

YOUR CHRISTMAS



MICKEY EWING
Assistant Pastor

We all have our own family traditions for the way we celebrate Christmas. Some open presents on Christmas Eve and wait till Christmas morning to see what has appeared in the stockings.. Others hold all gift opening till Christmas morning. Some have a big meal on Christmas Eve. Others have always gathered the entire family around the table at high noon on Christmas day.

Our family tradition has not changed since I was a child (and probably before). There is an order to things and everyone knows what to expect: First we go caroling to friends and neighbors (usually in red earmuffs, sort of odd in McAllen's 80 degree Christmas weather). Back at the house, no presents are opened until the youngest reader has read the Christmas story from the bible, reminding all of the true meaning of Christmas.

I don't necessarily recommend the caroling part unless you have a particularly gifted musical family. But I DO

recommend the bible reading. If scripture is not already a part of your family's celebration, this would be a great time to start a new tradition. Here's a suggested order of service for your own gathering around the tree:

HERE'S A SUGGESTED ORDER OF SERVICE FOR YOUR OWN GATHERING AROUND THE TREE:

1. *Joy to the World*
(Sung with gusto, no PowerPoint required)
2. Prayer of Thanks for Family and for God's Blessings
(Give the pray-er advance notice)

3. Reading of the Biblical Christmas Story – Luke 2:1-14
(Read by youngest reader OR one verse per person)
4. *Silent Night*
(Sung with reverence)
5. Closing Prayer of Thanks for the Baby Jesus
(Prayer voiced by Adult or Student)
6. Presents Opened

However it is that you celebrate Christmas, find ways for your family to remember the Christ child, Emmanuel, God with Us. Take advantage of the teachable moment to remind one and all of how and why he came.

From our family to yours,

Merry Christmas!

Bro. Mickey

AT A GLANCE

<i>Sunday</i> December 20	9:30a 10:45a	Churchwide Breakfast Worship Service No Evening Activities
<i>Tuesday</i> December 22	6:30p	Celebrate Recovery
<i>Wednesday</i> December 23	8:30a	Happy Agers No Evening Activities
<i>Thursday</i> December 24	6:00p	Christmas Eve Service Church Office Closed
<i>Friday</i> December 25		MERRY CHRISTMAS! Church Office Closed

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<i>Sunday</i> December 27	9:30a 10:45a	Sunday School (Adults Combined in Worship Center) Worship Service No Evening Activities
<i>Tuesday</i> December 29	6:30p	Celebrate Recovery
<i>Wednesday</i> December 30	8:30a	Happy Agers Students Leave for Winter Retreat
<i>Friday</i> January 1		HAPPY NEW YEAR! Church Office Closed

STOPS ON THE JOURNEY



THE COLLECTIVE

The Collective, our Student Choir, will lead worship on Sunday, December 20. You will be inspired by the love these students show for our Lord. Be here to support them this Sunday before Christmas. You will be blessed.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Join us at 6:00pm on December 24 for our beautiful Candlelight Service. Sing the songs of the holiday, and be reminded of the true meaning of Christmas. Make it a tradition to bring your entire family to the service to celebrate our Saviour's birth.



BLUE CHRISTMAS

Tonight at 6:00pm we will have our annual Blue Christmas service in the Conference Center. If you are not celebrating the holidays due to a loss or other sadness, join us for a service of remembrance and hope.



LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING

The International Missions Offering campaign is underway through the end of December. Help send missionaries all over the world to spread the gospel. Northside's goal is \$22,000.



CHURCHWIDE BREAKFAST

Join us December 20 at 9:30am for our annual Churchwide Breakfast. The Fellowship Hall will be filled with the smell of good food. You can have breakfast with your church family then go to worship. There will be no Sunday School this day only.



DON'T MISS THE DEADLINE

It's time to sign up for the Winter Retreat! Students 6th - 12th grade will spend December 30 - January 1 on the sunny(?) beach at Port Royal. Sign up now by going to nbcvictoria.org/students - special events. The cost is \$100. Talk to Mike Baker if you have any questions.

:::SHORTLINES:::

CONGRATULATIONS TO: Greg and Bekah Logan on the birth of Abigail Logan.

STUDENT CHRISTMAS PARTY: Party on, Garth! Tonight, December 16, at 6:00pm in the Student Center. Students 6th - 12th Grade invited to celebrate Christmas.

RETIRING: Mary Perez has worked in our childcare ministry since 1999. She will be retiring at the end of December. She has rocked many babies and read many books to our children. Come by and tell her farewell as she begins this new chapter.

OFFICE CLOSED: The church office will be closed December 24 and 25 for Christmas and January 1 for New Year's Day.

CHILDREN'S MINISTER CANDIDATE: The position of Children's Minister has been vacant for many months, and the Personnel Committee has been prayerfully seeking to fill that place on our staff. We are pleased to announce that we have a candidate coming to Northside "in view of a call" on Sunday, January 10. Further information about the candidate will be published soon, but we wanted you to mark the day!

Schedule:

Saturday, January 9 2-3PM - "Meet and Greet" in the Student Center, Building A

3-4PM - "Question/Answer" Time

Sunday, January 10 10:45AM - Children's Sermon in Morning Service

11:55AM - Called Church Conference to vote in the Morning Service

Watch for further information on the candidate and the schedule, coming soon!

END OF YEAR GIVING: Are you caught up on your tithe? You can give and have your donation counted towards 2015 giving if we have your gift by December 31 or if your mailed in gift is postmarked by December 31. Online giving is available through nbcvictoria.org/mynorthside.

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS: New groups begin January 10. Watch for details.

NEW MEMBERS: Have you joined Northside recently but didn't get your picture taken? Please stop by the Welcome Center in the foyer so we can get your picture. Be sure to leave your name.

K.I.D.S. WORSHIP: We are on Christmas break, but will begin again January 3.

EXTENDED CARE VOLUNTEERS: We still need volunteers. Call the church office to get your name on the list. Just try it - if its not for you, graciously decline.

THE RECORD SPEAKS

MINISTRY ACTION PLAN

Received December 6

Budget Receipts:	45,160.08
Designated & Other:	4,642.00
Total Weekly Receipts:	49,802.08

Received December 13

Budget Receipts:	30,734.31
Designated & Other:	3,851.00
Total Weekly Receipts:	34,585.31

Year-to-Date Need:	234,570.00
Year-to-Date Received:	211,671.06

Continuing His Vision

Received to date:	1,841,032.02
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Lottie Moon Received to date:	4,915.00
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BIBLE STUDY

December 6	455	December 6	599
December 13	419	December 29	539

WORSHIP

THE PASTOR'S BLOG

We all have our own family traditions for the way we celebrate Christmas. Some open presents on Christmas Eve and wait till Christmas morning to see what has appeared in the stockings.. Others hold all gift opening till Christmas morning. Some have a big meal on Christmas Eve. Others have always gathered the entire family around the table at high noon on Christmas day....[read more at nbcvictoria.org/blog](http://nbcvictoria.org/blog)



ONLINE
GIVING

now available

nbcvictoria.org/mynorthside

IN FOCUS



— journey ▲ together —

NORTHSIDE STAFF

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Sundays
10:45am Worship
9:30am Sunday School Groups

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Prayer: 361.277.1831
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northside
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED