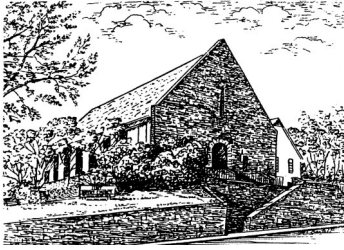


The Good News



December 2015



First Baptist Church of Tryon

125 Pacolet Street, Tryon NC 28782

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Jeffrey C. Harris, Pastor

Candace B. Wilson,

Minister of Music and Christian Formation

Chat With the Preacher

I'm not the most sentimental person.

Sentimentalism is often viewed as genuine faith, but there are times when sentimentalism is the enemy of faith.

The reason I mention sentimentalism is because I'm a sucker for Christmas. I love this time of year. I love listening to (and singing along with) "Winter Wonderland" and "The Christmas Song" (aka Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire) and "Jingle Bells." I love watching "It's a Wonderful Life" and "A Christmas Story" and of course, the best Christmas movie ever, "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation." I even enjoy rubbing shoulders with crowds in the mall a few days before Christmas. (I can't believe I just put that in writing.)

One of my favorite new Christmas traditions is sharing chips and salsa after we go caroling. And, I would be remiss, if I failed to mention that without my mother's red velvet cake it just isn't Christmas. I love all of this sentimental Christmas stuff.

In case you didn't notice, none of this stuff has much to do with the birth of Jesus.

And that is one reason I need Advent. The season of Advent prepares and focuses me on the true nature of this holy season.

The culture (and even the Church) promotes Christmas as the season for giving. And so we buy, buy, buy, and give, give, give. And while some of our giving is certainly good, ultimately, this season is **not** about giving.

Advent and Christmas are about receiving.

Receiving the love of a gracious God, who "became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14).

I'm not belittling our giving to those in need (to help those in need is to be faithful), or our tradition of exchanging gifts. I'm not even challenging all the secularized Christmas traditions, because in some ways these rituals are a search for beauty and meaning. What I am saying is that we are receivers before we are givers.

We are receivers of God's generous gifts of life, love, grace, and mercy.

Christmas is about God giving himself to us in the Christ Child.

May your Advent and Christmas be blessed and holy.

Grace and Peace,

Jeff

SISTERHOOD MEETING

Sisterhood is meeting Monday, December 7, at Calvert's Kitchen in Columbus for their Christmas Dinner. The time is 6:30pm.

GIVE THE GIFT OF FOOD



Because we are no longer using live poinsettias in the sanctuary (due to allergy concerns), you may give a food box to Thermal Belt Outreach Ministry in memory of in honor of someone. The cost of each box is \$20. Envelopes are provided for this and may be found at the entrances to the sanctuary.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Raise your voices in song for an afternoon of fun! We're going Christmas caroling on Sunday, December 20, at 3pm. After we finish caroling, we'll all go to El Sureno for our traditional Christmas chips and salsa. The more, the merrier—we'd love to have you join us.

MINISTRY TEAMS

Remember to volunteer for the church teams. Circle your choices on the green sheet, add your name and drop in the offering plate. The blue slip showing you have prayerfully considered your 2016 giving may also be dropped in the offering plate. Sign-up sheets for teams are located in the education hallway.



You can already feel the chill in the air as we move from fall into early winter. Our mission for the month of November is to start collecting coats for Thermal Belt Outreach Ministry—all sizes, new or gently used. If you have extra coats, sweaters, or hoodies in your closet, please consider giving the gift of warmth this winter. There is a large collection box in the closet across from the Lair Sunday School classroom. Each time it is filled, we will take the coats to Thermal Belt. We'll continue to collect coats and sweaters throughout the winter months.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS AVAILABLE



Advent Devotional Booklets are available for you—look for them around the church. You'll find inspiration and prayers for this season of anticipation and wonder. Be sure to note the cover of the booklet—it is a reproduction of a bulletin cover used for a carol service at First Baptist in December of 1941!

You're Invited!



What: The Annual Christmas Dinner

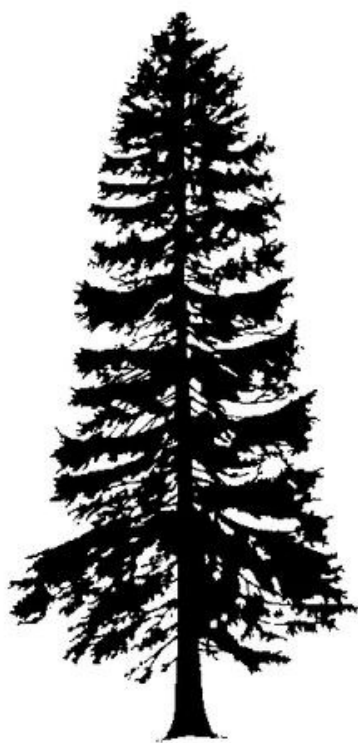
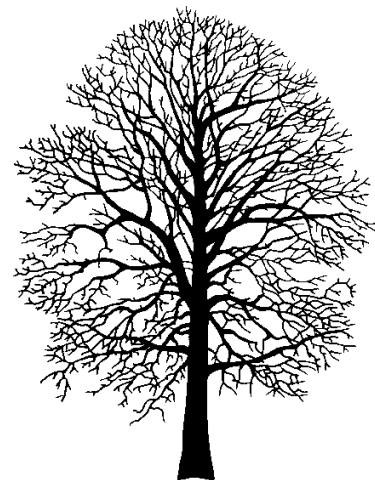
When: Sunday, December 6, 5:00pm

Where: The Activity Building

Please join us for our Christmas Dinner in the Activity Building on December 6, at 5:00pm. The Social Committee will provide ham, chicken tenders, rolls, and beverages. The congregation is asked to bring salads, side dishes, and desserts. The children's choir will sing, and we will play some silly games – it will be a great time of fellowship and fun.

WOOD-CUTTING DAY AT THERMAL BELT OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Because the day of the #GraceItForward Mission Day was so rain-filled, the fire wood project at Thermal Belt Outreach Ministries was rescheduled for Saturday, November 21. Thanks to Skip Williams for his photos of our helpers in action.



ADVENT WREATH-MAKING FOR CHILDREN

During Sunday School, the 2-3yr. age group crafted Advent wreaths. Their efforts are shown below.



OCTOBER 25's WORSHIP WITH PEPPER CHOPLIN

We are grateful to Pepper Choplin, renowned composer, musician, humorist, and preacher, for leading the congregation in worship in October. It was an inspiring service for those attending. If you enjoyed the service, remember that several copies of Pepper Choplin's cds can be borrowed from our library.

-Photos by Leah Justice



OFFERING ENVELOPES

Your individual offering envelopes for 2016 will be available starting Sunday, December 6. Look for them in the coming week, when they'll be in your Sunday School rooms and in the narthex.



2015 SCHEDULE FOR FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, TRYON NC

DECEMBER

Sun, Dec 6	Annual Christmas Meal 5:00pm
Sun, Dec 13	Community Chorus Concert, Polk HS, 3pm
Sun, Dec 20	Caroling—chips and salsa at El Sureno afterward
Thu, Dec 24	Christmas Eve Worship 5:00 pm

DECEMBER REFUGE CALENDAR

(On SEE nights we begin our time with a meal in the upstairs of the Activity Building, so please drop your youth off upstairs. On non-SEE nights please drop your youth off downstairs.)

Dec 6	No Refuge because of the Annual Christmas Dinner
Dec 13	6pm, Christmas Party at the home of Jeff and Jodi Harris
Dec 20	3pm, Christmas Caroling (dinner at El Sureno to follow)
Dec 27	No Refuge over Christmas Break
Jan 10	Refuge resumes



We've got mugs! You can get your genuine First Baptist Church Coffee Mug at the church during coffee fellowship (9:30-10:00am), or contact the church office. These are big, sturdy mugs that hold a lot of coffee, and they make great gifts. They are \$10 each, and the money will go to the GraceItForward Fund to support local mission projects. Promote missions while "getting your java on."

**REGULARLY SCHEDULED WEEKLY ACTIVITIES
(UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED) INCLUDE:**

Sundays	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship
	5:00 pm	Children's Choir (grades 1-5)
	6:00 pm	Refuge
Wednesdays	10:00 am	Bible Study (resumes January 13)
	6:00 pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Regularly Scheduled Monthly Activities (unless otherwise noted) include:

3rd Monday of each month:	6:30 pm	Brotherhood (no meeting Nov/Dec)
1st Tuesday of each month:	10:00 am	WMU
2nd Tuesday of each month:	7:00 pm	Sisterhood (2nd Monday in Nov/Dec)
3rd Tuesday of each month:	6:00 pm	Deacons
3rd Sunday of each month:	11:00 am	Food Pantry Collection

This is the current schedule for the year. Please note some things may be re-scheduled, added, or changed as needed. If changes occur, you will be notified by email, worship bulletin, newsletter, or announcement in worship. If you have any questions, please contact the church office. Thank you.

December Sunday Schedules

Deacons for December

*Marian Corn

Jeff Miller

Pat Feagan

Cheryl Taylor

Ron Frady (balcony)

**denotes Lead Deacon*

Ushers for December

Walt and Cathie Gee (front)

Jamie Greene (hall)

Caitlyn Britton (side)

Acolytes for December

12/6 Caitlin Britton & Jack Fox

12/13 Verae Upton & Luke Walker

12/20 Ella Waldman & David Amitrano

12/27 StorieLane Whiteside & Hattie Jolly

Children's Church Workers for December:

12/6 Brad & Hannah Crawford

12/13 Cindy Dusenbury

12/20 Kathy Ashley & Luke Walker

12/27 Erin & Danny Fox

NOTE: The church office will be closed on Monday, December 28 and Tuesday, December 29 in observance of the Christmas holiday. Please have all year-end financials and receipts into the office by Wednesday, December 30. The church office is also closed Monday, January 4.

December Milestones

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

30 Tim & Christie Morrow

December Birthdays

1 Shirley Edwards

5 T.J. Fincher

7 Pam McFalls, Lydia Dona

11 Hadley Mae Pereira ('12)

13 Linda Fincher, Mike Greene, Beth McCallister,
Andrew McKaig

14 Dee Huneycutt

15 Katie Cothran ('04), Denise Britton

16 Georgie Hawkins, Scott Harding

17 Becky Hudson, Jennifer Jones, Brad Crawford,
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