



THE ACCENT



Volume XXV Issue 1

AUSTIN GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

January, 2013

5919 Austin Grove Church Road, Marshville, NC 28103



To Our Church Family and Friends:
 2013 comes with many expectations and many fears. To each of us different circumstances and situations will largely determine what this new year brings into our lives. May I encourage each one to face this year with expectancy, for our Lord holds each of us in His grip, so I will approach it with my eye upon Him. I know we have to make choices and my encouragement to you will be to make good choices that are guided by His Hand.

I read an illustration by Doug Miller last week that went like this: Two little boys Kevin 5 and Ryan 3, they are sitting down to breakfast. Their mom is bringing pancakes. She brings them the first pancake and they both grab for it. The mom decides this is a great moment to teach them a moral lesson. She says If Jesus were here. He would give His brother the first pancake. Then He sat and wait patiently. So Kevin looks at his little brother and says, Ryan you be Jesus. The question is who's going to be Jesus for the millions of lost people in our world? Who is going to make the unselfish choice to reach out to those that have not yet heard the Good News. Who's going to make the unselfish choice to serve, to give, and to go? If we can see our weakness and turn to Christ, He is strong and faithful to give us the power to make the right choices.+

May this be the year that Jesus Christ is placed first in all of our decisions!

Thanks to each of you for giving us the privilege of serving this congregation.

May God bless
 Leon & Cindy

For the new year

Hold fast to your faith (Hebrews 4:14)
 Assemble with the saints (Hebrews 10:25)
 Pray earnestly every day (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)
 Pray for great blessings (Malachi 3:10)
 Yield not to temptation (1 Thessalonians 5:22)

Neglect not your talents and opportunities (Galatians 6:10)
 Examine yourself daily (2 Corinthians 13:5)
 Work diligently for the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Yield your members to righteousness (Romans 6:11, 16)
 Exercise yourself in godliness (1 Timothy 4:7)
 Aim for a perfect, mature faith (Hebrews 6:1)
 Redeem the time (Ephesians 5:15-16)

ô Gus Nichols



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



SUNDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

Gospel Project Night(Ignite Kidz & Ignite Youth)í í í í í í í í .í .:6:30M
 Prayer Meeting.....6:45 PM
 Adult Choir.....7:30PM

- 2 Brittany Crowe
- 2 Laura Ann Ikerd
- 2 Shane Michael Jordan
- 5 Calvin Hartis
- 5 Matthew Oster
- 6 Nathan Baucom
- 6 Chris Guffey
- 8 Billy Bennett
- 8 Delane Bennett
- 8 Cathy Lacroix
- 9 Anna Christine Edwards
- 9 Jacklyn Taylor Edwards
- 9 Eddie Rivers
- 10 Khoury Nassef
- 11 Toni Riggins
- 11 Hunter Ray Smith
- 12 Tommy Traywick
- 14 Barbara Faulkenberry
- 15 Pat Autry
- 15 Lindsey Faith Nassef
- 18 Benjamin Collins
- 18 Kyle Gordon
- 18 Lainey Preslar
- 19 Laikyn Nicole Newsome
- 19 Cary Preslar
- 19 Morgan Zambarda
- 21 Kaylan Haigler
- 21 Alexandria Miller
- 23 Sandra Helms
- 23 Jay Tiffany
- 23 Kris Tiffany
- 24 Brittany Edwards
- 24 Beverly Napier
- 25 Lisa Tarleton
- 26 Aidan Figueroa
- 26 Emily Oster
- 27 Wayne Griffin
- 28 Michael Jordan
- 29 Amber Griffin



Rocky & Laura Rushing in the loss of his grandmother, Helen Hartley.



Outreach Ministry Schedule

- Thurs., Jan. 3, 7pm – Team 1(Phyllis Simpson)
- Tues., Jan. 8, 10am – Team 2(Frances Knight)
- Wed., Jan. 16, 6pm – Team 3(Pat Autry)
- Wed., Jan 23, 6pm – Team 4(Steve/Brenda Walker)

Women's Ministry Meeting

January 10 6:30pm



UBA Winter Session

Tuesday, January 22
7:00pm (Refreshments: 6:00pm)

Lakeview Baptist Church
4602 Concord Hwy
Monroe, NC 28110

All messengers and visitors are invited to attend.

Baptist Men's Sunday

January 27

Join us for morning worship as our men will be leading the service.

A New Year poem

Another fresh new year is here í
Another year to live!
To banish worry, doubt, and fear,
To love and laugh and give!

This bright new year is given me
To live each day with zest í
To daily grow and try to be
My highest and my best!

I have the opportunity
Once more to right some wrongs,
To pray for peace, to plant a tree,
And sing more joyful songs!

ô William Arthur Ward

Anniversaries

- 3 Mr. & Mrs. Roger Long
- 3 Mr. & Mrs. Morris Williams
- 7 Mr. & Mrs. Calvin Hartis
- 14 Mr. & Mrs. Steve Walker
- 22 Mr. & Mrs. Cary Preslar
- 26 Mr. & Mrs. Wade Haigler



Nursing Home Residents

Rehab. & Nursing Ctr

Robert Ansley (333)
Pat Cook (203)

Bellaire Health Care Ctr.

Brenda James

Jesse Helms Ctr

Margaret Connell

Carillon Assisted Living

Ruth Trull

52 Sundays Prayer Guide – Praying for Our Missionaries

January 6

Our Part of the Bargain

"A tithe of everything...belongs to the Lord."
Leviticus 27:30-32

Soon after God led the Israelites out of Egypt, He started teaching them about stewardship, as reported in Leviticus 27.

The Israelites had a unique covenant with God that was affirmed many times over the years, Scripture records. Out of all the nations, they would be blessed as His "treasured possession."

In return He expected the Israelites to both follow His teachings and give a tenth of their income to Him.

The people were to give the tithe first, not from later leftovers. Animals given were to be without blemish. In other words, giving to God was a holy responsibility that called for giving one's best, not one's minimum.

Temple priests were to be compensated from tithes, just as today's ministers of the gospel are to be compensated, according to 1 Corinthians 9, the same chapter which teaches that God loves a cheerful giver.

These days most of us do not have farm animals to give. But God's principles on giving stand.

When we set our budget, whether in a notebook or in accounting software, shouldn't we dedicate the first money to Him — cheerfully?

MC

Missionary Highlight

**Matt Morgan, Church Planter/Pastor
Escalate Church, Hickory, NC**

Matt Morgan and a core group of supporters launched Escalate Church in 2010 in Hickory.

They want to reach people that other area churches have missed. They began meeting in a rented room upstairs over a business on First Street in Hickory.

Today we pray for Matt and the church. We pray that he and the members would so reflect the light of Christ that many will be drawn to join the church.

We have supported this church start through our Cooperative Program giving.

For more info: www.escalatechurch.com

January 13

Rooted in Jesus!

"I am the vine, you are the branches...apart from Me you can do nothing." John 15:5

Roots are important to the life and health of any plant.

Walking in a new park, I noticed that a very large tree was dying from the top down. The branches were losing their leaves—and this was the middle of summer, a time when the tree's branches should be full of leaves.

As I studied the tree I noticed that it was very close to the newly developed trail. In construction a fatal mistake had been made regarding the tree. Its roots were disturbed and many were cut away to make room for the trail.

The tree was dying because adequate nutrients were not being absorbed to sustain the life of the tree. The end was imminent—the tree would die.

In John 15:5 Jesus describes a proper relationship between His followers and Himself. He is the Vine, they are the branches.

Because He is the Vine, He is the ultimate source for nutrition and growth. Apart from Him, nothing is accomplished for the Kingdom. Notice that He said "nothing."

If we as believers are not attached to Jesus — abiding, communing, having fellowship in His Word and walking with Him in our world —the outcome will be that we will not bear fruit. We will wither, dry up and blow away (see verse 6). Like the tree, we will not have an adequate source providing nutrients necessary for a fruitful life. The result will be tragic.

Are you rooted in Jesus? Are you attached to the true vine? Or have your roots been cut by disobedience, unconfessed sin or prayerlessness? The Kingdom moves forward when the church is rooted properly in Jesus.

CS

Missionary Highlight

**Scott and Ashley Venable, North American
Missionaries
Chicago, Illinois**

Today we pray for two of our North American missionaries, Scott and Ashley Venable, who are planting a church in Chicago, IL.

Mosaic Church meets in the Wicker Park section of Chicago. But the church has set up small groups which meet in homes and coffee shops for prayer, Bible study and encouragement. Seventy young people were attending Bible studies.

Mosaic is also training people to start more new churches in this city so troubled by crime and violence. One Christian group reports that 900 Chicago churches have closed their doors in the last 10 years, so many churches are needed here.

Let us pray that God will keep our missionaries safe while they serve Him there where missionaries are needed so badly. And let us pray God will give them a steady increase in believers, baptisms and new churches.

We support Scott and Ashley through our Cooperative Program giving.

January 20

All for the Cause

"I urge you therefore, brethren...to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God..."

Romans 12:1

In April of 1942, just four months following the sneak attack by the Empire of Japan on U.S. Naval forces at Pearl Harbor, 16 B-25 bombers flew over Japan and bombed strategic military targets.

The now famous "Doolittle Raid" was an attempt by the U.S. to slip behind enemy lines with a carrier, launch the planes and leave immediately. The airmen who volunteered for the raid knew that there was a chance they would not be able to get their planes back to friendly territory before they ran out of fuel. Despite the risks these brave men were prepared to pay the ultimate sacrifice to see the mission accomplished.

Why? Because they believed the cause of freedom was worth the sacrifice of their lives.

Miraculously, only seven of the 80 airmen died as all 15 planes either crash landed in enemy territory or ditched at sea.

In the above text Paul reminds believers that the cause of Christ is worth the offering of ourselves as a living sacrifice that Jesus can use for His glory and honor. Sacrifice and dying to self are never easy, always costly. In the Christian life, through daily death to self, the believer becomes an instrument of Christ in this world. That is why Paul's challenge is so important to the cause of Christ worldwide.

A believer's life is not about personal agendas, desires or ministries. It about seeing the cause of Christ and His mission furthered among the nations.

Are you prepared to sacrifice all for the cause?

Missionary Highlight Josh and Tiffany Lenon, North American Missionaries Cincinnati, Ohio

Josh and Tiffany Lenon are two of our North American missionaries we support near Cincinnati, Ohio.

They are in Fairfield, a Cincinnati suburb, where many people live in low-income apartments and have many problems.

Josh and Tiffany started Red Door Church there in 2010 and by mid-2012, attendance had grown to more than 100; they have led many to faith in Christ.

The church holds block parties and members work with neighborhood kids so they can get to know families in the area and talk about Jesus Christ. Josh plans to start other churches in the area as soon as possible.

Today we pray for Josh and Tiffany and their ministry there in Ohio as they build a growing church and present the gospel to many.

January 27

Cooperative Missions!

"He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor."

1 Corinthians 3:8

Missionary Highlight Tim Heerabout, North American Missionary Great Commission Partner with NC Baptists, Toronto, Canada

Toronto is Canada's major financial, entertainment and banking center.

Whatever happens in the city influences all of Canada. This is sad, because Toronto has become increasingly distant from Christ and His church.

Today we pray for Tim Heerabout, one of our North American missionaries who has started a new church in the heart of this huge city. Mosaic Church has been building relationships with the arts community in Toronto. Tim wants Mosaic to influence the entire city with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Let us pray today for Tim and other church planters trying to reach Toronto for Christ. And let us pray that hundreds of North Carolina Baptist volunteers will go this year to help these churches reach out all over the city.