



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: December 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th.

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



Advent and Christmas Schedule November 26-December 31

"Preparing Our Hearts For Christmas"

Every year, we strive to make Christmas the best ever. We decorate and bake, shop and attend parties and we end up wearing ourselves out – just like the year before. It seems like the ONE thing that usually gets left out in all our preparations and activities is the essential purpose of Christmas. We forget that real Christmas joy begins in our hearts, and that also requires diligent preparation and meaningful activities of quiet moments of meditation and corporate worship. Join us on November 26th, December 3rd (First Sunday in Advent), 10th (Second Sunday in Advent), 17th (Third Sunday in Advent) and 24th (Fourth Sunday in Advent) for a sermon series that will help us focus on preparing our hearts for Christmas.

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Advent Wreath is a ring of evergreens with four candles, one for each week of Advent. It also includes a center candle which is called the "Christ Candle." The light that the candles give reminds us of Jesus, the Light of the World. The light coming from the candles increases throughout Advent as each week one more candle is lit. The weeks of waiting for the candles full light help us recall the world's long years of waiting for Jesus, the Light. Each Sunday in each service one of our church families will light the Advent candle and read scripture, share a short message and lead us in prayer.

Hanging of the Greens

This event begins with a pot luck supper and then we go into the sanctuary and decorate for the Christmas Season. It is the first Sunday in Advent, December 3rd, when we begin lighting the candles in the Advent wreath in each worship service before Christmas. During the "Hanging of the Greens," we prepare and reflect on the meaning, use and colors of the season. Join us on Sunday, December 3rd at 6pm for dinner followed by the service.

Christmas Choir Musical Service

Christmas music lies at the heart of the holiday season. You hear it all around you... grocery stores, shopping malls, and on the radio. Our favorite holiday carols accomplish something miraculous in this day and age – they send a blatantly sacred message to an increasingly distant and disillusioned world. On Sunday, December 17th the Bowling Green Baptist Church sanctuary choir will present ***"Rejoice in His Coming,"*** with beautiful songs and familiar carols that tell the story of Christ's birth from the announcement of Christ's birth to the stable and beyond.

Children's Christmas Pageant

There is nothing like a children's Christmas special to put you into the holiday spirit. So, on Wednesday, December 20th at 7pm Paige Carter along with our precious children will present a montage Christmas program that will be a must see for our Church family. And that's not all. Following this delightful program all are invited to a dessert reception in the FMC.

Christmas Eve Services

This year, Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday. So, we will have a combined service in the morning at 11:00am in the sanctuary. There will be no Sunday School classes or child care.

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service is a gathering that captures the quiet joy and anticipation of Christmas Eve. Carols are sung, the Christ story is told, candles are lit, and sweet fellowship is shared. Join us at 6pm for this special service for all ages.

New Years Eve

Just like Christmas Eve, New Years Eve falls on Sunday. Join us in the Family Ministry Center at 11am for a service that will have us reflecting on the past and looking ahead to the future with a renewed sense of hope and enthusiasm. Again, there will be no refreshments or Sunday School. Child care will be provided.

BOWLING GREEN BAPTIST CHURCH INCLEMENT WEATHER PLAN FOR 2017-2018

It's that time of the year when 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 outlet:
 - a. Richmond station WTVR-TV Channel 6
4. 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.
5. Additionally, an email will be sent out to those listed in our "Realm" data base.
6. This notice will be posted on the church website, the bulletin board outside the church office and copies will be available throughout December in the church. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the church office.



We were able to extend our Operation Christmas Child shoebox collection until Nov. 13 this year. This allowed us to take a total of 100 shoeboxes to the collection center at Calvary Church. Yeah!!! In addition, we received \$76 to assist with postage to help send these boxes around the world. This money was given for this purpose. Collection of food for needy families ended Nov. 19. We were able to help seven families with food baskets. Thanks to everyone who so generously shared with others at this time of year.

Our Angel Tree which helps provides gifts for the needy, was available Nov. 26. This is located in the Family Ministry Center until Dec. 17. Names will have sizes or toy requests on them. Please return the tag along with the wrapped gift no later than Dec. 17, so that these items can be matched with the request list. We hope to soon hear from Cathy Gray about her recent mission trip to Haiti. Hopefully, this will inspire others to GO and TELL.

Dec. 3-10 is the week of prayer for International Missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas offering. Enclosed in the Sunday bulletin is the story of some of the missionaries whose lives have been helped with this offering. 100% of what you give goes to send missionaries as well as provide for the work they do. Please pray for the missionaries and their families this week and each day of the new year.

Thanks to everyone for all the help you have given to our mission projects this past year. This helped in so many ways share the love of Jesus with others near and far. One of the greatest gifts, however, is our prayers for missionaries who are able to GO and TELL.

Holiday blessings to everyone and may you have a happy Christmas season with those you love.

REMEMBER:



Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Growing and Learning in Grace

This is a new monthly blurb about loving and growing our kids. No one does it perfectly and is rarely as you expected, but is an amazing journey! And at BGBC, we love kids!!!

by Paige Carter

First, I would like to say how very much I have enjoyed doing the children's sermons in the early service. Hearing the kids' replies to my questions fills me with anticipation and delight. It brings me back to the time when my boys were little and I never really knew quite what they were going to say. Sometimes they said some interesting things....honest and even embarrassing things. I will try not to ask questions that elicit those responses, but if I do, please forgive me and laugh right alongside me. Our kids are precocious and smart, funny and full of life! I wouldn't trade my gig with the kids for anything. They are a blessing to me!

This month I would like to talk about parenting. Not because I am an expert and not because I always got it right, not even close, but because I think that parenting is one of the hardest jobs on the planet. I also believe that it is different for every generation. The world is changing so fast. What our kids are exposed to every day is beyond anything that we would have imagined. That is why it is so important for us to be intentional about teaching our kids about Jesus. We must not only teach them with words, but with our actions. They will either learn what we teach them on purpose, or they will learn what we teach them on accident. Make no mistake, they are watching.

Whether I am wearing my hat as coordinator of children's ministry or my mom hat, I have to say that I hold tight to God's promises. Sometimes our children have to find their own path, do things differently than what we had envisioned. Some of them will go around the barn to find the door. That's okay. Everyone has their own path. I hold tight specifically to Proverbs 22:6 which says, "Point your kids in the right direction – when they're old, they won't be lost." Point. Train. Teach. These are the words from different translations. They are all active words. Not passive. If you do these things, it is on purpose. It is intentional. That is what we are charged with as parents. We are to raise our kids in a way that points them to Jesus. We do this through our words and through our actions. It is in the way we love people and extend grace to them, even if they are different from ourselves. It is in the way we forgive people. It is in the way we acknowledge that we often are in need of grace and forgiveness ourselves.

If you do not consider yourself to be a parent or if you are "done" raising kids, I would ask you to rethink that. You have much to offer this upcoming generation. They need your wisdom, your experience and they need your love. They need to see you walking out your faith. Pray for our children. Yes, these children are OURS.

When we reach the end of our lives and we stand before Jesus, I want to know that I have indeed pointed kids in the right direction – that I have helped them find their way in this world.

"Point your kids in the right direction – when they're old, they won't be lost."

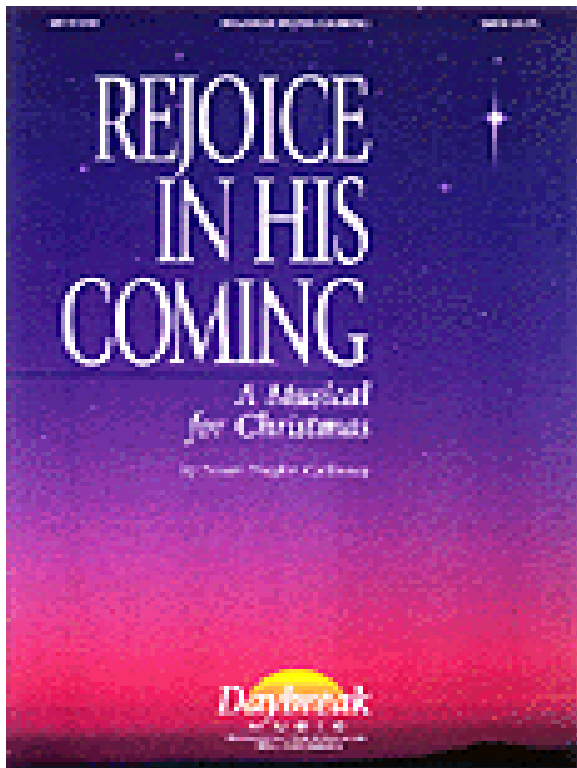
Proverbs 22:6

Here are some important dates for kiddos, too:

December 16 - Dress rehearsal for Christmas pageant

December 20 - Christmas Pageant

Musical Connections



The Adult Choir is pleased to present our Christmas cantata at the 11AM service on Sunday, December 17th in the Sanctuary. We are honored to have our Youth singers join the choir for this event! The blending of voices, young and young-at-heart, will surely honor our Savior's Birth and be pleasing to His people.

UPCOMING:

The First Sunday of Advent is Sunday, December 3rd.

7PM The Hanging of the Greens Celebration with musical contributions from the Adult Choir and Praise Team, and Children's Choir.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Wesley Carter	1
Samuel Gromovsky	3
Hardy Dunnington	6
Cassandra Broaddus	7
Karen Covington	7
Jennifer Michael	7
Joel Tidman	7
Jeff Fulmer	8
Mrs. Forrest McGhee	11
Abbie Crawford	12
Dani Divelbliss	13
Christianna Gray	13
Carrie Moser	13
Nathan Carter	19
Michelle Kube	19
Colton Bissoon	21
Chayce Gustard	21
Sue Hollandsworth	22
Edward(Ted) Reynolds	23
Michelle Salazar	23
Donald Carneal	27
Gef Fisher	28
Anne Brooks	31
Clancy Jordan	31



DECEMBER REMINDERS

Deacon of the Week:

December 3	Brad Thomas (change)
10	Ed Britt
17	John Markham (change)
24	Neal Tidman
31	Doug Farris

Deacons' Meeting Devotions- Carolyn Lane

Building Security: – Deacon of the week

Counters— Hardy Dunnington & Mary Flora

Flowers:

December 3	Linda & George Fisher
10	Bettie French
17	Christmas Poinsettias
24	Church Greenery
31	Church Greenery

Coffee & Snack Schedule

December 3	Margaret Mills / April
10	Mary Flora
17	Jean Satterwhite
24	No Refreshments
31	No Refreshments

Nursery Workers: *

3RD – [Carolyn Lane](#) - Jeanne Jordan- Gabby Dixon
 10th – [Heather Smith](#) - Jenn Thomas – Kailey Gray
 17th - Karen Covington - [Amy Phelix](#) – Emily Brillhart
 24th– Richard Gustard - [Naeda Gustard](#)- Kyle Farris
 31st – Ruth Judd - [\[Redacted\]](#) – Hannah Kennedy

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