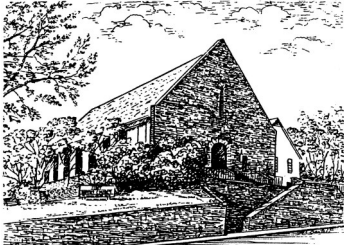


The Good News



December 2014



First Baptist Church of Tryon

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Jeffrey C. Harris, Pastor

Candace B. Wilson,

Minister of Music and Christian Formation

Chat With the Preacher

I needed to hear these words from Barry Howard (Pastor, FBC Pensacola, FL). I hope you enjoy them. Happy Advent!

Advent: A Time to Slow Down and Listen Up

The long lines of Black Friday have finally gone down but the blitz of the hyper-commercialized holiday season is just revving up. This period of time from Thanksgiving to Christmas has become the “busy” season. There are trees to decorate, parties to attend, relatives to visit, gifts to buy, and cards to send. The frantic pace is exhausting and if we are not careful, Christmas will have come and gone with nary a “Silent Night.”

Is there any way to slow down the clock and adjust the volume so that we can really experience the peace, love, and joy of the season? For those who long to reclaim the holidays as holy days, Advent can be a meaningful and refreshing approach to Christmas. As a devotional season of preparation and reflection, Advent can help us to organize our thoughts and priorities in ways that highlight the mystical wonder of the Messiah’s birth.

During my early years as a pastor, my journey toward Christmas changed drastically when I was introduced to the colors and candles of

Advent. Mission-driven Christians who live in a market-driven culture need the reflective disciplines of Advent to help us recognize and avoid stealth forces like materialism, busyness, and greed, a trio of fickle Grinches who aim to steal the real gifts of the season and replace them with superficial slogans and glamorous counterfeits.

Advent beckons us to take the road less traveled en route to Christmas. When our days are seasoned with prayer and saturated with messianic hope, we will inevitably focus on the story of Christmas more than the stuff of Christmas. Advent delivers us from the busy quest and the relentless anxiety of meeting materialistic expectations as it calls us to a deeper faith, a rich spiritual communion that exceeds the buzz of shallow commercialism.

In our times of Advent worship, we will revisit the prophets, re-read the gospels, sing the carols, and light the candles that remind us of peace, hope, love, and joy. If we dare to journey through this season at a slower pace with ears wide open, we may sense the pre-natal anxiety of Mary and Joseph, catch the scent of rustic shepherds, see the brightness of the Christmas star, and hear both the sounds of Angels singing and the sobs of Rachel weeping.

Then, without the props of clamor and clutter, we may discover that we are more than ready to follow Christ from the cradle to the cross and beyond.

Winter Mission Opportunities



BROTHERHOOD 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 and place in the large box inside the hallway closet, across from the Lair classroom. They will continue to collect warm outerwear and coats during the cold months. These coats will be taken to Thermal Belt Outreach Ministries and distributed to those most in need.

STOCKING TREE

The Stocking Tree (sponsored by Sisterhood) will be in the narthex/vestibule on Sunday, December 7 and Sunday, December 14. Fifty names of needy children (Kathy's Kids) from Tryon Elementary School are on the tree. ***Please sign the list when you take a name.*** The clothes and gifts for the children need to be at the Tryon Elementary School office by 2pm Monday, December 15.

CBF GLOBAL MISSIONS and LOTTIE MOON OFFERING

"Christmas in July" gave us an opportunity to give to CBF Global Missions and the Lottie Moon Offering. If you wish to donate at Christmastime also, there will be envelopes available for you to use. Look for them at the exits and in the narthex.

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE



We have a chance to enjoy fellowship with church family early Sunday mornings, before Sunday School. We are serving coffee in the parlor. There is also a pot in the kitchen for those of you who don't climb stairs. Coffee is served each Sunday morning at 9:30am. Rise and shine, and give God your glory!

FIRST BAPTIST COFFEE MUGS



We've got mugs! You can get your genuine First Baptist Church of Tryon coffee mugs at the church during the coffee fellowship (or contact the office). These are big, sturdy mugs that hold a lot of hot coffee, and they make great gifts. They are \$10 each, and the money will go to the Grace It Forward Fund to support local mission projects. Promote missions while "getting your java on."



Advent and Christmas 2014

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| November 30
11:00am | First Sunday of Advent (Hope)
Worship, I Love My Church Offering
No Evening Activities (Fifth Sunday) |
| December 7
11:00am
5:00 pm

After program | Second Sunday of Advent (Peace)
Worship
The Children's Choir presents <i>Sing Around the World</i> , TFBC Sanctuary
Christmas Dinner, Activity Building. Meat, bread, and beverages are provided. Please bring side dishes, salads, and desserts |
| December 14
11:00am
3:00pm
5:00pm | Third Sunday of Advent (Joy)
Worship
Community Chorus Concert, Polk County High School
Refuge Christmas Party |
| December 21
11:00am

3:00pm | Fourth Sunday of Advent (Love)
Worship, Chancel Choir presents the cantata <i>Season of Rejoicing</i> by Calloway and Cabaniss
Christmas Caroling – we'll leave the church to carol at 3pm and end with a meal at El Sureño. |
| December 24
9:00am
5:00pm | Christmas Eve Worship
Office open from 9am-1pm
(with candlelight and communion) |
| December 25 | Merry Christmas! (Office closed 12/25) |



YOU ARE INVITED!

to

*“Sing Around the World”
and the Annual Christmas Dinner*

When: Sunday December 7, 5pm

Where: Tryon First Baptist Church

The evening begins with the Preschool Children’s singing, followed by “Sing Around the World” by Crystal Davis Clay, presented by the Children’s Choir. After the program, we’ll have Christmas Dinner in the Activity Building. Meat, bread, and beverages are provided. Please bring side dishes, salads, and desserts to the Activity Building *prior* to the children’s program.

December Sunday Schedules

Deacons for December:

*Marian Corn

Jeff Miller

Pat Feagan

Sharon Burrell

Ron Frady (balcony)

**denotes Lead Deacon*

Ushers for December:

Walt and Cathie Gee (Front)

Rick McCallister (Hall)

Robert Carter (Side)

Acolytes for December:

12/7 Elliott Whiteside & Sydney Waldman

12/14 Katie Cothran & Campbell Mathis

12/21 Ella Waldman & Laney Littlefield

12/28 StorieLane Whiteside /Jonathon Edwards

Children's Church Workers for December:

12/7 Keith & Debbie Collins

12/14 TBA

12/21 Beth & Rick McCallister

12/28 Brian & Jennifer Jones

Our Christian love and sympathy are extended to the family Thomas Arledge (brother of Robert Earl Arledge) who died on November 22, 2014.

Newsletter Submissions

Everyone is invited to submit articles and pictures for the Good News. Please submit your information to the church office by the 18th of the month.

December Anniversaries

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

December Birthdays

- 1 Shirley Edward
- 5 T.J. Fincher
- 7 Pam McFalls
- 11 Hadley Mae Pereira ('12)
- 12 Georgia S. Pack
- 13 Linda Fincher, Mike Greene, Beth McCallister, Andrew McKaig
- 14 Dee Huneycutt
- 15 Katie Cothran ('04), Denise Britton, Megan Stone
- 16 Scott Harding, Georgie Hawkins
- 17 Becky Hudson, Jennifer Jones, Ella Sap ('12), Louis Rossi Jr., Johna Searcy
- 18 Julie Miller
- 19 Joey Whiteside
- 22 David Graham, Ella Waldman ('04)
- 24 Luke Lair ('04),
- 25 Renae Waldman
- 30 Jacob Covil
- 31 Haley Dusenbury

Military Personnel

- 7 Lydia Dona ('98)