



The Messenger

A Newsletter of
Murfreesboro Baptist Church

December 2017



ADVENT THOUGHTS

Waiting is a difficult thing for almost all of us to do, yet we find ourselves once again in this season when waiting is seemingly all around us. When I was a boy, I remember vividly the agony I endured as I watched the neatly wrapped gifts accumulate underneath my Grandma's Christmas tree. Since we lived right next door, this was not a sight I could avoid. I saw the tree in all of its glittering, glowing, beauty and the pile of presents underneath at least once a day, and it was torture. Who knew what those boxes held? I had asked for a few things, but Grandma was always able to find that one thing from off the list that never ceased to amaze. How could I be expected to wait a whole month before I found out? As I would sit by the tree and give my gifts the shake test and try my best to guess what was hidden underneath the paper, I would beg and plead to open just one present. If I could open just one, I promised them, I would stop asking. It never seemed to work, though, and I always ended up having to wait until Christmas.

As I've gotten older, the excitement of seeing presents under the tree has lessened and with it the difficulty of waiting to open them. As I've gotten older, though, I have also come to see the beauty of waiting. The summer between high school graduation and heading off to college, the months between getting engaged and walking down the aisle, or the time between returning from North Dakota and moving to Murfreesboro are all times of waiting that have shown me something of God's faithfulness in my life.

Advent and Christmas, though, are a little different. What we wait for this month, and what is finally, gloriously revealed on December 25th, is not exactly a surprise. As much as I love Advent and believe that remembering the seasons of the Christian year is important, I also know, as do all of you, that

Jesus will be and has been born. We are not shocked on Christmas morning to see God incarnate as a helpless babe lying in a manger. This is for sure a shocking event, but we knew all along that it was coming.

Advent, then, takes on a deeper meaning. We wait for Jesus, certainly, and we remember the stories of Israel and we see how God was faithful to them in many ways, most of all in the birth of Jesus. We also, though, think about all of the things that we might be waiting for. Whether it is the birth of a child, the results of a medical test, an opportunity for a new job, or the chance to mend a relationship, we draw hope from the story of Jesus. Even when we do not know what it is we are waiting for, even when the news may be good or bad, we take comfort in the fact that our God is faithful.

Grace & Peace,
Lane Bass

WORSHIP DURING ADVENT

December 3

1st Sunday of Advent
Holy Communion.

December 6

Kids' Club Christmas Party
6 p.m.

December 10

2nd Sunday of Advent
Choir Cantata, 11:00 a.m.
Kids' Club and Youth Missions
Bazaar

December 13

Big Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.

December 17

3rd Sunday of Advent
Children's Church
Church Wide Christmas Caroling
5 p.m.

December 24

4th Sunday of Advent
Sunday Morning Worship
10:30 a.m.
Christmas Eve
Candlelight and Communion
Sanctuary 5:30 p.m.

BIG WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13



Mary Etta's
Menu This Month
*Chinese Chicken
Casserole
Green Beans
Cranberry Salad
Rolls
Red Velvet Cake*

Adults: \$8 Children: \$4

To make a new reservation, or change your reservation from last month, please call the church office by Dec. 11.



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 17. We will meet in the parking lot at 5:00 PM, travel and sing together as a group, and enjoy fellowship.

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, 25, 26, and Jan. 1**

USING THEIR GIFTS TO SERVE IN DECEMBER

Deacon of the Month

Sarah Davis

Opening the Church

Johnny Jenkins

Ushers

Don Johnson, Bruce Brown,
Wayne Brown, Brinson Paul

Radio Ministry Sponsor

Jay and Elicia Revelle

Caregivers

Nov. 26-Dec. 9 T.K. Warren; Dec 10-23
Dennis Craig; Dec 24-January 6 Garth
and Erin Faile

Children's Sermon

Dec. 3 Rev. Lane Bass; Dec. 10 Brooke
Reich; Dec 17 Charlie Cole; Dec. 24 Sarah
Davis; Dec. 31 Steve Harders

Nursery Caregivers

Dec 3 Claire Place, Brooke Reich, and Pat
Torres; Dec 10 Claire Revelle, Joni Saner,
and Pat Torres; Dec 17 Leslee Sumner
and Pat Torres; Dec. 24. Ed Snyder,
Susan White, and Pat Torres; Dec. 31
Gilbert Tinkham, Dell Aycock, and Pat
Torres

Families Lighting the Advent Wreath

Dec 3 Revelle Family; Dec 10 Gilliam
Family; Dec 17 Bruce Brown Family; Dec
24 TBA

Lightbearer

Dec. 31 Elizabeth Brown

Flowers

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

Sound System

Dec. 3 Sean Timmons; Dec. 10 Jimmy
Boone, Dec. 17 Ciera Cox, Dec. 24 Matty
Grace Gilliam, Dec. 31 Steve Harders

NOTES OF APPRECIATION...

Thank you notes to the church were
received in November from: The Family
of Elizabeth W. Ballance, The Baptist
State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.,
Baptist Children's Home of North
Carolina, Inc., The Baptist Theological
Seminary, and The Cooperative Baptist
Fellowship.

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 Rev.
Lane Bass at 1-704-574-1566. In the event
of inclement weather on Wednesdays,
we will not meet if HCPS is dismissed
early or closed.

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

Return Service Requested

STEWARDSHIP REPORT NOVEMBER 30, 2017

Ministry Plan YTD	\$ 40,652.82
Gifts and Offerings YTD	\$ 28,857.07
Other Income	\$505.50
Over (under) Min. Plan	(\$11,290.15)
...	

A detailed financial statement is available in the church office.

UPCOMING DATES . . .

Dec. 5	Deacons' Meeting
Dec. 6	Kids' Club Christmas Party
Dec. 10	Choir Cantata
Dec. 10	Kids' Club & Youth Missions Bazaar
Dec. 12	Food Bank of the Albemarle
Dec. 13	Big Wednesday
Dec. 17	White Christmas box delivery
Dec. 18	Church Wide Christmas Caroling
Dec. 24	Sunday Morning Worship
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Service
<u>2018</u>	
Jan. 3	Deacon's Meeting
Jan. 4	Big Wednesday
Jan. 10	Food Bank of the Albemarle
Jan. 30	Food Pantry

CHURCH STAFF

REV. LANE BASS

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...

Susan and I were overwhelmed by your
generosity a few Sundays ago and we
are deeply grateful for the incredible
warmth that each and every one of you
has shown us during this past month.
We look forward to many, many more
warm memories with all of you.

Thank you,

Lane & Susan

BLESSING MINISTRIES...

...Foodbank of the Albemarle
Volunteers are needed December 12 by
2:30 p.m. in the church parking lot to
distribute food.

... White Christmas boxes will be
packed and delivered on Tuesday,
December 19, 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.

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!

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Our annual Christmas Cantata - "And It
Came to Pass, Emmanuel" - will be
during worship on Sunday, December
10. Dr. Lisa Lowry as our director and
Paula Pressnell as our accompanist will
lead in this time of worship through
song. The Chancel Choir will sing this
compelling musical triumph, inviting
the listener on a journey that leads to
worship of the Christ Child. Scripture
and original narrative blend seamlessly
together while exquisite lyrics from Rose
Aspinall and original melodies by Jay
Rouse join forces to present Christmas
favorites with nuance and passion.