

# DECEMBER 2020



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I write this letter, I am sitting in the church office, listening to one of my favorite Christmas albums of all time- Johnny Mathis, The Sounds of Christmas. I Love Christmas music!

The words that describe Christmas for those who follow Christ are Hope, Peace, Joy, love, and life. It is about stars, sheep, and shepherds. It is a season of light and singing and celebrations with our church and family. In contrast, our world is about darkness, unrest, fear, anxiety, worry and death. Since they do not have Christ, they can only think of this world- thinking this life is the only one to be had- but we know better! This life is only the beginning! Because of Jesus we have life everlasting to look forward to - a life that is truly life! I pray that you as a member of God's family through faith in Christ have not given into the despair of the world and its system. Let us remember the words of the Gospel of Luke:

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." Luke 2:8-14

This season gives believers a wonderful opportunity to shine brightly in the darkness! Let us gather as God's people throughout the season. It is we who have The Hope, The Peace, The Joy, The Love of JESUS! Let us not cower in fear- Let us celebrate and share!

All Glory to God,

Pastor Paul

# **MISSION OPPORTUNITIES**

## **2020 LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING**

**We begin this offering Sunday, December 6.**

100% of your gifts help send and sustain IMB Missionaries. Many missionaries with North Carolina ties express appreciation for the individuals, families and churches who offer prayers on their behalf and give sacrificially. Our goal is \$1,200.00

### **FOOD PANTRY**

We continually collect items for our local food pantry. With the holidays coming up, the food need increases greatly. Please take a moment next time you shop and pick up one extra item. The drop box is right inside the glass door leading to the fellowship hall/church office.

### **BENEVOLENCE**

People come to the church office this time of year and need help with Christmas. Giving to the benevolence fund helps us to meet some of the many needs we see throughout the holiday season.

### **BLESSING BOX**

The box is located in the church parking lot. Food, paper goods and hygiene items can be placed directly in the box.

### **MILE OF PENNIES**

Change is collected until a "Mile of Pennies" is reached and then it is sent to the Baptist Children's Homes. It takes 844.22 to reach a mile. We are working on the 37<sup>th</sup> Mile!!! Collection jars are in the sanctuary and in the church office.

### **PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

**CHURCH FAMILY:** *Tracie Wildman, George Boyd, Louie Askew, John Smith, Marguerite Sexton Hart, Kristie Nicholson, Claudia Beacham, Faye McCombs, Oliver and Frances Lucas, Sandy McMurtrie, Clifford Frymier, Barbara Peyton.*

**OTHER CONCERNS:** *Jan Street (Mother of Sherri Harrington), Neal Brown, Dennis Freier (Father of Elizabeth Benjamin), Don May (Friend of Dee Gee Griffith), Sue Owens, Greg Spruill, Faye Lyle, William Sexton, Alfonzo Boyd, Ryan Alligood (Nephew of Wade Rogers), Christi Rogerson, Dr. James Hagwood, Kim Wynne, Mike Ward, Marty Barfield, Jason Phelps, Rodney Rogerson, Frank Winslow.*

**NURSING HOME RESIDENTS:** *Three Rivers- Christine McMurtrie #208; River Trace Nursing & Rehab Center, Washington- Pauline Humphreys #418; Eunice Carraway #325; Roanoke Landing- Alice Dotson #209, Tim Elks #315; Rich Square Health Care Center -Annie Griffith #108-B; Chowan River Nursing Home- Rae Owens; Tyrell House- Joyce Harrell 205B.*

**We will observe Communion  
Sunday, December 6.**

**There will be called conference Sunday,  
December 6 after worship to vote on the  
2021 church budget.**

### **YOU'RE INVITED**

During the upcoming holiday season, concert pianist and recording artist David Roach from Rutherfordton, NC will again be performing at three different venues in eastern North Carolina. These concerts have become a tradition since Roach's first 'Christmas in Hyde' concert in Swan Quarter in 2010.

The Washington County concert will be Friday night December 4, 2020 at 7:00 pm in the First Baptist Church sanctuary. This is a free concert, and the public is invited. It will feature holiday selections written by Roach and others that are special to him and his audience. The concert will end with audience participation in a selected traditional Christmas carol – which is sure to get everyone in the holiday spirit with the true meaning of the season.

### **ANGEL TREE**

All gifts should be in by  
Wednesday, December 16.

### **POWER in the BLOOD!**

**There will be a Blood Drive here on Monday,  
December 21 from 12:00 – 4:00 pm in the Fellowship  
Hall. Please call Paul Lilly (217-8089) if you can help.  
Please come out and donate!**

### **CHRISTMAS EVE**

The Christmas Eve Candlelight  
Communion Service will be at  
**5:00 pm.**

### **Dessert Auction/ Youth Fundraiser**

We will not be able to hold our Dessert Auction as usual this year. However, we still want to do a sale of baked goods. This is the plan that we have come up with. We are asking all of our bakers and cooks who normally provide goodies for the Dessert Auction to do the same this year. Each cook will determine what they will make, how many of that item they will provide, and what price we should charge. You may be contacted by a member of the Youth Council, but if you are not, please contact Karen by December 3 to get your item(s) on the list. Once the list is compiled, it will be put on the church website, printed in the bulletin, and sent in an email by Sunday, December 6. Instead of bidding on items, you will simply call the church office, or Karen (336-247-0413) to order the item you would like. This will be a first come – first served sale. The website will be updated each day, removing items that have already been purchased. Orders will be taken through Sunday, December 13. We ask all cooks to have your items at the church by the morning of Tuesday, December 15. If you have ordered an item, you may come by the Fellowship Hall and pick it up anytime that day, up until 7:00 pm. Thank you for helping our youth to continue this fundraising tradition, even in these unusual times.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

*Shirley Barfield 12/4  
Rita Rhodes 12/5  
Hank Edmondson 12/5  
David Noell 12/6  
Robert Dickerson 12/8  
Christine Ward 12/8  
Dylan Pollard 12/9  
Debbie Holcomb 12/13  
Tim Griffin 12/14  
Nancy Rogers 12/16  
Lennon Wall 12/17  
Mike Holcomb 12/18  
Holley Brabble 12/18  
Pauline Humphreys 12/20  
Paul Harrington 12/21  
Ronnie Matheny 12/22  
Becky Brown 12/24  
Barbara Peyton 12/24  
Freda Cole 12/26  
Naomi Roberson 12/30  
Brenda Tetterton 12/31  
Kristi Nicholson 12/31*

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

Benjie & Nancy Rogers  
12/2  
George & Melinda Galtress  
12/10  
Jimmy & Shelley Brown  
12/17  
Tim & Vicki Stotesbury  
12/17  
Harry & Mittie Ward  
12/25  
Ken & Carolyn Watlington  
12/28

**The church  
office will be  
closed  
December 24,  
25, 31 and  
January 1.**

**THANK YOU!!!!**

A huge thank you to everyone who packed a backpack for the Appalachian Coalfield Ministry. We delivered 64 to Colerain Baptist Church and now they are headed to West Virginia to bless the children there!!

**THANK YOU!!**

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoeboxes. We had a total of 84 boxes!!

**POINSETTIAS**

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor or Memory

of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cost: \$16.00 Each**

Please return no later than Sunday, December 13.