

December Wedding Anniversaries

- 4 Don and Jan Ponder
- 6 Darnell and Kathy Ashley
- 17 Dan and Mona Kimble
- 22 Mike and Di Greene
- 29 James and Mildred Bodie

December Birthdays

- 1 Shirley Edwards
- 5 T.J. Fincher
- 7 Lydia Dona, Pam McFalls
- 12 Georgia S. Pack
- 13 Linda Fincher, Mike Greene, Beth McCallister, Andrew McKaig
- 14 Dee Huneycutt
- 15 Katie Cothran, Megan Stone
- 16 Scott Harding, Georgie Hawkins, Vern Hendricks
- 17 Johna J. Searcy
- 18 Julie Miller
- 19 Joey Whiteside
- 22 David Graham, Ella Waldman
- 25 Renae Waldman
- 30 Jacob Covil
- 31 Haley Dusenbury

Student Birthdays

- 13 Andrew McKaig
- 17 Louis Rossi
- 24 Luke Lair

DECEMBER SCHEDULES

Deacons—December

- *Shelvie Foust
- Jeff Miller
- Pat Feagan
- Elizabeth Burrell
- Mike Greene (balcony)

*denotes Lead Deacon

Ushers and Greeters—December

- Walt and Cathie Gee (front)
- Wilson Edwards (hall)
- Joyce Scoggins (side)

December Acolyte Schedule

- 12/1 Harper Harris and Caitlin Britton
- 12/8 Verae Upton and Hayden Blackwell
- 12/15 Katie Cothran and Jonathon Edwards
- 12/22 Ashlyn Green and Laney Littlefield
- 12/24 Ella Waldman and Jamie Greene
- 12/29 Wilson Edwards and Sydney Waldman

Children's Church Workers—December

- 12/1 Carey Metcalf
- 12/8 Erin and Danny Fox
- 12/15 Ben and Amber McEntire
- 12/22 Cathy and JT Johnson
- 12/29 Susan Smith

First Baptist Church of Tryon

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Staff

The Reverend Jeff C. Harris, Pastor

The Reverend Candace Wilson,
Minister of Music and Christian
Formation
Kay Greene, Pianist

E. Leslie Raymond, Organist

Sandy Frady, Handbell Choir
Director
John Spinks, Sexton

Sunday School 10am

Worship 11am

Children's Choir (Grades 1-5) 5pm

Refuge (Grades 6-12) 6pm

Church Office Hours

Mon/Tue/Thurs 9am to 3pm

Wed 12pm to 4pm

DECEMBER

The Good News

2013

CHAT WITH THE PREACHER

In case you haven't noticed, I'm not the most sentimental person. Part of the reason is because sentimentalism is often confused with genuine faith, when in fact sentimentalism is often the enemy of genuine faith. But that is another conversation for another time.

The reason I mention sentimentalism is because I'm a sucker for Christmas. I love this time of year. I love listening to (and singing along with) "Winter Wonderland" and "The Christmas Song" (aka Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire) and "Jingle Bells." I love watching "It's a Wonderful Life" and "A Christmas Story" and of course, the best Christmas movie ever, "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation." I even secretly enjoy a "Black-Friday" doorbuster or two, and rubbing shoulders with crowds in the mall a few days before Christmas. (I can't believe I just put that in writing.) One of my favorite new Christmas traditions is sharing chips and salsa after we go caroling. And, I would be remiss, if I failed to mention that without my mother's red velvet cake it just isn't Christmas. I love all of this sentimental Christmas stuff.

In case you didn't notice, none of this stuff has much to do with the birth of Jesus. And that is one reason I need Advent. The season of Advent prepares and focuses me on the true nature of this holy season.

The culture (and even the Church) promotes Christmas as the season for giving. And so we buy, buy, buy, and give, give, give. While some of our giving is certainly good, this season is not ultimately about giving. Advent and Christmas are about receiving. Receiving the love of a gracious God, who "became flesh and dwelt among us." (John 1:14)

I'm not belittling our giving to those in need (to help those in need is to be faithful), or our tradition of exchanging gifts. I'm not even challenging all the secularized Christmas traditions, because in some ways these rituals are a search for beauty and meaning. What I am saying is that we are receivers before we are givers. We are receivers of God's generous gifts of life, love, grace, and mercy.

Christmas is about God giving himself to us in the Christ Child.

May your Advent and Christmas be blessed and holy.

DECEMBER CALENDAR

12/1	10am	Sunday School	12/18	6pm	Bell Rehearsal
	11am	Worship-Advent 1		7pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	4:30pm	Children's choir (grades 1-5)	12/22	10am	Sunday School
	6pm	Refuge Christmas party		11am	Worship—Advent 4
12/2	10:30am	Staff Meeting		6pm	NO Refuge
	7pm	No Mission Team meeting	12/23	10:30am	Staff Meeting
12/3	10am	WMU Group 1	12/24	5pm	Christmas Eve Service/ Communion
12/4	6pm	Bell Rehearsal	12/25	Merry Christmas! Office Closed	
	7pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	12/26	Office Closed	
12/8	10am	Sunday School	12/29	10am	Sunday School
	11am	Worship—Advent 2		11am	Worship
	5pm	Children's Christmas Program		6pm	NO Refuge
	6pm	Annual Christmas Dinner			
12/9	10:30am	Staff Meeting			
12/10	7pm	Sisterhood—Judy Lair's home			
12/11	6pm	Bell Rehearsal			
	7pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal			
12/12	8am	Barter Theater Trip			
12/14	6pm	Lair SS Party, Activity Building			
12/15	10am	Sunday School			
	11am	Worship—Advent 3, Cantata			
	3pm	Community Chorus Concert PCHS			
	5pm	Christmas Caroling / Mr. Juan's			
12/16	10:30am	Staff meeting			
	6:30pm	NO Brotherhood meeting			
12/17	6:50pm	Deacons meeting			



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

REFUGE NIGHT AT THE EDWARDS'



The Refuge group enjoyed a time of fellowship and great food on October 17, when they met at the home of Phillip and Paula Edwards. (Those hot wings look delicious...but we bet there weren't leftovers!)

LOOKING AHEAD...

December 1	Refuge Christmas Party 6pm
December 8	Children's Christmas Program/Annual Christmas Dinner 5pm
December 15	Christmas Caroling/Mr. Juan's 5pm
December 24	No Refuge
December 25	No Refuge

YOU ARE INVITED!

to

**“The Case of the Reluctant Innkeeper”
and the Annual Christmas Dinner**

When: Sunday, December 8, 5pm

Where: Tryon First Baptist Church

The evening begins with the Preschool Children singing, followed by *The Case of the Reluctant Innkeeper*, presented by the Children’s Choir. After the program, we’ll have Christmas Dinner in the Activity Building. Prime rib, baked chicken tenders, bread, and beverages are provided. Please bring side dishes, salads, and Desserts to the Activity Building *prior*

CHURCH MISSIONS

WMU GROUP 1

In December, the WMU ladies gather to share lunch and to wrap presents for men and women at White Oak Manor. All ladies are invited. Bring a dish to share and join us at the Church at 10:30am on Tuesday, December 3. After lunch, we will wrap our gifts.

ANGEL TREE

Our Church is participating in the Angel Tree mission again this year. The tree with the cards is located in the narthex. On the back of the Angel card, you will find the ID# with child or senior's first name along with items wished for. Gift should be a minimum of \$25. Please enter on the sheet beneath the tree your name and telephone number beside the number of the Angel you selected. Wrap your gift(s); put the Angel ID# and recipient's name on each one. Please turn all gifts in at the 4-H Center on Saturday, December 7, between the hours of 9am and 4pm or bring them to the Church and leave in the narthex closet.

COAT DRIVE

Brotherhood is sponsoring a coat drive during the fall and winter months. Please bring donations of new or used coats, jackets, and hoodies to the large box inside the hallway closet, across from the Lair SS Room.



HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

The youth are raising money to buy animals for communities in need. You may donate to Heifer International during the Annual Christmas Dinner on December 8.

CHRISTMAS MISSIONS

OFFERING

Even though we collected money for CBF Global Missions and Lottie Moon during *Christmas in July*, you may still contribute to those missions during Advent. Envelopes are available upon request.

RECYCLED SHOPPING BAGS

Thermal Belt Outreach has an ongoing need for plastic shopping bags, especially during this holiday season. We will continue to collect bags in the recycle container by the Lair SS Room.



NOTES FROM CANDY

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to a couple of special events during December. The members of the Children's Choir (grades 1-5) have been diligently working on a Christmas musical, *The Case of the Reluctant Innkeeper*, to be presented on Sunday, December 8th, at 5:00 pm in the sanctuary. It is a story that has drama, intrigue, humor, and lots of good music! Prior to the presentation of the musical, the younger children, who participate in Preschool Music led by Kay Greene, will share a few of their favorite Christmas songs. I know you will enjoy this special presentation. Immediately following the presentation, we will share our annual Christmas dinner in the Activity Building.

I also encourage you to be in worship on Sunday, December 15th, for the presentation of *Celebrate the Child Who Is the Light* by Tom Fettke. It is a beautiful retelling of the story we all love to hear and will be presented by the Adult Choir with narration by Jeff Harris.

There are so many good events coming up during the Advent/Christmas season. Be sure to mark your calendar so you don't miss out!

I wish for you and your family a happy, meaningful, and blessed Christmas season, Thank you for the opportunity to share in ministry with you.

Candy

REMINDER



Please remember that December 31 is a Fifth Sunday, also the last Sunday of the year. This is the last chance to help with the budget and the ministries of our church for this year.

Blessings for you and your family for Christmas and the coming New Year.

The Finance Committee

FRUIT BASKETS

The Visitation Committee delivered 24 fruit baskets for Thanksgiving. They will deliver poinsettias closer to Christmas.

Thanks for their good and faithful work!



WE HAVE A WINNER!

On Sunday, October 27, Sunday Evening Ekklesia (S.E.E.) began with a Children's Fall Party (see last month's issue for pictures) and ended with a chili cook-off for the adults. Quite a few pots were ours for the sampling, but the prize for best chili over all went to Mike Greene. (He may have bought influence by handing out samples). We thank all who participated to make a fun evening of education and fellowship for everyone.