



The Messenger

A Newsletter of the
Murfreesboro Baptist Church
December 2018



WORDS FROM THE PASTOR...

This past Sunday afternoon several dozen of us gathered to clothe our sanctuary and church building in the garb of the season. Garland was strung, bows were tied, trees were lit, and ornaments were hung. And the result, as you well know, was beautiful; there's nothing like seeing our church decorated for Advent and Christmas.

Then, as I made my way down Main Street on my drive home, I took notice of the lighted wreaths that adorned each lamppost. To see them all laid out, one after the other, stretching into the night was yet another beautiful sight to behold. But the thing about these wreaths is that they had already been up for a while.

Our town, like almost every other town in the state and country, had its Christmas decorations up before Thanksgiving. Now, this doesn't bother me, and I don't fault towns for doing this. The men who decorate our streets deserve their long Thanksgiving weekend just as much as anybody else. And I'd never expect them to work on that Friday just so that Christmas and Thanksgiving wouldn't overlap.

The more I thought about it though, the more I realized that churches are one of the very last places to have Christmas decorations. Main Streets across the country, from small towns to big cities, put up decorations in mid-November. Malls turn green and red around the same time that the rest of the world is saying, "trick or treat." And Wal-Mart was preparing us for Christmas before the leaves had even begun to turn.

This season, it seems, comes earlier and earlier every single year. But not in church. We're still busy in Ordinary Time, hanging on to Jesus' words, waiting with bated breath to see what shocking and unexpected thing he's going to do next. We can't hang the greens before Thanksgiving because it simply isn't time yet. We've still got Christ the King Sunday to look forward to.

The pacing of the Christian year is important. I love the seasons of Advent and Christmas and all that comes with them. But finishing Ordinary Time, even though it isn't nearly as exciting, is of equal importance. Though it may be tempting to want to start these seasons of joy just one week earlier, we must first celebrate the reign of Christ our King. And so it is with the anticipation

of Advent before the revelry of Christmas.

The church calendar keeps us in rhythm. It serves to carry us through the full story of Jesus. We rejoice when it is time to rejoice. We mourn when it is time to mourn. We listen when it is time to listen. But now, even though everything around us says that it is time for the celebration to begin, we are reminded that it is truly the time to wait. We wait with expectation. We wait proactively. We wait knowing what is to come. But still we wait, for that is what the season of Advent is for.

Lane Bass

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PLAY DECEMBER 9



Our children will present a short Christmas play entitled "The Birth of Jesus" on Sunday morning, December 9 during the worship service. This is our first play in many years, and we hope you enjoy the play. As the Christmas story is read, the children will act out the scenes and sing Christmas carols. Elizabeth Brown will serve as the narrator, and we thank her for helping us out. Thanks to Paula Pressnell for her musical direction with the play. Thanks to Sarah Davis for her leadership and all the parents for their support.

On Sunday, December 9, we will have a **Missions Bazaar** after worship in the connector. Please stop by and purchase some crafts or goodies.

BIG WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 12



MARY ETTA'S MENU IS Chinese Chicken Casserole

Greene Beans, Cranberry Congealed Salad, Rolls & Dessert

Adults: \$8 Children: \$4

To make a new reservation, or change your reservation from November, please call the church office at 398-3613.

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Please to join us during the 11:00 worship service
Sunday, December 23



LET'S GO CAROLING!

The Chancel Choir and Worship Arts team invites any and all prospective Christmas carolers to join them for an evening of singing and blessing our neighbors on Sunday, December 23. We will meet in the parking lot at 5:00 PM, travel and sing together as a group, and enjoy fellowship.

UPCOMING DATES IN DECEMBER

- Dec. 2 Communion
- Dec. 4 Senior Adult Christmas Luncheon
- Dec. 4 Deacons' Meeting
- Dec. 9 Children's Play
- Dec. 9 Children's Mission Bazaar
- Dec. 11 Food Bank of the Albemarle
- Dec. 12 Big Wednesday
- Dec. 19 Children's Christmas Party
- Dec. 20 White Christmas Boxes
- Dec. 23 Lessons and Carols
- Dec. 23 Christmas Caroling
- Dec. 24 Candlelight Service
- Dec. 25 Christmas
- Dec. 24-26 Office Closed for Christmas Holiday

USING THEIR GIFTS TO SERVE IN DECEMBER

Deacon of the Month
Sarah Davis

Opening the Church
Johnny Jenkins

Ushers
Don Johnson Wayne Brown, Bruce Brown, Brinson Paul

Radio Ministry Sponsor
Jay and Elicia Revelle

Communion
December 2 Charlie and Dell Aycock
December 24 Sarah Davis

Worship Leaders
Dec 2 Sarah Davis; Dec 9 Sean Timmons;
Dec. 16 Available; Dec 23 Available; Dec. 30 Sarah Davis

Caregivers
Nov. 25-Dec 8 Eley Whitehead; Dec. 9-22 Aldeen Gatewood and Doris Taylor;
Dec. 23 - Jan. 5 Yvonne Warren

Children's Sermon
Dec 2 Lane Bass; Dec 9 Chelsea Duffy;
Dec. 16 Frances Cole; Dec 23 Sarah Davis;
Dec. 30 Susan Bass

Nursery Caregivers
Dec. 2 Brian Duffy Charlie Gallop, and Pat Torres; Dec. 9 Chelsea Duffy, Mariah Gallop, and Pat Torres; Dec. 16 Matty Grace Gilliam and Pat Torres; Dec. 23 Lori Harders, Mollie Madden, and Pat Torres; Dec. 30 Joel McCormick, Claire Place, and Pat Torres

Sound System
Dec 2 Nate Place; Dec 9 Tim Place; Dec. 16 Claire Revelle; Dec 23 Will Revelle;
Dec. 30 Jimmy Boone

Families Lighting the Advent Wreath
Dec. 2 Snyder/Madden Family; Dec 9 Sarah, Davis & MBC Children; Dec. 16 Cole Family; Dec. 23 Peterson Family;
Dec. 30 Claire Place

Flowers
Dec. 2 Advent; Dec. 9 Advent; Dec. 16 Advent; Dec. 23 Advent; Dec. 30 Christmas



Church Office Hours
Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. 252-398-3613 www.murfbc.org
Church Office Closed
Dec. 24, 25, 26, and Jan. 1 For the Holidays

STEWARDSHIP REPORT OCTOBER 2018

Ministry Plan YTD	\$16,153.84
Gifts and Offerings	\$12,377.10
Other	\$779.86
Over(under) Min. Plan	(\$2,996.88)
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A detailed financial statement will be available in the church office.



Please mark your calendar for Tuesday, December 4, 12 noon for the Senior Adult Christmas Luncheon in the church fellowship hall. Feel free to invite a guest. Mary Etta Flowers will be serving party chicken over rice, Arkansas green beans, frozen cranberry salad, rolls, and coconut cake. The cost for lunch is \$8.00. Please make your reservations by calling the church office by noon November 30.

BLESSING MINISTRIES...

Foodbank of the Albemarle Volunteers are needed and December 11 by 2:30 p.m. in the church parking lot to distribute food.

White Christmas Boxes will be packed and delivered on Tuesday, December 20, at 9 AM. Volunteers are needed. Please donate non-perishable food items to help our neighbors have a nice Christmas dinner! Collection boxes will be in the connector.

NOTES OF APPRECIATION...

Thank you notes to the church were received in November from Chowan University, Baptist Retirement Homes of North Carolina and the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina-Baptists on Mission - Hurricane Florence Donation.

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN DECEMBER



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.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO WILL AND ANGIE LAWRENCE SON AND DAUGHTER IN-LAW OF WILLIAM AND MARY ROSE LAWRENCE

...For the donation of the Baldwin Grand Piano that has been placed in the Fellowship Hall. This wonderful piano belonged to the Lawrence family and has been given so that the sounds of its beautiful music will be enjoyed by all members of the church for many years to come.

CHURCH STAFF REV. LANE BASS PASTOR

PAULA PRESSNELL
ORGANIST & CHOIR DIRECTOR

SEAN TIMMONS
YOUTH MINISTRY INTERN

TOM CAULKINS
PASTOR EMERITUS

TERESA MARTIN
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

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

Return Service Requested