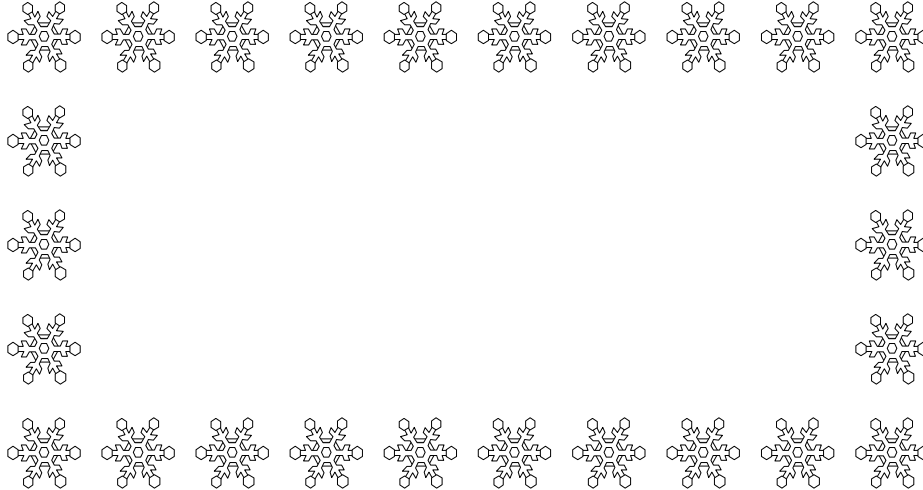




Vineyard of Faith Ministry
 167 Arata Lane ~ Windsor, CA 95492
 707-837-8712 ~ www.vof.org

Non-Profit Organization
 U.S. Postage PAID
 Windsor, CA
 Permit No. 44

Volume 14, Issue 1



January 2009

Inside this issue:

Pastor Ted Mueller	2
Stephen Ministry	4
A Note Of Praise	6
Kids Page	7
Announcements	8
Birthdays & Anniversaries	9
Financials	10
Staff Numbers	10
Church Calendar	11

New Ladies' Bible Study

"What Happens When Women Pray"

Thursdays, starting January 22, 2009

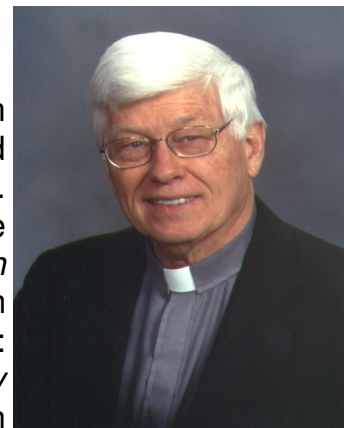
9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Potluck luncheon to introduce the study on January 22nd.

All women 18 and older are invited!

See Sharie Lefor for more details

“Walk With God”



We do not know too much about him, He is one of those dim figures back there in the beginnings of time. The Bible says he lived before the Flood. His name was Enoch. His biography is very short. He became the father of Methuselah. Apart from that fact, his whole life is summed up in these words of Scripture: *“Enoch walked with God and Enoch was not, for God took him.”* (Gen. 5:24) A modern translation catches a little better the original Hebrew text this way: *“Enoch walked steadily with God. And then one day he was simply gone: God took him.”* (from THE MESSAGE: The Bible in Contemporary Language © 2002.) It would be difficult to make those facts into a story to grip and hold the attention of people. There are, however, some important points about Enoch that I will bring out in a moment.

A little girl in Sunday school did as well as anyone with the story of Enoch. She told her mother of how Enoch set out on a long journey with God. They walked and walked and talked and talked together until God said: ‘Enoch you are far from your home now and very close to mine. Why don’t you just come in with Me to My home instead of going back to yours!’

Our life on earth is a “walk” with God. Often enough we falter on the way. We do turn aside into a number of different paths. At times we fail people, often those we love most or who are close to us. We even fail Jesus who walked the path of life with purpose in every one of his steps. Jesus never leaves us in our waywardness. He always sets us on His path again and again with His love and enabling Word.

Up until now, we, like Enoch, have walked with God and He surely has been faithful to us. At the dawn of a new year this truth of God’s faithfulness is important. 2009 begins with a great deal of uncertainty around each of our lives. 2009 begins with the biggest financial stress time since the early 1930’s. 2009 begins with an unclear picture about the future of Vineyard of Faith Ministries in Windsor. 2009 begins with our future, as individuals, and as a congregation with many question marks floating in our heads.

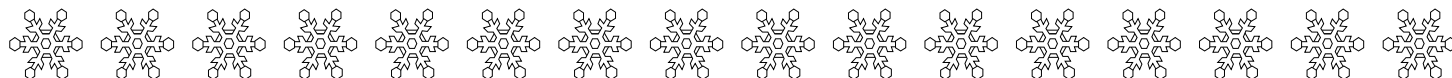
I pray that you “WALK WITH GOD” through daily reading of His Word, through daily spending time in prayer, through daily longing for fellowship with fellow believers and daily reaching out in love to the lives God has placed around you. The best way to “walk with God” is to walk right into His house, that is, be regular in worship and receiving His body and blood in the holy Sacrament of the Altar. I pray that as you walk with the GOOD SHEPHERD, He will reach down and touch you with such consuming love that your life will not be the same by the end of this calendar year.

Enter the New Year in the name and power of Jesus! Celebrate His continued faithfulness as He daily walks with you.

Draw your HOPE and CONFIDENCE from the promises of His Word, just as Enoch did! Enoch enjoyed a very personal and intimate fellowship with God! My friend that same bonding time can be yours in your walk through 2009! Let’s celebrate “walking with Jesus every day” in this New Year. God bless you and your family!

In Christ’s service,

Ted C. Mueller, *Transition Pastor*



A New Year's Prayer

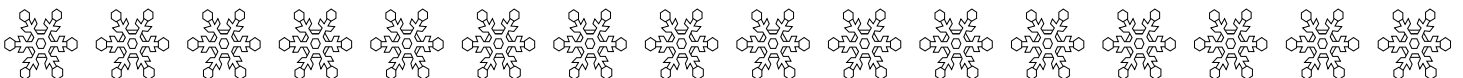
*Dear Lord, please give me . . .
 A few friends who understand me
 and yet remain my friends
 A work to do which has real value,
 without which the world
 would feel the poorer . . .
 A mind unafraid to travel,
 even though the trail be not blazed
 An understanding heart . . .
 A sense of humor.
 Time for quiet, silent meditation.
 A feeling of the presence of God.
 And the patience to wait
 for the coming of these things,
 with the wisdom to know them
 when they come.*

~ W.R. Hunt

New Year Thoughts

I asked God for strength, that I might achieve -
 I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey.
 I asked God for health, that I might do great things -
 I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.
 I asked God for riches, that I might be happy -
 I was given poverty, that I might be wise.
 I asked God for power, that I might have the praise of men -
 I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God.
 I asked God for all things, that I might enjoy life -
 I was given LIFE that I might enjoy all things made by Him.
 I got nothing I asked for, but everything I had hoped for.
 Almost, despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.
 I am, among all men, most richly blessed in Christ.

~ Anonymous





“Expect a Miracle”

A little girl went to her bedroom and pulled a glass jelly jar from its hiding place in the closet. She poured the change out on the floor and counted it carefully. Three times, even. The total had to be exactly perfect. No chance here for mistakes.

Carefully placing the coins back in the jar and twisting on the cap, she slipped out the back door and made her way 6 blocks to Rexall’s Drug Store with the big, red, Indian Chief sign above the door.

She waited patiently for the pharmacist to give her some attention, but he was too busy at this moment. Tess twisted her feet to make a scuffing noise. Nothing. She cleared her throat with the most disgusting sound she could muster. No good. Finally she took a quarter from her jar and banged it on the glass counter. That did it!

“And what do you want?” the pharmacist asked in an annoyed tone of voice. “I’m talking to my brother from Chicago whom I haven’t seen in ages,” he said without waiting for a reply to his question.

“Well, I want to talk to you about my brother,” Tess answered back in the same annoyed tone. “He’s really, really sick...And I want to buy a miracle.”

“I beg your pardon!” said the pharmacist.

“His name is Andrew and he has something bad growing inside his head and my Daddy says only a miracle can save him now. So how much does a miracle cost?”

“We don’t sell miracles here, little girl. I’m sorry but I can’t help you,” the pharmacist said, softening a little.

“Listen, I have the money to pay for it. If it isn’t enough, I will get the rest. Just tell me how much it costs?”

The pharmacist’s brother was a well dressed man. He stooped down and asked the little girl, “What kind of a miracle does your brother need?”

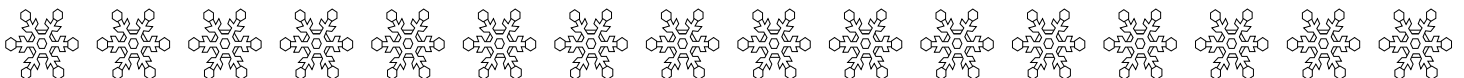
“I don’t know,” Tess replied with her eyes welling. “I just know he’s really sick and Mommy says he needs an operation. But my Daddy can’t pay for it, so I want to use my money.”

“How much do you have?” asked the man from Chicago.

“One dollar and eleven cents,” Tess answered barely audibly. And it’s all the money I have, but I can get some more if I need to.”

“Well, what a coincidence,” smiled the man, “A dollar and eleven cents – the exact price of a miracle for little brothers.”

Continued, next page



“Expect a Miracle”, continued



He took her money in one hand and with the other hand he grasped her mitten and said, “Take me to where you live. I want to see your brother and meet your parents. Let’s see if I have the miracle you need.”

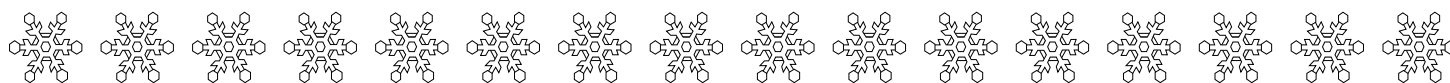
That well dressed man was Dr. Carlton Armstrong, a surgeon, specializing in neuro-surgery. The operation was completed free of charge and it wasn’t long until Andrew was home again and doing well. Mom and Dad were happily talking about the chain of events that had led them to this place. “That surgery,” her Mom whispered, “was a real miracle. I wonder how much it would have cost!”

Tess smiled. She knew exactly how much a miracle cost...one dollar and eleven cents plus the faith of a little child.

The Word of God says in Psalms 77:14, ***You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples.*** In our lives, we never know how many miracles we will need. My brother Floyd sent me this story in an email and many of you may have read this before. It never gets old for me, because I believe in miracles. I’m asking for one for my brother. Many of you know that he has stage 4 colon cancer. I know that whether there is a miracle here on earth by God healing him or whether the Lord takes him home to heaven – either way it’s a miracle. Recently Floyd was baptized into the body of Christ. I have peace knowing that my brother is in good hands with our Lord.

What miracle are you asking for in the New Year? Do you need a miracle of healing? Has the economy got you worried about your finances? Is there someone who needs your forgiveness or is God directing you to ask for forgiveness for someone you may have offended? Maybe God is asking you to be a miracle for someone less fortunate than yourself. No matter what our needs are, I’m thankful that our Heavenly Father is here for us to give us His peace and His comfort and the courage to expect a miracle. When your miracle comes, get back to me. Let’s gather our miracles together and praise our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for He is the greatest miracle of all. If you are struggling in your life and need someone to come along side of you, call me and I’ll connect you to a Stephen Minister.

Happy New Year,
Sharie





A Note Of Praise: Silent Is Good



In 1818, a roving band of actors was performing for towns throughout the Austrian Alps. On December 23 they arrived at Oberndorf, a village near Salzburg where they were to perform the story of Christ's birth in the small Church of St. Nicholas.

Unfortunately, the St. Nicholas' church organ wasn't working and would not be repaired before Christmas. Because the church organ was out of commission, the actors presented their Christmas drama in a private home. Even so, that Christmas presentation put assistant pastor Josef Mohr in a meditative mood. Instead of walking straight to his house that night, Mohr took a longer way home. The longer path took him up over a hill overlooking the village.

From that hilltop, Mohr looked down on the peaceful snow-covered village. Reveling in majestic silence of the wintry night, Mohr gazed down at the glowing scene. His thoughts about the Christmas play suddenly made him to remember a poem he had written a couple of years before. It was a poem about the night when angels announced the birth of the long-awaited Messiah to shepherds on a hillside.

Mohr decided those words would make a good carol for his congregation the following evening at their Christmas eve service. However, he didn't have any music to which that poem could be sung. So, the next day Mohr went to see the church organist, Franz Xaver Gruber. Gruber only had a few hours to come up with a melody which could be sung with a guitar. However, by that evening, Gruber had managed to compose a musical setting for the poem. It no longer mattered that their church organ was broken. They now had a Christmas carol they could sing without it.

On Christmas Eve, the little Oberndorf congregation heard Gruber and Mohr sing their new composition to the accompaniment of Gruber's guitar.

Silent night! holy night! All is calm, all is bright,...

In the quietness of "Silent Night" I am reminded that our God longs for those quite moments with each of us. For some, it is not easy nor comfortable to be silent. Yet our Lord calls us to be still and to wait on Him. Some of us think that we've figured out what God wants for us, and inadvertently, take on a posture of, "Don't worry God, I've got it from here." (*I speak from experience.*) Job was somewhat like that, but God kind of blew the wind out of his sails as He said in Job 38:3-6:

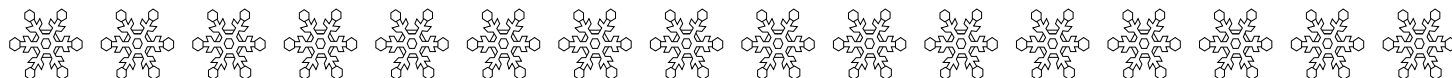
"I will ask the questions and you must answer me. Where were you when I mad the earth's foundation? Tell me if you understand. Who marked off how big it should be? Surely you know Who stretched a ruler across it? What were the earth's foundation set on, or who put its cornerstone in place while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted with joy?"

God's point being, you've got to know the alphabet before you can read! Job got the message. His response was, *"I am not worthy; I cannot answer you anything, so I will put my hands over my mouth"* (Job 40:4)

As we begin a new year, I pray that we all put our hands over our mouths a little more often. We'll all be the better for it. And during prayer, when you do that, experience the moment of reverence and what it means by, "Hallowed be thy name." In Psalms 46:10, it reads, *"Be still and know that I am God"*. This verse contains a command and a promise. The command is, *Be still*. Cover your mouth; bend your knees. The promise? *You will know that I am God.*

God's Peace to all!

Ken





Creation

**RHEANNA ASKED A QUESTION
ABOUT *THE FIRST MAN* ONE SUNDAY...
*Was God or Adam the first man?***

The Bible tells us that Adam was the first man. God is not a human man. The truth is - no one created God... He has always existed. He has no beginning and no end. "Lord, through all the generations you have been our home! You were there before the mountains were made. You were there before the earth was formed. You are God without beginning or end." (Psalm 90:1-2) It's really hard for our minds to understand, because everything that we know about has a beginning and an end. Each day has a beginning and an end, our sports games have a beginning and an end, our lives had a beginning and they will one day have an end. But not God - He has always been here and always will be. But he's not human.

The Bible tells us that, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth," (Genesis 1:1). So we know that God was already here because He created everything!

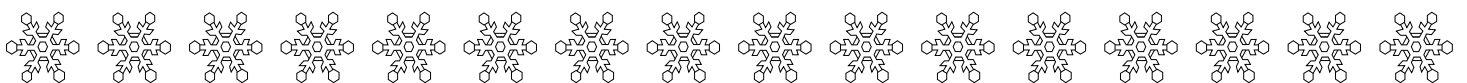
And on the sixth day, God created the first man - Adam. God made him by using material He had already made - the dust of the ground. God formed Adam just the way He wanted him to look and then God breathed life into him. Then God made Eve from part of Adam so that she would match him perfectly.

The Bible tells us, "The time came when the Lord God formed a man's body. He made it from the dust of the ground. Then he breathed into it the breath of life. And man became a living person....Then the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. He took one of the man's ribs. Then he closed up the place from which he had taken it. Then he made the rib into a woman, and brought her to the man." (Genesis 2:7, 21-22)

So God has been here since before time even began, and Adam was the very first man that God created. What an amazing God we have!

D R
 X A
 R D
 W M Y B F M A N
 D A G P P A R A D I S E
 G M A M O X M P T R E E S S
 U G A R D E N F B M C G J T
 K A L W O M A N B I R D S A
 P N N M D M C L W Y Q Q M R
 H I T A E D J J S E E D S S
 G M I V I J A H A A V J R U
 S A Y L V C R E A T E S H N
 L H E R B S F I S H K B
 S D A Y S M E A R T H T
 A R J K M I S T W D
 S E H Y F R U I T O
 S E D E N G P K
 T Y A D A M A E
 M O O N

- | | | |
|---------|----------|-------|
| Adam | Garden | Stars |
| Animals | Herbs | Sun |
| Birds | Man | Trees |
| Create | Mist | Woman |
| Days | Moon | |
| Earth | Paradise | |
| Eden | Rest | |
| Eve | Rib | |
| Fish | Seeds | |
| Fruit | Sky | |



Church News

Children's Church

Following a fun filled Epiphany celebration, the kids are going to be "knee deep" in prayer for a few months! We will be digging into our Bibles to learn all about prayer-- what it is and why we do it, and how to hear God's voice! Parents-- be on the lookout for "On the Fast Track" take home sheets. They contain the memory verse as well as lesson reinforcements and practical applications. The kids get prizes when they bring them back completed-- this is their incentive... but what's yours? We can't stress enough the importance of a team effort here. A half hour of Children's Church is just a start.... If you take the lead then throughout the week and expand on the lesson, just think of what young, disciplined warriors God will be raising up! If you ever have questions, please feel free to call me-- and of course, come join us in Children's Church anytime!!

Got some extra time around the dinner table? Talk about this week's sermon -- you may be surprised at what your children can contribute to the discussion!

Dive Team

The Dive Team plans to dive right into the New Year with practical projects to show the Windsor Community God's love-- no strings attached! --From cleaning houses to helping out at the Laundromat, and much more, coupled with our discipleship Bible study-- this is what it's about... finding ways to serve God and spread the Good News right here! If you are under the impression that we are out knocking on doors-- kind of the traditional evangelism picture- this is NOT the case. Please come join us ANYTIME and see for yourself!

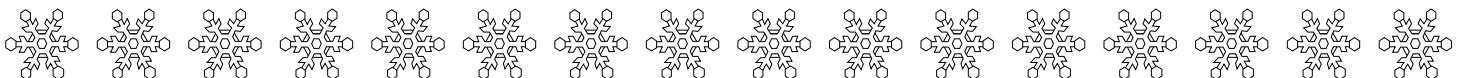
Applying Bible Principles

There are some wonderful principles in the Old Testament which apply to present - day-Christians. One of these is in **Deuteronomy 8:10-18**. Stated in contemporary language, it says, "When you have eaten and are full, when your cars, houses and bank accounts multiply, don't forget where it came from: Remember the Lord your God."

In truth, all that we have comes from God. He determines what we will receive, whether it be money, gold, silver, houses, land, bank accounts, stocks, bonds, etc. It all belongs to Him in the first place, and He entrusts it to us. According to David's prayer in **1Chronicles 29**, riches, honor, power, and wealth all come from God.

That's why there is no such thing as a self-made man or woman. Oh, we have to do our part. God's plan is not that we just sit around praying and reading the Bible all day long so that what we need to survive will miraculously drop into our hands. We're not just to pray for "our daily bread," but we're also to get up each day and work for it! That's why the Apostle Paul stated clearly, "If any one will not work, let him not eat" (2 Thes. 3:10). But in reality, the amount of money and wealth which we receive is determined by God. According to His divine will and knowledge, He entrusts to each of us the amounts which He knows will be best for us.

What should be our reaction to our financial state? Some might pray, "Dear Lord, you must have made a mistake concerning me and my finances. Please give me more money." Others might try to circumvent God's design for their lives by trying to win the lottery or to obtain large sums of money through some other means. Mature Christians, however, will realize God's infinite wisdom far surpasses their limited perspective. They will accept with a thankful spirit what God has entrusted to them and seek to honor God by their living and by their giving.





Birthdays of the Month

- Belinda Soiland - January 2
- Jordan Dick - January 4
- Monica Missner - January 5
- Jerine Bott - January 9
- David Hutchins - January 10
- Bill Gillette - January 11
- Joshua Hemenway - January 11
- Emma Allen - January 12
- Austin Missner - January 12
- Rick DeMaria - January 14
- Sharie Lefor - January 15
- Jason Ring - January 16
- Allison Biegel - January 17
- Tom Hemenway - January 17
- Mitch Nunley - January 20
- Kirsten Olson - January 22
- Jennifer Barnes - January 23
- Cyndi Rogan - January 25
- Jane Anderson - January 28
- Joyce Wycoff - January 28
- Neil Soiland - January 31

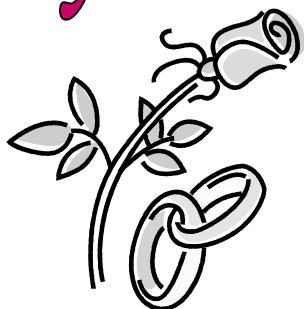


Need to update your information for the V.O.F. phone directory?

Forms are available in the church foyer.

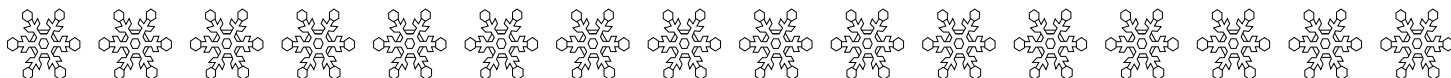
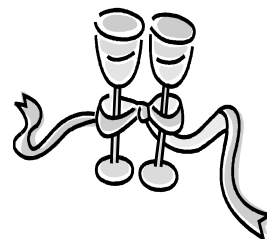
Just drop in the offering basket when completed.

Anniversaries This Month



- Dennis & Cathy Ripple
- David & Joanne Hutchins
- Dean & Belinda Soiland

- January 7
- January 16
- January 19



Financial Report

	<u>Offering Total</u>	<u>Budget Needs</u>	<u>Difference <Shortfall></u>
November 2008 (5 Sundays)	\$ 17,565.88	\$ 23,750.00	\$ < -6,184.12 >
Year To Date	\$ 85,420.80	\$106,147.00	\$ < -20,726.20 >

NEED TO CONTACT THE STAFF?

Church Office: (707) 837-8712



Pastor Ted Mueller
-Transition Pastor
-ext. 202
-pastorted@vof.org

Ken Corriea
- Music Director
-ext. 203
- kcorriea@vof.org

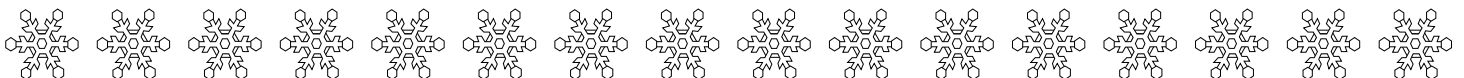




Angel Frische - Administrative Assistant
-ext. 200 - office@vof.org

John 15:5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit..."



Vision Statement
Our vision is to share God's grace and love with everyone we can through innovative expressions of faith. As a Christ-centered church family, we will care for all people and equip Christians for a significant life-changing ministry.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
4 8:30 AM Praise Practice 10:00 AM Praise Service & Children's Church COMMUNION	5 Office Closed	6 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry 7:00 PM Steps Come Alive Recovery Meeting Epiphany	7 5:30 PM SWAT Jr. High 7:00 PM Dive Team Mtg.	8 9:30 AM Just As I Am Ladies Bible Study 7:30 PM Praise Practice	9 6:00 PM Open Prayer Time	10 7:30 AM Reel Men's Bible Study
11 8:30 AM Praise Practice 10:00 AM Praise Service & Children's Church Baptism of Our Lord	12 Office Closed 7:00 PM God's Iron Men Bible Study	13 7:00 PM Steps Come Alive Recovery Meeting	14 5:30 PM SWAT Jr. High	15 9:30 AM Just As I Am Ladies Bible Study 7:30 PM Praise Practice	16	17 7:30 AM Reel Men's Bible Study
18 8:30 AM Praise Practice 10:00 AM Praise Service & Children's Church COMMUNION	19 Office Closed Martin Luther King Jr. Day	20 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry 7:00 PM Steps Come Alive Recovery Meeting	21 5:30 PM SWAT Jr. High	22 9:30 AM Just As I Am Ladies Bible Study 7:30 PM Praise Practice	23	24 7:30 AM Reel Men's Bible Study
25 8:30 AM Praise Practice 10:00 AM Praise Service & Children's Church	26 Office Closed 7:00 PM God's Iron Men Bible Study	27 7:00 PM Steps Come Alive Recovery Meeting	28 5:30 PM SWAT Jr. High	29 9:30 AM Just As I Am Ladies Bible Study 7:30 PM Praise Practice	30	31 7:30 AM Reel Men's Bible Study
				1 Office Closed 	2	3 7:30 AM Reel Men's Bible Study

