



## WORDS FROM DR. BAILEY

### *New Visions . . .*

We are at the threshold of another Christmas; a time when we revisit the mystery and wonder of the birth of Christ. It is a time of year that brings with it many interesting opportunities.

#### **The opportunity to look inward.**

“Advent,” the time of preparation and anticipation of some significant event, allows each of us the change to do some evaluating of our lives. Traditionally this self-evaluation is generally associated with the New Year, however it seems that the time we again intentionally focus our attention on Christ’s birth provides a good foundation upon which we consider changes to the structure of our life.

We find ourselves using expressions like “If only I had . . .” or “I would have done \_\_ differently.” This is how we learn and grow as Christians; how we discover those areas in our lives from which we need to turn away and confess. It is a time to look inward.

#### **The opportunity to look outward.**

We have made good progress pertaining to a realization that we as a congregation exists for those who are not a part OF the congregation! Advent is a time that allows us to intentionally focus not just our “thoughts and prayers” for those who are the victims of injustice and physical as well as spiritual poverty, but to become involved in personal, real way to attempt to meet those needs; to reconsider the call of the Great Commission of Christ. In other words, *become* and *be* the church in the community, looking outside the “walls of the fortress”.

#### **The opportunity to look upward.**

Looking upward, we offer thanks to God for the blessings He provides and for the gift of Christ to humanity. We collectively unite our voices as we sing carols of praise as we gather as a church family as well as a nuclear family!

May each of us recommit ourselves during this Advent season to look *inward*, *outward*, and *upward* as we allow God’s Spirit to prepare us to celebrate Christ’s birth.

*Edwina and I wish for each of you a wonderful, meaning-filled and blessed Advent / Christmas season. May God grant each of you His grace and peace as we celebrate the birth of the “Prince of Peace!”*

Blessings,  
Rick

*Merry Christmas*



# The Messenger

*A Newsletter of*

## Murfreesboro Baptist Church

*December 2022*

## 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.

If you would like to donate food items, each box will contain a bag of apples or oranges, a one-pound block of cheese, macaroni and cheese, cranberry sauce, candied yams, gravy, stuffing mix, and brownie mix. Items are needed by Monday, December 19.

You can also 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 20 by 1:30 p.m. in the church parking lot to distribute food.

## FUEL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



MBC will once again participate in the Fuel Assistance Program. Your donations will help families pay for home heating costs that they might otherwise not be able to pay. If you would like to contribute, please make check payable to MBC and mark your donation “Fuel Assistance.

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

*Saturday, December 24 at 5:30 p.m.*



We invite you, your family, and friends join us for our Annual Christmas Eve Service. This is a meaningful time of worship in preparation for the birth of Christ. The service will begin at 5:30 p.m.

## PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Pastoral Search Committee (PSC) thank the congregation for participating in the round table discussions and survey. We have analyzed all the data collected from the congregational self-study. The PSC is now working to finalize the Church, Pastor, and Community Profiles. Once these are completed, we will present them to the congregation. The PSC is hopeful to begin the actual search process sometime in January using our trusted advisors in the CBF community. The PSC will continue to keep you apprised of our progress.

Blessings,  
Rachel Peterson  
PSC Chair

## ANGEL TREE

*Let’s Help Bring  
Christmas Joy  
to Local Children!*



Thank you for your participation in the Angel Tree. Once you have done your shopping, bring the wrapped gifts back by Thursday, December 15. 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 with number to your gifts. Thank you for your help in spreading Christmas joy and the love of Christ this season!

## USING THEIR GIFTS TO SERVE IN DECEMBER

**Deacon of the Month**  
Bruce Brown

**Opening the Church**  
Tommy Bird

**December Ushers**  
Don Johnson, Wayne Brown,  
Bruce Brown, and Bob Turner

**January Ushers**  
Johnny Jenkins, Freddie Bazen,  
Bob Lee, and Bob Turner

**December Radio Ministry Sponsor**  
Linda Hassell

**Caregivers**  
*Dec. 4-Dec. 17* Lynette Bunch  
*Dec. 18-Dec. 31* Sara Frances Hill

**Nursery**  
*Dec. 4* Mollie Madden  
*Dec. 11* Charlie Cole  
*Dec. 18* Sarah Davis  
*Dec. 25* Ed Snyder

**Children's Sermon**  
Sarah Davis

**Flowers**  
*Dec. 4* Advent; *Dec. 11* Advent;  
*Dec. 18* Advent; *Dec. 25* Christmas

## 2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES



The 2023 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.

**BIG WEDNESDAY**  
will be held on Wednesday,  
January 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

*Watch for Mary Etta's Menu!*

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SCHEDULE



**Dec. 7 Kids' Club 6:00-6:45**

**Dec. 11 Children Sing During Service**  
**Baby Born in Bethlehem**

**Dec. 18 Children's Church**

## UPCOMING DATES IN DECEMBER

**Dec. 4** Communion  
**Dec. 13** Deacons' Meeting  
**Dec. 15** Angel Tree Deadline  
**Dec. 19** White Christmas Boxes  
**Dec. 20** Food Bank of the Albemarle  
**Dec. 24** Christmas Eve Service  
**Dec. 25** Merry Christmas  
**Dec. 22-26** Office Closed for Christmas Holiday  
**Dec. 30** Office Closed For New Year Holiday  
**Jan. 4** Big Wednesday

## NOTES OF APPRECIATION...

Thank you notes to the church were received in November from Chowan University and CBF of North Carolina.

## CHURCH STAFF

**Dr. R. Richard (Rick) Bailey**  
INTERIM PASTOR

PAULA PRESSNELL.....ORGANIST &  
CHOIR DIRECTOR

TOM CAULKINS.....PASTOR EMERITUS

TERESA MARTIN.....ADMINISTRATIVE ASST.

## Church Office Hours

**Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 1:30 pm**

**252-398-3613**  
[www.murfbc.org](http://www.murfbc.org)

## CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN DECEMBER



**December 1** David Farnham  
**December 1** Johnny Jenkins  
**December 5** Earlene Futrell  
**December 5** Bob Lee  
**December 6** Bob Turner  
**December 18** Winslow 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 2022

	Nov. 6	Nov. 13	Nov. 20	Nov. 27	Monthly Total	For the Year
Weekly Budget	\$3,942.31	\$3,942.31	\$3,942.31	\$3,942.31	\$15,769.24	\$35,480.79
Weekly Tithes & Offerings	\$4,956.00	\$5,220.00	\$3,475.00	\$7,716.75	\$21,367.75	\$37,207.75
Other Income						
Over (Under)	\$1,013.69	\$1,277.69	(\$467.31)	\$3,774.44	\$5,598.51	\$1,726.96

**The Church office will be Closed December 22, 23, & 26 for the Christmas Holiday.**



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

Return Service Requested