



The MADISON MESSENGER

December 2017, Volume 52-12

Merry Christmas

"God's my size!"

"God's my size!" The three-year-old girl jumped up to tell her mother. "Mom, God's my size!" She got the idea while lying on her stomach looking at the manger scene beneath the Christmas tree. Eye level with a baby is a good position from which to do theology.

Adults look at the baby and say, "This can't be God! This is a bawling baby!" The protests are diverse. "This can't be God! This baby is Jewish. This baby is poor. This baby is illegitimate. This baby is male. This baby is traditional. This baby is a refugee. This baby is, well, a baby." Children look at the baby and say, "God's our size!" Adults look at the baby, shuffle their feet in the straw, and mutter to each other.

This Christmas let us view Christ from a child's point of view. The God of the universe left His glory above and chose to enter the world as a baby born to poor parents in a back corner of the world. God became a man and experienced the human condition. The Word became flesh and dwelt (tabernacled) among us. God came down to our level that He might bring us to be with Him.

"God's my size!" He became like us to show us the way to the Father, to be THE way to the Father. Jesus was born to be our Savior, to die for our sin. God has shown Himself in the person of Jesus. Christmas is when God invaded history. Celebrate this Christmas with this in mind. Praise God!

Pastor Randy

Special December Events

December 3

2:00 pm
Church Council

December 10

8:00 am
Baptist Men & Women
Breakfast

2:00-4:00pm
Christmas Open House
at Fulkerson home

December 14

6:00pm
Adult S.S. Christmas
Banquet

December 20

6:00pm
Old Timey Christmas

December 24

6:00pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight
Communion Service

International Missions Emphasis

Throughout December, we will be emphasizing the work of our International Mission Board that supports over 3,600 Southern Baptists missionaries around the world. This Emphasis includes:

- Week of Prayer for International Missions (Dec 3-10)
- Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
- Special Missions Program on Wednesday, Dec 6, at 6:30

National Goal: \$160 Million

North Carolina Goal: \$13.5 Million

Madison Avenue Goal: \$3,000



Notes from Our Music and Senior Adult Ministries



We appreciate the special music we heard in November from our Sanctuary Choir, Becky Aldrin singing “Your Great Name,” and a brass quartet playing “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty.”

We also hosted the annual Community Thanksgiving Worship. This included a sermon by Major Anthony Carmon of the Goldsboro Police Department, and special music by The Protestant Praise Team from SJAFB, led by DJ Coles. Cliff Garrison reported on the Community Soup Kitchen, and Chaplain Captain Jonathan Ayers from SJAFB led the Benediction. We were also led in some great singing by a 30 piece band made up of musicians from the Starlight Dance Band, five local band directors, and middle and high school students. Dave Periconi and Elisabeth Jewell played the organ and piano. We will host this event again in 2019. An offering of \$921 was collected for the Community Soup Kitchen.

Thanks to those who attended the NC Singers concert in Rocky Mount. Our final concert will be on May 7 at Trinity Baptist Church in Raleigh- not too far for you to attend.

Our senior adults enjoyed another great fellowship meeting at K&W Cafeteria on Monday, November 27. On November 16, we enjoyed a visit to the CSS Neuse Museum in Kinston, which included stops for lunch, ice cream, and shopping. We plan to visit Meadow Lights in Benson on Monday, December 4. VSP will not meet in December, but will meet again on Monday, January 22. Watch for details.

Your Church Staff hopes you and your family and friends have a very blessed and happy Christmas. We look forward to seeing you in Sunday School and Worship.

The Deacon Corner

We have approached the time of year when “busy” seems to be the life style of everyone. In addition to all the scheduled church and church-related events that become our opportunities during the month of December, other opportunities and responsibilities are available. One of those is the Lottie Moon Christmas offering for International Missions. One just completed opportunity was the participation by many in our church to fill more than 60 shoe boxes for needy children carried out each year by Samaritan’s Purse.

We as individuals have both the opportunity and responsibility to share our material blessings with other less fortunate individuals or families, whether through the Empty Stocking Fund, the Salvation Army’s Angel Tree campaign or directly to needy families that we may know about. Please keep in mind our opportunity to remember our church staff and other volunteer kitchen workers as our Personnel Committee will soon be opening this opportunity to all of us. Also, please keep in mind and plan to participate in the Adult Christmas Party on December 14, and the Old Fashioned Christmas party on December 20. And most of all, please plan to be a part of our most meaningful Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service.

I.K. Williamson, Diaconate Chair

Advent and Sunday School: *A Seasonal Reflection*

According to the Google dictionary, Advent is defined as “the coming of a notable person, thing, or event.” What an understatement! “The Advent season is a season of waiting, but our whole life is an Advent season, that is, a season of waiting for the last Advent, for the time when there will be a new heaven and a new earth” (Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *God is in the Manger*). We look forward to the coming season that personifies the hope and excitement that we as Christians have over the celebration of the birth of the Messiah, the Lamb of God, the Light of the world. I consider it a privilege to be able to share the joy of the season with you, my church family, through worship, fellowship, and Bible study.

Speaking of Bible study, our Sunday School classes continue to be a vital part of our ministry to those who seek to know the Word of God. Let’s not keep this ministry to ourselves! We have a responsibility to reach out to those who might not have a church home or who are hungering for love and encouragement. The Shepherd directs us to feed His sheep, and Sunday school is a fitting place to gather for a spiritual meal fit for a King.

Jeanie Sherman, Sunday School Director

December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 2:00p Church Council	4	5	6 6:00p Covered Dish Supper and special Missions Program	7	8	9
Week of Prayer for International Missions December 3—10						
10 8:00a Baptist Men/ Women Breakfast 2:00-4:00pm. Christ- mas Open House— at Fulkersons	11	12	13	14 6:00p S.S. Adult Christmas Covered Dish	15	16
17	18	19	20 6:00p Old Timey Christmas Newsletter info due	21	22	23
24 Worship Service – Sanctuary 6:00 Christmas Eve Service—Sanctuary	25 Christmas Day	26 Church Office closed	27 Church Office closed No Meal Or Programs	28	29	30

Adult Sunday School Christmas Covered- Dish Dinner

Thursday, December 14, 6:00pm
Fellowship Hall
Sign up in Sunday School

Christmas Eve Schedule

9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Morning Worship in
the Sanctuary
6:00 pm Christmas Eve
Worship in Sanctuary

December Birthdays

Please notify the church office
for corrections and additions.

- 1 Elizabeth Vinson
- 5 Dave Periconi
- 9 Venessia Hill
- 10 Penny Westover
- 12 John Compton
- 14 Bill Pruett
- 15 Carrie Warren
- 15 Bob Frederick
- 17 Jo Ann Tart
- 23 Michael Bass
- 28 Owen Richardson
- 30 Madysen Edwards
- 30 Maddox Edwards
- 31 Floyd Daughtry



Regular Sunday Activities

9:45a Sunday School
11:00a Morning Worship

Regular Wednesday Activi- ties

6:00p Family Night Supper
6:30p Prayer Meeting
Children In Action for grades 1-6
Mission Friends for preschoolers

THE MADISON MESSENGER

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Church Staff

Dr. Randy Outland	<i>Transitional Pastor</i>
Rev. Edwin Jewell	<i>Minister of Music and Senior Adults</i>
Peggy Bartlett	<i>Secretary</i>
Dave Periconi	<i>Organist</i>
Susan Edwards	<i>Pianist</i>

Office Hours

Monday – Thursday	8:30 am— 4:30 pm
Friday	8:00 am— 4:00 pm

Our Mission

*To glorify God by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus
Christ through love, discipleship, and service.*

*Christmas Open House at the
Fulkerson Home
Sunday, December 10
2-4:00 p.m.*

We need Nursery Workers for: December, January, February. Sign-up sheets are on the board outside the nursery.

Christmas Party at Lincoln Homes

Thursday, December 14, 5:00pm

Need Socks for Lincoln Homes: Please bring socks for young children to the church by Friday, December 8.

Christian sympathy is extended to the Alice Edwards family on her death.

Memorials for October in memory of Carlton Frederick and Margaret & Ed Jernigan.

Nursery Ministry

(Ages Birth—2 yrs.)

9:30-10:45 Sunday School

10:45-12:15 Worship

S.S. Teacher: Della Frederick

Join Us for These Special Christmas
Traditions

Old Timey Christmas

Wednesday, December 20, 6:00 pm

Free Hotdog Meal!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Lord's Supper

Sunday, December 24, 6:00 pm

Come and worship with us as we celebrate
the Lord's Supper by candlelight.