



Volume XXII, No. 50  
December 19, 2021



Please fill out a visitor's card and place it in the collection plate so we will have a record of your visit, AND Come Again Soon!

Church Office:	903-598-3297
Richard Kellam, Minister	903-268-7586
K.C. Smith, Youth Leader	979-599-6788
Rodney Britt, Ghana Missions	903-746-9394
Lance Hooten, Higher Ground Ministry	903-473-8788
Elders: Scott Hooten	903-268-8214
Robert Resneder	903-473-9530
Tom Waters	903-473-0167
Mike Willis	903-268-6039

Schedule of Services:

Sunday:	Bible Classes for all ages	9:00 am
	Morning Worship	10:00 am
	Evening Worship	6:00 pm
Wednesday:	Wednesday Evening Meal	6:00 pm
	Bible Classes for all ages	7:00 pm

**THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE**

\*\*\*Please silence your phones before worship begins\*\*\*

Sunday Morning Bible Classes at 9:00 am  
 Sunday Morning Worship at 10:00 am  
 Announcements & Prayer: **Lance Hooten**  
 Song Leader: **Richard Kellam**

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

Communion:  
 James West                      Lance Hooten                      Derrick Dieken  
 Jordan Meeks                      Joey Chastain                      Mark Eldridge

Offering  
 Message: **Richard Kellam**

Closing Prayer: **Danny Meeks**

Third Sunday Singing at 6:00 pm  
 Wednesday Evening Worship at 7:00 pm

The Adult Class meets in the Auditorium. There are three children's classes on Wednesday nights. The Toddler Class is taught by Kari Smith. The Preschool to 2nd Grade is taught by Lisa Meeks. The 3rd-5th Grade Class is taught by Dwanna Winkler for the month of November. This class needs a teacher for December. The Youth Group (Summit) meets in the High School Room, taught by K.C. & Kassie Smith.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Dec. 22 **NO** Wednesday Night Meal  
 Dec. 29 **NO** Wednesday Night Meal  
 Feb. 11-13 Aggies for Christ will be here

**PRAYER REQUESTS & UPDATES**

Please send any new prayer requests, and any updates on people currently on the prayer list to: lwrwle@gmail.com.

Please remember our members and their families currently serving in the military: **Chance Stone**, son of **Rheann Stone**, & **Savannah Wright**, niece of **Vivian Warren**, and **Jason Knighton**, son of **LeeAnn Knighton**.

Tonight after our singing we will meet in the Fellowship Hall for our Annual Christmas Party. Please bring your favorite food to share. We will have our Chinese Christmas gift exchange so be sure to bring a gift for each person.

**PRAYER LIST:** (con't on Page 4)

**Randell Resneder** (leukemia), son of **Robert & Norma Resneder** (experiencing pain due to chemo)  
**Norma Resneder**  
**Kassie Smith** (migraines)  
**Cleta Hooten & Bobby Hooten** (health issues)  
**Scott & Rachelle Hooten, Jake & Jordyn Hooten**, and **Jordyn's mother, Amber** (need our continued prayers)  
**Frank Shelton**, brother of **Brenda Hooten**, (doing better)  
**Barbara McAree** (last chemo treatment done!)  
**Tina Smith** (a fungus in her throat)  
**Tina Smith's mom, Laverne**, recently had hip surgery and is having issues recovering from anesthesia.  
**Marvin Smith's mother** (cirrhosis of the liver)  
**Richard Kellam's dad, Richard** (prostate problems)  
**Richard Kellam's mother, Pat** (in a nursing home for rehab)  
**Richard Kellam's neighbor, Jerry Varney** (has cancer, treatments will start December 29th)  
**Tom Waters** (cancer)  
**Claudia Wilk** (recovering from spine surgery)  
 The **Hamil's grandson Jake** is struggling with a drug problem. He also has some legal issues to deal with.  
**Clara Smith**, mother of **Butch Smith** and grandmother of **K.C. Smith**, recently fell. She has several health issues as well. Her husband Durwood is trying to help her.  
**Kris Ivy** (blood clots in his leg again)  
**Clyde Kempf's aunt, Bessie Carol** (Covid, 83 years old, very low oxygen)  
**Jeremy & Melissa Ashlin** new baby, **Caleb Wyatt Ashlin**  
**Robert Resneder** (COPD, on oxygen)  
**Darrell Kempf's wife, Kim Kempf** (Cancer, having chemo treatments, possible stroke)  
**Jake Pickens** (procedure to remove the blockage from his carotid artery)  
**Lisa Meek's sister, Vicki Summerlin** (tests results look promising, she is really struggling)  
**Diana Boyer**, please pray for reconciliation and peace for this family.  
**Evelyn & Roy Skinner**, grandparents of **Pamela Higbee** (Roy is in the hospital, Evelyn is his sole care giver and she needs shoulder surgery)  
**Claudia Wilk** has an infection in the incision site if her spine. Tests are being run. Her mother, **Jane Harman**, is in a great deal of pain and is working with a Pain Management Doctor.

**IMPORTANT ADDRESSES:**

**Floyd Rogers**, #1216373, Allred Unit, 2101 FM369 N, Iowa Park, TX 76367  
**Kris & Shea Ivy**, 4102 CR 3221, Lone Oak, TX 75453  
**AIC Stone, Chance C.**, 3075 B Juniper Street SW, McChord Field, WA 98439  
**Emily (Hooten) & Nathan Heinrichs**, 1445 N. Pecan Hill, Stephenville, TX 76401  
**Anna Hooten**, 1010 Juneau Ave., Lubbock, TX 79416  
**Luke Hooten**, 2227 S. 3rd St., Unit K, Waco, TX 76706  
**Savannah V. Wright**, (Vivian Warren's niece), PSC 817 Box 7301, PPO AE 09622-0074  
**Linda Higgins**, 1610 Timberbrook Drive, Wylie, TX 75098  
**Priscilla Martin**, The Oaks Retirement Center, 3720 Williams Road, #118, Georgetown, TX 78628, phone 512-943-0281  
**Randell Resneder**, 2011 98<sup>th</sup> St., #314, Lubbock TX 79423  
**Dustin Winkler**, 5616 Spring Valley Rd., Apt 170, Dallas, TX 75254  
**Frank Shelton**, Colonial Lodge, Room 143, 3590 Stanford, Greenville, TX 75401  
**Ken Hare & Renée Funk**, 1864 South Mountain Rd., Marshall, AR 72650  
**Jonny Knighton**, College Edge Apts, #911, P.O. Box 911, Bryan, TX 77802 (Blinn College)  
**Knighton, Jason D.** 8384, 527 I Avenue, Unit 2319, Shepard AFB, TX 76311  
**Nita Tolison**, 9142 W. Dreyfus Dr., Peoria, AZ 85381  
**Willie Tolison**, (Group Home) 8648 W. Salter Dr., Peoria, AZ 85382  
**Wonda Banks**, 219 PR 8515, Point, TX 75472  
**Kenna Kellam**, Cedar Ridge Apartments, 11100 E. 96th St. S., Unit #933, Tulsa, OK 74133  
 (Please give Linda Rawle any changes)

	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>	<u>Budget</u>
12/05/21	101	\$4,330.69	\$3,000
12/12/21	97	\$4,397	\$3,000
12/19/21		\$	\$3,000
12/26/21		\$	\$3,000

**CONTRIBUTIONS**

You can mail your church contribution to: Point Church of Christ, P.O. Box 1011, Emory, TX 75440



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

Linda May - Dec. 19  
 Larry Hooten - Dec. 20  
 Brenda Stark - Dec. 21  
 Boots Hooten - Dec. 22

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY**

The Annual Christmas Party will be next Sunday Night. We will have a devotional before we indulge in all the delicious food that will be brought from many of the families in attendance.

We will have the traditional Chinese Gift Exchange. Please bring a wrapped gift to exchange. The limit is \$20.

**HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

There will be **NO** Wednesday Night Meal on **Dec. 22** or on **Dec. 29**. We **will have** our devotional and classes on those two nights.

- When you enter His presence with praise, He enters your circumstances with power.
- David was the last one we would have chosen to fight the giant, but he was chosen of God. ~Dwight L. Moody

**WHO TO CONTACT FOR INFORMATION**

Good Samaritans	Stephanie Garner
Senior Suites & Rehab	Vivian Warren
Arms of Hope Cottage	Scott & Rachelle Hooten
Church Historian (give pictures, articles, etc.)	Rica Kellam
Church Directory	Debbie Ivy
Visitation	Dianne Willis
Newsletter	Linda Rawle

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**DEACONS**

Dail Hooten	Richard Kellam	Larry Hooten
Lance Hooten		Brad Chastain

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**COMMITTEES**

**Building Use and Activities Committee:**

Ken Player	Robert Resneder
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**Construction Committee:**

Wayne Garner	Bobby Hooten
Dail Hooten	Larry Hooten

**Finance Committee:**

Lance Hooten	Alan Little	Mike Willis
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**CHURCH NEWS CONNECTION**

To be added to the group – **Text your name and cell phone number to Jake Pickens 903-456-3445.**

This will help keep everyone informed about illness, deaths, funerals, birth announcement, and information about upcoming events. If you have information that the church needs to know about **please text that information to Jake Pickens** and he will send it out in a few minutes.

Communion supplies are available at the building. Ask Ken Player or Mike Willis for assistance with these supplies.

**Funeral Food Hostesses for December:**



Laura Oualline  
 Brenda Stark  
 Brenda Hooten  
 Linda Rawle



**Correspondence Team for December**

Monday Morning Breakfast Ladies - Visitors  
**NEED A VOLUNTEER – Sick**  
 Dianne Willis - Encouragement

Be sure to go to the Point Church of Christ Facebook Page and Like. There is also a Church Group and a Youth Group on Facebook.

Be sure to visit the church website for lots of information: [www.pointchurchofchrist.org](http://www.pointchurchofchrist.org).

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS**

The **WEDNESDAY NIGHT** meals will be resumed in **January**. The following people will be in charge:

<b>Laura Oualline</b>	<b>Lisa Clark</b>	<b>Kay Gabbard</b>
	<b>Candace West</b>	

The next meal will be January 5 at 6:00 pm

**LESSONS FROM A CHRISTMAS TREE**

- Be a light in the darkness.
- We all fall over sometimes.
- You can never wear too much glitter.
- Bring joy to others.
- Sparkle and twinkle as often as possible.
- It's okay to be a little tilted.

A thousand times I've failed, still your Mercy remains, and should I stumble again, I'm caught in your Grace. ~Takiela Bynum

## A CHRISTMAS STORY TO REMEMBER

It was Christmas Eve 1881. I was fifteen years old and feeling like the world had caved in on me because there just hadn't been enough money to buy me the rifle that I'd wanted for Christmas.

We did the chores early that night for some reason. I just figured Pa wanted a little extra time so we could read in the Bible. After supper was over I took my boots off and stretched out in front of the fireplace and waited for Pa to get down the old Bible.

I was still feeling sorry for myself and, to be honest, I wasn't in much of a mood to read Scriptures. But Pa didn't get the Bible instead he bundled up again and went outside. I couldn't figure it out because we had already done all the chores. I didn't worry about it long though I was too busy wallowing in self-pity.

Soon Pa came back in. It was a cold clear night out and there was ice in his beard. "Come on, Matt," he said. "Bundle up good, it's cold out tonight." I was really upset then. Not only wasn't I getting the rifle for Christmas, now Pa was dragging me out in the cold, and for no earthly reason that I could see. We'd already done all the chores, and I couldn't think of anything else that needed doing, especially not on a night like this. But I knew Pa was not very patient at one dragging one's feet when he'd told them to do something, so I got up and put my boots back on and got my cap, coat, and mittens. Ma gave me a mysterious smile as I opened the door to leave the house. Something was up, but I didn't know what.

Outside, I became even more dismayed. There in front of the house was the work team, already hitched to the big sled. Whatever it was we were going to do wasn't going to be a short, quick, little job. I could tell. We never hitched up this sled unless we were going to haul a big load. Pa was already up on the seat, reins in hand. I reluctantly climbed up beside him. The cold was already biting at me. I wasn't happy. When I was on, Pa pulled the sled around the house and stopped in front of the woodshed. He got off and I followed.

"I think we'll put on the high sideboards," he said. "Here, help me." The high sideboards! It had been a bigger job than I wanted to do with just the low sideboards on, but whatever it was we were going to do would be a lot bigger with the high side boards on.

After we had exchanged the sideboards, Pa went into the woodshed and came out with an armload of wood - the wood I'd spent all summer hauling down from the mountain, and then all Fall sawing into blocks and splitting. What was he doing? Finally I said something. "Pa," I asked, "what are you doing?" "You been by the Widow Jensen's lately?" he asked. The Widow Jensen lived about two miles down the road. Her husband had died a year or so before and left her with three children, the oldest being eight. Sure, I'd been by, but so what? "Yeah, I said, Why?"

"I rode by just today," Pa said. "Little Jakey was out digging around in the woodpile trying to find a few chips. They're out of wood, Matt." That was all he said and then he turned and went back into the woodshed for another armload of wood. I followed him. We loaded the sled so high that I began to wonder if the horses would be able to pull it. Finally, Pa called a halt to our loading then we went to the smoke house and Pa took down a big ham and a side of bacon. He handed them to me and told me to put them in the sled and wait. When he returned he was carrying a sack of flour over his right shoulder and a smaller sack of something in his left hand.

"What's in the little sack?" I asked. "Shoes, they're out of shoes. Little Jakey just had gunny sacks wrapped around his feet when he was out in the woodpile this morning. I got the children a little candy too. It just wouldn't be Christmas without a little candy."

We rode the two miles to Widow Jensen's pretty much in silence. I tried to think through what Pa was doing. We didn't have much by worldly standards. Of course, we did have a big woodpile, though most of what was left now was still in the form of logs that I would have to saw into blocks and split before we could use it. We also had meat and flour, so we could spare that, but I knew we didn't have any money, so why was Pa buying them shoes and candy? Really, why was he doing any of this? Widow Jensen had closer neighbors than us; it shouldn't have been our concern.

We came in from the blind side of the Jensen house and unloaded the wood as quietly as possible then we took the meat and flour and shoes to the door. We knocked. The door opened a crack and a timid voice said, "Who is it?" "Lucas Miles, Ma'am, and my son, Matt, could we come in for a bit?"

Widow Jensen opened the door and let us in. She had a blanket wrapped around her shoulders. The children were wrapped in another and were sitting in front of the fireplace by a very small fire that hardly gave off any heat at all. Widow Jensen fumbled with a match and finally lit the lamp.

"We brought you a few things, Ma'am," Pa said and set down the sack of flour. I put the meat on the table. Then Pa handed her the sack that had the shoes in it. She opened it hesitantly and took the shoes out one pair at a time. There was a pair for her and one for each of the children - sturdy shoes, the best, shoes that would last. I watched her carefully. She bit her lower lip to keep it from trembling and then tears filled her eyes and started running down her cheeks. She looked up at Pa like she wanted to say something, but it wouldn't come out.

“We brought a load of wood too, Ma'am,” Pa said. He turned to me and said, “Matt, go bring in enough to last awhile. Let's get that fire up to size and heat this place up.” I wasn't the same person when I went back out to bring in the wood. I had a big lump in my throat and as much as I hate to admit it, there were tears in my eyes too. In my mind I kept seeing those three kids huddled around the fireplace and their mother standing there with tears running down her cheeks with so much gratitude in her heart that she couldn't speak.

My heart swelled within me and a joy that I'd never known before filled my soul. I had given at Christmas many times before, but never when it had made so much difference. I could see we were literally saving the lives of these people.

I soon had the fire blazing and everyone's spirits soared. The kids started giggling when Pa handed them each a piece of candy and Widow Jensen looked on with a smile that probably hadn't crossed her face for a long time. She finally turned to us. “God bless you,” she said. “I know the Lord has sent you. The children and I have been praying that he would send one of his angels to spare us.”

In spite of myself, the lump returned to my throat and the tears welled up in my eyes again. I'd never thought of Pa in those exact terms before, but after Widow Jensen mentioned it I could see that it was probably true. I was sure that a better man than Pa had never walked the earth. I started remembering all the times he had gone out of his way for Ma and me, and many others. The list seemed endless as I thought on it.

Pa insisted that everyone try on the shoes before we left. I was amazed when they all fit and I wondered how he had known what sizes to get. Then I guessed that if he was on an errand for the Lord that the Lord would make sure he got the right sizes.

Tears were running down Widow Jensen's face again when we stood up to leave. Pa took each of the kids in his big arms and gave them a hug. They clung to him and didn't want us to go. I could see that they missed their Pa and I was glad that I still had mine.

At the door Pa turned to Widow Jensen and said, “The Mrs. wanted me to invite you and the children over for Christmas dinner tomorrow. The turkey will be more than the three of us can eat, and a man can get cantankerous if he has to eat turkey for too many meals. We'll be by to get you about eleven. It'll be nice to have some little ones around again. Matt, here, hasn't been little for quite a spell.” I was the youngest. My two brothers and two sisters had all married and had moved away.

Widow Jensen nodded and said, “Thank you, Brother Miles. I don't have to say, May the Lord bless you, I know for certain that He will.”

Out on the sled I felt a warmth that came from deep within and I didn't even notice the cold. When we had gone a ways, Pa turned to me and said, “Matt, I want you to know something. Your ma and me have been tucking a little money away here and there all year so we could buy that rifle for you, but we didn't have quite enough.

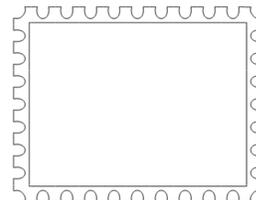
Then yesterday a man who owed me a little money from years back came by to make things square. Your ma and me were real excited, thinking that now we could get you that rifle, and I started into town this morning to do just that, but on the way I saw little Jakey out scratching in the woodpile with his feet wrapped in those gunny sacks and I knew what I had to do. Son, I spent the money for shoes and a little candy for those children. I hope you understand.”

I understood, and my eyes became wet with tears again. I understood very well, and I was so glad Pa had done it. Now the rifle seemed very low on my list of priorities. Pa had given me a lot more. He had given me the look on Widow Jensen's face and the radiant smiles of her three children. For the rest of my life, Whenever I saw any of the Jensen's, or split a block of wood, I remembered, and remembering brought back that same joy I felt riding home beside Pa that night. Pa had given me much more than a rifle that night, he had given me the best Christmas of my life.

UNKNOWN AUTHOR



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Jake Pickens' Email: pjc443@verizon.net  
Linda Rawle, Secretary/Newsletter Editor 903-268-2720  
Linda Rawle's Email: lwrawle@gmail.com  
Church website: www.pointchurchofchrist.org

### SECURITY MEASURES

As a step toward implementing Security Measures, the Elders have decided that **the two doors on either side of the podium will remain open during services, BUT all other doors will be locked ten minutes after services start.** However, you may leave the building through any door, at any time.

### LIVE STREAMING

If you are unable to meet with us in person, please join us on **Sunday mornings at 10 am** on the **Point Church of Christ Facebook Page** for our live streamed service.

### I CORINTHIANS 13 - A CHRISTMAS VERSION

- If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love, I'm just another decorator.
- If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love, I'm just another cook.
- If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love, it profits me nothing.
- If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.
- Love stops the cooking to hug the child.
- Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband.
- Love is kind, though harried and tired.
- Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.
- Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way.
- Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't.
- Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
- Love never fails.
- Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust, but giving the gift of love will endure.
- Stress comes from trying to do it all on our own. Peace comes from putting it all in God's hands. ~Dave Willis
- Each of us is an Innkeeper who decides if there is room for Jesus. ~Neal A. Maxwell

### Prayer List: (continued from Page 1)

- Benny Hearne, Linda May's** brother (ongoing health issues)
- Jay Sikes (Brenda Hooten's** nephew, and the father of **Debbie Ivy's** daughter-in-law)
- Debbie Ivy** requested prayers for **James Duran** (on a list for a heart transplant)
- Troy Funk**, son of **Rene' Funk** and children need our prayers after the loss of his wife and their mother, **Naomi.**
- Dianne Willis' brother-in-law, Roger Hooten** (immunotherapy to battle cancer)
- Kay Gabbard's** sister, **Rayma Farmer** (cancer has spread to lymph nodes)
- Tony Spalding** (cancer in his tonsils)
- Richard's** cousin, **Debbie Gordon** (cancer has returned)
- LeeAnn Knighton** (cirrhosis of the liver, she is the mother of **Jonny and Jason Knighton**)
- Max Lucado**, author and minister (has an ascending aortic aneurism)
- Willie and Nita Tolison** (Willie has Dementia and Covid, and has been moved to a group home in Arizona, and Nita (health issues) has also been moved to Arizona. (see page 2)
- Jason Brumit**, infant son of **Alyshea & Dylan Brumit** (had a bad reaction to his 2 month vaccinations)
- Tom & Lana Waters' granddaughter Christina Ron Jr. and Tim Yarborough**, whose mother **Wanda** is a member at the Emory church, are having difficulty handling the loss of their father.
- Doug and Joan Morgan**, friends of **Joey Chastain** (both been diagnosed with cancer)
- Pamela Higbee's friend, Carol**, is struggling with depression.
- Mary Hunter**, the wife of **Derek Hunter, Danny Meeks friend** (mini-strokes, problems with her oxygen levels)
- Carrie May's** daughter, **Jessica Anderson**, had back surgery and **Carrie** will be staying with them for a couple of months.