



From the Pastor.....

Advent refers to the "coming" or arrival of Jesus Christ. Within the church, the term has several meanings: the Advent of the Lord in the flesh at Christmas; His advent in Word and Spirit; and the final Advent when our Lord will return bodily in glory. Each meaning stirs the joyful anticipation of what God has accomplished, is doing, and will yet bring to completion.

The observance of Advent is something of a late addition to history, as is the celebration of Christmas itself. When the church began to observe Christmas in the fourth century, a period of preparation was added. The length of time varied widely from three to seven weeks. Not until the tenth century was an agreement reached in the Western world that Advent should consist of four Sundays (can you say compromise).

The first Sunday of Advent occurs near or upon November 30. While always including four Sundays, the season may vary in length from twenty-two days to twenty-eight days, concluding on Christmas Eve. This year the four Sundays are: 27 November, 4, 11, and 18 December.

A custom that many Christians find meaningful is the preparation of an advent wreath containing five candles. During each Sunday's observance of Advent, an additional candle is lit. Then on Christmas Eve, all candles, including the fifth, which is commonly referred to as the "Christ Candle," in the center of the wreath are lit. The light burns brightly, providing a fitting climax to the weeks of preparation and symbolically demonstrating the Light of the World that flashed forth centuries ago with the first cry of the Christ Child.

Let me encourage you in the busyness of this season to find special moments to ponder and celebrate Christ's Advent. A short, home worship experience is a wonderful way to establish a tradition of focusing on the real meaning of Christmas. There is no better way to teach your children to treasure the birthday of the Babe of Bethlehem. And for that matter no better way for you either. Every bookstore has numerous devotional books that include bible readings, carols, prayers, and devotional readings. Purchase an Advent wreath and celebrate His coming. This could make this your most memorable Christmas season and be the beginning of a treasured family tradition.

I hope you enjoy and celebrate Advent as well as Christmas this year. By observing this tradition, the true significance of Christmas will not be missed in your home. My prayer is that the light of the world will shine brightly in your family this Advent season.

Wishing you a Christ filled Advent and Christmas,
Pastor Frank



Music News

We are nearing the end of another year at BGBC. It has been a busy time and there are a lot of exciting things happening that will give us a great feeling of accomplishment. The most important of all is the fact that we have a new pastor. From my perspective as Music Director, he has been an asset to our church in so many different ways. Since coming here in June, he has tried in every way to help us be the kind of church that reaches out to our community and membership in a very caring way.

We are looking forward to our traditional **Hanging of the Greens service on November 27** which is the first Sunday of Advent. On that **Sunday morning**, we will light the first candle in our **Advent Wreath** to begin our preparation of the Christmas Season. Our Deacon families will each present the Readings and light one of the candles in the wreath on each successive Sunday in both services to share with us the true meaning of Christ's birth. It is a very important part of our preparation for the spiritual importance of Christmas. Then on **Sunday evening**, we will enjoy a **Pot Luck supper at 6:00 pm** followed by our **Hanging of the Greens program at 7:00**. This is the time when we decorate our sanctuary and Family Ministry Center for Christmas and learn about the traditions of the season and how they originated. The choir, Praise Band and Good News Choir will bring special music and we will also sing some carols in the Hanging of the Greens service. Of course, the children will decorate the Chrismond tree with Christmas ornaments that have symbolic meanings.

On **December 18 at 11:00 am**, we will present our annual **Christmas Musical**. The choir has been very busy preparing for this special time in our church since September. We will have readings, Adult choir and Children's choirs bring special music to the service. Our musical is entitled "**ONE SMALL CHILD**" by Dennis and Nan Allen. You will recognize familiar Christmas Songs with different arrangements and there is always a time for congregational Christmas Carols. This is a special time in our church year and a program you will not want to miss that will give you the true Christmas spirit.

On **Christmas Eve**, we will have our traditional **CANDLELIGHT SERVICE at 5:00 pm**. This is a quiet, reflective service that is very family oriented and beautifully prepares us for Christmas Day. There are readings, carols and special music. Also, the Christmas Story is told with candle lightings to illustrate the Nativity Scene. The mystery of this great night is beautifully experienced when we sing Silent Night and all light a candle at the end of the service to represent Christ's birth and the light that he brought into our world.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the participants in our Christmas programs for their willingness to share their talents and help us make Bowling Green Baptist Church a kind, caring and wonderful place to worship. **Merry Christmas** to all the people that make this church a "real" family.

By the way, please bring a friend!

Sandra Stevens, Music Director



Collection of food for needy families began Nov. 2 and continued until Nov. 20. We received a great deal of food and some generous monetary donations as well. This enabled us to purchase a turkey and fresh fruit for each basket. We were able to give several baskets to needy families due to your generous giving. Thank you to all who participated.

There is an Angel Tree listing gifts for members of needy families in the Family Ministry Center. Please visit the tree and take a name to provide a gift to let these folks feel Christian love and joy this Christmas. Gifts need to be returned to the church by December 18th.

Lottie Moon Christmas offering and week of prayer for International Missions begins Dec. 4-11. Prayer for unreached peoples and the missionaries working with them is one of the most important things we can do. Our WMU focuses each month on learning about international missionaries, their work, and their requests for prayer. Also, we focus yearly on a specific country as an international mission study. We pray and especially encourage everyone to spend time praying for our missionaries.

Giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions is so important for helping to reach the world for Christ. This offering provides support for thousands of Southern Baptist Missionaries. 100% of your gifts to this offering support missionaries and their ministries. In the past year, due to lack of funding, the International Mission Board brought many missionaries to the States before their term ended. As a church, let us pray for guidance in giving generously to this year's offering. Our Sunday bulletin has an insert for you to please read about some of the different families who serve as international missionaries.





BOWLING GREEN BAPTIST CHURCH INCLEMENT WEATHER PLAN FOR 2016-2017

It's that time of the year where it is necessary to review the inclement weather plan in order to communicate clearly the plan for Sunday services and other weekly ministry programs and events. This not only helps to ensure the safety of our members and visitors but also to clarify when the church will be open and when it will be necessary to close. The following guidelines are provided:

1. BGBC will follow the Caroline County Schools protocols for closings and delays from Monday-Friday. For example, if CCPS closes their schools, BGBC will close the office and all ministry programs and events will be cancelled. If CCPS announces a delay in opening but does not cancel any after school activities, BGBC will delay opening the office and continue with ministry programs and events. (Please note that even with school closings the church office may open, weather permitting, so please call).
2. In the event of inclement weather during the weekend, every attempt will be made to continue with Sunday worship services. However, if the weather is severe enough to create hazardous road conditions and thereby rendering travel on the roads risky, the church will either cancel worship services or delay them.
3. Announcements on closings or delays will be made with the following media outlets:
 - a. Richmond station WTVR-TV Channel 6
 - b. Richmond station WWBT NBC12 channel 12
 - c. Richmond station WRIC Channel 8
 - d. Fredericksburg radio station and webpage www.wfls.com and WFLS-FM, 93.3.
4. Additionally, every attempt will be made to post information on the church website and Facebook page: <http://bgbcva.org>, and the office phone: 804-633-6803.

December 2016



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 6:00 Children's Christmas Play Practice	2 9:00-12:00 Beginnings Preschool Staff Christmas Party	3
4 8:45 Contemporary Worship 10:00 Sunday School/ Bible Study 11:00 Traditional Worship 7:00 Refit exercise, FMC	5 9:00-12:00 Beginnings Preschool	6 6:00 Young Lives meet in basement 7:00 Preschool Board of Directors, Philathea Rm	7 9:00-12:00 Beginnings Preschool 11:00 Area Ministers meet, Philathea Room 6:30 Crossroad, SMC 6:30 Adult Choir Reher. 7:00 Praise Band Reher	8 6:00 Children's Christmas Play Practice 6:30 BG Meadows HOA, Family Ministry Center	9 9:00-12:00 Beginnings Preschool 5:30 KIDZ NIGHT	10
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering – Dec 4-11						
11 8:45 Contemporary Worship 10:00 Sunday School/ Bible Study 11:00 Traditional Worship 7:00 Refit exercise, FMC	12 9:00-12:00 Beginnings Preschool 7:00 Finance Committee, Philathea Room	13 6:00 Young Lives meet in basement 6:30 Care & Visitation, Philathea Rm	14 9:00-12:00 Beginnings Preschool 6:30 Crossroads 6:30 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Praise Band Rehearsal	15 6:00 Children's Christmas Play Practice 7:00 Deacon's meeting, Philathea Rm	16 9:00-12:00 Beginnings Preschool Deacon's Christmas Party	17 Crossroads Progressive Dinner
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering						
18 8:45 Contemporary Worship 10:00 Sunday School/ Bible Study 11:00 Traditional Worship - Choir Christmas Musical "One Small Child" 7:00 Refit Exercise Program, FMC	19	20 Newsletter Deadline 10:00 Christian Book Club, Philathea Rm 12:00 Dollie Farmer WMU, Philathea Rm 6:00 Young Lives, basement 7:00 Building & Grounds, Philathea Rm	21 First Day of Winter 11:00 Area Ministers meet, Philathea Room 6:30 Crossroads, SMC 6:30 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Praise Band Rehearsal 7:30 Children's Christmas Play, Sanctuary and dessert social	22	23	24 Christmas Eve 5:30 Christmas Eve Service Sanctuary
School Winter Break – Dec 19-30						
25 Christmas 11:00 Worship Nursery not provided No Sunday school	26 Holiday Office Closed	27 6:00 Relay for Life 6:00 Young Lives	28 11:00 Area Ministers meet, Philathea Rm 6:30 Adult Choir 7:00 Praise Band	29	30 FMC-Crossroads	31 New Year's Eve Crossroad, FMC
School Winter Break – Dec 19-30						



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Wesley Carter
- 3 Samuel Gromovsky
- 5 Kevin Madison
- 6 T. Hardy Dunnington
- 7 Cassandra Broaddus
- 7 Karen Covington
- 7 Jennifer Michael
- 7 Joel Tidman
- 10 Emily Chilton
- 10 Emma Fagan
- 11 Mrs. Forrest McGhee
- 12 Abbie Crawford
- 13 Danielle Divelbliss
- 13 Christianna Gray
- 13 Carrie Moser
- 17 George Fisher
- 19 Nathan Carter
- 19 Michelle Kube
- 21 Colton Bissoon
- 21 Chayce Gustard
- 22 Sue Hollandsworth
- 23 Edward (Ted) Reynolds
- 23 Michelle Salazar
- 27 Donald Carneal
- 28 George (Gef) Fisher
- 31 Anne Brooks
- 31 Clancy Jordan



DECEMBER REMINDERS

Deacon of the Week:

- Dec 4 - Carolyn Lane
- Dec 11 - Neal Tidman
- Dec 18 - Bob Rice
- Dec 25 - Priscilla Shuler

Deacons' Meeting Devotions

Dec. Sandy Taylor

Counters– Hardy Dunnington & Mary Flora

Building Security: – Deacon of the week

Flowers:

- Dec 4 – Linda & George Fisher
- Dec 11 – Bettie French
- Dec 18 – Christmas Poinsettias
- Dec 25 – Church Greenery

COFFEE AND SNACK SCHEDULE:

- Dec 4 – Margaret Mills
- Dec 11 – Mary Flora
- Dec 18 – Carolyn Lane
- Dec 25 – No Refreshments One Service @ 11:00 a.m.

Nursery Workers: *

- 4th - Haley Kennedy & [Debbie Thomas](#)
- 11th – Paige Carter & [Nathan Car](#)
- 18th – Heather Diritto & [Kailey Gray](#)
- 25th– Sallie Tidman & [Sabrina Farris](#)

* Both individuals are responsible for the 8:45 service; the underlined individual is also responsible for the 11:00 service.