



A Message from Pastor Eric

Back in the early 2000's Shannon and I were living overseas trying to share the Gospel with people from a culture where very few knew Jesus, and many had never even heard His name. December was always a season when we had a more natural way to tell people about Jesus because of Christmas. However, one of the things that was very discouraging was that people in that country knew all about Christmas already, just not the Christmas of the Bible. Instead, they had been bombarded with the secular and commercial side of Christmas, you know, the one that has to do with Santa Claus, reindeer, colorful lights and delicious food, and lots and lots of shopping. The stores even played Christmas carols, some of them religious, but people walked around without a clue as to the meaning of these beautiful songs celebrating the most important act of love that God has shown humanity.

In the midst of this misunderstanding of what Christmas was about, our desire was to tell people about the incredible news that the Creator of the Universe loves us so much that He sent His son to the earth to teach us who God truly is, to give His life for us and save us. Many people who heard about God's love for the first time and realized that He wanted them to know Him and follow Him were amazed at this truth. The idea that the Almighty God knows each of us individually and cares for us is mindboggling for many. They marvel at the privilege it is to be loved and wanted by God, and this often fuels their excitement as they share this news with their family and friends.

For many of us who grew up celebrating Christmas and going to church, it is good to be reminded of just how special God's attention towards us is and how privileged we are that we can know Him and have a relationship with Him. As you do your Christmas shopping this year, listen to Christmas carols and spend time with friends and family, I pray that you will also experience the wonder of realizing how much God loves you, and what a privilege it is that He came down to earth, took on Human form, and gave His life for you so that you can spend eternity with Him in heaven. And as you experience that wonder and joy, let it move you to share this amazing news with those around you.

Christmas Luncheon



You are all invited to a church-wide luncheon on December 18th following our morning worship



Get into the Christmas Spirit with classics you'll love. Comedy and music from Christmas past and present!

Meet at the church at 10:00 am Saturday Dec. 17th. We will have lunch in Selma and on to the Rudy Theatre for show at 12:45 pm. Contact Brenda Lawler 919-454-7697 asap if interested. Tickets are still available. \$28.50 each.

Prayer Concerns

- ✝ Stephanie Allen, recovering from surgery of a broken ankle
- ✝ Mary and LA Veasy's granddaughter Savannah-health concerns
- ✝ Emily and Jim Lee-health concerns
- ✝ Joel Cross-health concerns
- ✝ Donna Freeman-health concerns
- ✝ Tommy Player's aunt Edith Pope-health concerns
- ✝ Juanita Brame's mother Florence is now at Hillcrest
- ✝ Rhonda Stanfield's dad-(Chemis Stanfield) health concerns
- ✝ David Bailey-recovering from hip surgery he had on December 1st
- ✝ Kevin Lawler's family in the passing of his mother Ann Lawler
- ✝ Judy James-health concerns
- ✝ Mary and LA Veasy-health concerns
- ✝ Bobby King-undergoing cancer treatment
- ✝ Faye Bassett-health concerns

Praises

- ◆ Cathy Rhoden - recovering home from knee surgery

Upcoming Events for December 2022

- ⇒ Dec. 4th Angel Tree gifts due
- ⇒ Food Mission Distribution on Dec. 7th and 21st
- ⇒ Academy Christmas Program Dec. 9th at 4 pm
- ⇒ Seniors Outing to Rudy Theatre on Dec 17th, meet at the church at 10 am
- ⇒ Church Wide Luncheon on December 18th after the Sunday Service
- ⇒ Christmas Bag Assembly Party at the Food Mission at 6 pm, Dec 19th
- ⇒ Church Office Closed December 23rd - Dec. 27th
- ⇒ Christmas Eve Candlelight Service and Holy Communion, Dec. 24th at 10 pm
- ⇒ Christmas Service Dec. 25th at 10 am
- ⇒ Youth Church lock-in Dec. 31st

Taking the Gospel to Southern Granville and beyond...



Wednesday Nights:

Awana takes place each Wednesday and the kids have enjoyed the opportunity to study the Bible, memorize verses, and play games each Wednesday.

Dive has started their study called “Amplify: Growing a Faith that lasts” and students have been looking at what it means to live faithfully in a world that will tempt you not to. Currently we are looking at what worship is and how to worship God well.

We have seen growth in both our youth attendance on Wednesdays and in AWANA. We are excited to see God at work and I would encourage you to join me in praying for our children and students as they study God’s word and grow closer to Him. Pray that we can continue to get volunteers to help train and teach them, pray that they will take what they learn and share it with others, and pray that we can continue to reach the children, students, and their families with the Gospel.

Backpack Buddies: We are currently delivering 20 backpacks each week to Hawley Middle school and are working with other schools to be able to deliver backpacks there. Thank you all that has helped with the Backpack Buddies Program.

Dive Christmas Party: Our Dive Christmas Party which will take place Saturday, December 3rd from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Children’s Christmas Musical: Our Christmas musical will take place during the worship service on Sunday, December 11th. Our children will be singing, while the youth narrate to share the Christmas story.

Wintercamp: Creedmoor Kids will be heading to Camp Caraway for Wintercamp on January 14th – 16th, 2023. Our kids will have the opportunity study God’s word, compete in challenges that help them unify together, and worship God all weekend long. We have 19 kids signed up.

Upward Basketball and Cheerleading: Registration has come to an end and we over a 112 basketball players and 20 cheerleaders. Practices will start the week of December 5th and games will start Jan. 7th and the season will last until the end of February.

Message from our Deacon Chair Toni Anne

The Christmas season is here, ready or not, with all the hustle and bustle of preparing for Christmas. Stop and think about it, our Christmas season can really be how we will want it to be. We already have the “perfect gift” JESUS, the only way to the Father. Let’s keep Christ in Christmas and in all our daily actions.

May His love for the world show through us.

As I read the devotional below from Open Windows, I reflected on the true meaning of Christmas. I hope you will too.

Your Deacon Board wishes you a most blessed Christmas season, may God continue to bless each of you. Team Deacon prayerfully serves with you and for you.

Devotional from Our Daily Bread

“Christmas-Card Perfect”

By: Tim Gustafson

Even his own brothers did not believe in him. John 7:5

Read: Scripture: John 7:1-9

The Barker family Christmas video was perfect. Three robe-clad shepherds (the family’s young sons) huddled around a fire in a grassy field. Suddenly an angel descended from the hilltop—their big sister, looking resplendent, except for the pink high-top sneakers. As the soundtrack swelled, the shepherds stared skyward in amazement. A trek across a field led them to a real baby—their infant brother in a modern barn. Big sister now played the role of Mary.

Then came the “bonus features,” when their dad let us peek behind the scenes. Whiny kids complained, “I’m cold.” “I have to go to the bathroom right now!” “Can we go home?” “Guys, pay attention,” said their mom more than once. Reality was far from Christmas-card perfect.

It’s easy to view the original Christmas story through the lens of a well-edited final cut. But Jesus’ life was anything but smooth. A jealous Herod tried to kill Him in infancy (Matthew 2:13). Mary and Joseph misunderstood Him (Luke 2:41–50). The world hated Him (John 7:7). For a time, “even his own brothers did not believe in him” (v. 5). His mission led to a grisly death. He did it all to honor His Father and rescue us.

The Barkers’ video ended with these words of Jesus: “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (14:6). That’s a reality we can live with—forever.

Reflect & Pray

How do you try to appear to be perfect? How can you better acknowledge your need for Jesus’ perfect strength?

Father, thank You for sending Your Son to provide a way for me to be reconciled to You forever.

GIFT WRAP GALORE

Katie Lee Currin Mission Group is collecting rolls of gift wrap, boxes, bags, bows, ribbons and name tags for the Oxford Masonic Children’s Home and CCM-Church & Community Ministry. **Donations needed by December 4th.**



Angel Tree Gifts

Bring your gifts by 12/4

For CCM Toy Store



**Donations
for Postage
still needed**



December Birthdays

- 01 Adalyn Knox
- 01 Robby Roberson
- 02 Peggy Greene
- 03 Paula Ellington
- 05 Dennis Wooten
- 07 Nancy Wynn
- 09 Betsie Forsythe
- 11 Kenneth Woodlief
- 16 Rich Donohue
- 16 Chris Knox
- 17 Janet Newton
- 18 Cynthia Harper
- 20 Doris Shelley
- 22 Rhonda Stanfield
- 23 Thomas Pauplis
- 26 Collin Faucette
- 30 Owen Satterwhite

If your name or someone in your family is not in the list
please call the office to update your information.