



First Baptist Church of Wallace, NC

First Family

December 2017



The Open Doors of the Christmas Season

-- *Who's life could be changed by God through YOU this December?*

Don't Waste the Season!

The Christmas season was not "invented" so that we could shop, buy stuff, and cram our schedules to the breaking point. Christmas was created to give us a chance to celebrate and respond to the story of God's gift to us in Christ.

So you're truly messing up Christmas when you focus on the trivialities and miss the real purpose of the season. The devil has you right where he wants you -- stressed, distracted, and spiritually ineffective.

So what are some things you can do this season to serve God's great purpose for the Christmas story?

(1) Invite others to the Christmas Program, Dec. 10.

On Sunday evening, December 10, our choir and drama group will be presenting "Finding Joy."

This drama with choir music tells the story of a family that has lost their way, but through Christmas they find renewed joy and peace, and to new fellowship with God.

You could attend and enjoy it and

go home, but how would that honor Christ? Why not invite several friends, co-workers, neighbors, and family members to share it with you?

See page 3 for more details!

(2) Invite someone to share the Myrtle Beach Christmas Trip with you.

Our group will be going to Myrtle Beach, to a wonderful Christmas show and dinner on Tuesday, December 12. But we aren't going to "entertain" ourselves. We go on these trips because they provide opportunities for outreach. So if you're not inviting a friend, you're missing the point!

There is still room if you act fast, so sign up, and invite several friends so that they can be reminded of the real meaning of Christmas and so that they will have a chance to meet and build friendships with your First Baptist family. People meet Jesus best when surrounded by His followers!

For more information on the Myrtle Beach Trip, see page 3!



(3) Bring a friend to our Candlelight Dinner, Prayer, and Program, Wednesday, Dec. 13.

We have a special meal and program planned for Wednesday, December 13. The meals are delicious and the program will highlight the Christmas season.

You'll love having dinner with friends, and this focus on Jesus' coming, less than 2 weeks before Christmas.

(4) Invite people to share the Christmas Eve Service with you!

As usual, we will have our Christmas Eve service at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. It will be a simple service of Scripture, Carols, and Candlelight, with a short to-the-point message. What better time to focus your friends on the real meaning of Christmas than on Christmas Eve?

So start inviting today!

Worship

5 Secrets to a Kid-like Christmas Joy



The store ran out of the advertised item.
The jerk in the sports car stole your parking space.
That beloved family member can't come this year.
You have too much to do and too little time.

Do you need to recapture the Christmas Joy that God intends for this season to have? If so, don't miss our December 2017 worship series! We'll be learning these 5 Secrets to a Kid-like Christmas Joy...

November 26

Believe in the Unbelievable
Luke 1:26-38

December 3

Go with the Flow of Christmas
Matthew 1:18-24; Luke 2:15-20

December 10

Share Your Wish List with "Father Christmas"
Luke 2:25-32

December 17

Grab, Shake, and Unwrap Your Presents
John 1:1-5, 10-14

December 24

Drop in Unannounced with Unexpected Gifts
Matthew 2:1-12

December 31

New Year's Eve
Speaker: Penny Ross

Prayer Requests



Those in our community whom God has called us to lead to Christ and minister to in His love. Bobby Batts, Wendy Bednarz, Donald Brooks, Holly Faircloth Carter, Forrest Cavanaugh, Grace Farnior, Gonzales family, Vernon Hardison, Ivey Jones, Brenda Merritt, Aaron Pereira, Edith Pratt, Velma Spell, Melinda Stampe, Max Teachey, Terry Temple, Stephen Thompson, Ashley Tucker, Nina Williams, Law Enforcement and all service members deployed around the world.

Sympathy to:

The bereaved families of Peachie Hatcher Rivenkamp and Paitin Renee Fields.

Christmas Events

Community Christmas Programs

Sunday, December 10:

11:00 AM-Presbyterian Church, Wallace

4:00 PM-Methodist Church, Wallace

5:00 PM-First Baptist Church, Wallace

Christmas Eve Celebration

First Baptist Church, Wallace

Sunday, December 24, 5:00 PM

Carols, Candlelight & Communion

Senior Adults

Some Memories of Our Senior Adult Trip to Canada.....



Senior Adults

Senior Adult Ministries

It's December and that can only mean one thing! It's time to load up the church bus and van for our annual trip to see the Christmas show at the Alabama Theater. We are scheduled for a 10:00 a.m. leave time on Tuesday, December 12. If you want to go but failed to nab a spot, call the office and see if any spots have opened up! We have already had a few people have to pull out and may have others, so there's still a chance you could join us. If you have already signed up, please pay for your ticket(s) as soon as possible. The cost is \$60 for FBC members and \$65 for non-members. All money is due no later than Sunday, December 3. All unpaid for tickets will be released back to the theater at that time. So pack a snack lunch to eat on the way and we'll see you on December 12.

Music Ministries

Music Ministries

Save the date! On Sunday evening, December 10, at 5:00 p.m., we will present a Christmas drama, with special musical pieces, entitled, Finding Joy.



This drama, directed by Tami Donnelly, will be starring Robin Stone, Tammy Patram, Lizzy O. Blackburn, Claire Beth Bradshaw, Makayla Stallings, Ashlynn Patram and Tyler Ross, as well as some non-speaking actors. It will also include some beautiful pieces of music our Chancel and SonShine choirs are excited to share with you. This Sunday afternoon performance will be our only performance and you will not want to miss it! Plan to come early so you and the friends you invite to come with you can get a good seat! We'll see you there! And Merry Christmas!



Every good and perfect gift comes from God. In fact, generosity is at the very core of God’s character—He even gave us His own son, Jesus! Jesus showed unwavering generosity as He traded His life for ours. And, because God gave us Jesus and Jesus gave His life, we can be generous towards others. Not only that, but when we are generous towards others, we prove that we love God by loving the people He loves. We pray that this Christmas, as kids celebrate God’s amazing generosity, they’ll see how they can be generous with their family, friends, and neighbors.

WEEK 1 - Key Question: What do you have to give? Kids don’t immediately know what they have to offer. They don’t have a lot of money, and may not have a lot of stuff either. Thankfully, generosity isn’t just about money and stuff. Kids will discover the heart of generosity and realize that they have more to give than they might have thought.

We start our look at generosity in **1 John 4:9-11** where we discover that generosity starts with God. Because God loved us so much, He sent Jesus to be our savior and make it possible for us to be with God forever.

Bottom Line: **Because God gave, I can give.** John goes on in this passage and writes, *Dear friends, since God loved us this much, we should also love one another, (NIrV)*. As kids respond to God’s generosity in their own life, we pray they will be generous with their family, friends, and neighbors.

WEEK 2 - Key Question: Why is it important to give to others? Kids have been told since they were very young that they should share and give to others. As they grow into adolescence, it’s important for them to understand why that’s true. We’ll give kids a chance to answer that question for themselves, and discover that generosity changes your entire perspective on the world God made. Life isn’t about me. It’s about what God is doing through me to show His love to the world.

In **Luke 12:13-21**, we find Jesus sharing a parable about a rich young man. This rich man experienced such a harvest that he ended up with more than he needed. Instead of seeing how he could use the extra to help others, he stores it up for himself. He loses his life and doesn’t get to enjoy it anyway.

Bottom Line: **Don’t miss your chance to give.** When it comes to what we have, we need to think about others and focus on relationships more than getting more stuff. Being generous is difficult when we’re consumed with wanting more. We want kids to understand that when we focus on others, we’re more likely to see the needs around us and be generous in how we help meet those needs.

WEEK 3 - Key Question: What are some ways you can give this Christmas? By this time in the month, kids might know what gifts they are giving to others. This question isn’t about the physical gifts kids can give, but the creative ways they can show generosity to others throughout the Christmas season.

We will take a look at important generosity principle Paul wrote to Timothy in **1 Timothy 6:18**. *Command the rich to do good. Tell them to be rich in doing good things. They must give freely. They must be willing to share, (NIrV)*. Paul knows that our wealth isn’t based in how much we have but in what we do with it.

Bottom Line: **Look for creative ways to give.** As we have gifts and giving on our minds, Christmas is a natural time to talk to kids about generosity. Often, they feel like they don’t have anything to give. Thankfully, all of us can be rich in good deeds. We’ll help kids discover how they can look around and discover all sorts of ways they can give to others with their time and talents.

WEEK 4 - Key Question: What does Christmas mean to you? The Christmas story is one of the most familiar stories in the Bible—even if you didn’t grow up in church. At some point, kids need to decide for themselves if they believe it’s true, if Christmas is more than the presents and time with family. We pray this will be the Christmas many kids will see Jesus in a new way and decide to put their faith in Him.

It’s Christmas! We head to the familiar story in **Luke 2:1-18**. While people expected a new king born in a palace, God had other plans in mind. Jesus was born in a place where they kept the animals. No royal robes, not much public fanfare, just Mary and Joseph cuddling Jesus for the first time. God announced His gift to shepherds helping us realize that Jesus was a gift for everyone.

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A Place of Grace



A Life-Giving New Direction for the First Baptist Church family

At our Fall Business Conference, we received the recommendations from our Church Directions Team. The key proposal was that the First Baptist family make a commitment together to be a “place of grace.” Our church voted without any dissent to make this commitment together.

This may seem simple, but it is a huge move for our church, and will open up a very different future for us. Here’s how...

What’s behind this commitment?

For too long, First Baptist Church has had a reputation for conflict, internal criticism, and nursing old grudges. Leaders long gone were still criticized for past statements and actions. Church members were taking their complaints into the public gathering places of our community, instead of working out these disagreements in love and in obedience to Christ. People’s character and motives were attacked behind their backs.

This constant negativity, even if only from a few, has done tremendous damage to our church and made it a place many have left to find peace, or refused to come to in the first place.

But we know that our Lord expects better, and we can do better. Not just in our church, but in the places where we work, in relation to our neighbors, and in our own families, we want to be people of grace, and we want to create “A Place of Grace.”

To move us in that direction, the Directions Team presented these simple, but biblically-based commitments that our whole church family will be encouraged, person-by-person, to commit to:

- In obedience to Christ (Matthew 6:15; Matthew 18:35; Ephesians 4:32), I will forgive old grievances and the failures and mistakes of others, giving to others the new beginning that God gives me each day, and trust others in Christ’s love.
- I will refuse to rehash or retell past offenses and disagreements, or to sin against others by complaining about them behind their backs.
- I will not speak about others unless I know the information to be both true and affirming of them.
- I will refuse to listen to others recite grievances or complaints about others, but will remind them of their responsibility to go to that person and to be a person of forgiveness and grace, or just walk away.
- I will obey God’s command (Philippians 4:8) to fill my heart and mind with the positive rather than the negative -- all that is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, and worthy of praise.
- I will seek out those most in need of God’s grace and be a channel of that grace into their lives, sharing Christ’s love, healing, hope, and abundant life.
- I will demonstrate the character traits that bear witness to God’s presence within me (Galatians 5:22-23): love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, and self-control.

In January, our worship services will explore this new direction. We will be digging deep to understand God’s grace, why it is imperative that we give it (and not just receive it), and what living in grace looks like. And we’ll invite people to make a public commitment to living in this kind of grace.

We live in a world of broken people. If we aren’t deeply committed to showing grace, speaking with grace, loving with grace, then we have lost the right to call ourselves followers of Jesus. This new direction is going to open the floodgates of God’s blessing, and be a magnet to a searching community, just as the grace of Jesus drew people to Him.



Fellowship is a place of grace, where mistakes aren’t rubbed in but rubbed out. Fellowship happens when mercy wins over justice.

— Rick Warren —

Continued from page 4

Bottom Line: **God gave us Jesus.** Kids will get the chance to celebrate Jesus, God's most generous gift. They'll discover why God sent Jesus for us, as well as, what that means for how they show generosity to the people in their life.

WEEK 5 - Key Question: How can you be more generous? Isn't it true that although we know we should be generous, we often do the bare minimum when it comes to giving? What if kids decided to go above and beyond with their generosity? We think that if kids were generous with their time and energy, with their patience and grace, that life would look different for them. They'd show others what it means to follow Jesus and show the world a glimpse of how generous He is to us.

We wrap up Christmas week in **Matthew 2:1-12**, and find wise men traveling from the East to show generosity to a newborn king. After discovering a unique star in the sky, they followed it and it led them to the home of Jesus. Each one of their gifts for Him were thoughtfully chosen and fit for a king.

Bottom Line: **Give like you're giving to God.** While Christmas is a time to think about giving big, we want kids to realize that they can give big all throughout the year. As we focus on the people God has put in our lives, we'll soon notice how we can be generous towards them. When we show big generosity, we give like we're giving to God.

Save the Date

Women of Joy Rescued 2018 Tour Myrtle Beach, May 4 – 6

"He reached down from heaven and rescued me; He drew me out of deep waters" Psalms 18:16

Mark your calendars!! Request vacation!!
Join us!! Awesome weekend!!

Kids Café Volunteers Needed

Are you looking for a way to make a difference? Do you want to be the hands and feet that Jesus calls us to be? Do you have just a few hours a week or a month to volunteer? If you answered "Yes" to any of these questions, then REJOICE! We have just the thing for you.

Become a volunteer with Kids Café. It is a wonderful way to spend your time. You will meet kids that just melt your heart. You will offer some help with homework, be there for arts/crafts/devotions/playtime. If your calling is to help with food prep and clean-up, then we will plug you in there.



You have the opportunity to help children in OUR community to succeed. You have the opportunity to SHOW them the love of Jesus. Believe me (ask any of our volunteers), you will be blessed by your participation more than you know.

We are here on Tuesdays from 3:00-5:30 PM. Call or email Donna Marshburn at 285-6341 or 289-8392 or donnamars@hotmail.com. You can also call the church office at 285-2534. Make a choice to be a positive role model for a child today!

The History Room is going to have stained glass windows added to glorify God and to create visuals representing the Trinity. Jim Shapley, Sunshine Studio, is a stained glass artist from Burgaw. He will be creating the glass window panels from Theresa Elias' designs. Visit his FB page at <https://www.facebook.com/SunshineStudioStainedGlass>



The "Father" window has the earth, moon, compass, clouds, olive branch, the strawberry plant, and the fig leaves representing His creation. The crown and Hebrew word for Yahweh is also present.

The "Son" window has the lamb, crown of thorns, dogwood, and cross representing Christ's ultimate sacrifice. The wheat and grapes stand for the body and blood of Christ.



The "Holy Spirit" window has the strawberry (fruit of the spirit), the key to Heaven, the dove, wind, and the burning bush that stands for the comforter or the Holy Spirit.



We have half of the cost for this project. If you would like to contribute to these windows, make your gift to the designated "History Room" fund. There will be plaques installed near the windows in Honor or in Memory of loved

ones at the conclusion of this project. If you have any questions, please call Theresa Elias at 910-289-0979.

Hearts of Hope Ministry



Thank you for being willing to Christmas shop for one of our children in our Hearts of Hope Ministry. Your gifts are to be at the church

by noon on Sunday, December 10. Please place your unwrapped gifts in a bag with the shopper's letter stapled to the outside of the bag. The gifts can be placed in the office, on the tables in the room with the copier. Thanks for showing the love of our Lord to these precious children!

Just for Laughs:

Christmas Humor:



It was the day after Christmas at a church in San Francisco. The pastor of the church walked by the manger scene and noticed that the baby Jesus had been taken from the scene. He wasn't in the manger. He wasn't in Mary's arms. He hadn't fallen behind anything. Jesus had been taken!

Upset, he walked on toward his home. A couple of blocks later, he saw a boy coming toward him pulling a wagon, and in the wagon, he had that missing figure of Jesus. As the boy approached, the pastor said, "Where did you get your passenger, young man?"

"I got him from in front of the church," he answered.

"So why did you take him from the church?" the pastor asked.

The boy said, "Well, about a week before Christmas I prayed and told Jesus that, if he would make sure I got a wagon for Christmas, I would give him a ride around the block in it. So I'm just keeping my promise."

Volunteers

December Volunteers

10:00 a.m. Sunday Life Groups Nursery

Anita Cavanaugh & Susan Ayers
(VOLUNTEERS NEEDED)

11:00 a.m. Worship Hour Nursery

Susan, Maggie Ray, Olivia, & Claire Elizabeth Bradshaw
(VOLUNTEERS NEEDED)

Sunday Ushers:

Connections Life Group

Tellers: Doris Webb & LaRue Faircloth



January Newsletter Submission Deadline: December 15, 2017



Please email articles to
office.fbcw@gmail.com
Please make articles brief!

Church Staff

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Mrs. LaRue Faircloth, Organist/Choir Accompanist
Mr. Ivey Jones, Custodian

On the Record

Attendance

Life Groups

11-5	11-12	11-19	11-26
88	101	91	80

Worship

192	177	188	157
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Budget and Receipts

2017 Budget	\$483,029.00
Offering Receipts To Date 11-26-2017	\$386,863.88

Dec. Birthdays

- 1 Nancy Jenkins
- 1 Rick Donnelly
- 1 John Cavanaugh
- 2 Harold Simpson
- 2 Ann Paul
- 2 Dave Witter
- 3 Tripp Perry
- 4 Clayton Davis
- 4 Mark Myers
- 4 Mason Christopher
- 5 Sandra Rogers
- 6 Phil Rivenbark
- 6 Nikki Mendes
- 8 Sharron Batchelor
- 8 Jon Marsh
- 9 Clay Davis
- 9 Carrie Gurganious
- 9 Kirsten Griffin
- 10 Caroline Farris
- 10 Edith Merritt
- 11 Joseph Wescott
- 12 Max Teachey
- 12 Emily Bunch
- 13 Savannah Gurganus



- 14 Sharon Teachey
- 15 Mary Hart Blackburn
- 16 Dixon Lefler
- 18 Justin Hines
- 18 Louise Brinson
- 20 John Stallings, Jr.
- 20 Marcelle McGowen
- 21 Preston Russ
- 22 Gloria Seaborn
- 23 Caitlin Rich
- 23 Jocelyn Jones
- 23 Lendell Kenon
- 23 Khaylah Kenon
- 26 William Brooks
- 26 Devon Register
- 27 Jon Gurganus
- 27 Daniel Padgett
- 27 Caitlin Hale
- 28 Nicholas English
- 29 Chenara Cavanaugh
- 29 Irvin Graham
- 29 Noel McGowen
- 30 Helen Brinkley
- 30 Abby Evans
- 31 Babs Paul



First Baptist Events

December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <h2 style="color: red; font-family: cursive;">Merry Christmas</h2>					1 Poinsettias Delivered	2 Fellowship Hall Reserved
3 First Sunday of Advent 9:00 am-Life Café 10 am-11 pm-WallaceKids 10:00 am-Life Groups 10:35 am-Chancel Choir 11:00 am-Worship 4:00 pm-Hearts of Hope God's Workshop, FH	4 6:30 pm-Scouts, FH 6:30 pm-Properties, R303	5 10:30 am-SonShine Choir 2:00 pm-Staff Meeting 3:00-5:30 pm-Kids Café 5:30 pm-Worship Band	6 5:30 pm-Dinner 6:00 pm-Prayer 6:15 pm-Bible Study 7:20 pm-Chancel Choir	7 10:00 am-REACH 7:00 pm-Bible Profilers	8 6:30 pm-Finding Joy Dress Rehearsal	9
10 Second Sunday of Advent 9:00 am-Life Café 10 am-11 pm-WallaceKids 10:00 am-Life Groups 10:35 am-Chancel Choir 11:00 am-Worship 5:00 pm-Christmas Prog.	11 10:30 am-WMU III, R303 6:30 pm-WMU V, Wallace Gardens 6:30 pm-Scouts, FH	12 10:00 am-Alabama Theater, Myrtle Beach 5:30 pm-Worship Band	13 5:30 pm-Dinner 6:00 pm-Prayer 6:15 pm-Bible Study 7:20 pm-Chancel Choir	14 10:00 am-REACH	15 Newsletter Deadline	16
17 Third Sunday of Advent 9:00 am-Life Café 10 am-11 pm-WallaceKids 10:00 am-Life Groups 10:35 am-Chancel Choir 11:00 am-Worship 4-6 pm-Choir, Thompson's	18 6:30 pm-Scouts, FH	19 10:30 am-SonShine Choir 2:00 pm-Staff Meeting 5:30 pm-Worship Band 7:00 pm-Stewardship	20 7:20 pm-Chancel Choir	21 10:00 am-REACH 4-8 pm-Fellowship Hall Reserved 7:00 pm-Bible Profilers	22 OFFICE CLOSED	23
24 Fourth Sunday of Advent Regular Activities 5:00 pm-Candlelight Communion Service 6:00 pm-FH Reserved	25 Merry Christmas! OFFICE CLOSED 10:00 am-FH Reserved	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 7:20 pm-Chancel Choir	28 10:00 am-REACH	29	30 
31 Regular Activities						