

# Why?

**Why do we decorate with poinsettias at Christmas?** Here is a brief answer and some background on other traditions according to whychristmas.com:

**Poinsettias:** Named for Joel Roberts Poinsett, US Ambassador to Mexico, this flower was called "Flower of the Holy Night" in a Mexican folk tale. Originally used as cut flowers, it wasn't until the 1900s that it was sold as a potted plant in the United States.

**Gifts on Christmas Day:** This tradition celebrates the gifts of the kings but our traditions mostly come from Europe and largely from the UK. However, many Catholics celebrate Epiphany on January 6th.

**Christmas Cards:** This tradition started in the UK by civil servant Henry Cole in 1843. His purpose? To encourage use of the new Public Record Office, the Post Office.

**Merry Christmas greeting:** Again, credit the Brits! The phrase is stated twenty-one times in "A Christmas Carol" by Dickens. It was thought to have originated with a letter to Thomas Cromwell, from Bishop John Fisher.

Have a Wonderful, Merry and Blessed Christmas.

Larry Heslip

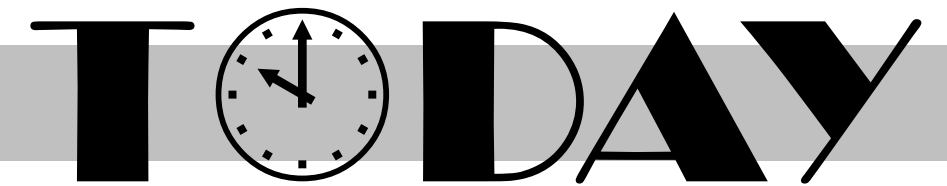
## Coffee Drinkers!

Today we will have coffee at several locations: Fellowship Hall East, the Tallowood Coffee Café, the gym entrance by the "Cage," and West Tower 3rd floor.

Larry Heslip

## Christmas Missions Offerings

**Pray and give to our missions to foreign nations. Envelopes are in the pew racks and your monthly packet that is delivered to your home.**



December 24, 2017

## This Week at Tallowood

<b>Sunday, Dec. 24</b> 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Chinese Worship 10:50 AM Christmas Eve Morning Worship 11:15 AM Chinese Sunday School 11:30 AM Hispanic Worship 2:00 PM Celebrate Recovery Step-Study 2:00 PM Arabic Worship 3:00 PM Burmese Youth Worship 3:00 PM Middle School Acteens 3:00 PM Burmese Sunday School 4:00 PM Burmese Worship 4:30 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 11:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	<b>Monday, Dec. 25</b> <i>Merry Christmas!</i> <i>Church offices closed.</i>  <b>Tuesday, Dec. 26</b> <i>Church offices closed.</i>  4:00 PM Kingdom Basketball Practices  <b>Wednesday, Dec. 27</b> 4:00 PM Kingdom Basketball Practices 4:45 PM Wednesday Night Dinner - Cancelled  <b>Thursday, Dec. 28</b> 9:30 AM WM Baby Boot Camp Strollerfit 4:00 PM Kingdom Basketball Practices	<b>Friday, Dec. 29</b> <i>Church offices closed.</i>  9:00 AM Lore Gentry Bible Study 4:00 PM Kingdom Basketball Practices 7:00 PM Chinese Fellowship 8:00 PM Hispanic Adult Bible Study  <b>Saturday, Dec. 30</b> 7:00 AM Kingdom Basketball Practices 7:00 PM Hispanic Music Rehearsal
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**Tallowood Library Hours During Christmas**

Sunday, 12/24	8:30 - 11:45 a.m.
Monday, 12/25	closed
Tuesday, 12/26	closed
Wed., 12/27	closed
<i>Closed Thursday - Saturday</i>	

**WEEKEND PHONE NUMBER FOR EMERGENCIES**



**713-724-3704**



# MINISTRIES

## Adults

### ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKS

Rejoicing in the Hope of Advent! Advent devotional books for individuals and families are available in the Narthex or church office.

### READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

Reading guides available in the Narthex or church office.

### WINTER BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR BROOKS

Mark your calendar for Thursdays, January 4, January 18, February 1, February 15, March 1, and March 22 at 11:00 a.m. in the gym. The study will be "The Seven Churches of Revelation."

## Children

### BIBLE DRILL



Children grades 3-6 are invited to sign up for the 2018 Bible Drill season which runs from January 7 – April 14 on Sunday evenings, from 5:30-7:00 p.m. There will be a brief parent meeting on January 7 at 5:30 p.m. in the Great Room, followed by the first session of learning. Register at [tallowood.org](http://tallowood.org).

### GLOW PARTY



Are you ready to GLOW? Children's Ministry Glow Party is January 3 at 6:00 p.m. in the Great Room! Children entering 1st through 5th grades are invited to this BRIGHT event that will light up the halls of Children's Ministry. This special event is off the charts fun—think neon and glow from head to toe! Plan to wear white. Register now at [tallowood.org](http://tallowood.org).

## Children's Music & Missions

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT FOR KIDS

We will not meet January 3. January 10 is the beginning of the second semester. See you then!

## Families

### COUPLES GROUPS FOR MARRIED ADULTS

Beginning January 12, Married Adult Groups will begin at Tallowood.



What this will look like is a group of 3-5 couples of all different life-stages and backgrounds led by a mentor couple, getting together on an agreed-upon consistent basis. Registration ends January 10. Visit [tallowood.org/cg](http://tallowood.org/cg) for more information and registration.

### MEN'S NIGHT OUT

January 26 at 5:45 p.m. in the gym with Jeff Struecker of *Black Hawk Down*. We are very excited about this men's event for 6th-12th grade guys and all adult men. Chef Greg and the Holy Smokers will be serving an amazing BBQ meal and we will hear from Jeff Struecker, an Army Ranger and now pastor, who will share what happened that night in Mogadishu. \$10 per person. Registration ends Sunday, January 21. Register at [tallowood.org/family](http://tallowood.org/family)

### MOMS NIGHT OUT WITH KAREN STUBBS,

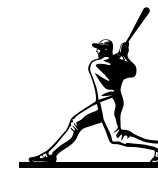
Friday, February 9, with Karen Stubbs, author and creator of *Birds On A Wire* ministry for moms. Come for a night of encouragement and worship. Visit [tallowood.org/moms-night-out](http://tallowood.org/moms-night-out) for more information and registration.

## 55+

### ASTROS BASEBALL GAMES – 2018

It's time to select the Astros games you wish to attend in 2018. Early selections are necessary in order to secure the desired seats at a discounted price. Also, games are chosen early so we can reserve a county bus. Game dates, teams, ticket prices (including \$2 for driver's expense) are as follows:

DATE	TEAM	PRICE OF TICKET
Tues., 4/3/18	Orioles	\$20
Tues., 5/22/18	Giants	\$29
Tues., 6/19/18	T.B. Rays	\$20
Fri., 7/27/18	Rangers	\$35 (fireworks night)
Thurs., 8/30/18	L.A. Angels	\$29
Tues., 9/4/18	Twins	\$20



TOTAL FOR ALL SIX GAMES: \$153

Chosen game commitments are due no later than January 15 and payment must be received no later than January 31. Checks are to be made payable to J.E. Hughes and handed to Jake or mailed to J.E.

Hughes, 11900 Barryknoll Ln., #7323, Houston, TX 77024. We will leave by county bus from the church front parking lot at 6:00 p.m. on game day. If you have any questions, call Jake Hughes at 832-581-2800 or 713-471-7299.

### 55+ DAY TRIP



The 55+ day trip for January 2018 will be Friday the 12th. We will leave the church front parking lot at 8:45 a.m. and travel to Hockley, Texas, to tour Boys and Girls Country. Lunch will be on your own at Texas Roadhouse. The cost of the trip is \$6.00 per person. which includes a donation to Boys and Girls Country and a tip for our bus driver. To make reservations, call Barbie Batura at 713-468-8241, ext. 8147.

## Preschool

### DOORPOST SONGS

Tallowood has a family worship subscription to Dave and Jess Ray's *Doorpost Songs*. You can download worship songs for your family from their website, [doorpostsongs.com](http://doorpostsongs.com). Contact Preschool or Children's Ministries for more information and our church code.

## Women

### WOMEN'S GROUPS AND STUDIES FOR SPRING



The Women's Ministry invites you to participate in our midweek groups this spring! Grow in your relationship with Christ alongside other Tallowood women by joining a midweek group. New groups include "All Things New" by Kelly Minter; the Book of 2 Corinthians, a Precepts® study; "Standing with the Lord" which will use the Bible to apply truth to contemporary issues; and, "Lord, I Need Grace to Make it Today," a study of the life and ministry of the Apostle Paul. Class details are available online at [tallowood.org/women](http://tallowood.org/women). For more information, contact Jen Whittenberg at 713-468-8241, ext. 8117.

Lost and Found

Please come to the church office to claim your lost items. There is a collection of Bibles, glasses, umbrellas, etc.