

CONNECT

Volume 74 Number 12

December 1, 2025

Prayer Partners
The Snipes Family

Mission Emphasis
Lottie Moon



Lottie Moon

WALK OFFERING

Sunday, December 7 | 8:30 & 11:00 am

Offering Supports: International & FBC Missions

Bring your monetary gifts & food donations for International Missions and Christian United Outreach Center to the sanctuary as we give in worship.

We invite all members to wear their On Mission T-shirts Sunday, December 7, as we participate in the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.



JOIN US FOR

CHRISTMAS

Christmas Prayer Service

Wednesday, December 3 | 6:10 pm | Christian Life Center

AMA Fall Recital

Saturday, December 6 | 10:00 am | Sanctuary

Children's Christmas Play

Sunday, December 7 | 6:30 pm | Sanctuary

Pack n' Prayer

Wednesday, December 10 | 6:30 pm | Christian Life Center

Christmas on Sunset

Friday, December 12 | 6:00 pm

Christmas at First

Sunday, December 14 | 6:00 pm | Sanctuary

Doors open at 5:30 pm

Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 21 | 2:30 pm | Meet in the Sanctuary

Family Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, December 24 | 5:00 pm | Sanctuary

Candlelight and Communion

Wednesday, December 24 | 8:00 pm | Sanctuary

Combined Worship Service

Sunday, December 28 | 11:00 am

Sunday School 9:45-10:45 am

Prayer Requests

To share a prayer request,
please send emails to

elucas@fbcasheboro.com or

call the church office, from

8am-5pm, Monday-Friday.

*Rejoice always, pray continually, give
thanks in all circumstances; for this is
God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

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Do you like fishing? I am by no means an excellent or experienced fisherman, but I enjoy it. One of the best parts of fishing is the anticipation, the *hope* of the catch. Now for some fishermen this hope is a type of wishful thinking – they hope they might catch something, anything. For other fishermen, the experienced fishermen, this hope is a confident expectation. It’s not whether they will catch one, but they hope (are looking) to catch the big one!

When I was a young boy, we lived just a block or two from Lake Tomahawk. This is a small lake in Black Mountain. I would go fishing there but would seldom catch anything. Now to my defense I rarely left the hook in the water before I had to reel it in. Have I mentioned my attention span is not always the best? One time I was reeling in, and something grabbed the line. It felt huge! I reeled and reeled and to my delight there was a fish! Now somehow, I hadn’t caught the fish in the mouth, but I had caught the fish through a hook in its back! I remember being filled with excitement. I was eager to cast the line back out because I knew there really were fish in the lake. My hope had changed from wishful thinking into confident expectation!

See when you go fishing, you go having hope, but not all hope is the same. You can hope you might catch something, anything or you can hope you catch the big one!

Hope is an important word for Christians. Hebrews 11:1 tells us, “*now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.*” Hope for a Christian is confident expectation of what God is going to do! What are you hoping for this Christmas season? Some of us might feel like we have little hope this Christmas season – still in the remnants of sickness or medical struggles, dealing with the loss of a loved one, or facing financial struggles. We are just hoping to make it through. In these moments, remember Isaiah 9:2 (CSB), “*The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; a light has dawned on those living in the land of darkness.*” Isaiah’s words were written to God’s people who had been exiled and held captive by foreign people. They had faced tons of heartache and problems, but there was hope – not in their situation, not in their power – but in the coming light of the promised Messiah, the Christ!

This Christmas season we can find hope in that same light, not a wishful thinking but a confident expectation of his light shining bright in our lives to chase away the darkness. This Christmas season I challenge you to confidently expect God to shine his light into your life. The Christ has come to chase away the darkness and reveal his glorious presence!

Lord, Let your light shine in and through all of us this Christmas! Amen.

From the Owen family to yours, Merry Christmas!

Stephen, Emily, Jaxson, Alexis, Roxanne, Maxton, Bexley, and Daxton



PASTOR ON CALL

December 5-7.....	Stephen Owen/828-292-4627
December 12-14.....	Michael Thames/336-971-6798
December 24-26.....	Aaron Littell/828-719-7716
December 31-January 2	Jenn York/336-906-6779

Giving Numbers

Received: October 2025	\$92,342.00
Budgeted: October 2025	\$95,703.00
Received Year to Date 2025	\$1,050,259.00
Budgeted Year to Date 2025	\$1,138,800.00

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year...

I believe it takes more than wishing to have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, don't you? There are times that I wish, and it just does not happen. Circumstances, brokenness, other people, and sometimes even I get in the way. I do not think God created us to depend on perfect lives and perfect relationships to have a Merry Christmas or a Happy New Year.



I have witnessed people whose circumstances seem far from good, yet they are full of peace. Others who live in the midst of brokenness, yet they have an overflowing hope. I have also witnessed people who are surrounded by frustrating relationships, and they offer love in return. The answer to a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year—the answer to an actual, abundant life—is not to experience an easy life. The answer is to experience the blessings of Jesus in the midst of the brokenness of this world.

Think of it this way, the world was far from perfect when Jesus was revealed to us that first Christmas. The government, religious organizations, and families were broken. People were suffering. Then Jesus appeared. Did the brokenness or suffering stop? No. If anything, it seemed to have grown worse, but something was different. We learned that God sent His Only Son to save us from our own brokenness. Jesus paid the price for all the ways we hurt God and hurt each other. He experienced separation from God so we would not have to be separated from God, through our faith in Jesus. Now, just like that first Christmas, we wait.

We wait for Jesus to return again, just like He said. We wait with peace, hope, and love; not because life is easy, but because God is Good and He is with us. In 1 Thessalonians 5, we have the promise that Jesus will return, and we have reminder to encourage each other while we wait. You see, we were never meant to wait alone. If you really want to know the answer, it is working for Jesus while waiting for Jesus, together. Then you will have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

CHURCH NEWS



"We are deeply grateful for the outpouring of love through your visits, calls, texts, and especially your faithful prayers during Bob's recent hospitalization. By God's grace, Bob is recovering and feeling much stronger. We have truly felt the power of your prayers and the presence of God's hand throughout his recovery. A special thank you to the pastoral staff for your visits, encouragement, and prayers—you have been a true blessing to us."

Bob & Mary Pickett

"We are so thankful that your prayers have been answered! We deeply appreciate our church family and all the prayers spoken over Charles during and after his surgery. Please continue to pray for his complete healing and that his pain remains manageable."

Charles & Teresa Havens

"We sincerely appreciate your prayers and concern for Stephen's mother, Jane Gainey."

Stephen & Kelly Gainey

"We are grateful for the many texts, calls, and—most importantly—your prayers. Please continue to pray for his healing and for full mobility of his arm through physical and occupational therapy."

Dennis & Ann Gardner

"Thank you all so much for keeping me in your prayers. My health journey continues, but I look forward to seeing you all soon!"

Betty Reed



CHURCH OFFICE
CLOSED
December 24—26

"Thank you for helping us reach our goal for the lotion donations for the WMU Red Box ministry this year."

Girls in Action & Hearts and Hands

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

JENNIFER YORK

Most of us would agree that the Christmas season can be a little chaotic. It is easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle and lose sight of why we celebrate. That is why it is so important to be intentional in pointing your children to Jesus during this Christmas season.

To make it easier for your family, we are offering a weekly Advent lesson. It is available on Realm and hard copies can be found in the sanctuary foyer. It is called "Behold the Savior."

Remember there is no better teacher than you when it comes to your children learning what Christmas is all about. So let's make this year one for them to remember as you guide them through the greatest story ever told.



We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped pack shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Together, our RAs and 4th–6th

grade Sunday School class packed and collected a total of 508 boxes, which were then delivered to Balfour Baptist Church by our 6th graders. Thank you for serving so faithfully!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Tuesday, December 2

Christmas Play Practice | 5:30 - 7:30 pm | Dinner Provided

Saturday, December 6

Christmas Play Practice | 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Sunday, December 7

Christmas Play Practice | 4:30 pm | Heavy Snack Provided

Sunday, December 7

Children's Christmas Program | 6:30 pm

Friday, December 12

Christmas on Sunset | 6:00 pm

Wednesday, December 17 and 31

No Wednesday Night Activities

Sunday, December 21

Christmas Caroling | 2:30 pm

Wednesday, December 24

Family Christmas Eve Service | 5:00 pm
(Volunteers practice at 3:45 pm)



SAVE THE DATE

Vacation Bible
School

June 15-18, 2026

THE GROWING PLACE

KATHERINE DAVIS

The Growing Place children loved going to the pumpkin patch at Sunset Church of God. They enjoyed hearing stories and picking out their pumpkin to take home. They have had the best time playing outside in the leaves and enjoying the fall season. We are all looking forward to the holidays and time with family. Happy Thanksgiving!



MUSIC MINISTRY

ALYSSA PLOTT

Christmas Time is Here! As we enter this joyful and bustling season, I wanted to share a clear overview of upcoming Music Ministry events throughout the month of December. It is a full and meaningful month, and I hope you'll join us as we celebrate the story of Christ through music, worship, and community.

Children's Christmas Program – December 7 | 6:30 pm: We invite you to a delightful evening of music presented by each of our Children's Choirs. Following will be a special presentation of *Christmas Hope*—a heartfelt pageant that beautifully bridges the manger and modern family life. It's a powerful reminder that the hope first revealed in a humble stable continues to dwell in our lives and homes today.

Christmas on Sunset – December 12 | 6 pm, 7 pm, and 8 pm: Join us as we go ON MISSION in Downtown Asheboro! At the top of each hour, we will present a 45-minute program sharing the Christmas story alongside a live nativity. The evening will feature scripture readings by Pastor Stephen and music from the Praise Team, Stairwell Sisters, Children's Choirs, Worship Choir, First Four, and Made for Praise. In addition to the program, we will be distributing care bags to our community as a tangible expression of Christ's love. Come help us proclaim the Good News through scripture, song, and service!

Christmas at First – December 14 | 6 pm: "One star led the way to the true Everlasting Light." As I prayerfully searched for the right work for this year's Christmas at First, nothing seemed to resonate—until I kept returning to John Rutter's Star Carol. Ultimately, I sensed the Lord leading me to craft a new work built around some of my favorite anthems and the rich scriptural narrative found in Matthew, Luke, and John.

Come See the Star!—a cantata shaped and inspired by the Holy Spirit—features biblical narration compiled by Pastor Stephen and a diverse musical tapestry including bluegrass, jazz, a cappella, British choral traditions, and even a touch of rock. The loft will be filled with angelic voices as costumed characters bring this incredible story to life. We eagerly look forward to sharing this worship experience with you!

Church-Wide Caroling – December 21 (Meet in the Sanctuary at 2:30 pm): All are warmly invited to join us as we go throughout our community spreading joy, encouragement, and the spirit of Christmas through caroling. Please use the QR code provided to sign up and participate!



I look forward to celebrating this beautiful season with you and your families!

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

AARON LITTELL

Youth

Adopt-A-Grandparent— Join us for our Christmas Adopt-A Grandparent Social on Sunday, December 7 at 4:30 pm in the Christian Life Center. Enjoy delicious food, wonderful fellowship and fun games, while getting to know your adopted grandparent! Sign up to bring a sweet or salty snack!



Youth Christmas Party— Join us on Saturday, December 20 at 4:00 pm for our Youth Christmas Party! We'll begin at the church before heading out around Asheboro and ending the evening at the Owen house. Bring \$10 for a white elephant gift (we'll be purchasing them during the outing) and come ready for fun and adventure! We hope to see you there!

Young Adults

Christmas Party— Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 13! The Next Step Sunday School Class will be having a Christmas Party at 6:00 pm at Stephen and Kelly Gainey's house (734 Newbern Ave. Asheboro). Please bring a \$10 white elephant gift to exchange. For questions, please contact Kelly at 919-810-4791.



Five couples from First Baptist traveled to Fort Caswell from November 14-16 to serve on mission. The group built and painted five picnic tables and painted several other structures to help improve the grounds and ministry at Fort Caswell.

The group included (listed from left to right):

- Devin and Jennifer Cox
- Aaron and Valerie Hall
- Marc and Joann Keeter
- Stephen and Emily Owen
- Jimmy and Melanie Huffman



FORT CASWELL



November 15-16, Girls in Action (GAs) traveled to South Mountain Baptist Camp for their annual GA Campout and International Mission Study. This year the girls learned how Southern Baptist missionaries are serving in Brazil and working with Indigenous families. They learned about challenges the missionaries face, Brazilian culture, spiritual needs and how they can pray and support people in Brazil.

The GAs also studied the life and mission work of Lottie Moon. They made their Lottie Moon Christmas banks for the offering in December. Today, we still give to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering in honor of her work and sacrifice to keep missionaries on the field. Thank you for allowing your daughters to attend the study and learn about Brazil and the work there with us.





PRIME TIME NEWS

¹⁹ "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ~ Matthew 6:19-21

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Senior Living Facilities/Rehab

Alpine Health & Rehab	Tom Lewis
Asheboro Rehabilitation Center.....	Emily Nance
Brookdale	Faye McDaniel, Janice Scarborough
Clapp's	George Lucas, Jane Gainey
Cross Road Assisted Living.....	Grace Bullard, Bobbie Gibson, Kathy Snead, Patsy Myers
Cross Road Memory Care	Martha Henley, Mary Owens, Pug Yeatts
GrayBrier Nursing & Rehabilitation	Lois Edwards
High Point Hospital	Betty Reed
Montgomery Senior Living	Susan Long
Ramseur Rehabilitation	Randy Bulla

At Home Members

Recovering from Recent Surgeries or Other Health Concerns

Joyce Crocker	Shirley Ferryman	Nancy Horton
Joretta McNeill	Sharon Hunter	Debbie Gatlin
Deborah Wood	Gail Griffin	Nelson Rowland
Dennis Gardner	Charles Havens	Pam Alley
Don Butler	Daphne Perry	

Christian Sympathy is extended to...

- Fae Martin on the passing of her nephew, Steve Christensen from Wisconsin, on October 28.
- Neil and Frank Voncannon on the passing of their mother, Marie Voncannon, on November 12.



SENIOR UPCOMING EVENTS

Bingo— Join us for a fun morning of fellowship and bingo on Thursday, December 4, at 10:30 am in the Chapel. After bingo, we will be putting together bags for the RCS Homebound Ministry. Come enjoy a morning filled with friends, laughter, and serving together!



Adopt-A-Grandparent— Join us for our Christmas Adopt-A-Grandparent Social on Sunday, December 7 at 4:30 pm in the Christian Life Center. Enjoy delicious food, wonderful fellowship and fun games, while getting to know your adopted grandchild! Sign up to bring a sweet or salty snack!



Special Homes Tour— Join us for a festive tour of two unique and beautifully decorated homes this holiday season! Our bus will depart from the church parking lot on Monday, December 8th, at 9:30 am. Bring your Christmas cheer and enjoy a wonderful time of fellowship together as we visit two delightful homes this holiday season! We look forward to seeing you there! Registration is required by Thursday, December 4.



Joyful Singers: Dec. 2 Meet at 12 pm at CJ's for lunch | Sing at Clapps (Pleasant Garden) at 2:30 pm

Perry Lowe Orchards

On Monday, November 3, our Senior Adults went to Perry Lowe Orchards in Wilkesboro, NC! They took in the beautiful fall scenery and picked up some delicious apples, perfect for eating and baking. It was a wonderful day filled with fellowship, laughter, and the joys of fall!



Coffee and Inspiration

Our Senior Adults enjoyed coffee, prayer, and meaningful stories that helped them get to know Michael, our Connections Pastor. It's amazing how God can use both our blessings and our challenges to encourage one another. Sharing the right message with the right heart can change someone's life.



Christmas Devotion

"When the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth ... his Son ..." —**GALATIANS 4:4**

Christmas is not a myth, not a tradition, not a dream. It is a glorious reality. It is a time of joy. Bethlehem's manger crib became the link that bound a lost world to a loving God. From that manger came a Man who not only taught us a new way of life, but brought us into a new relationship with our Creator. Christmas means that God is interested in the affairs of people, that God loves us so much that He was willing to give His Son.

From *Day by Day with Billy Graham*, © 1976 BGEA

PRAYER— Lord Jesus, as I remember Your birth in such a lowly stable, cleanse my heart that it might be a sanctified gift for You.



LOOKING AHEAD

December 1	<i>Operation Christmas Child Processing Center</i>
December 1 & 4	<i>Red Box Packing</i>
December 2	<i>Joyful Singers/Clapps Pleasant Garden</i>
December 3	<i>Christmas Prayer Service</i>
December 4	<i>Senior Adult Bingo</i>
December 6	<i>AMA Recital</i>
December 6	<i>Christmas at Caraway (Senior Adults)</i>
December 7	<i>Walk Offering & Missions Fair</i>
December 7	<i>Adopt-A-Grandparent Social</i>
December 7	<i>Children's Christmas Play</i>
December 8	<i>Special Homes Tour (Senior Adults)</i>
December 10	<i>Pack n' Prayer</i>
December 12	<i>Christmas on Sunset</i>
December 13	<i>The Next Step Christmas Party (Young Adults)</i>
December 14	<i>Christmas at First</i>
December 17	No Wednesday Night Activities
December 19	<i>Youth Christmas Gathering</i>
December 21	<i>Churchwide Christmas Caroling</i>
December 24	<i>Christmas Eve Family Service</i>
December 24	<i>Candlelight and Communion</i>
December 24-26	Church Office Closed
December 28	<i>Combined Worship Service w/ Sunday School</i>
December 31	No Wednesday Night Activities

See the weekly **Ministry Guide** for more upcoming events.



WORSHIP SERVICES

8:30 am & 11:00 am

With Livestream on YouTube @ 11 am

BONUS TEACHING HOUR

(infant—4 year-olds Bible learning activities)

8:30 am & 11:00 am

1st floor of The Growing Place Childcare Center

SUNDAY SCHOOL

(For all ages)

9:45-10:45 am

133 N. Church Street

Asheboro, NC 27203

336.629.9191 | www.fbcasheboro.com

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8 am-5 pm

Connect will next be published on

December 29, 2025

The deadline for submitting information is
Noon on Wednesday, December 15, 2025.