

Lives of Fragrance

2 Corinthians 4:14-17

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These Tulsa Bible Church (TBC) ladies share activities which have become Christmas traditions in their families; these traditions are designed to help remind each family member to keep the focus on Christ.

Christmas Traditions

Marlene Jones: When our grandkids were small (infant to toddler age) I started a tradition with them that we did several years until they were too big. I made nativity costumes, complete with animals and angels, for them. I helped them "act" out the nativity story with me narrating it. At least 2 grandkids played "baby Jesus" as newborns. We got the cutest pictures and the kids had fun! Anna, our oldest granddaughter, narrated it herself when she was a little older. It was a good and fun way to emphasize keeping Christ in Christmas.

Keely Greger: One tradition our family has to help keep our holiday Christ-centered is listening to and singing Christmas hymns. It helps keep our focus on Christ and remembering the true reason for the season.

Amy Malin: I think the one ongoing Christmas tradition that helps our family celebrate Christ's birth is just reading the Christmas story aloud from the Bible together on Christmas morning. I think of many other things that have also helped us celebrate over the years such as using Advent calendars with scriptures, participating in the Operation Christmas Child shoebox ministry, and having Nativity scenes throughout the house.

Debbie Breeden: We used the book, *The Donkey in the Living Room*. This became a creative way for us to tell the Christmas story to the grandkids. Every year, I would wrap each little Bible character (from this book) and give them out to the kids. As we either read the story from the Bible or from this little book from the eyes of the donkey, we would insert our little character into the scene!

What's New

December 14th

Baby shower for Ali Rogers! The shower takes place at noon at TBC. Please RSVP to Linda Cosgrove at lrcos@icloud.com

December 25th

Christmas Day!

Sing We Now of Christmas

Karen Krueger

"O come, all ye faithful!" Most of us are probably able to complete the next few lines of this carol. As you begin to sing this song, your whole being is lifted up in adoration of our Lord. God has blessed us richly with the gift of Himself; He is our reason for singing! Because God has brought us into his family, we also rejoice in singing to the Lord in fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Because God has placed us in biological families, we have tender memories of grandparents, parents, siblings, children, and grandchildren associated with Christmas celebration and music.

We sing to celebrate the Incarnation of Christ. Music stirs our hearts to worship God; the lyrics direct our hearts and minds to the goodness of God in sending us the promised Savior.

Many Christmas carols are hundreds of years old, while others have been composed more recently. Some of these carols focus on the birth of Christ with such simplicity that a small child can sing along. Others are longer, with lyrics expressing wonder and delight at Christ's birth, glorifying God for His plan of salvation, referring to prophecies throughout the Old Testament, and tracing the life, death, and resurrection of Christ.

An early carol, *O Come, O Come, Immanuel*, was originally written in Latin. It is thought to have been written in the 1200's by monks; the tune is reminiscent of a Gregorian chant. This hymn, sung by many generations, expresses the yearning for Christ's salvation and healing of our broken condition; the chorus reminds us to "Rejoice!" for Christ is Emmanuel, God with us.

The simple chorus, *Emmanuel*, by Bob McGee, composed in the 1970's, also encourages us to dwell with wonder on the advent of our Lord, who was made flesh and dwelt among us.

Sing We Now of Christmas *cont.*

A German carol from the 16th century, *Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming*, refers to a prophecy in Isaiah, which foretold that Christ would come of the stem of Jesse; the song depicts Christ as the Rose who would dispel darkness and free mankind from sin and death.

One of the most beloved carols around the world, *Silent Night*, was written in 1816 by an Austrian priest, Josef Mohr, and set to music in 1818 by church organist, Franz Gruber. *Silent Night* gently takes us to reverently worship the newborn King, born in a stable and announced by angels.

We Three Kings was written in the 1850's by John Henry Hopkins, Jr., an Episcopal clergyman, who also served as an instructor of music at a seminary in New York City. This song reviews the visit of the Magi to the Christ child, using the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to trace the life of Christ, who bled and died for us, then rose triumphantly from the grave, with His redemptive work accomplished and accepted by the Father.

Recipes

Overnight French Toast

Marlene Jones

Marlene shares a favorite breakfast recipe, which is great for busy holiday mornings!

- 4 (¾-inch-thick) slices French bread
- 2 eggs
- 2 tsp sugar
- ¼ tsp vanilla
- 1 T orange juice
- 2 T butter
- ½ c. milk
- Dash of salt

Place bread in a 12×8-inch baking dish. Combine eggs, milk, sugar, salt, orange juice, and vanilla. Beat well. Pour over bread slices. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Melt butter in large skillet. Remove bread slices from dish and sauté in butter for 4 minutes on each side or until browned. Sprinkle with powdered sugar or serve with syrup. (2 servings; recipe may be doubled).

Corn Bake

Debbie Breeden

Debbie says, "Our family loves this corn bake!"

- 1 stick margarine
- 1 small onion
- 3 eggs
- 1 can cream style corn
- 1 can whole corn, undrained
- 1 box Jiffy corn bread
- 1 c. sour cream
- 1 c. cheese, cubed

Do not add salt and pepper. Sauté onion in margarine. Beat eggs and add both cans of corn. Add onion and corn. Add corn bread mix. Use wire whisk to mix this together. Put in greased 9×13-inch pan. Mix sour cream with cheese and drop by tablespoons on top. Bake at 350° for 45-60 minutes.

Delectable Fudge

Karen Krueger

Karen shares a simple fudge recipe. "This has been on our yearly list of Christmas treats for many years! It is simple to make, but delicious!"

- 3 c. semi-sweet chocolate chips (or use a combination of milk chocolate, dark chocolate, peanut butter, or butterscotch chips)
- 1 14-oz. can of sweetened condensed milk
- Dash salt
- 1 ½ tsp vanilla extract
- ½-1 c. chopped nuts (opt.)

In the microwave, melt chips, sweetened condensed milk, and salt in glass bowl/measuring cup. Heat for about 3 minutes, stirring after every minute, until chips are melted. Stir in vanilla and nuts, if desired. Spread in 9-inch square pan sprayed, then lined with aluminum foil. Chill for 2 hours. Turn onto cutting board and cut into squares. Store loosely covered at room temperature.



For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

Luke 2:11-12

Lives of Fragrance is a publication of the Women's Ministries of Tulsa Bible Church. For corrections, comments, or written contributions, please email flnewsandviews@gmail.com.

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