



WORDS FROM THE PASTOR

We're into December now and the church has finally caught up to society's sprint towards Christmas, which been going full steam ahead since Halloween. Or have we? It's true that our sanctuary has been decorated with candles and garland and crismons. Wreaths hang on our exterior walls for all the world to see. And strands of lights bring the front of sanctuary building to life with every sunset.

But even though the world around us screams "Christmas, Christmas, Christmas" as if it's already arrived, the methodical and unwavering pace of the liturgical year reminds us that it hasn't. It calls out to us unhurried by twinkling lights and wrapping paper, "Wait, wait, wait."

We can't pretend as if we don't know what's coming. We know that the season of Christmas will meet us on December 25th. We know that Jesus will be born and that the star will shine and that shepherds will visit. But nevertheless, we wait. For there are prophets who need to speak.

We need hear the ancient longings of Israel and know that they are our longings as well. We need to hear message of John the Baptist and know that he is calling on us to prepare as well. We need to hear the song of Mary and know that her words of prophecy about her son are still being fulfilled.

Christmas is coming, we all know that. And if you've already begun to embrace the joy of the season, then that is wonderful. We need more joy. But as you hang your stockings and bake your cookies and turn up your favorite Christmas song for the fiftieth time, don't forget to listen for the steady call of Advent - "Wait, wait, wait."

There is much to be learned and gained in the waiting. It is a time to listen. It is a time to prepare. It is a time to ready ourselves and the world for what we know is coming - the birth Jesus the Christ, the fullness of God in our flesh, Emmanuel, God with us. If you ask me, that's something worth waiting for.



Lane

The Messenger

A Newsletter of

Murfreesboro Baptist Church

December 2020

BLESSING MINISTRIES



WHITE CHRISTMAS BOXES

We need your help to fill 12 White Christmas Boxes for our neighbors in need. Each year we provide a Christmas meal to at least a dozen families in our area, and this year, the need is greater than ever. So, we need all the help we can get to ensure that this tradition continues.

If you would like to donate food items, each box will contain a bag of apples or oranges, a whole chicken, a one pound block of cheese, a large loaf of bread, a cake, green beans, corn, peas, cranberry sauce, instant mashed potatoes, two packets of gravy, stuffing mix, a turkey, and dinner rolls. If you would like to provide any of these items, please make sure they are donated by Wednesday, December 16.

This year we are also introducing a new way for you to contribute to this ministry. If you are still trying to limit your trips to the grocery store, you can adopt a box for \$25. For this amount, someone will do your shopping for you and a box will be delivered to one of our neighbors. Please mark your checks "White Christmas Boxes."

Thank you for your faithfulness in continuing this important ministry!



FOOD BANK OF THE ALBEMARLE

Volunteers are needed by December 15 by 2:30 p.m. in the church parking lot to distribute food.



Stations of the Nativity

CHRISTMAS EVE 5:00 UNTIL 7:00 P.M.

With the continued increase in COVID-19 cases, we have made the difficult decision to cancel our annual Christmas Eve service. This meaningful time of worship in preparation for the birth of Christ is often attended by one hundred or more people, and we simply cannot host that many people safely. However, our sanctuary will still be open on Christmas Eve!

On that night, from 5:00 to 7:00, I invite you and your family to walk through the Stations of the Nativity. As you move into and through the sanctuary, you will travel from prophecy to announcement to birth. You will hear from angels and magi and the Mother of God. Along with each short reading, there will be a prayer and an image to guide your moment of devotion and reflection.

After the final station, you will be invited to come to the Lord's Table to receive communion. And following communion, you will be able to light a candle and offer a prayer as you prepare to welcome the Christ child.

Please note that this is a floating service. It should only take 15 to 20 minutes to go through the stations. And don't worry, I won't be cutting out the lights at 7:00 sharp. If you show up near the end, you will have all the time you need.

I hope to see you and your family for this unique Christmas Eve experience.

Lane

For The Life Of

Maurice "Fal" Earl Burnette

November 6, 1926 – November 24, 2020

Thanks be to God.

USING THEIR GIFTS TO SERVE IN DECEMBER

Deacon of the Month
Bob Lee

Opening the Church
Johnny Jenkins

Ushers

Don Johnson, Wayne Brown, Bruce
Brown, and Brinson Paul

Radio Ministry Sponsor

Percy and Lynette Bunch

Caregivers

Nov. 22-Dec. 5 Lynette Bunch; Dec. 6-
Dec. 19 Sarah Frances Hill; Dec. 20-Jan.
2 Booker Daniel and Patty Joyner

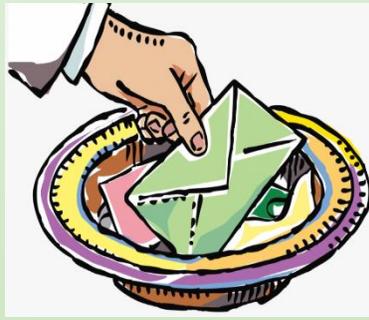
Children's Sermon

Sarah Davis

Flowers

Dec. 12 Advent; Dec. 8 Advent; Dec. 15
Advent; Dec. 22 Advent; Dec. 29
Christmas

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES



The 2021 offering envelopes have arrived and are available for pick-up in the church library. Names have been placed on the boxes and you may notice that your number on the envelopes may have changed from last year. If you do not see a designated box with your name, please contact the church office.

ANGEL TREE

Let's help bring
some
Christmas joy to
Local children!



This year's Angel Tree is located in the foyer by the elevator. Please select an angel and sign your name to the corresponding number on the sign-up sheet. Once you have done your shopping, bring the wrapped gifts back by Monday, December 14. To help ensure that the gifts go to the correct child, please wrap your gifts with one pattern of paper or place them in a large bag together. And finally, don't forget to attach your angel to your gifts. Thank you for your help in spreading Christmas joy and the love of Christ this season!

NOTES OF APPRECIATION...

Thank you notes to the church were received in November from Chowan University Christian Service Association and the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

CHURCH STAFF

REV. LANE BASS
PASTOR

PAULA PRESSNELL..... ..ORGANIST &
CHOIR DIRECTOR

JORDAN BROWN.....YOUTH MINISTRY
INTERN

CORBIN ROBERTSON ..YOUTH MINISTRY
INTERN

TOM CAULKINS.....PASTOR EMERITUS

TERESA MARTIN.....ADMINISTRATIVE ASST.

UPCOMING DATES IN DECEMBER

- Dec. 6 Communion
- Dec. 8 Deacons' Meeting
- Dec. 10 Steering Committee Meets
- Dec. 14 Angel Tree Deadline
- Dec. 15 Food Bank of the Albemarle
- Dec. 17 White Christmas Boxes
- Dec. 25 Merry Christmas
- Dec. 23-25 Office Closed for Christmas Holiday



- December 1 Johnny Jenkins
- December 1 David Farnham
- December 5 Earlene Futrell
- December 5 Bob Lee
- December 5 Brinson Paul
- December 6 Bob Turner
- December 12 Brian Duffy
- December 18 Mariah Gallop
- December 21 Doris Taylor
- December 23 Tommy McCormick
- December 23 Tra'Vonn Sawyer
- December 27 Carole Farnham
- December 28 Jennifer Mitchell
- December 31 Ann Caulkins

Don't see your birthday? Please call the church office and let us know when your special day is.

Our Shared Commitment to Supporting Missions and Ministry for November 2020

A final report was not available at time of newsletter printing. Totals reflect weekly contributions only.

	Nov. 1	Nov. 8	Nov. 15	Nov. 22	Nov. 29	Monthly Total	For the Year
Weekly Budget	\$3,942.31	\$3,942.31	\$3,942.31	\$3,942.31	\$3,942.31	\$19,711.55	\$35,480.79
Weekly Tithes & Offerings	\$2,740.00	\$6,305.00	\$3,415.00	\$2,185.00	\$1,740.00	\$16,385.00	\$31,986.75
Other Income							\$52.86
Over (Under)	\$1,202.31	\$2,362.69	(\$527.31)	(\$1,757.31)	(\$2,202.31)	(\$3,326.55)	(\$3,441.18)

Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 1:30 pm

252-398-3613

www.murfbc.org



The Church office will be
Closed

December 23, 24, & 25
for the Christmas Holiday



Murfreesboro Baptist Church
200 W. Main Street
Murfreesboro, N.C. 27855

Return Service Requested