

**And they continued  
steadfastly in the apostles'  
doctrine and fellowship,  
and in breaking of bread,  
and in prayers.**

**Acts 2:42 (KJV)**

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### The Young Church

By Ray Stedman

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Acts 2:42

One of the things the young church devoted themselves to was fellowship. Fellowship means holding all things in common - in other words, sharing together. They began to know and to love one another. Here are 3,000 people suddenly added to a little band of twenty. Most of them probably were strangers before this time. Many of them had come from other parts of the world into Jerusalem for that occasion. They did not know each

### Upcoming Events

**Now Through the end of December**

**Homeless Ministry Sock Drive**

**Now Through Christmas**

**Christmas Card Drop Off**

**December 7th 7 PM**

**Lakeland Christmas Parade**

**December 8th 11 AM**

**Seniors Luncheon**

**December 10th Both AM Services**

**Pastor and Joy's Christmas Offering**

**December 11th 7 PM**

**GriefShare "Surviving the Holidays"**

**December 16th and 17th 6 PM**

**Kids Christmas Musical**

**December 17th Both AM Services**

**Youth Christmas Choir**

**December 23rd**

**Rock the Block Christmas Edition**

**December 24th 9 AM & 11 AM**

**Christmas Eve Services**

other. But now they are one in Christ, and they begin to love each other and start to talk to each other, to find out what each other has been thinking and how each has been reacting, and to share their problems and burdens and needs, to talk about these together and pray together about them. There was a wonderful sense of community, of commonality, of belonging to each other. That is the fellowship which is the intended life for the body of Christ.

God has designed that his life should be manifest through a body. If the body is not operating, then the life is not manifest. That means there is no power, because the life of God is always power. The reason the church has been so powerless lately is that it has been so fragmented and broken. We have estranged ourselves from each other. In Ephesians, the Apostle Paul says, "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God..."(Ephesians 4:30). Then he lists the things that grieve him: "Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."(Ephesians 4:31-32)

If that is not happening, then the Spirit of God is grieved. When he is grieved, he does not act. There is no life. The church becomes dull and dead and sterile and mediocre. All this is manifest in an empty ritual, with no vitality in it. God intends that Christians should have fellowship, should share one another's lives and

## Homeless Ministry Sock Collection



**Our Homeless Ministry is currently collecting Men and Womens Socks for their Christmas bags. Please place all items in the designated bins in the foyer. For more information contact Susan Lute.**

### Wednesday Night Dinner Holiday Schedule



**There will be no Wednesday Night Dinners on December 13th due to a Royal Ranger event. Also, December 20th will be our last Wednesday Night Dinner of the year. Dinners will resume back after the New Year on January 10th.**

## The Lakeland Christmas Parade

thoughts and problems - bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ. It is not an option; it is an essential. This is why, when the Holy Spirit of God begins to move in any congregation, or in any assembly of Christians, he starts at this point. He begins to heal the brokenness of their lives and their relationships one with another, to get them to admit to each other their malice and their anger and their frustration and their grudges, and to forgive one another. This is when life begins to flow once again through the body of the Lord Jesus Christ.

What is the biblical meaning of 'fellowship'? When the Body of Christ becomes powerless, what remedy is indicated? Are we committed personally to building

Father, open my heart toward others and toward you. Break down and melt within me the resistance that I erect against others. Make me to be of one heart and one mind with others in the body, generous in giving, glad to participate in anything that advances this marvelous work going on in the midst of a world which is rapidly drifting into darkness and emptiness and coldness. Thank you, Lord, for the warmth of your Spirit, and for your power and your grace among your people.



**Thursday, December 7th, 7 PM**

Come out and give a big wave to your Harvest Staff and families as they float on by.

### **Seniors Christmas Luncheon**



**Friday, December 8th, 11 AM**

All of our Seniors are welcome to attend the next Seniors Luncheon. It will be their Christmas luncheon, so bring your favorite Christmas dish to share. For information please contact Fred or Nora Connell.

### **Pastor and Joy's Christmas Offering**



**Sunday, December 10th,  
Both AM Services**

### **Harvest Giving App**

**For IOS and Android Phones**

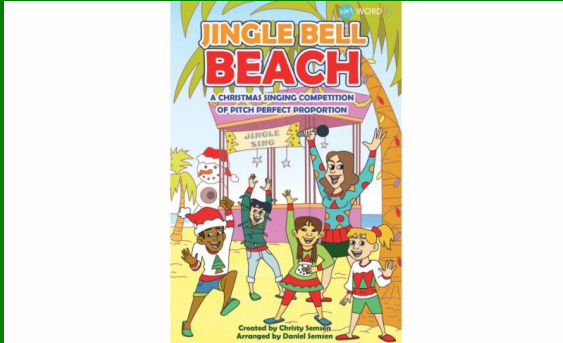
**We are happy to announce that we have a quick and secure tool that is available to us now for Giving. All you need to do is go to your**



App store on your phone and type  
in Harvest Assembly of God  
Lakeland, and download it for  
free right to your smart phone.

We would love to bless our Pastor and  
Sister Joy for Christmas! Please pray about  
how your family can be a part of this  
Christmas Offering.

## Kids Christmas Musical



**Saturday, December 16th  
and  
Sunday, December 17th**

Please join us for this years Kids  
Christmas Musical, "Jingle Bell  
Beach." Each night the Musical  
will be at 6 PM. We encourage you  
to invite your friends and family to  
enjoy as our kids minister to us  
the real meaning of Christmas. It  
is guaranteed to get you in the  
Christmas spirit and touch your  
heart.

## GriefShare Surviving the Holidays



**Monday, December 11th,  
7:00 PM**

If you have lost a loved one and would like  
some help making it through this Holiday  
Season, please join us for this special class.

## Quick Links

[Facebook Page](#)  
[Church Website:](#)

## Service Times

Saturday  
7pm Adult Worship  
7 pm Embrace Children's Church

Sunday  
9 am Early Morning Worship  
9 am Christian Education  
11 am Mid Morning Worship  
11 am Harvest Kids Church  
11 am Special Needs Church  
6 pm Evening Worship  
6 pm Student Ministries

Wednesday

7 pm Adult Worship  
7 pm Girls Ministries and Royal Rangers

We look forward to seeing you!

Harvest Assembly Of God