



## WORDS FROM THE PASTOR

Most of you know that I enjoy spending some time in the kitchen. As a child I would mix up a cake or some brownies from a box for dessert on Sunday. As a scout I learned more skills and began to cook savory things as well as sweet things. All in all, knowing my way around a kitchen has served me well.

And we are now entering my favorite time of year to be in the kitchen, for in December I find that I am not merely cooking to eat, but that I am cooking to enjoy. This is obviously true for all of the Christmas goodies I make - the whole point of candied pecans or spice cookies is to enjoy them.

But it is also true for the other things I prepare. Wintertime suppers that are eaten out of a bowl are some of my favorite meals ever. Pintos with ham topped with raw onion. Brunswick stew with just the right amount of vinegary tang. Chicken and pastry served with cornbread. There are so many good and hearty meals that can make the long, cold night of winter a little more bearable.

And this week, as I cooked a big pot of chicken and rice and thought about all of the wonderful soups and stews that are so much a part of wintertime in the South, I thought also about this line of prophecy from Isaiah 25 - On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

There is something remarkably comforting about that promise. For in addition to all of the unknown glory that awaits us in the fullness of God's Kingdom, there will also be something really, really good to eat. Something rich and slow roasted. Something with butter and cream. Something with juice that dribbles down our chins and runs down to our elbows. The food in the Kingdom of God will surely be spectacular.

So, during this holiday season, I hope that you will take note of all of the delightful things you eat and drink. And as you enjoy those things and the company you share them with, stop to consider that you are enjoying a foretaste of coming glory. In some small way, the rich food and well-aged wine that we appreciate now is a sign and a symbol of the heavenly bounty that awaits us.

Be well, eat and drink with gladness, and rejoice in the fulfilled promises and sure hope of Christmas.

Lane

# The Messenger

A Newsletter of

## Murfreesboro Baptist Church

December 2021

## 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 Thursday, 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 21 by 2:30 p.m. in the church parking lot to distribute food.

## Christmas Eve Service

Friday, 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.



## ANGEL TREE

Let's Help Bring Christmas Joy to Local Children!

This year's Angel Tree is located in the connector. 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 Wednesday, December 15. 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!





## USING THEIR GIFTS TO SERVE IN DECEMBER

**Deacon of the Month**  
Colon Ballance

**Opening the Church**  
Johnny Jenkins

**December Ushers**  
Don Johnson, Wayne Brown, Bruce  
Brown, and Brinson Paul

**January Ushers**  
Johnny Jenkins, Freddie Bazen, Bob  
Lee, and Hunter Brown

**Radio Ministry Sponsor**  
Percy and Lynette Bunch

**Caregivers**  
*Nov. 21-Dec. 4* Lisa Forbes; *Dec. 6-Dec.  
18* Lynette Bunch; *Dec. 19-Jan. 1* Sarah  
Frances Hill

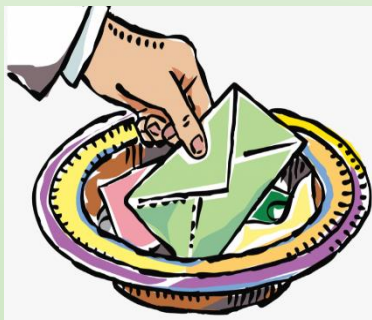
**Acolytes**  
*Dec. 26* Mary Welch Gallop

**Nursery**  
*Dec. 5* Charlie Cole; *Dec. 12* Sarah Davis  
*Dec. 19* Children's Church; *Dec. 26*  
Mollie Madden

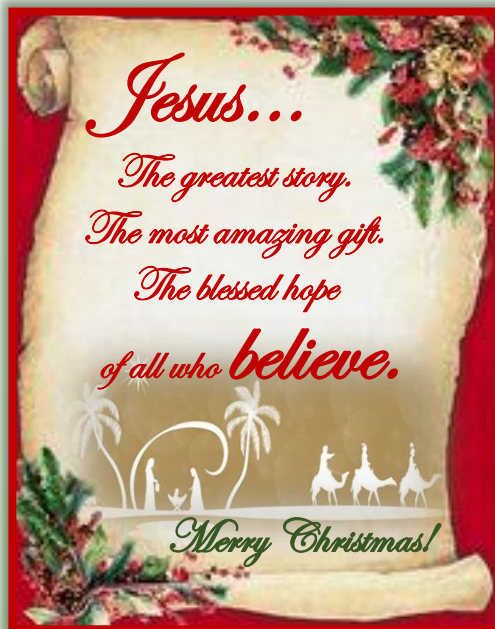
**Children's Sermon**  
Sarah Davis

**Flowers**  
*Dec. 5* Advent; *Dec. 12* Advent; *Dec. 19*  
Advent; *Dec. 26* Christmas

## 2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES



The 2022 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.



## NOTES OF APPRECIATION...

Thank you notes to the church were received in November from Chowan University and the Union Mission of Roanoke Rapids.

## UPCOMING DATES IN DECEMBER

- Dec. 5 Communion
- Dec. 14 Deacons' Meeting
- Dec. 14 Angel Tree Deadline
- Dec. 16 White Christmas Boxes
- Dec. 21 Food Bank of the Albemarle
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Service
- Dec. 25 Merry Christmas
- Dec. 22-26 Office Closed for Christmas Holiday
- Dec. 31 Office Closed For New Year Holiday



## CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN DECEMBER

- December 1 David Farnham
- December 1 Johnny Jenkins
- December 5 Earlene Futrell
- December 5 Bob Lee
- December 5 Brinson Paul
- December 6 Bob Turner
- 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.*

## 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.

### Our Shared Commitment to Supporting Missions and Ministry for November 2021

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

	Nov. 7	Nov. 14	Nov. 21	Nov. 28	Monthly Total	For the Year
Weekly Budget	\$3,942.31	\$3,942.31	\$3,942.31	\$3,942.31	\$15,769.24	\$35,480.39
Weekly Tithes & Offerings	\$3,196.75	\$5,115.11	\$2,577.00	\$4,065.51	\$14,954.37	\$37,457.27
Other Income						
Over (Under)	(\$745.56)	\$1,172.80	(\$1,365.31)	\$123.20	\$814.87	\$1,976.88

### Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 1:30 pm

252-398-3613

www.murfbc.org

The Church office will be  
Closed  
December 22, 23, & 24  
for the Christmas Holiday



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

Return Service Requested