



# THE ACCENT



Volume XXVI Issue 12

AUSTIN GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

December, 2014

5919 Austin Grove Church Road, Marshville, NC 28103



To Our Church Family and Friends:

Thank you so much for your participation in the joint Thanksgiving service. God blessed our community last Sunday night.

Even though the calendar says December, I can hardly believe it. Bodie Thoene writes "Love is enough.....When there's nothing left to give the Lord, then you have to look at what you have. Your soul. Yourself. And that is the only gift He wants from His children."

Have you ever made or requested a Christmas wish list? Most of us have at one time or another.

When we were young we were not concerned about the prices or the availability of the items on our list, just that this is what we wanted. I remember our youngest wanting a life sized Barbie and that was a very popular item that year. We searched, waited in lines for the truck to come in only to come away empty handed. Finally in one last desperation effort, Cindy's sister lived in a small Colorado town and we asked her to take a look. She found it, what a relief our daughter would be able to receive her much wanted doll. The problem just a few days left until Christmas. UPS kept us waiting until the very last moment on Christmas Eve the enormous package arrived. That Christmas brought such a smile to her face, worth every agonizing moment of searching. That Christmas will forever be etched into our minds and hearts.

What do you think God wants from us? Is it our gifts of money or time? Maybe, or could it be that He wants to see more acts of service from us? Many times we say, what possibly can I give to God? I believe the most important thing we can give God is ourselves. Given without reservation. All In!

Make this the best Christmas ever by resolving in your life and heart that you will serve the Lord with everything He has blessed you with.

Thanks for allowing Cindy and I to serve you all the years. You have and continue to be such a blessing to us. Merry Christmas and may His light shine upon your heart and soul. God bless. We love you.

*Leon & Cindy*

## Staff & Phone Numbers

Rev. Leon Whitley, Pastor  
 Church Study.....624-3882  
 Home.....753-4768  
 Rev. Rocky Rushing, Youth Director...698-5787  
 Church Office.....624-2929  
 Fellowship Hall & FAX.....624-3868  
 Sunday School Office.....624-2929



# DECEMBER

AT CHRISTMAS ALL ROADS LEAD HOME

Marjorie Holmes writes, "At Christmas, all roads lead home. The filled planes, the packed trains and overflowing buses all speak eloquently of a single destination: home. Despite the crowding and the crushing, the delays, the confusion, we clutch our bright packages and beam our anticipation. We are like birds driven by an instinct we only faintly understand--the hunger to be (home)."

She then remembers a Christmas during the Great Depression when her Dad was out of work and the rest of her siblings were scattered across the country and unable to return home for Christmas. But then just days before, each sibling conspired with the others to make it home no matter what to surprise their parents. When she arrived at the door, she writes, "I'll never forget (my mother's) eyes or the feel of her arms around me." The next morning she was awakened by the sleigh bells hanging on the front door as her siblings each arrived. "Together. (We realized) it was the best Christmas gift we could give one another." Many years later, her husband had to travel to Florida to perform a vital surgery which would separate them for Christmas. They had agreed that this would be the way it is for Christmas this year but then at the last minute, Marjorie and her daughter hopped a train and headed to Florida. On the way, she saw a sailor in his uniform with his sea bag on his shoulders and she knew here was another so immutably driven to "Come home." And then she writes, "There must be some deep psychological reason why we turn so instinctively toward home at this special time. Perhaps we are acting out the ancient story of a man and a woman and a coming child, plodding along with their donkey toward their destination. It was necessary for Joseph to go home.. .The Child who was born on that first Christmas grew up to be a man, Jesus. He healed many people, taught us many important things. But the message that has left the most lasting impression and given the most hope and comfort is this: that we do have a home to go to.. .a place where every day will be Christmas, with everybody there. At home."



### SUNDAY

Sunday School.....9:45 AM  
 Worship Service.....10:45 AM  
 Evening Service.....6:00 PM

### WEDNESDAY

Bell Choir Practice.....6:00PM  
 Girls On Mission/Ambassadors for Christ...6:30PM  
 Prayer Service.....6:45PM  
 Adult Choir.....7:30PM

- 1 Jack Napier
- 2 Freddy Griffin
- 3 Kristina Deese
- 4 Charles Ivey
- 4 Jason Little
- 5 Parker Griffin
- 6 Carol Fowler
- 7 Russell Smith
- 8 Shirley Griffin
- 10 Whitney Baucom
- 13 Stuart James
- 13 Joanne Trull
- 14 Eric Helms
- 14 Maleah Long Batchelor
- 14 Brittany Rivenbark
- 15 Sue Austin
- 16 Mandy Phifer
- 16 Kenny Stewart
- 17 Landon Newsome
- 18 Laura Stoddard
- 19 Aaron Griffin
- 19 Jacob Griffin
- 20 Cody Earp
- 22 Julie Davis
- 22 Cynthia Miller
- 24 Carole Helms
- 28 Melva Seay
- 28 Cindy Whitley
- 29 Vinny Pasciuta
- 30 Becky Brazell



*Your Christmas cards can be delivered here at church again this year. The postage you save can be contributed to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.*



**Anniversaries**

- 5 Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Haigler
- 7 Mr. & Mrs. Reid Phifer
- 17 Mr. & Mrs. Andy Overcash
- 20 Mr. & Mrs. Jack Austin
- 23 Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Edwards
- 26 Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Craiglow
- 29 Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Guffey



**Week of Prayer & Mission Study for International Missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering**

**November 30 – December 7**

**Our Mission Study will be on Wednesday, December 3**

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**Nursing Home Residents**

**Autumn Care**  
Joe Chulick(203)

**Monroe Square**  
Lynn Crooke

**Monroe Rehabilitation Center**  
Robert Ansley (360)



**Children/Youth  
Christmas Program  
Sunday, December 7  
6:00pm**

**Please bring  
refreshments to share  
following the program.**

# THE GOSPEL STUDENT MINISTRY

"To Know Him and Make Him Known"

## December Events

- Girls on Mission Bible Study and Ambassadors for Christ Boys Bible Study will take place Wednesday Dec.3, and Dec.10 (6:30-7:30pm).
- Christmas Play – Sun., Dec.7, 6pm in fellowship hall.
- Children/Youth Caroling – Wed., Dec.17, 5:30-7:30pm. Please sign up on youth bulletin board so we will have enough food for everyone to enjoy afterward.
- Get ready for exciting new children/youth bible study titled The Story starting in Jan.

***We Want To Wish Everyone A Wonderful Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!***

Please sign up for events on youth bulletin board so we can have a head count for each person attending. Please contact Rev. Rocky Rushing at 704-698-5787 or [Rocky1573@gmail.com](mailto:Rocky1573@gmail.com) if you have any questions pertaining to these events.

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**Shoeboxes for kids**

**Samaritan's Purse**  
Our workday for the Operation Christmas Child warehouse in Charlotte is Monday, December 8. We will meet at the church to

leave at 5pm. We'll pick up sandwiches & fries from Chick-fil-A to eat on the way. Please bring \$ to cover the cost of your food.

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## **Ladies Christmas Party Thursday, Dec. 11**

**6:30pm in the fellowship hall**

All ladies are invited to join us. Please bring your favorite finger foods(including sweets) to share and a \$10 gift to swap.

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**Seniors Holiday Breakfast  
@ Forest Hills High School  
Friday, December 12  
9:00-11:00am**

Fresh doughnuts, pastries and hot chocolate followed by holiday carols, fellowship & games, live music & door prizes! Please sign up on bulletin board if you plan to attend



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**Collection**

**Donna Pittman  
Christmas Toy Store –  
December 13**

@ UBA beginning at 8am. New toys/gifts are needed for ages birth – 16 year olds. Please leave prices on them. Donations can be left in Welcome Center & will be taken to the association office the week of Dec. 8. Volunteers that would like to work at the store can sign up on the bulletin board. Contact Barbara Simpson @ 624-5489 with any questions.

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**Join us on  
Sunday, Dec. 14  
during morning  
worship for some  
special Christmas  
music from our  
choir!**

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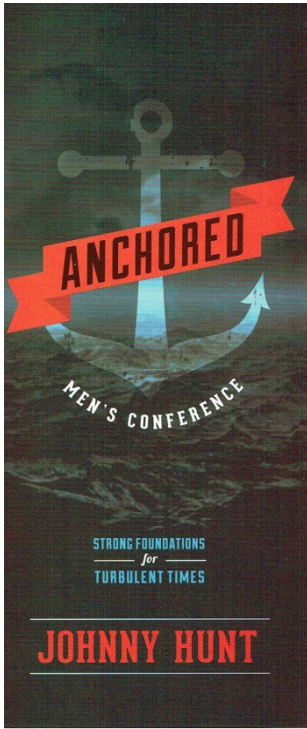
## **Autumn Care Gifts**

Gifts for the Autumn Care residents need to be turned in by **December 14**. Please wrap gifts or put in a Christmas bag & tape angels on outside. If you have any questions, please contact Polly Marsh.



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**Johnny Hunt  
Men's Conference  
"Anchored"**

**March 13-14, 2015**

Prospect Baptist Church,  
Albemarle, NC

Cost: \$50(includes steak  
dinner on Friday night,  
materials & conf. CDs).

See bulletin board to  
sign up.

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**Chip Ingram Conference @ The Cove  
May 22-24, 2015**

If interested in going, sign up on bulletin board.

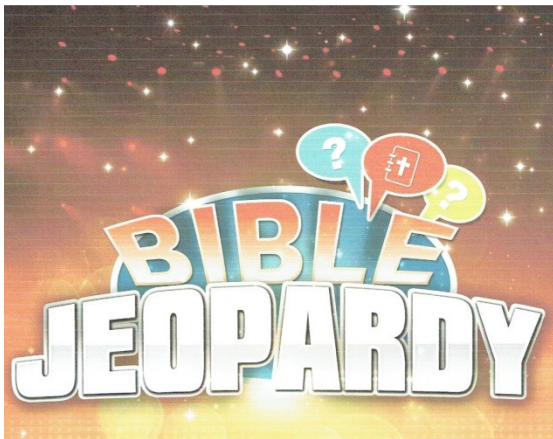
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**Women of Joy Conference**

Myrtle Beach in May

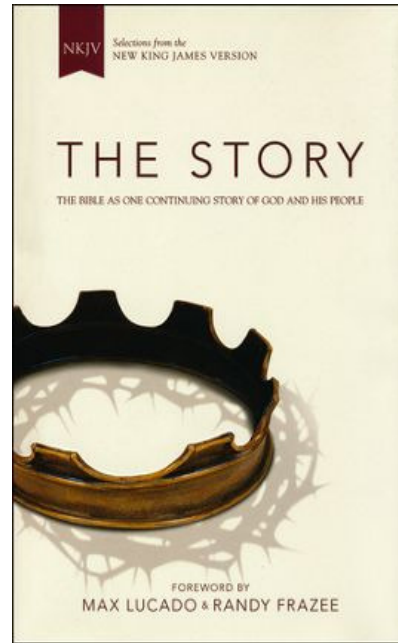
See Women's bulletin board for more info.

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**Bible Jeopardy Night  
Coming in early 2015**

Adult classes are encouraged to form teams of 2  
or 3 people to compete with other adult classes.



**"The Story"  
Bible study  
For children  
and adults  
Begins in  
January, 2015!**

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**10 WAYS TO PRAY  
FOR OUR PERSECUTED FAMILY**

1. Pray that persecuted believers will sense God's presence (Heb. 13:5).
2. Pray that they will feel connected to the greater Body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:20, 26).
3. Pray that they will experience God's comfort when their family members are killed, injured or imprisoned for their witness (2 Cor. 1:3-5).
4. Pray that they will have more opportunities to share the gospel (Col. 4:3).
5. Pray for their boldness to make Christ known (Phil. 1:14).
6. Pray that they will forgive and love their persecutors (Matt. 5:44).
7. Pray that their ministry activities will remain undetected by authorities or others who wish to silence them (Acts 9:25).
8. Pray that they will rejoice in suffering (Acts 5:41).
9. Pray that they will be refreshed through God's Word and grow in their faith (Eph. 6:17).
10. Pray that they will be strengthened through the prayers of fellow believers (Jude 20-25).