



Agape Villages

**THANK YOU  
TO EVERYONE WHO  
PARTICIPATED IN  
PROVIDING COATS FOR  
KIDS, CHRISTMAS  
GIFTS and COLLECTING  
COINS!**

*We will continue collecting coats,  
new or gently used, as this is an  
ongoing need for the Agape Kids.  
If you still have your coin  
collection can, please return  
it as soon as possible.*

*Thank you also to Linda Tucker,  
Melanie Borrás and Linda Nelson  
for heading up these activities.*

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**TITUS 3:14 MINISTRY**

We have recently been given the names of more students to serve through our ministry. As a result, we need to replenish our supply of gift cards to have on hand. If you would like to help us be prepared to meet these needs, please bring **VISA** gift cards and give them to John or office staff. We could also use more people to be shoppers!

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**www.turlockcoc.org  
Member's Access Page  
Photo/Calendar Login:  
turlockfamily@mail.com  
Pswd: 801Agape**

Today's Scripture Reading  
Acts 25:1-12  
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"Then Paul said, 'I stand at Caesar's judgment seat, where I ought to be judged. To the Jews I have done no wrong, as you very well know. For if I am an offender, or have committed anything worthy of death, I do not object to dying; but if there is nothing in these things of which these men accuse me, no one can deliver me to them. I appeal to Caesar.'"  
Acts 25:10-11 NKJV

Turlock Church of Christ  
801 North Tully Road  
Turlock, CA 95380  
<http://www.turlockcoc.org>

**PLEASE NOTE THAT EVENING  
WORSHIP AT THE BUILDING  
HAS BEEN CANCELLED  
FOR DECEMBER 25.**

Welcome Family, Friends & Guests

# Turlock CHURCH of Christ

Take the Next Step

**December 18, 2016**

Entering to WORSHIP

SUNDAY AM - 10:45

SUNDAY PM - 5:00

Learning to SERVE

SUNDAY AM - 9:45

WEDNESDAY PM - 7:00

## Elders

**Dan Borrás**

**Stan Gustafson**

**Doug Isaac**

**Carl Wallers**

**John McCranie, Minister**

**johnsmccranie@gmail.com**

**209-542-2520**

**Office Phone: 209-632-4593**

**Hours: Monday - Friday**

**9:00am-3:00pm**

Secretary: Dana Rickard  
Email: [secretary@turlockcoc.org](mailto:secretary@turlockcoc.org)  
Assistant Secretary: Donna Nelson  
Email: [donna@turlockcoc.org](mailto:donna@turlockcoc.org)

## Welcome!

We appreciate your presence.  
We especially welcome all of our  
guests and invite you back  
at any time.

## VISUABLES - The True Meaning of Christmas

It struck me that it must be getting tough for people to separate the reality of Christmas from the clutter that surrounds it. If it were not for the church reinforcing the true story of Jesus' birth, our friends and neighbors would remain confused. Who could blame them? They see scenes on television of Santa Claus, Frosty the Snowman, Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer. They see ads featuring Menorahs, Hanukkah bushes or Kwanzaa kinaras. And then there are Christmas trees, lights, and of course, presents! Lots and lots of presents!

Has the humility and poverty of the stable become lost in the commercialism of gift giving? Has the quietness of Bethlehem been drowned out by the noise of shopping malls and traffic? Has the soberness of the incarnation been mixed with the drunkenness of the season? Have blinking lights somehow replaced the Star of Bethlehem? Have plastic toys from China taken the place of the true gifts given by the wise men from the East? It seems that salesmen replace shepherds and elves replace angels.

It is no wonder that this time of year has become the worst time for depression, drunkenness and suicide. If only we could convey to troubled souls the true, real, story of Christmas. The story that goes farther back than the Infant in a manger. The story of stories that tells of the Word seated on His throne in Heaven. Who stood up and disrobed himself of the privileges that come from being Spirit-God-Creator in Heaven and took on the nature of human flesh. God, the Word, became Jesus Christ. Our God became one of us. Praise God, we have a down-to-earth Savior!

He ate what they ate. He drank what they drank. He traveled where they traveled. He talked about what they talked about. Do people come into this world through the natural process of birth? So did He. Do people grow up? So did He. Do people have brothers and sisters? So did He. Do people learn a trade? So did He. Are people at times hungry, thirsty and needing sleep? So did He. Do we get angry? So did He. Do we suffer grief? So did He. Do we die? So did He. If only we could impart to those unfamiliar with the Story the authentic "reason for the season." If only there were opportunities to turn

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## PRAYER AND ENCOURAGEMENT NEEDS

Austin Segars is at home and having IV antibiotic treatments at the hospital as an outpatient through January 18. The daily process takes about three hours and is very grueling. He and his family appreciate your prayers very much. Please remember Susie Tandy also as she is his primary caregiver. Karen Tackett's mother has kidney failure and is not expected to live much longer. Please remember her family at this difficult time. Donna Nelson's son-in-law, Josh, had gall bladder surgery on Thursday after tests ruled out colon cancer or pancreatitis. Mike and Penny Carr are having some personal struggles in their extended family. Blaine Yagi's father was in the hospital this past week with congestive heart failure. Connie Norstrom, a guest last week, requested prayers for her sister, Bonnie, who lost her only son last spring and is still having a hard time grieving. Destiny Marquez asked for prayers for her mother, Tiffany Parks, who has been very ill. Sandra Terrill would like prayers for her friend, Chris, who has been diagnosed with breast cancer. Ritchie Goforth asked for prayers for his upcoming wedding that God will provide.

## CONTINUE TO REMEMBER

Dorene Borrás, Bertha Perea, Cassie Hoover, Toni Martínez, Carlos Perea, Lucille Hampton, Charlotte Amburn, Javier Zavala and his family, Verna Davidson DeLaney, Richard and Carol Maxfield, and Linda Nelson's sister, Patsy.

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## MISSING ITEMS

Thank you to whoever returned the missing DVD but one of our loaner wheelchairs is still missing. A reminder...let office staff or deacons know before removing anything from the building.

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## A Message from Sharon Dayton...

A thank you card from Sharon is posted in the foyer for the birthday wishes she recently received. Please check it out. Sharon also wants the church to know that she will be retiring from gifting people on their birthdays and anniversaries. Circumstances have changed and she will no longer be able to do this ministry. She wanted everyone to know she has enjoyed it for many years!

|                                  |                               |           |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Week of December 11, 2016        | Weekly Budget                 | \$ 4,999  |
| Attendance -                     | Contribution                  | \$ NA     |
| Sunday Morning Bible Class 84    | YTD Below Budget              | -\$27,079 |
| Sunday Morning Worship 179       | New Families - 10             |           |
| Sunday Night Worship/L.I.F.E. 52 | Responses/Prayer Requests - 5 |           |
| Wednesday Bible Class 43         | Baptisms - 5                  |           |

## SCHEDULED TO SERVE

Open/Close/Organizer this week:  
August Spradling, 595-2256

This Morning

Greeters Orval and  
Diane Welch  
Song Leader Stan Gustafson  
Opening Prayer Bob Fletcher  
Lord's Supper David Jigour  
Jim Madsen  
Doug Isaac  
Kelan Blewitt  
Rod DeLaney  
Steve Mayfield  
Derek Gustafson

Attended Nursery - Sherrill Farnstrom  
Children's Bible Hour - David Jigour

Open/Close/Organizer next week:  
Steve Mayfield, 668-1431

Next Sunday Morning

Greeters Bob and  
Ellen Fletcher  
Song Leader Joe Tapley  
Opening Prayer Ray Nelson  
Lord's Supper Mark Anglin  
Matt McCranie  
Dan Borrás  
Hoy Brown  
Steve Prine  
Harold Blewitt  
Jared Jeffries

Attended Nursery - Michelle Tapley  
Children's Bible Hour - August and  
Carey Spradling

Month of December  
Scripture Reader - Caleb Fletcher  
Prepare Communion - Linda Tucker  
Women's Group Leader:  
Barbara Gustafson

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sadness into sparkling, sober eyes. If only we could convert selfishness and greed into giving and sharing. If only we could transform loneliness into joyful fellowship. If only we would "tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love." Wait a minute! We can do all those things!

*Father, embolden each member here in the Turlock Church to invite a friend to next Sunday's service where we will celebrate the coming of our King. Open the hearts of our loved ones and co-workers as we ask them to worship with us on Christmas morning. When they join us, may they be moved by our singing, the praying, the communion and hearing how You have offered to each and every one of us the ultimate gift. In Jesus. Amen.*

Blessings,  
◇◇ John

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**We are having a special  
worship service...**

**Join us Christmas morning at 9:45  
as we celebrate Christ's coming**  
Church of Christ, 801 N. Tully Rd, Turlock

Special Message: *The Ultimate Gift*

**USE THE ENCLOSED CARDS TO  
INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY!!!**

**PLEASE NOTE!**

**Evening Worship at the building and all L.I.F.E.  
groups have been CANCELLED**

**on December 25.**

**Everyone is invited to join the  
Youth Devotional  
at the Waller's Ranch.**



**UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS**

**ELDER TIME** - This afternoon at 4:00pm.

**AREA WIDE YOUTH DEVOTIONAL** - December 25, 7:00pm, at the Wallers' Ranch. Chestnuts on an open fire and finger foods are on the menu. Side dishes may be brought. The next devo will be January 8.

**NEW YEAR'S EVE GAME NIGHT** - December 31, 7:00pm-? In the Fellowship Hall hosted by Joe and Michelle Tapley. Bring your favorite game and snacks or dessert. End the year on a great note!

**NO POTLUCK JANUARY 1st!**

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**DECEMBER 27-30  
YOSEMITE BIBLE CAMP**

Expedition Winter Camp is hosted by West Visalia Church of Christ and is for 6th grade—High School age students. College age students and other adults may attend with approval of camp director. Additional information is available in the office or check online at: [wvoc.org](http://wvoc.org)