



The Messenger

First Baptist Church
Mount Holly, NC

Volume 17, Issue 9
December 2022



Music in December

Sunday, December 4 - Children's Choirs Sing

Sunday, December 11 - Youth Choir Sings

**Wednesday, December 14 - Children's Party and Performance
6:15 - 6:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall**

**Sunday, December 18 - Sanctuary Choir Presents
"All is Calm, All is Bright"**

Wednesday, December 21st and 28th - No Children's Choir

Wednesday, December 21st and 28th - No Sanctuary Choir

Welcome

Advent & Christmas Services

Sunday, December 4th @ 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 14th @ 6:15 p.m.

Sunday, December 18th @ 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, December 24th @ 9:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 25th @ 10:30 a.m.

Hanging of the Greens Service

Children's Christmas Program

Christmas Cantata

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Christmas Day Lessons and Carols Service





Transitions

The Christian story begins in an animal stable where a baby boy was born to parents too poor, or too unprepared, to make better arrangements. The Christmas story repeats a theme seen throughout scripture—that God enters the world in surprising places and unexpected ways.

The month of Advent—four weeks leading up to Christmas Day—is a period of waiting, anticipating the birth of the Christ child. And it's a waiting period for children—making Christmas lists and then counting the days. And for adults—anticipating the family gatherings, the trips to see friends, it's a waiting period that moves too quickly, often disappearing before all the preparations have been made.

The idea of Advent in the Christian calendar, this idea of waiting, of anticipating, helps us understand Jesus' birth in the longer biblical story. The Jewish people had lived under the rule of occupying empires for hundreds of years. They longed to be free, to live under their own rulers. The prophets spoke of an anointed one, the Messiah, who would rescue the people. They waited. Generations waited. Jesus was the culmination of generations of prayer.

There are over 20 different scripture verses about waiting on the Lord. The prophet Isaiah said in the 40th chapter, "Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

Waiting on the Lord is not passive. We don't sit around until God does something. Waiting on the Lord is about naming what you are hoping for, praying for it, living in hope towards it, working for it—while also looking for the work of God's Spirit.

What are you waiting for? Expecting? Anticipating? Make time this Advent season to prepare for it. Merry Christmas!

Pastor's Pen

Worship

All services can be found on our YouTube channel.

Sermon Series:

December 4th	Isaiah 40:1-9	Dr. Daynette Snead Perez, guest preacher
December 11th	Matthew 1:18-25	"Joseph was at the Manger, too"
December 18th	Sanctuary Choir	Christmas Cantata
December 24th	John 1:1-14	"The Poetry & Prose of God"
December 25th	Luke 2:1-20	Lessons & Carols Service
January 1st	Matthew 2:13-23	"Unintended Consequences"



Telling sTORIEs

It's the most WONDERFUL time of year! As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, may we take a moment to remember that the gift of the baby symbolizes not only the gift of life but life everlasting. As we put up our trees, some of us will add stars or angels to the top, symbolizing the star that led the Wise Men to find Jesus and the Angels that appeared to Mary and Joseph on multiple occasions.

As children, my sister and I attended East Belmont Church of God preschool. Every year during their Christmas program they would sing the song, "Happy Birthday Jesus" which includes traditional "Happy Birthday" lyrics and added verses that have stuck with me for many years. The second verse is always my favorite as it goes, "Happy Birthday Jesus, I'm so glad it's Christmas, All the tinsel and lights, And the presents are nice, but the REAL GIFT IS YOU!" Isn't that true? The real gift of the Christmas season is the promise that the baby brings to you and to me. As you begin wrapping gifts this Christmas season I encourage you to think about the ultimate gift that God gave to us all, the gift of his ONLY begotten son, Jesus. As you string your lights, remember that Jesus is the light of the world. Spend this Christmas season reflecting on ways that you can share the best gift of all with others.



Illumination Student Ministry

December 4th - Hanging of the Greens Service
December 11th - Connect Event: Ugly Sweater Dodgeball
December 18th - Youth Christmas Party & Minute 2 Win It!
December 25th - No Youth Meetings (Christmas)
January 1st - No Youth Meetings (New Years)



Kingdom Kids

December 14th - Wednesday Afterschool Program Christmas Party & Musical Presentation. Parents, please join us at 6:15 p.m. for the musical presentation. The Christmas party will take place during our normal after school program hours.
December 21st - No After School Program
December 28th - No After School Program
January 4th - No After School Program



Spiritual Gifts Corner

Did you know that the Spiritual Gifts Committee (SGC) does more than create an annual report of church committee nominations? That's right, there's more to it than soliciting volunteers to fill vacancies for our standing committees. According to First Baptist's church bylaws, a major purpose of the SGC is *to ascertain the spiritual gifts and leadership skills of the members of the church family*. What does this mean? What are spiritual gifts and how do each of us discover ours? How will the SGC carry out this charge? Over the course of the coming year, the SGC will invite all those who participate in the life of our church to engage in conversations and activities aimed at discovering our spiritual gifts and how they may be utilized in our lives, our church, and our community. Planning is underway now and we'd welcome your input. Maybe you've read an interesting article or book about discerning spiritual gifts or participated in a workshop you found useful. If you know of resources or ideas to share, please forward them to carsondean2@gmail.com. Our plan is to offer a variety of tools that meet various learning styles - some may be self-directed while others involve engagement in small groups or workshops. We know the holidays are a busy time for everyone, so our intention is to begin building a collection of resources now so they'll be available to you in early 2023. In the meantime, look for more from the SGC in this monthly newsletter as we seek to continually engage and inform everyone at First Baptist about ways to discern and share your gifts.

In Christ - Amanda, Carson, Gina, Mandy, Suzanne, and Tami

Wednesday Night Dinner Menu

Dec 7: Soup and Sandwich
 Dec 14: Ham, Mac n Cheese, Green Beans
 Dec 21: No Meal
 Dec 28: No Meal
 Jan 4: No Meal

Contribution Envelopes

Please contact Kim at kim@fbcmountholly.org if you would like to receive contribution envelopes by mail. If you are contributing online and would like to discontinue receiving envelopes by mail, please let her know via

Dear Friends of Ruth Mundy,

On behalf of our aunt, Ruth Mundy, please know that she has moved to a facility in South Carolina to be closer to her family, and especially in order for her to receive care that was not available at her previous facility. We appreciate your continued expression of love and prayers for Ruth. She does receive mail as follows:

Ruth Mundy
 Wellmore of Lexington, Room 4207
 200 Wellmore Drive
 Lexington, SC 29072-9172

Ruth and her family would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Blessed 2023.

Sincerely,
 Her Nieces, Nephews and their Families
 Debbie Boyter, Janice Stevens, Donald Shapiro, Tommy Shapiro

You are Invited!

Each Christmas, the Deacons sponsor a Family Christmas Social for the members and friends of First Baptist Church. The Social provides the opportunity for fellowship and lots of good food provided by the Deacons of the church. Everyone is invited and all the participants need to bring is their appetite. It is a wonderful way to begin the Christmas season.

Family Christmas Social

Sunday, December 4th from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m.

Fellowship Hall



Circle of Faith is selling RC Colas and a Moon Pies as a fundraiser for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. This is being led by Gina Hough. The cost of the package is \$5. Moon Pies are \$1. We will begin selling before church on Sunday, December 4. We will sell on Wednesdays during dinner as well. All proceeds will go to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. We have set a goal of collecting \$2,500 this year. Donations are welcome.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Together.

**We are able to do so much more together,
than if we were chasing this vision alone.**

Fellowship and Missions

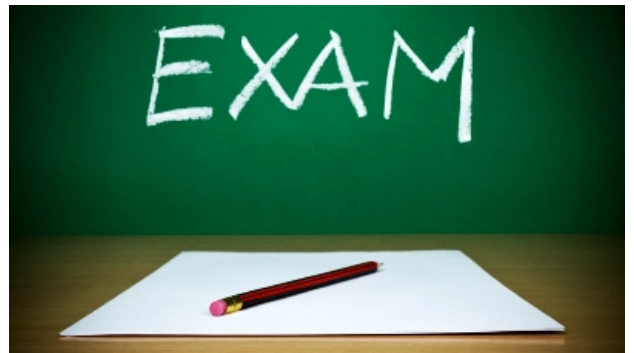
A Huge Thank You

Thank you to all who were involved with the Thanksloving Feast. It would not have been possible without all of the hard work of the Thanksloving team and other volunteers that cooked, served, delivered and cleaned. Over 500 plates of Turkey and sides were served with love to our community. What a blessing to be able to share a meal with our community workers and with those that needed a hot meal.

Thank You!

Just a Reminder

This is a reminder for those that chose to sponsor one of our college students that exams are approaching. Within the next few weeks, our college students should be finishing their exams and getting a much needed break. If you are a sponsor, please keep them in your prayers these next few weeks and send them a card if you can for encouragement.



And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.

Luke 2:8

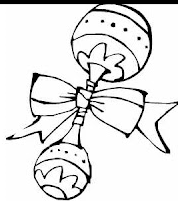
Memorials and Donations

Landscape Fund: In memory of Clarence Rick by Verna Jo Ellis

Children's Ministry Fund: In memory of Beverly Wrenn by Roger & Denise Hawkins

Congratulations

We are pleased to announce the birth of Beckett Harl Moore. Beckett was born on November 23 to Jaime and Edward Moore.



In Sympathy

Please keep the following families in your prayers:

Anne Gary in the loss of her brother, John R. Towell of Mocksville, NC.

Cornelia Pressley in the loss of her mother, Doris Gates and grandmother of Maggie.

Church Security:

Todd Hilderbran	Nov 28—Dec 4
David Wrenn	Dec 5—Dec 11
Gary Farmer	Dec 12—Dec 18
Hunter Ealey	Dec 19—Dec 25
Jim Benfield	Dec 26—Jan 2

Happy Anniversary

- 4 Reeves and Peggy McGlohon
- 6 Jim and Julia Benfield
- 9 Scott and Lisa Collier
- 11 Gary and Hilda Farmer
- 13 Tom and Linda Medley
- 22 Derek and Tina Staton
- 23 Brian and Nicole Smith
- 27 Al and Jane Rhodes

Childcare Volunteers

NURSERY

- 4 Gina Hough
- 11 Kasey Petersen
- 18 Cheryl Lineberger and Jo Ann Rollins
- 25 No Childcare, all children will be in the Christmas service

TODDLERS

- 4 Ann Little
- 11 Lauren Huneycutt
- 18 Angie Hilderbran
- 25 No Childcare, all children will be in the Christmas service

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

- 4 Children stay in worship
- 11 Lancy Rhyne and Lanny Ray
- 18 Children stay in worship
- 25 Children stay in worship

- 3 Brandon Greene, Ralph Miller
- 4 Katie Cauthen
- 5 Frances Black
- 6 Kyle Piercy
- 7 Julie Reid
- 8 Brooke Shepherd Elting
- 10 Lynn Ealey
- 12 Ruth Mundy
- 13 Susan Greene
- 14 Alaina Huneycutt
- 15 Patrick Haley
- 17 Christie Batchelor, Jessica Medlin
- 18 Phillip Elting
- 21 Carson Dean
- 22 Ken Crosby
- 23 Cori Cauthen
- 26 Erika Hullander, Cheryl Lineberger
- 29 Karmen Missak, Caley Sisk
- 30 Gail Grice



Memorials / Volunteers / Birthday / Anniversary

First Baptist Church

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Mount Holly.

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First Baptist Church
Mount Holly, NC



FaceBook:

First Baptist Church
Mount Holly, NC



Instagram:

[fbcmounthollync](https://www.instagram.com/fbcmounthollync)



Mondays

Pastor Tim Moore

Tori Freeman

Kim Payne (remote)

Tuesdays

Pastor Tim Moore

Tori Freeman

Kim Payne

Wednesdays

Pastor Tim Moore

Tori Freeman

Kim Payne (remote)

Thursdays

Tori Freeman (remote)

Kim Payne

Fridays

Kim Payne



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
MOUNT HOLLY, NC

October 2022

Total Receipts – \$53,209

Bldg Fund – \$515

Bldg Fund YTD – \$7,872

Other Designated – \$16,879

Other Designated YTD – \$124,015

2022 Budget – \$467,537

Avg Needs – 10/31 – \$389,614

Budget Receipts YTD – \$333,545