

The events are winding down for 2023, but here are just some reminders for wrapping things up:

**FROSTY FIESTA RECAP:**

First of all, I want to thank our new Social Committee Leader, Michelle Lizardi, and her helpers for the really fun and entertaining social last Saturday night! We had a great turnout and 22 brave ugly sweater contestants willing to walk the runway (literally). The kids (and adults) had a blast decorating cookies and ornaments, and a highlight of the evening was a surprise visit from The Grinch (aka Maria Verdugo)! Here's a sampling of pictures. Sorry I don't have pics of everyone in attendance!





#### BAS CHRISTMAS PLAY:

The annual BAS Christmas play will be held **TONIGHT** at 7:00 pm in the BAS Gymnasium. Enjoy a beautiful play acted by our 7/8th graders and sung by our PreK-8th grade choir and discover what a "Crazy, Busy, Peaceful, Holy Night" is really all about. Light refreshments will be served after the program. Please remember there is additional parking in the upper lot behind the shed. Please do not park on any grassy areas. Thank you.

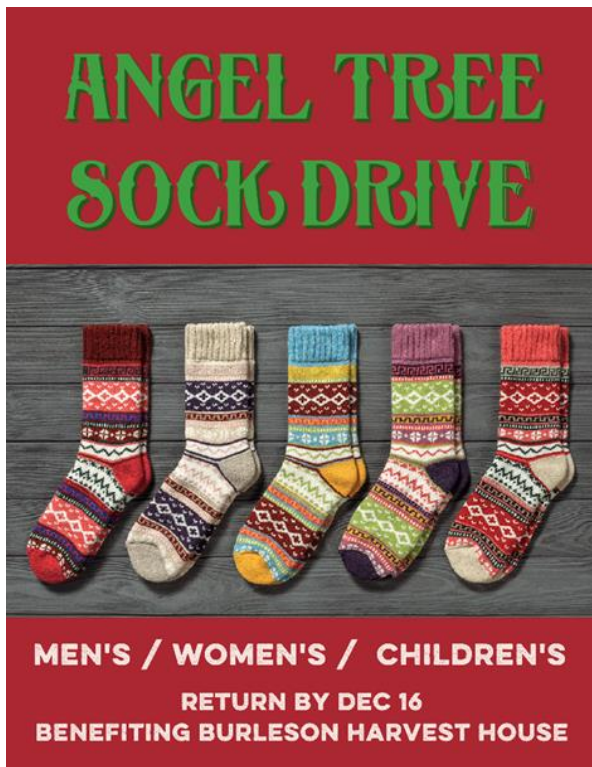


## CHURCH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:

This Sabbath, December 16, the worship service will be brought to you by our adorable children enacting the greatest story ever told, along with specials from the Church Choir and congregational carols. All children are invited to participate. We hope you'll join us!



## TIME IS RUNNING OUT!



This Sabbath is your last opportunity to donate socks to our **ANGEL TREE SOCK DRIVE**. If you haven't already done so, consider picking up some men's, women's, or especially children's socks and place them under the Angel Tree in the inner lobby. Thank you for donating to this effort in support of the wonderful work Harvest House does in our community.

It's also the last Sabbath to stop by the Connect and leave your card of encouragement and thanks to the **NEXT STEP WOMEN'S CENTER** staff member you've been praying for. Of course, this doesn't mean you have to stop praying for these women and men who serve in such an important ministry! And remember, you can also be a prayer warrior to uphold their clients and rejoice as choices for life are made.

Signing up for the prayer line is quick and easy. Once you join, you will receive text message updates about specific prayer requests from their clients in real time. These requests could range from seeking guidance during decision-making processes to requests for emotional and spiritual support. You will have the opportunity to battle with the Next Step staff on the frontlines for their clients through prayer.

Here's how you can become a Prayer Partner: Simply click this link, and signing up should take no time at all! [www.LifePrayerPartner.com/Esther](http://www.LifePrayerPartner.com/Esther)



#### NEW MEMBER INTRODUCTION:

Meet Cyndie Robinson, our newest family member! Cyndie comes from a close family and has two adult daughters. Her ministry passion is caring for people, especially the older generations. She was drawn to our congregation by the "loving and inviting atmosphere and Pastor Kevin's bible-based teaching." Welcome, Cyndie, we are happy you chose to serve God with our family!



**NO DECEMBER CHURCH POTLUCK:**

We will not be having our usual third Sabbath potluck this month (this Sabbath). I hope this doesn't mess up any of your plans! Actually, as much as I enjoy the fellowship, I'm kind of relieved that it means one less dish I have to plan for during this season of "celebration eating!"

**SWAU ALUMNI LEGACY GOLF CLASSIC:**

I was asked to share this message again from Southwestern Adventist University:

Greetings Burleson Church Family. We need your support as we prepare for our upcoming April Alumni Legacy Golf Classic. Our goal is to raise \$30,000 to support, through scholarships, students who are the first in their family to attend college. This group of students especially need financial help for their sophomore and junior years. We are looking for individual and business sponsors as well as golfers and potential golfer contacts to make this golf classic a success for our students. Please contact Tom Bunch, text 817-437-0628 or at [buncht@swau.edu](mailto:buncht@swau.edu). Thanks for your help in supporting Christian education.

That's all I have for this week. I hope you take the time to read the GraceNotes; it's really spot on...

Have a blessed week, friends. ~ Liz ~





Grace is the  
**anthem of**  
**God's attitude**  
toward us.



**It's a tough time to be selling "Peace on Earth."**

**In the Christmas Shoppe at the megastore, elves and reindeer move briskly out the door. Nativity scenes in warm pastels are inner-lit with bulbs and cheer. Miles and miles of twinkling lights unwind from endless shelves.**

**But who is buying "Peace on Earth?"**

**At first, it seems a quaint anachronism, harking back to simpler times and well-tuned carolers. But now, we fear our neighbors will think us terribly insensitive to be flaunting anything of peace when kids are dying in Kfar Aza, in Gaza, in Kharkiv.**

**How can the gospel still proclaim a peace on earth that is so rarely lived or loved?**

**The night sky circling Bethlehem 2000 years ago did not proclaim the end of wars or banish human savagery. What angels sang—and shepherds hoped, and wise men followed, and a weary couple trusted—was that heaven is fully on our side.**

**There was no war—there is no war—between the heart of God and those He calls His sons and daughters. "For this is how God loved the world: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). The birth of our Messiah sang to fearful, doubting folks like us what always has been true: "God was in Christ personally reconciling the world to Himself—not counting their sins against them" (2 Cor 5:19).**

**Grace is the anthem of God's attitude toward us. Peace is His gift for all who choose the Child who was born to us.**

**So stay in grace.**

**—Bill Knott**

#### **INSPIRATIONAL CHRISTMAS QUOTES:**

- The giving of gifts is not something man invented. God started the giving spree when He gave a gift beyond words, the unspeakable gift of His Son. (Unknown)

- All the Christmas presents in the world are worth nothing without the presence of Christ. (David Jeremiah)
- So God throws open the door of this world — and enters as a baby. As the most vulnerable imaginable. Because He wants unimaginable intimacy with you. What religion ever had a god that wanted such intimacy with us that He came with such vulnerability to us? What God ever came so tender we could touch Him? So fragile that we could break Him? So vulnerable that His bare, beating heart could be hurt? Only the One who loves you to death. (Ann Voskamp)
- The Almighty appeared on earth as a helpless human baby, needing to be fed and changed and taught to talk like any other child. The more you think about it, the more staggering it gets. Nothing in fiction is so fantastic as this truth of the Incarnation. (J.I. Packer)
- You can never truly enjoy Christmas until you can look up into the Father's face and tell him you have received his Christmas gift. (John R. Rice)
- For Christians, Christmas is a celebration of Jesus' birth — that light has come into darkness and, as the Gospel of John says, 'the darkness could not overcome it. (Tish Harrison Warren)