

# ★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

**DECEMBER, 2015**

ALICE COLE-02  
ROGER TONNE-03  
ANDREW CONNALLY-03  
HAILEY PICHLER-06  
JIM BOB COODY-07  
JACKY WALKER-07  
MORGAN HASH-07  
ROBERT BURCHETT-08  
LAURA HAMILTON-09  
EILEEN SPEER-10  
HAYDEN FULGHAM-10  
JUANA ASH-11  
KEVIN SMITH-13  
NOLAN POWER-14  
DEEDRA BOAZ-15  
MICHAEL PATTERSON-15  
RANCE RUSSELL-15  
ANDY BYERLY-16  
GARY GLICK-17  
NICOLE HART-17  
BOBBY GOSWICK-22  
LEVI ADAMS-22  
J.C. SQUYRES-23  
J.R. COODY-25  
SHEILA TONNE-26  
JIM DEMSON-27  
KARLISSA BROWER-29  
NICHOLAS SPEER-29  
DONNA WADE-30  
DECEMBER OWEN-31

## PRAYER CONCERNS

KATHY TRAMMEL  
DICKIE ROGERS  
JOHN AND CAROL CONNALLY  
CONNIE ALLEN  
JACK BROWN  
RONNIE AND SUSAN PENDLETON  
BETTY JEAN SALKINS  
SHELBY LIPPS

## FAMILY AND FRIENDS

JANICE STUEART-friend of Sharon Pendleton  
SHEILA BREWSTER-special friend of Carol Connally  
HOBBIE LEITER-grandmother of Melissa Trammel  
NANCY CALDWELL-cousin of Rosa Leveridge  
JANICE GEE  
JANICE EDDY-Monica Burchett's mother  
recuperating from hip surgery  
KATHY OWENS-breast cancer; Elaine's neighbor  
CHARLES AND EILEEN BREWSTER  
EDDIE KENDRICK-cancer has returned and he is  
undergoing treatment.  
JACK ROGERS- great-great -nephew of Sue Lodor  
COBY MEINZER- cousin of Juana Ash. Diagnosed  
with ALS.  
DENNIS LODOR  
BONNYE ISENHOWER-friend of Sharon Toland  
JOHN BOLE-Cindy Barefield's dad

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE  
6:30 P.M.  
ON  
THURSDAY  
DECEMBER 24, 2015**

**POINSETTIAS WILL BE  
AVAILABLE AGAIN THIS YEAR.  
THE COST IS \$13.  
ORDER FORMS WILL BE IN  
THE BULLETIN DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>.**

## OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

AUSTIN BURKHALTER-Scott Air Force Base,  
Illinois grandson of Larry and Jinger Mahan  
MICAH CLAY-Navy, Cypress, Texas-son of  
J.R. and Julia Clay.  
JASON GRAHAM-deployed to Kuwait,  
cousin of Melissa Trammel.  
ARIC HOLLY-Fort Worth Naval Air Station.  
Son of Sherry Strickland.  
ZACHARY KARL-Fort Hood. Grandson of  
Elaine and Bobby Goswick.  
PFC DIEHLAN KEY-Fort Hood, son of  
Michael and Nickie Leveridge. Grandson of  
Mike and Rosa Leveridge.  
MAJOR JEFF MATSLER-deployed to  
Afghanistan  
ROBERT RICHARDSON-Fort Hood, son-in-  
law of Rick and Sharon Pendleton

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
CHRISTMAS PARADE  
SATURDAY  
DECEMBER 5, 2015  
AT 6:30 P.M.**

**DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> AND 5<sup>TH</sup>  
AT THE  
NATIONAL THEATRE  
"3 WISE MEN & A BABY"  
6:30 P.M. PRE-CONCERT  
7:00 P.M. THE PLAY BEGINS  
\$4.00 FOR ADULTS  
\$2.00 FOR CHILDREN**

**PASTOR'S COLUMN**  
**DECEMBER, 2015**

Lately it seems to me that Christmas is out of the box and try as hard as we may, we can't seem to get control of it. Christmas poked its head out before Halloween rolled around this year with the appearance of Christmas trees along with Halloween candy and costumes. Halloween came and went which opened the door wide open for Christmas to come out into the open and begin flexing its muscles. I didn't realize how brutally strong Christmas has become until the second week of November came. It was then that I began seeing commercials for Black Friday sales. This was annoying but later I realized this was but the first wave of the larger Black Friday tsunami that would deluge the airwaves and the internet. It is well past Black Friday now, but Black Friday sales spilled over into Saturday and Sunday. Black Friday is only quelled by the coming of Small Business Saturday, or Cyber Monday.

News flash, friends, the purpose of Christmas is not to save money. The purpose of Christmas is not to prove that you are the best shopper in your family or your neighborhood. I wonder sometimes what we are teaching our children and grandchildren by the way we celebrate Christmas. How can we get a handle on controlling this secular beast that Christmas has become?

1. Sit down together as a family and decide how much money you will spend on gifts. Match this gift giving total with a gift to Jesus or a church or a non-profit.

2. Choose to only give home made gifts this Christmas and spend some family time making them.

3. Choose to participate in Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> Giving Tuesday as an alternative to Black Friday.

4. Bake or cook something for each of your neighbors during December.

5. Choose not to exchange gifts and use the money you would have spent to rent a house at the beach or in the mountains for a family gathering.

6. Go through your toys, your clothes, and your storage and give some of your things away before you buy any Christmas presents.

7. Visit the nursing homes and sing some Christmas Carols and give residents homemade Christmas Cards and a bottle of hand lotion.

8. Host a birthday party for Jesus and send out birth announcements. On the date of your party, read the birth narrative, sing Carols, and eat cupcakes.

9. Choose to go for a walk, or a bicycle ride, or a fun run and exercise together as a family.

10. Plant something in the ground that you can enjoy later like bulbs, a tree, or a shrub.

There are many ways to take the beast out of Christmas making December and your celebrations more Christ centered, relaxing, and less stressful. You might be surprised what you might end up doing this Christmas if make an effort to change things up.

Preparing for the birth of Jesus,  
Pastor Cal



*All ladies/girls are invited to a Christmas Sock exchange*

*on Sunday, Dec. 6*

*from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.*

*At the parsonage, 1510 W Elliott St.*

*Please bring: - A pair of new Christmas or other novelty socks wrapped for a Chinese Christmas exchange*

*- Your favorite Christmas snack to share*

*- A package of children's socks to restock the Children's Chest*

*Drinks will be provided. Come on out and enjoy the fellowship and fun of Christmas!*

**HANGING OF THE**

**GREENS**

**DECEMBER 2, 2015**

**4:00 P.M.**

***First United***  
***Methodist Church***  
**419 West Walker**  
**Breckenridge, Texas 76424**



[office@firstumcbreckenridge.org](mailto:office@firstumcbreckenridge.org) (Elaine)  
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**DECEMBER, 2015**  
**NEWSLETTER**