

# THE ACCENT

December 2021



## AUSTIN GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

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To Our Members and Friends

I can hardly believe November is coming to a close and we all know what that means, that Christmas will be here before we know it. Time never slows, it just keeps moving forward, whether we are ready for it or not. In November, we have talked about gratitude and making sure that we give our thanks to God for His blessings. This month we will recall and remember the most precious gift God has ever given to us and that is His Son Jesus.

Some say Christmas is just for our children, but Christmas is for all ages. For those with children still at home, life is never dull, always a challenge.

Max Lucado once referred to parenting as a semi-truck loaded with tears. Let me share Max's description of what parents experience " We fear failing the child, forgetting the child. Will we have enough money? Enough answers? Enough diapers? Enough drawer space? Doctor visits, school, homework, home coming. It is enough to keep a parent awake at night.....

No parent can sit still while his or her child suffers....But our kids were God's kids first. Don't you see that children are God's best gift? The fruit of the womb his generous legacy? Before they were ours, they were his. Even as they are ours, they are still his.

We tend to forget this fact, regarding our children, as though we have the final say in their health and welfare. We don't. All people are God's people, including the small people who sit at our tables. Wise are the parents who regularly give their children back to God."

Let me encourage each of one to be sure to remind our little ones, whether they are our children, grandchildren, nephews, or nieces that Christmas is about the birth of Christ. The gift sent from God himself to rescue and save us from our sins As beautiful and delightful that Christmas time is, let us never lose focus of the true meaning of Christmas!

*❀ Merry Christmas ❀*

Thank you for allowing Cindy and me to serve this wonderful congregation. Leon & Cindy

## YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT NEWS

We are at the end of the year, and this year has flown by! We look forward to a new year with new experiences. We have faced the challenges that this year has thrown our way and we have overcome, and our church will come through stronger. Christmas is about the birth of our Savior, and we should always remember that. Let's try and all help at least one person in need. The Lord has instructed us to take care of those in need. Let's let the Lord shine through us and make a difference in our community. It has been a pleasure to serve as your Youth and Young Adult Directors this year. We look forward to this coming year of growth and knowledge. We Love You all! Aaron & Kimberly

December		2021		Calendar									
Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
							1		2		3		4
							Nativity Practice 6pm		Operation Christmas Child 6-10 pm				
	5		6		7		8		9		10		11
					Discipleship Class		Nativity Practice 6pm						Live Nativity 6pm
	12		13		14		15		16		17		18
Youth Christmas Party leave after service (Lunch & Bowling)					Discipleship Class		Children's Christmas Party 6pm						
	19		20		21		22		23		24		25
Brandon Love & Aaron Griffin Birthday							No Children or Youth Time				Christmas Eve		Christmas
	26		27		28		29		30		31		
													New Year's Eve



### Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:45 AM

### Second Harvest

**DATE:** Thursday, January 6<sup>th</sup>  
**TIME:** 8:00 AM  
**PLACE:** Here at AGBC

#### NEW ADDRESS

Morris Williams  
 1620 Windsor Run Ln, Apt 110  
 Matthews, NC 28105



A basket has been placed at the front entrance of the church for donations of ChapStick. These will be distributed to female prison inmates in NC. Thank you for your help in this ministry.

### **NURSERY WORKERS (10:45 AM Service)**

December 5<sup>th</sup>: Christa & Brandon Love  
December 12<sup>th</sup>: Hannah Napier & Hunter  
December 19<sup>th</sup>: Marty Little  
December 26<sup>th</sup>: Debbie Jordan &  
Amanda Vann  
January 2<sup>nd</sup>: Carter & Laura Dermid

A nursery is available during Sunday School at 9:45 AM and 10:45 AM Worship Service.

### **CHILDREN'S CHURCH WORKERS (10:45 AM Service)**

December 5<sup>th</sup>: Debbie Jordan & Amanda Vann  
December 12<sup>th</sup>: Christa Love & Julia Godwin  
December 19<sup>th</sup>: Aaron & Kimberly Griffin  
December 26<sup>th</sup>: Carolyn Smith & Barbara Simpson  
January 2<sup>nd</sup>: Beverly Napier

### **The Donna Pittman Christmas Toy Store 2021** **DATE:** Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup> **TIME:** 8:00 AM

Volunteers are needed to work 2-hour shifts.  
Please sign up on the bulletin board.  
See Barbara Simpson for more details.  
Please leave toy donations in the Welcome Center Room. Thank you.

### **December Fellowship Hall Clean Up: Knights for Christ, Adult Class #1, Adult Class #5**

### **WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICES**

Adults meet at 6:45 PM.  
Children and Youth meet at 6:30 PM.  
Online viewing will still be available.

### **Senior Christmas Luncheon**

**DATE:** Thursday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>  
**TIME:** Doors open at 11:30 AM  
and we will eat at 12 Noon.  
**MENU:** Chicken and Dumplings, Green Beans,  
Sweet Potatoes, Rolls, and Desserts  
**Bingo and door prizes!!**  
You do not need to bring anything.  
Please sign up on the bulletin board.



### **Christmas Cards**

The mailroom is open. 😊  
The last day for cards is December 12<sup>th</sup>.



Volunteer at a  
Shoebox  
Processing  
Center!



### **Shoebox Packing Night**

**DATE:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021  
**TIME:** 6 PM-10 PM  
**PLACE:** Charlotte Processing Center  
Please sign up on the bulletin board. Thank you.



### **WEEK OF PRAYER FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS**

**November 28<sup>th</sup> – December 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Did you know?**

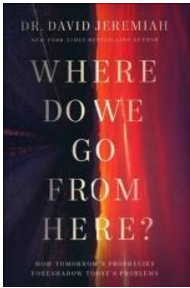
South Asia has the greatest concentration of lostness in the world. **The need for more Christian workers is great.**



### **Pictorial Directory Update**

You still have time to send in your information. Please contact the church office or Cindy Whitley to have your picture made. Thank you.

## **WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?**



**December 1<sup>st</sup>:** CHAPTER 2 Globalism Revelation **13:3**

**December 8<sup>th</sup>:** CHAPTER 3 Pandemic Matthew **24:7**

**December 15<sup>th</sup>:** CHAPTER 4 Economic Chaos Revelation **13:17**

**January 5<sup>th</sup>:** CHAPTER 5 The Falling Away II **Thess. 2:3**

**January 12<sup>th</sup>:** CHAPTER 6 End Times People II **Timothy 3:13**

**January 19<sup>th</sup>:** CHAPTER 7 Cancel Culture Matthew **24:10-12**

**January 26<sup>th</sup>:** CHAPTER 8 Spiritual Famine Amos **8:11**

**February 2<sup>nd</sup>:** CHAPTER 9 Jerusalem **Ezekiel 5:5**

**February 9<sup>th</sup>:** CHAPTER 10 The Triumph of the Gospel Rev. **17:14**

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## **ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS**

**NEW RECORD HIGH \$66.5 MILLION**

### **THE MISSION MOVES FORWARD**

**Together, we're planting churches everywhere for everyone!**

**Because you give, new churches bring eternal change to millions of our unreached neighbors across North America. Thank you!**

After a pandemic-influenced decline in 2020, Southern Baptists rallied to give \$66.5 million to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering in 2021, which is the highest amount ever given to the offering that supports missions in North America. North American Mission Board president, Kevin Ezell, announced the total during the entity's fall trustee meeting in Pittsburgh.

"The hard part about this year is we didn't really know exactly what to expect," Ezell said, referring to the COVID-19 pandemic and other unrest. "But thank goodness, Southern Baptists love their missionaries and give sacrificially, and that's why it's humbling and with a great sense of gratitude that we can share the total this year is \$66.5 million." "There are a lot of things Southern Baptists have in common: a steadfast love for Christ, a commitment to the Great Commission and Southern Baptists love their missionaries," Ezell said.

Southern Baptist giving to the offering set records for three consecutive years in 2017, 2018, and 2019 before pandemic shutdowns occurred in 2020 during the season when churches typically collect the AAEO, which supports NAMB missionaries who plant Gospel-proclaiming churches and provide gospel-focused compassion ministry across North America.

The 2021 offering pushed the cumulative sum of gifts given to the AAEO past the \$2 billion mark since the Woman's Missionary Union organized the first collection for the Home Mission Board (the predecessor to NAMB) in 1895. WMU named the offering for Annie Armstrong, a woman who encouraged expanding missions efforts and mobilized Southern Baptists to support missionaries.

"Woman's Missionary Union was led for many years by Annie Armstrong. She exemplified passionate and prayerful support of missions," said Sandy Wisdom-Martin, executive director-treasurer of the national WMU, in written comments. To this day, WMU continues to be a key partner in promoting the offering and encouraging churches to give. Together, they carry on Armstrong's legacy of engaging churches in local mission work.

"God placed the idea for a home mission offering on Annie's heart. She tirelessly championed Baptist home mission causes," Wisdom-Martin said. "In grateful appreciation of this heritage, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to Southern Baptists for advancing His Kingdom through their intercession and sacrificial gifts to His Great Commission." Gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering provide support for thousands of missionaries who plant churches in unreached communities and meet needs through compassion ministry. More than 50 percent of NAMB's budget comes from the AAEO. Every dollar goes directly to the mission field during the year those gifts are collected to support Southern Baptist missionaries. By: Brandon Elrod October 25, 2021 [https://gobnm.com/sbc\\_news/annie-offering-tops-66-million-for-new-record-high/article\\_bfe065a2-31ba-11ec-b2fb-f7785049f928.html](https://gobnm.com/sbc_news/annie-offering-tops-66-million-for-new-record-high/article_bfe065a2-31ba-11ec-b2fb-f7785049f928.html)





## Live Nativity

Please join us for our Live Nativity here at Austin Grove on December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. Experience the sights, sounds, and story of Christmas complete with a live nativity, music, refreshments, and family-friendly fun.

Dress-up warm, bring a blanket in case it's cooler, bring a lawn chair/or we will provide chairs (or you may sit in the warmth of your car). It's an outdoor celebration of Christmas...see the sheep, donkeys, and other animals and smell the straw of the stable as we re-tell the Christmas story!

Hot chocolate/coffee and s'mores by the fire will be served afterwards! This event will be suitable for all ages. Come experience the story of our Savior's birth this Christmas season, told in our Live Nativity.



### HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAY

- 1 Jack Napier, Allison Ivey, Parker Ivey
- 2 Grey Gordon
- 3 Freddy Griffin
- 4 Kristina Deese, Charles Ivey, Jason Little
- 5 Parker Griffin
- 6 Carol Fowler, Kelly Martin
- 7 Russell Smith
- 8 Shirley Griffin
- 10 Alice Jordan Long
- 13 Stuart James, Joanne Trull
- 14 Eric Helms, Maleah Long Batchelor, Brittany Rivenbark
- 15 Sue Austin, Nick Napier, JV Walden
- 16 Mandy Phifer
- 17 Landon Newsome
- 18 Laura Stoddard
- 19 Aaron Griffin, Jacob Griffin, Brandon Love
- 20 Olivia Whitley
- 22 Julie Davis, Cynthia Miller
- 24 Carole Helms, Sophia Hutson
- 26 Lewis Throckmorton
- 28 Melva Seay, Cindy Whitley
- 30 Becky Brazell

### HAPPY FIRST WEEK OF JANUARY BIRTHDAY

- 2 Brittany Crowe, Laura Ann Ikerd Strickland, Shane Michael Jordan
- 5 Calvin Hartis, Matthew Oster
- 6 Nathan Baucom, Chris Guffey



### HAPPY DECEMBER ANNIVERSARY

- 5 Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Haigler
- 7 Mr. & Mrs. Reid Phifer
- 13 Mr. & Mrs. Wes Stewart
- 17 Rev. & Mrs. John Wood
- 20 Mr. & Mrs. Jack Austin
- 23 Mr. & Mrs. Joe Byrum, Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Edwards
- 26 Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Craiglow
- 29 Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Guffey

### HAPPY FIRST WEEK OF JANUARY ANNIVERSARY

- 3 Mr. & Mrs. Roger Long
- 7 Mr. & Mrs. Calvin Hartis
- 7 Mr. & Mrs. Baxter Jordan



♥ From the Staff at Austin Grove