



The Messenger

A Newsletter of the Murfreesboro Baptist Church

December 2016

WORDS FROM THE INTERIM...

Advent and Christmas are very special times in the life of the church as we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Savior. Our theme for this year is "Christ is the Heart of Christmas" and I look forward to each time we gather to focus on Christ in this Christmas season. There is so much that tries to pull our attention in other directions, yet let's commit to ensure that this Christmas our Lord Jesus Christ is at the heart of all we do.

I hope you will encourage others to be present with you as we worship in this special season. The Good News of Christmas is for everyone to hear so invite family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and even strangers to attend the services that will be held.

In reflection, you have been kind and supportive of Linda and me in these beginning two months of the "interim" period. Thank you for your words of encouragement each Sunday. Last Sunday, was a history making day for MBC as the church designated the Rev. Tom Caulkins as "pastor emeritus." As I said in the service, it is providential that I am now at MBC and had a part in this recognition remembering that it was Rev. Caulkins who invited me to become the part-time youth minister at MBC in 1975 while I was a college student and this was my first experience of serving on a church staff. Congratulations to Rev. Caulkins and to the church!

I look forward to seeing you and your family at the Christmas worship services,

Dennis N. Bazemore

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 18. We will meet in the parking lot at 5:00 PM, travel and sing together as a group, and then enjoy fellowship and refreshments at the home of Randy Roberts and Lorie Brooks.

All church members and guests are invited to be a part of this blessing ministry, but children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by a parent.

**Church Office Will be Closed
Dec. 22, 23, 26, and Jan. 2**

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS...



As you and your families begin this Christmas season, take the time to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of Jesus Christ. Give Thanks for the many blessings that our Lord and Savior has bestowed upon all of us. Be kind, love one another, love God.

Merry Christmas!

WORSHIP DURING ADVENT

November 27

1st Sunday of Advent
Hanging of the Green, 3:00 p.m.

December 4

2nd Sunday of Advent
Choir Cantata, 11:00 a.m.

December 7

Kids' Club Christmas Party, 6 p.m.

December 11

3rd Sunday of Advent
Kids' Club and Youth Missions
Bazaar

December 14

Big Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.

December 18

4th Sunday of Advent
Children's Church
Church Wide Christmas Caroling, 5
p.m.

December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight
and Communion
Sanctuary 5:30 p.m.

December 25

Sunday Morning Worship, 10:30 a.m.

BIG WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 14



**Mary Etta's
Menu This Month**

*Chinese Chicken
Casserole
Green Beans
Cranberry Salad
Rolls*

Christmas Cake

Adults: \$8

Children: \$4

To make a new reservation, or change your reservation from last month, please call the church office by Dec. 7.

BLESSING MINISTRIES...

...**Foodbank of the Albemarle** Volunteers are needed December 13 by 2:30 p.m. in the church parking lot to distribute food.

...**The Angel Tree** is now up in the connector with names and wish lists. Please take an angel, purchase a gift (s), wrap the items and return to the Angel tree by December 14th.

... **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.

...**Christmas Dinner December 25 Celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ our Savior** will be held at 2:00 p.m. If you are planning to attend, please make reservations by calling the church office (398-3613) by Friday, December 16 before 1 p.m. so we can plan accordingly. Anyone wishing to contribute money, prepare food or help on the day of the event, please contact Patty Joyner 252-209-1828.

USING THEIR GIFTS TO SERVE IN DECEMBER

Deacon of the month: Bob Turner
 Opening the church: Colon Ballance
 Ushers: Don Johnson, Bruce Brown, Wayne Brown, Brinson Paul

Caregivers

Dec 4 Booker Daniel; Dec 11 Earlene Futrell and Lynn Gray; Dec 18 Lisa Forbes; Dec 25 Raymond Benthall

Children's Sermon

Dec 4 Sarah Davis; Dec 11 Charlie Cole; Dec 18 Elicia Revelle; Dec 25 Dr. Dennis Bazemore

Nursery caregivers

Dec 4 Emma Wood Boone, Steve Harders, and Pat Torres; Dec 11 Joni Saner, Gilbert Tinkham, and Pat Torres; Dec 18 Claire Revelle and Pat Torres

Families Lighting the Advent Wreath
 Dec 4 Cole Family; Dec 11 Duffy Family; Dec 18 Reich Family; Dec 24 Gallop Family; Dec 25 Turner Family

Flowers

The Advent Wreath and Candles are given by Hugh and Janet Vincent in memory of their son, Kevin Douglas Vincent.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED...

...Volunteers are needed to help with Kids' Club for the semester. Also, if you would like to run the sound during church, please let Sarah Davis or Patty Joyner know.

NOTES OF APPRECIATION...

Thank you notes to the church were received in November from: the Family of Sara Whitley Hill, The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc., Baptist Children's Home of North Carolina, Inc., The Baptist Theological Seminary, Baptist Retirement Homes of North Carolina, The Ahoskie Food Pantry, Union Mission of Roanoke Rapids, and Mt. Sinai Church of God.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY...

In the event of inclement weather on a Sunday, we will cancel Sunday school and proceed with worship as planned for those that can arrive safely. If you have any questions, please contact deacon chair Sarah Davis at 396-8445 (h) or 398-7227 (c). In the event of inclement weather on Wednesdays, we will not meet if HCPS is dismissed early or closed.

Sara Hill

Nov. 16, 1916 - Nov. 2, 1016

Thanks Be To God

STEWARDSHIP REPORT OCTOBER 30, 2016

Ministry Plan YTD \$ 19,907.92
 Gifts and Offerings YTD \$ 17,081.09
 Over (under) Min. Plan \$2,826.83

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A detailed financial statement is available in the church office.

UPCOMING DATES...

Dec. 4 Choir Cantata
 Dec. 7 Kids' Club Christmas Party
 Dec. 11 Kids' Club & Youth Missions Bazaar
 Dec. 13 Food Bank of the Albemarle Deacon's Meeting
 Dec. 14 Big Wednesday
 Dec. 16 Christmas Day Lunch Deadline
 Dec. 17 White Christmas box delivery
 Dec. 18 Church Wide Christmas Caroling
 Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Service
 Dec. 25 Christmas Day Lunch

2017

Jan. 8 Community Café
 Jan. 3 Deacon's Meeting
 Jan. 4 Big Wednesday
 Jan 10 Food Bank of the Albemarle
 Jan. 17 Women's Bible Study Group
 Jan. 22 Quarterly Conference and Ministry Fair
 Jan. 30 Food Pantry

CHURCH STAFF

DR. DENNIS BAZEMORE
 INTERIM PASTOR
 PAULA PRESSNELL,
 ORGANIST & INTERIM CHOIR DIRECTOR
 SEAN TIMMONS
 YOUTH MINISTRY INTERN
 TOM CAULKINS
 PASTOR EMERITUS
 TERESA MARTIN
 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
 CHURCH OFFICE
 OPEN MONDAY - FRIDAY: 9 A.M.-1 P.M.
 252-398-3613
www.murfbc.org

THANK YOU...

...Thank you to Elizabeth S. Parker Memorial Library for their support of Murfreesboro Baptist Church Food Pantry.

...Thank you to Wayne Brown and his employees and Bruce Brown, Ronnie Coltrain and their employees for their continued support with the maintenance of Murfreesboro Baptist Church.

A Tribute To Paula Pressnell

From Gates County to Salem her training began,
 And then she landed at Chowan with her talented hands.

Murfreesboro Baptist was soon in need,
 And Paula heard we always feed.

She graced our music with all her poise
 And we rejoiced at all the noise.

Whether at the organ or the piano, Paula Pressnell is our Pallyanna.

She sees the best in every situation,
 And we are the benefit of her giftingation.

Whether Beethoven, Bach or Mozart,
 She always plays without missing a part.

She plays instrumentally every single week,
 And enhances every vocalist with each beat.

In New York City they say give my regards to Broadway,
 In Murfreesboro we say Paula-play, play, play.

A decade of service we celebrate today,
 So Paula, we want to say-stay, stay, stay.
 We Love You.
 By Eley Whitehead

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN DECEMBER



December 1 Johnny Jenkins
 December 5 Earlene Futrell
 December 5 Bob Lee
 December 5 Brinson Paul
 December 6 Bob Turner
 December 21 Doris Taylor
 December 23 Tra'Vonn Sawyer
 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!

Are you interested in receiving your Newsletter electronically? Call the church office (398-3613) and provide your e-mail address.

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

Return Service Requested