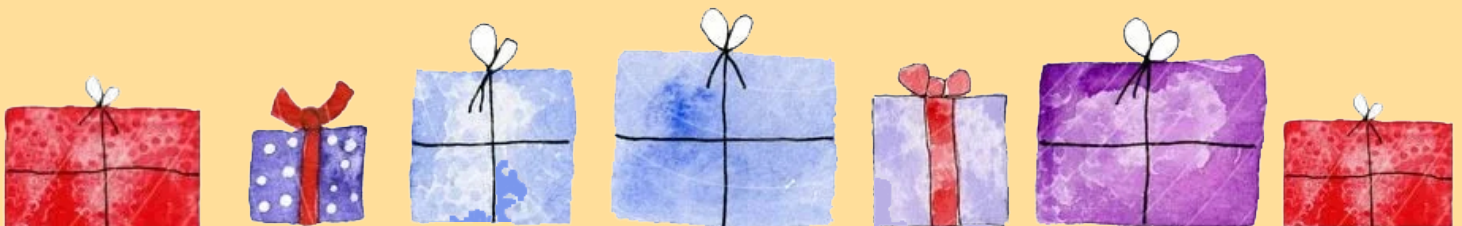
She hesitated for a moment before mustering the courage to ask an adult standing by the Christmas tree if she could add her own angel to the tree. To her delight, a warm-hearted couple overheard her request and welcomed her to spend Christmas with them. Maria's eyes gleamed with excitement!

Once all the details were worked out, Maria was able to visit the couple's house. Maria discovered a world filled with laughter, love, and the aroma of freshly baked cookies. The family made her feel like she truly belonged, showering her with kindness and warmth. They exchanged stories, played games, and sang carols by the fireplace.

When Christmas morning arrived, Maria awoke to find a beautifully wrapped gift at the foot of her bed. With trembling hands, she unwrapped it to reveal a heartfelt note that read, "To Maria, with love and the promise that you will always be a part of our family." Tears of joy streamed down Maria's face as she realized that her Christmas wish had come true. She had found a family that embraced her unconditionally, filling her heart with love and hope. From that day forward, Maria knew that she was no longer alone in the world.

And so, as the snow continued to fall outside, Maria sat by the Christmas tree, surrounded by her new family, cherishing every precious moment of love and togetherness. It was a Christmas she would never forget—a reminder that even in the most unexpected places, miracles can happen, and dreams can come true.

Jimmy Moore,
President/CEO
The Children's Home of Lubbock





Ladies Wednesday Morning Classes

Broadway Building Class

12/6	Kaley Ihfe	1/31	Emily Lemley
12/13	Gloria Gonzales	2/7	Jill Moudy
12/20 - 1/3	Christmas Holidays	2/14	Scott Mack
1/10	Eddie Harris	2/21	Scott Mack
1/17	Michelle Kraft	2/28	Rodney Thomas
1/24	Making Hygiene Bags		

Class in homes

	<i>Speaker</i>	<i>Hostess</i>	<i>Address</i>
12/6	Carisse Berryhill	Judy Rostad	3110 21st
12/13	Emily Ratcliff & Linda Gather	" "	" "
CHRISTMAS BREAK			
1/10, 17	Rodney Thomas	Sandra Bennett	5109 91st
1/24	Michele Thomas	Nicky Anderson	4904 84th
1/31	Betty Mullican	" "	" "
2/7	Lisa Mack	Pat Stumbo	3714 106th
2/14	Bill Starcher	" "	" "
2/21, 28	Pam Evans	Sandy Core	3503 79th

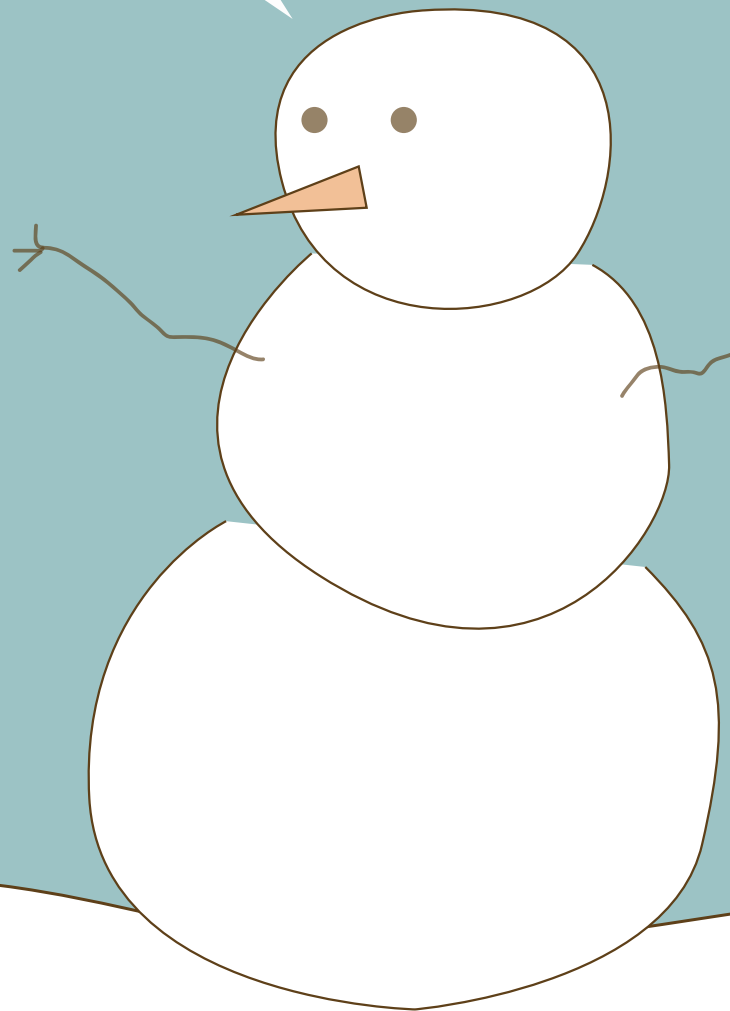
BENEVOLENCE AT BROADWAY IN 2023

*Prescriptions
filled:*
61

*Number of meals
served at
Carpenters Kitchen*
9833

*Number of people
helped with clothing:*

335



Please prayerfully consider how you can give generously to help us finish 2023 financially strong and launch into the endeavors in which God will lead us in 2024!

His is the reason for the season and we offer our gifts because of His many blessings.

Ways to Tithe and Give at Broadway

Sunday Collection — Locked collection boxes are available at the auditorium exits for you to insert checks and cash.

Bank Draft — You can set up a recurring draft to your bank account. This draft can be drawn weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly. For details and authorization form contact Tracey Horne in the Broadway office, 763-0464.

***Online Gifts** - You can make a contribution through Broadway's website at bwaychurch.org. Look for the GIVE option on the top menu bar.

***APP Gifts** - Install the Broadway Church of Christ APP on your phone (yellow background with a cross). Look for the "Give to Broadway Church" option.

***Venmo** - @bwaychurch is our name.

Mail — Check contributions can be mailed to the church office:

Broadway Church of Christ
Attn: Tracey Horne
1924 Broadway
Lubbock, TX 79401

Drop by Church Office — You can bring your contributions by the church office during office hours which are: M-Th, 8:30 to 5:00. The church office is closed for a lunch hour from 12:00 to 1:00 each day. If you do not wish to come into the office or you need to come after hours, a secure mailbox is located outside the southeast office door.

Personal Pickup - If you would like for someone to drop by your home to pick up your contribution, we will be glad to arrange that. Contact Tracey Horne at 763-0464.

**Gifts made through the website, app, and Venmo are subject to merchant fees of 2-3%.*





O Holy Night

Gary Moyers

“Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!”

This line marks the crescendo of one of the most impactful and popular Christmas songs in modern culture. It’s a dramatic moment that is only matched by the story of how the song came to be.

The history of *O Holy Night* is rife with politics, scandal, and groundbreaking moments. While fact is often hard to tell from fiction, the popularity of “O Holy Night” has never diminished across the centuries.

The song came to be in the mid-1840s in the small French town of Roquemaure. Placide Cappeau, a local poet, was asked by the priest to write a Christmas poem to memorialize the renovation of the church organ. After composing the poem, Cappeau asked Adolphe Adam, a popular composer, to set the lines to music. History claims the song titled “Cantique de Noel” debuted in 1847 at a midnight mass and became a favorite among French congregations. It is here where the story becomes a bit muddled.

Cappeau allegedly was not a religious man and, after writing the lyrics to “O Holy Night,” is said to have denounced the church to join a socialist movement. Likewise, many publications report that Adam was Jewish. Having a popular Christian church song whose authors either weren’t religious or who didn’t celebrate the birth of Jesus was intolerable to the Catholic Church in France, so the song was banned for more than two decades.

As the song gained popularity in France, it was discovered by an American writer, John Sullivan Wright. Inspired by the lyrics about Christ’s victory over sin and our shared humanity, Dwight slightly revised the third verse to read, “Truly, he taught us to love one another; his law is love and his gospel is peace. Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother; and in his name all oppression shall cease.” The song quickly gained notoriety in the U.S., especially in the north during the Civil War as abolitionists related to the anti-slavery sentiment.

Yet another bit of occluded history is the claim that it was the first song ever broadcast live. Canadian inventor Reginald Fessenden, a protégé of Thomas Edison, was an early pioneer of radio broadcasting. He alleges that on December 21, 1906, he broadcast a recording of Handel’s “Largo,” followed by himself reading from the Gospel of Luke and then playing “O Holy Night” on the violin. As eventful as this is with its placement in history, it has been questioned. Some records say that Fessenden actually played “Adore and Be Still” and misremembered it in the retelling. Either way, it has been recorded by hundreds of artists over the years and found a permanent place in the history of Christmas hymns.

Whether Cappeau was an atheist, Adam was Jewish or Fessenden marked the first broadcasted performance with the popular Christmas song seems not to matter. More than 175 years later, at Christmas Eve services throughout the world, congregations rejoice in the promise brought by Jesus’ divine birth by singing the words, “With a thrill of hope, a weary world rejoices.”



Another Silent Night

On Thanksgiving weekend, we started our new Sunday series called “Hymns of Advent.” That first message was centered around the beautiful hymn *Silent Night*. Karl shared with us how it was written by Franz Xaver Gruber and Joseph Mohr, how it was first performed on guitar because the church organ had been damaged by flooding, and how it spread almost virally among the churches across Europe and eventually the U.S. It was a song breathed by God with great impact.

There are many other stories associated with *Silent Night*. Let me share one more.

The first global conflict, which we call World War I, began in 1914. Two major coalitions, the Allied Powers and the Central Powers, fought in multiple theaters throughout Europe, the Middle East, Africa, the Pacific, and parts of Asia. Germany's strategy in 1914 was to first defeat France, then transfer forces to the Russian front. However, this failed, and by the end of 1914, the Western Front consisted of a continuous line of trenches stretching from the English Channel to Switzerland.

Trench warfare was brutal and the mortality rate was very high. By December of 1914, the lines had been set on the Western Front and little advancement was being made by either side. Soldiers would take cover in their trenches to avoid gunfire only to face shelling or gas attacks.

One rare night, hostilities had died down between battles, as tense English, French, and German soldiers waited for the next round of gunfire. But, this was Christmas Eve and an unexpected ceasefire had begun. In certain places along the line, enemy soldiers ventured into no-man's land to play games, exchange gifts, smoke cigarettes, and celebrate together as best they could, knowing that in a few days they would resume fighting against each other once again.

As midnight approached, the soldiers began singing Christmas hymns. Many men recounted the beauty of the familiar Christmas carols that were sung among the soldiers: the Englishmen's “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen,” the French with their boisterous “Cantique de Noel,” and “Silent Night” in its original German. Languages blended as the soldiers shared the familiar melody.

*Stille Nacht! Heil'ge Nacht!
Alles schläft; einsam wacht.
Nur das traute hoch heilige Paar.
Holder Knab' im lockigen Haar,
Schlafe in himmlischer Ruh!
Schlafe in himmlischer Ruh!*

*Silent night! Holy night.
All is calm; all is bright.
Round yon virgin, mother and child,
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.*

It was a song from a simpler time, first performed at a midnight mass on Christmas Eve in a small village church, sung a century later over the bloodied, disease-ridden trenches, in hopes that there would be another silent night again soon.



Gary Moyers
Worship Minister

The O Antiphons

Prayers sung during the last seven days of Advent

December 17

O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High,
reaching from one end to the other,
mightily and sweetly ordering all things:
Come and teach us the way of prudence.

December 18

O Adonai, and leader of the House of Israel,
who appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush
and gave him the law on Sinai:
Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm.

December 19

O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the peoples;
before you kings will shut their mouths,
to you the nations will make their prayer:
Come and deliver us, and delay no longer.

December 20

O Key of David and sceptre of the House of Israel;
you open and no one can shut;
you shut and no one can open:
Come and lead the prisoners from the prison house.

December 21

O Morning Star,

splendor of light eternal and sun
of righteousness:

Come and enlighten those who dwell in darkness and the shadow
of death.

December 22

O King of the nations, and their desire,

the cornerstone making both one:

Come and save the human race,
which you fashioned from clay.

December 23

O Emmanuel, our king and our lawgiver,

the hope of the nations and their Saviour:

Come and save us, O Lord our God.

Scripture references

Wisdom: Isaiah 11:2-3, Isaiah 28:29

Adonai: Isaiah 11:4-5, Isaiah 33:22

Root: Isaiah 11:1, Isaiah 11:10

Key of David: Isaiah 22:22, Isaiah 9:7, Isaiah 42:7

Morning star: Isaiah 9:2

King of Nations: Isaiah 2:4, Isaiah 28:16

Emmanuel: Isaiah 7:14



New & Upcoming



Mackenzee Clepper
Family Children's Minister

We have some new things upcoming in Bway kids! We are starting a new curriculum this January called **Grow**. We have had such a great experience with The Gospel Project for the past year and a half but with our new refined vision, we want to try out a new curriculum to help us grow closer to our vision and goals.

Need a reminder of our vision?

Bway Kids exists to give space for children and their families to walk with a church community on their spiritual journey. We believe in engaging children in God's word, prayer, and wonder as they **make meaning for themselves** amidst *their growing relationship* with God.

We want all that we do in this ministry to revolve around our vision, especially when it comes to the lessons we teach our children.

Some of our refining goals for this vision are easily compacted into the three statements below:

1. *We are co-learners with children*
 - Being a co-learner is all about understanding that we can learn from children just as much as they can learn from us. Children have a unique spiritual connection to God that we can empower children into.
2. *Kids are active participants in the church*
 - Any leadership roles and practices we have in our church can be done by children in their own way. Our children are not the future of our church but active participants right now.
3. *We want our children to know God rather than just know about God*
 - A part of our vision is creating space for children to have their own relationship with God and to do so they need to know God. This means when we teach about the Bible and what it means to be a disciple of Christ, we focus more on who God is and why that is important rather than just talking about the stories.

A Look Back On Our Year

Bway Kids 2023



Advent

Join us Wednesday nights
at 6:30 for a meal and a
special worship service
@Atlas Campus Fellowship.
Nov 29, Dec 6, 13 & 20.

A people and a place for the service of GOD

When I arrive for Bible class and worship at Broadway each Sunday, I am followed in the door by years of memories, echos of past joys and sorrows, and an incredibly rich heritage of faith. To some, this place is just a pretty brick building, but to many others it is literally part of the fabric of our lives.

My memories begin with the “old” building at Broadway and Ave. M, that had a huge porch of many steps leading up to the main entrance. My Sunday school room was in the basement where Mrs. Lorena Justiss taught the three year old class. During the worship service, my family sat in the balcony looking down on the pulpit where men like G.C. Brewer, Liff Sanders, and Norvel Young stood to preach. In 1951, I watched the dedication and the laying of the cornerstone at the “new” building at Avenue T and Broadway Street as members of the building committee (including my grandfather E.K. Hufstedler, Sr.) were recognized for the job well done. Later we sat in folding chairs in the cavernous, yet unfinished auditorium as Horace Coffman led us in songs of praise and thanksgiving. After the building was finished and the congregation moved in, I often could be found sitting in the balcony with other teenagers, passing notes back and forth. One of those teenagers was my future husband, Scott, whom I had met in the 7th grade class



on the second floor! One Sunday I walked up the center aisle with my friend Glenda Dogged during a gospel meeting featuring Bastel Barrett Baxter, to be baptized by Brother Young who heard me confess: “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of GOD.”



Another momentous occasion was walking the center aisle on my daddy's arm on September 4, 1959 to marry Scott Mack, the love of my life! I can remember the elation of George Stephenson pronouncing us husband and wife, the nervousness of taking our firstborn Steven to the nursery, the humor of Mrs. Ira Millwee carrying our

daughter Kelli out the back of the auditorium as she yelled “don't spank me”, the joy of hearing our son Tracy preach while Timothy Club presided one Wednesday night. I have seen the Broadway auditorium filled to capacity in the 1960's when Bill Banowsky preached to standing room only crowds.

In the summer of 1976 Linda Gaither and I helped sponsor a mission trip with youth minister John Paul Blankenship and the Broadway teens. While away on that trip I received news that my dad had died. I experienced yet another trip down the center aisle, following my dad's casket after a sweet eulogy by Joe Barnett.

This is not only a building. It is a sanctuary where we have grown up among God's people who have loved, encouraged, taught and provided opportunities for service. The building is a place where the church assembles: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:20 KJV) I have watched the coming and going of many preachers, youth ministers, song leaders and friends. Broadway was a "village" that helped us raise faithful children and grandchildren and now ministers to our great-grandchildren. It continues to be the "family" who prays for us in times of need and rejoices with us in good times. In my mind Broadway is not a building, it is people who have encouraged us, taught us, befriended us and uplifted us. There are hundreds of folks who have drifted in and

out through the years but have left Godly impressions on us including Bible teachers, shepherds and friends.



I have literally been a part of this family all my life (84 years). Scott's family came in 1951. We have endured repairs after a tornado damaged the building and we have listened to God's word spoken by great orators and humble hearts.

Prayers, confessions, faith, hope and

love have blessed us. Songs of praise have inspired us. We have been shepherded by numerous Elders and counseled by men and women of faith. We have loved and been loved by hundreds of saints who have struggled with us and rejoiced with us. We have experienced changes of structure, decor, and membership over the years. We have helped send missionaries around the world, built children's homes, started a Christian college/university, fed and clothed the needy, taught pre-school children and provided for the homeless.

What began as a plan and a blueprint now stands as a testament to courageous men and women of faith who dedicated this building and this church to a future of service to God...just a building filled with a church looking forward to a building not made with hands.

*Linda Mack
Sister in Christ*

Cultivating Trust

Bryan Brunson
Family Youth Minister



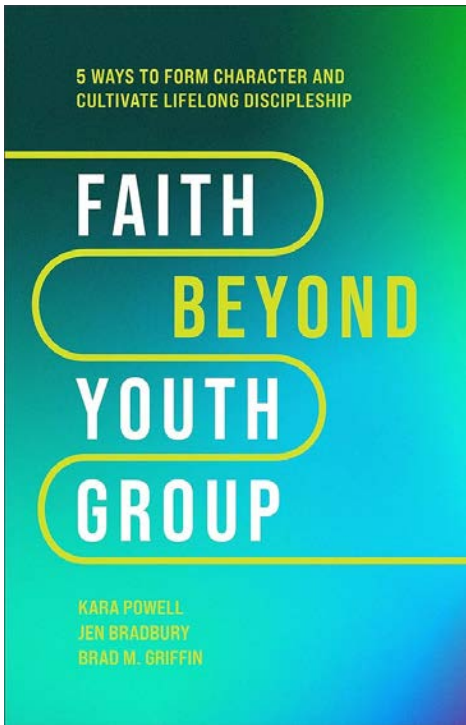
Have you ever read a scripture, a part of a good book, or an article in the newspaper or something shared on social media that you immediately thought to yourself, “I have to tell somebody about this!”

I had that exact moment about 30 times as I read a new book that Fuller Youth Institute’s Kara Powell, Jen Bradbury, and Brad Griffin released at the beginning of October. You might find this title to be well timed just as I did as we see an increase of young people not necessarily walking away from their faith altogether, but walking away from being involved in the life of their local church. The book is called, *“Faith Beyond Youth Group: 5 Ways To Form Character and Cultivate Lifelong Discipleship”*.

I had the privilege of receiving an early copy and being on the launch team for the book. This included reading and answering questions, talking with others who were reading the book, talking with students and parents, and publishing early reviews so that the launch would be as successful as possible. While the entire book is well worth the money I paid for it, I was struck by the first way that the FYI Team talks about forming character and cultivating lifelong discipleship and how we as the body can walk alongside adolescents as they seek to create a resilient and authentic faith that moves beyond youth group. That first step: *Cultivate Trust*.

You may read that and think to yourself, “Well, of course Bryan. You can’t walk alongside someone without having their trust if anything is truly going to change.” And yes, I completely agree with you. But, think for just a moment. When was the last time you turned on the television, read the paper, scrolled social media and immediately thought you could trust the source. Maybe you’re even asking yourself if this thing you just read or heard truly captures the entire picture of what is going on. With the rise of social media in our world and the ability to create new narratives within seconds, our young people are more inundated in trying to find out what is real versus what is fake. They see politicians, local officials, teachers, influencers, and even pastors make very large claims and most of the time, they don’t see these people follow through on the things they say they are going to do. They have learned to not trust anything at face value. They have learned to ask questions and for the most part, we have not done a good job at answering questions.

We have become accustomed to telling teens a laundry list of things to remember about the Bible and to be plugged in with the youth group. But, we have lost the art of answering questions, especially when they are uncomfortable or when we don’t know the answer, we just answer as good as we can instead of creating an avenue to build trust through finding an answer together.



“Young people can smell fake from a mile away.” I can’t tell you how many times I have heard this statement in my almost 5 years of full time ministry. It is a statement I think about every time I am preparing to speak with students or parents in any capacity. If I don’t have it together, they will know. I can tell you from personal experience, that answering a question with “I don’t know but let me think about it” or, “That is a great question but I don’t think I can fully answer that, let’s keep talking and find an answer together,” allows relationships to be built up on finding truth and making meaning together. We must also find a way to journey together without being judgmental.

I want to leave you with one last thought about how we ask questions of young people. A lot of times we phrase our questions in a way that feels to young people like we are judging them or trying to know all of their business. Some non-judgmental prompts could be, “I wonder...”, “I’m guessing that...”, “I can imagine that...”, “It might be that...”, and the

ever useful, “Tell me more...”. When we speak in this way, we allow young people to tell us about their views, beliefs, doubts and questions. Church, let us be a body that cultivates trust so that we still have a church to be a part of 50 years from now!

JOY IN THE SORROW shares real-life stories from members of The Village Church in Dallas, along with their lead minister, Matt Chandler. Several years ago Matt felt led to deeply study the subject of Christian suffering in order to better equip the members of his church. Little did he know that his study also would be preparing him to walk a hard road himself as he was diagnosed with a serious brain tumor in 2009. Members of The Village Church share about debilitating illness, loss of a spouse, losses of children, addiction, infertility, among other things. Each story exposes the pain and grief of those sufferings, but also shines light on the love of Christ’s body, the church, and the strength and hope found in Jesus to not only survive, but even find purpose in suffering. Chandler emphasizes the fact that when it comes to experiencing a significant struggle in life, it is not IF, but WHEN. Reading these stories of faith and strength can help others persevere when suffering comes their way.

Review by Tracey Horne



Both books are available to check-out at the WayStation Center.

Introducing our new boilers!

Here is an update on our boiler and chiller work. The three new boilers are installed and working fine. Going from left to right, they are Larry, his brother Daryl and his other brother Daryl. They are the quiet type and prefer each others company so don't be surprised if they do not mingle much. They are waiting on their friend Chiller to arrive. He should be coming to our building in March sometime!

A huge thank you to all those involved in this project! May we all enjoy many years of heat from these three fine machines!

- Lee Flores
Physical Plant Minister



In case you ever wondered why people are asked to not pour coffee or coffee grounds down the drains in an establishment. Here is the reason. The grounds never really leave the pipes and they accumulate over the years.

This pipe is connected to our water fountains. It was having trouble draining so the Physical Plant Crew investigated and made this discovery. Needless to say, a fun time was not had by all when we cleaned this out. So from the Physical Plant Crew, thank you for not pouring coffee down any drains in the church building!

Hopefully you will notice that we have FINALLY been able to replace the broken parking bollard on the east side of the building. *I think the replacement had to travel by ox drawn wagon from eastern Europe or something!*



Special thanks to everyone who came out to help clean out the front flowerbeds and worked so hard to make our building look good! We are excited about some new landscaping coming in the spring!



By The Way Magazine

Edited by: Michele Thomas
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CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Christmas Eve

6:00 PM

Broadway Church of Christ
1924 Broadway
Lubbock, Texas