



*“In the heart of the community;
with a heart for your family”*

A Pastor’s Ponderings

November 27, 2016

With the passing of Thanksgiving, we have officially embarked upon our annual Christmas quest. The next four weeks will be a blur of shopping, parties, cooking, cleaning, planning, and more shopping. In the midst of all that, I urge you to stop and consider this simple visual.

Amidst all the craziness that accompanies the Christmas season, if we’re not careful, we’ll start getting tunnel vision. It’s like trying to watch a parade go by, while looking through a knot hole in a fence. All you can see is what is directly in front of you; the next big thing. If we focus solely on the next party, or finding that perfect gift, or making sure the house is in order, think about what we risk missing. We may sacrifice a memory in the making. A relationship with a family member might be strained. The joy that Christmas brings to the world can be lost in the hustle to get everything done.

So climb up on top of that fence and watch the parade go by. Ask God to help you be revitalized by the big picture that is Christmas. The wonder of His love for the world. The joy of that first Christmas. Go ahead and make all those cookies, but share them with someone less fortunate. Get the gifts wrapped and the house in order, but take a moment to see Christmas through the eyes of a child. It is my prayer that the love, joy, peace, and hope of this season will wash over all of us like a flood.

Weekly Schedule for November 27 to December 4

Today Sunday School10:00 am
 Morning Worship11:00 am
 (Group 3 ...meet with Rena after church.)
 Evening Worship6:00 pm
 (Kids In Action rehearsal @ 6pm)
 Choir PracticeFollowing evening worship

Tuesday Men’s Breakfast9:00 am
 Ladies’ Prayer Group9:30 am
 (at Nancy Gillis’s home)

Wednesday Fellowship Supper5:30 pm

<i>Group activities begin at 7:00 pm</i>	Kids In Action Rehearsal in Sanctuary The Experience* Junior High Small Group* (* meets at <u>The Spot</u>) “Kingdom Man” Study Group in Classroom Adult Prayer & Bible Study in Fellowship Hall
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Next Sunday Sunday School10:00 am
 Morning Worship11:00 am
 Evening Worship6:00 pm
 (Kids In Action rehearsal @ 6pm)
 Following evening worship:
 Birthday/Anniversary Social & Choir Practice

HAPPY BIRTHDAY	HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
Mike BushMonday Scotty DavisMonday Caleb ShawTuesday Diana BrownWednesday Nikki HarmonWednesday Tommy BaileyFriday Cathy ClaypoleFriday Jenny BarkerSaturday	None this week...

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS	
TODAY	NEXT SUNDAY
AM - Rachel Ratheal, Pam Dugger & Jenifer Carter	AM - Pam & Patrick Mitchell & Janice Cunningham

ANNOUNCEMENTS



WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP SUPPER

This week’s menu:
sloppy joes, baked beans, slaw, chips, dessert & drink.
 (A sign up sheet is in the foyer.)

Meals are **\$4.00** each or **\$12.00** for families.
 Supper will be served from **5:30 - 6:30 p.m.**

URGENT MESSAGE: Cooks need to know how many meals to prepare. **Please sign up no later than Monday @ noon!**
 Need more information? Call **Lavon Jones @ 426-8105.**

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PLAY

“*David’s Dynasty*” will be presented on **December 11** at 6:00 p.m.

ANGEL TREE @ WEST VIEW SCHOOL

Contact guidance counselor, Clarinda Whitson, @ 753-1175 or email: whitsonc@wcde.org for information about how to provide Christmas gifts for underprivileged, local children. The deadline is **December 2nd!**

MEN’S MINISTRY FELLOWSHIP

Saturday, December 10th, at 8:30 a.m.

Breakfast with time of fellowship and spiritual growth.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

A **Sign-up sheet** is still available for our last work day at the warehouse in Boone, NC. (**Dec. 9.**)

CHRISTMAS PARTIES & FELLOWSHIPS

Friday, **Dec. 16:** Home Builders Sunday School Class @ **6:30 pm**
 Saturday, **Dec. 17:** Choir Dinner @ **5:00 pm** (& rehearsal)

Need to reserve the church fellowship hall for your group, classes or family activities? First come. First served. Sign up on the kitchen wall calendar in the fellowship hall.

JOURNEY THROUGH BETHLEHEM

Meet at the church on Tuesday, Dec. 13th, at 5:00 p.m. for this outdoor, interactive experience at First Baptist Church in Fall Branch. Travel back to Bethlehem and walk through the streets & marketplace. Experience the time & events when Christ was born. (The church van will stop at McDonald’s on the way back.)

Keep in Your Prayers

...the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.
(James 5:16)

Sickness & Hospital

Bernice Bailey
Tommy Bailey
B.F. Barker
Lorene Barr
Lois Broyles
Tony Broyles
Ronnie Bryant
Judy Burgner
Wade Cole
T.J. Crawford
Steve Cutshall
Mary Davidson
Charles Ellis
Barbara Fazio
Richard Fleenor
Fawn Gale
Charles Garland
Regina Gauntt
Kenneth Gray
Sonja Green
David Greer
Jimmy Grubbs
Josh Hall
Lynn Hampton
Janice Hardix
Linda Hensley
Pauline Hensley
Cash Hicks
Joann Holley
Ray Holtsinger
Becky Hooks
Joe Huffman
Glenna Hughes
Johnny Jandor
Lisa Justice
Nancy Malone
Paul Masters
Katrina Mausolf
Jim McNamara
Sharon McQueen
Matthew Millsaps
Teresa Monteon
Becky Mooks
Pastor Kevin Morris
Geneva Osborne
Debbie Page
Glenda Perdue
Jordan St.John
Art Simpson
Larry & Judy Smith
Mildred Snapp
Pastor Sneed

Robert Story
Jule Susong
Ed Tanner
Betty & Elmer Taylor
Bob Tibble
Doris Townsend
Judy Vanlandingham
Cameron Whitaker
Gene Wilcox
Flo Wilmouts
Denise Young



Other Requests

American Military
Radio Ministry
The Spot
The families of our
community
Local churches
without pastors
Washington County
Jail Ministry
Issac Cutshall
Traveling safety
Unspoken requests
FISH Ministry
Amanda English
The young couples of
our church
Jerrell Elwell
Donald Wood
Doug & Barb
Weberg's travels
Paige Snapp
Lori Deloach (job loss)

Shut-in & Nursing Home

Joanne Goode
Rena Hensley
Peggy Roberts
Lou Shelton
Eric Starner
Christine Kyker
Brownlow Yarbor
Millie Yarbor

Salvation

K. Adamson
Kevin Ayers
Michelle Ayers
Jo Bartlet
Robin Booth
Charles Bowers
S. Branstractor
Kathy Brooks
Karen Burgin
Rick Burgin
Mary S. Carter
Heather Crumb
Jessica Curtis
John Dowdy
Ben Franklin
Karen Ingram
Patton Jervis
Donna Laws
Betty Lewis
Scott Lewis
Diane Miller
John Nichols
Jim Norris
Becky Norton
Harry Norton
Kenzie Nunley
Jennie Reasor
Larry Richardson
Amy Roberts
Dustin Roberts
Sue Roberts
Bill Shelton
Rita Shelton
Kelly Shoun
Tammy Waterhouse
Kevin Whistine

Note: If a name needs to remain on the prayer list for longer than one month, just let Pastor Craig know.

KIDS IN ACTION

Only 5 more rehearsals remain for the Kids in Action Christmas play. Parents, please make every effort to ensure your children are in attendance at these final rehearsals:

1. Sunday, **November 27**, at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
2. Wednesday, **November 30** at 7:00 p.m. in Church Sanctuary
3. Sunday, **December 4** at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
4. Wednesday, **December 7**, at 7:00 p.m. in Church Sanctuary with all Props and Costumes
5. FINAL DRESS REHEARSAL: Friday, **December 9**, from 6:00-8:00 in Church Sanctuary. *Pizza will be provided to children and helpers at 6:00 prior to starting rehearsal.*

2016 CHRISTMAS CARD MINISTRY

The New Salem "post office" will be open next Sunday! To send Christmas cards to church families, we encourage you to consider donating the money you would normally spend on postage toward our **Lottie Moon Christmas Offering** and send your cards through the church "post office". Simply put the family's corresponding number in the upper right corner of the envelope *where a stamp would normally go* and drop them off before **Wednesday, Dec. 21st**.



Dr. Craig Ponder, Pastor

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Associate Pastor of Youth

Home: 257-2651 ♦ Cell Phone: 483-8401

youth@newsalemchurch.net

Joe Barker

Associate Pastor of Family Ministry

Home: 257-2779 ♦ Cell Phone: 426-1604

Your Deacon of the Week

Jim Ward

Home: **257-2708** Cell: **741-3186**

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