

THE GOOD NEWS

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, TRYON

DECEMBER

2012

CHAT WITH THE PREACHER

I am enjoying this Advent season and am looking forward to Christmas, especially Christmas Eve. Let's make worship a priority this season. And in case you have not made Christmas Eve Worship a tradition, now's a good time to start.

Christmas Eve worship begins at 5pm. Come as you are. Bring your out-of-town guests. The more the merrier. We'll have plenty of bread and wine (aka grape juice). It won't be the same if you are absent.

The celebration of Christmas is incomplete without worship. Sure, gifts are great and Red Velvet Cake is divine, but Christmas is ultimately about worshipping the newborn king. Family traditions at Christmas are wonderful, but during Advent and on Christmas Eve we gather to worship the one who makes us true brothers and sisters, and to sing of Love-in-the-flesh. It won't really be Christmas if you forget to do that.

We sing about a baby born in the backwaters of Bethlehem. We sing of shepherds and angels. Of Mary and Joseph. But ultimately, we sing of God. Because we believe that God has come to us in the babe called Jesus. It's a startling claim. So startling that an angel had to calm the shepherds. But most of us have heard the story so many times that it almost seems pedestrian. Or worse yet, like a fairy tale.

A friend of mine was helping the youth of his congregation prepare for an upcoming Christmas play. A relative newcomer to the group asked, "We did Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus last year, do we really have to do that same old story again?"

Yes, we really have to do that "same old story" again . . . because that same old story is at the heart of our very existence, and if we don't learn about the God who created us, we'll just end up worshipping the god of our own making. So if you find yourself asking, "Do we really have to do that same old story again?" Take a cue from Mary: "But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart." Treasure these ancient words and ponder them . . . and you might find that "same old story" is what you've been looking for all along.

Advent Peace,

Jeff

Ushers for December:

Bud and Georgia Pace,
Dee Huneycutt (side),
Jamie Greene (hall)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ **December 7**—Tryon Christmas Stroll, 5 pm, Bell choir plays
- ◆ **December 9**—Community Chorus, PCHS, 3 pm
- ◆ **December 16**—Drama in TFBC Sanctuary, 5 pm, Catered Dinner at 6 pm, Act. Bldg.
- ◆ **December 23**—4:30 pm, Christmas Caroling, Mr. Juan's for dinner afterward
- ◆ **December 24**— 5 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion
- ◆ **December 25**

Merry Christmas!

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Don & Jan Ponder
- 6 Darnell & Kathy Ashley
- 17 Dan & Mona Kimble
- 22 Mike & Di Greene
- 22 Garland & Fran Goodwin
- 22 Ray & Becky Hudson
- 29 James & Mildred Bodie
- 30 Tim & Christie Morrow

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Shirley Edwards
- 5 T.J. Fincher
- 7 Lydia Dona
- 7 Pam McFalls
- 12 Georgia S. Pack
- 13 Linda Fincher
- 13 Mike Greene
- 13 Beth McCallister
- 13 Andrew McKaig
- 14 Dee Huneycutt
- 15 Denise Britton
- 15 Katie Cothran
- 16 Scott Harding

- 16 Georgie Hawkins
- 16 Vern Hendricks
- 17 Johna J. Searcy
- 17 Jennifer Jones
- 17 Becky Hudson
- 18 Julie Miller
- 17 Joey Whiteside
- 22 David Graham
- 23 Ella Waldman
- 24 Luke Lair
- 25 Renae Waldman
- 30 Jacob Covil
- 31 Haley Dusenbury

COLLEGE STUDENT BIRTHDAYS

- 13 Andrew McKaig
880 Highland View Lane
Mill Spring, NC 28756
(amckaig@uncc.edu)
- 15 Megan Stone
105 Sumter Court, Apt. Q
Central, SC 29640
mstone4@clemson.edu

- 17 Halie Moffitt
7079 UNC-G Station
Greensboro, NC 27412
hnmoffit@uncg.edu
- 17 Louis Rossi
486 Penial Road
Columbus, NC 28722

MILITARY BIRTHDAY

- 7 Lydia Dona (Paquito)
2100 Skyuka Road
Columbus, NC 28722

If you are attending our church and know of someone we forgot to put on this list, please contact the church during office hours and let us know the name and dates so that we can make corrections, additions, or deletions. Thank you!

WMU mission project for December is to provide Christmas gifts to everyone at White Oak Manor Nursing Home. Gifts will be designated for male or female. The ladies will share a covered dish lunch and then wrap the presents. Those presents will be delivered just before Christmas.



DECEMBER ACTIVITIES AT TRYON FIRST BAPTIST



WMU Group 1 met at the church on Tuesday, December 4th, for a Christmas Luncheon and to wrap gifts for residents of White Oak Manor. Much fun and fellowship ensued.



Our Youth are working hard to present their drama on the 16th of December. On Sunday, December 2, they enjoyed a pizza lunch after their practice. We hope you will come to the sanctuary and enjoy their offering, and then share in our Annual Christmas meal afterwards.

REFUGE FALL/WINTER CALENDAR OF EVENTS



REFUGE CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER

- 12/9** Refuge at 5 pm (Chef volunteer, anyone?)
- 12/16** Christmas Dinner/Program at church
- 12/23** Caroling in Tryon (arrive at 4:45), Dinner @ Mr. Juan's afterward
- 12/30** No Refuge

Looking Ahead

- 2013** Going to Wolf Laurel sometime in January, leaving on a Saturday and returning around 2 pm on Sunday—date to be determined later.
- 2013** Camp at Wingate—PASSPORT Choices. Date will be posted by Dec. 2012.

YOU ARE INVITED
TO THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER!

When: Sunday, December 16, 5 pm

Where: TFBC Sanctuary for Drama “The Christmas Story: Through the Eyes of the Friendly Beasts”

Where: TFBC Activity Building for the Annual Christmas Dinner (following the drama)

Because the meal is catered we are suggesting that adults contribute \$10 per person to help offset the expense. Families are also welcome to contribute what they think is an appropriate donation for their children. The donation is only a suggestion. If it is a strain, then please forgo the donation and enjoy a wonderful meal with your friends at First Baptist.

MENU

Roasted Pork Loin with fresh fruit chutney

Crispy Chicken Schnitzel

Mixed Salad

Sautéed green beans almandine w/ lemon

Oven Roasted Potatoes, parsley garnish

Rolls and butter

Dessert buffet





There are several opportunities for you to share the love of Christ this Christmas: **The Angel Tree**, **The Sisterhood Stocking Tree** and **The Christmas Missions Offering**. Please give generously to one or more of these.

The **Sisterhood Stocking Tree** will be in the narthex, with about 50 names of needy children at Tryon Elementary School. Since Kathy Ashley works closely with Tryon Elementary and these families, we call this mission opportunity "Kathy's Kids". Please take at least one name and experience the joy of buying for a child. Use the nametags on your package. If you have any questions, call Kathy Ashley (859-9417) or Judy Lair (894-8744). NOTE: The gifts should be taken to the office at Tryon Elementary no later than noon on Tuesday, December 18.

The **Christmas Missions Offering** supports of the work of Baptist missionaries. You may support CBF missionaries by designating your gift to The Global Missions Offering. You may support SBC missionaries by designating your gift to The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.