

# THE ACCENT

December 2022



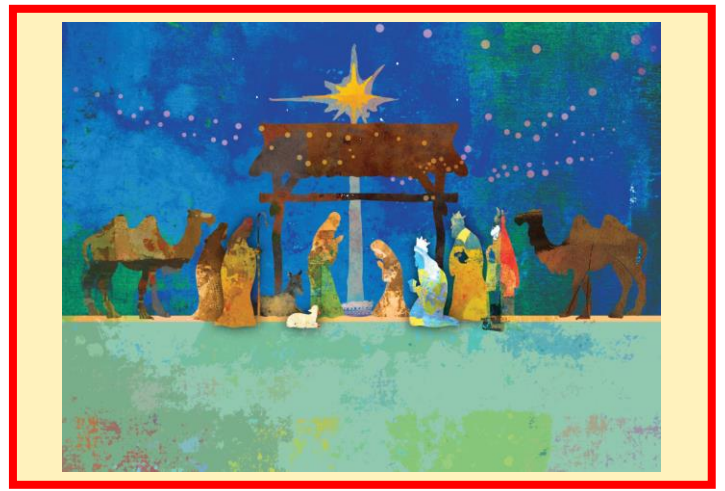
## AUSTIN GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

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### To Our Church Family and Friends,

I came across a story written by Tim McConnell around 10 years ago when he worked for a small mountain paper in NC by the name of "The True Meaning of Christmas". Let me share a short excerpt from this story with you.

"Christmas matters and because of the power of the story of Jesus' birth, we are required to respond. Even though we do not really understand what happened that night, we must answer the question, "What difference does Christmas really make in my life?" We must realize that God did not send his grace into a "Christmas card" perfect world. Jesus came into an ugly world, filled with chaos, sin and needy people. He came with his grace to fix the problem of sin.

And so, we continue to celebrate Christmas because the chaos and darkness still exists in the lives of so many of us. But God has filled this world with his grace, therefore we need to hear the Christmas story once again, the story of hope, the story of transformation.

I think the coming of Jesus presents a great challenge to anyone determined to live a Christian life. The great challenge is to never separate the gift of grace, forgiveness, and salvation from the call of discipleship.

God not only rescues us from a sinful life, but then calls us to live differently, and to actively pursue a holy life. Salvation does not end with receiving forgiveness, that is only the beginning.

So, we are back to the same questions. What does Christmas really mean to me? Should it mean something different than it does? Am I any different because Jesus came?

Howard Thurman wrote a poem entitled "The Work of Christmas."

"When the song of the angels is stilled, When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home, When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins: To find the lost, To heal the broken, To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner, To rebuild the nations, To bring peace among brothers and sisters,  
To make music in the heart."

Christmas is for the needy: those who have realized the need for grace, forgiveness, and change in the way life is lived. Christmas is for those who need someone besides themselves; that someone is Jesus, and He brings salvation and holy living. Grace has indeed appeared."

Christ came for all of us!! May this Christmas be a blessed time with our family and friends, making sure we never forget the real meaning and purpose of Jesus coming to this world. He Loves each of us so much!! Celebrate His birth into this world and the sacrifice that He made for each of us.

Cindy and I want to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and may we celebrate all that Christ has brought and given to us, for Christ has changed everything.

Thank you for your faithfulness in serving our Lord and the privilege of serving you. May God bless. Leon and Cindy

## Library News

Parents, have you been looking for books that will guide your children in their study of the Bible? It's only a few weeks before the new year begins, believe it or not! Someone has donated a set of 10 volumes, entitled *Family Bible Library*. These might be just what you have been looking for. Here are the individual titles:

*With God Each Day (Daily Devotions)*

*Heroes of Long Ago*

*God's New Nation*

*Kinds and Kingdoms*

*Brave Men and Wise Words*

*God's Good News*

*The Master Teacher*

*The Living Savior*

*To All the World*

*A Guide to Bible and Life*

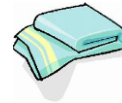
They have been catalogued and ready to be put to use. They are sitting on the desk in the library.

Brenda Lee

Librarian

Mark your calendars...  
**THE WORLD OF THE END**  
January 2023 Book Study  
Dr. David Jeremiah

**Second Harvest**  
**DATE:** Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>  
**TIME:** 8:15 AM  
**PLACE:** Pleasant Hill UMC  
McFarland, NC



### BLANKET PROJECT

In addition to Christmas gifts for needy children in our community, we will also be providing blankets for the elderly. If you would like to donate a blanket to help with this project, please place it in the Welcome Center. We will be collecting them through the first Sunday in December. ?'s-Please see Brenda Walker.

*Lottie Moon Week of Prayer: December 4<sup>th</sup> – December 11<sup>th</sup>*

### 25 Days till Christmas

Beginning December 1<sup>st</sup> and continuing until Christmas Day, we will put online the *25 Days till Christmas*. Each day highlights a different person, place, or object in the narrative of Christ's birth through a brief story. December 1<sup>st</sup>-Isaiah; 2<sup>nd</sup>: David; 3<sup>rd</sup>-Zachariah; 4<sup>th</sup>-Elizabeth; 5<sup>th</sup>-Mary; 6<sup>th</sup>-Joseph; 7<sup>th</sup>-Gabriel; 8<sup>th</sup>-John the Baptist; 9<sup>th</sup>-Holy Spirit; 10<sup>th</sup>-Caesar Augustus; 11<sup>th</sup>-Bethlehem; 12<sup>th</sup>-The Manger; 13<sup>th</sup>-Jesus; 14<sup>th</sup>-Shepherds; 15<sup>th</sup>-Angels; 16<sup>th</sup>-Simeon; 17<sup>th</sup>-Anna; 18<sup>th</sup>-King Herod; 19<sup>th</sup>-The Star; 20<sup>th</sup>-Gold; 21<sup>st</sup>-Frankincense; 22<sup>nd</sup>-Myrrh; 24<sup>th</sup>-Egypt; 25<sup>th</sup>-Nazareth

**Merry Christmas!!**

## Upcoming Youth/Children Events

If questions, call/text Vickie, Janel, Debbie, or Julia.



**Wednesday Nights Bible Study**  
**6:45 PM – 7:30 PM**



## Donna Pittman Toy Store

**Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM**

Please sign up on the bulletin board if you would like to volunteer . If you would like to give money to Barbara Simpson, she will purchase toys or you may donate toys. Drop off toys in the welcome center. Thank you.

The December issues of *Mature Living* and *Home Life* magazines are on the vestibule table for pick up.

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



Date	Nursery	Children's Church
December 4 <sup>th</sup>	Beverly Napier	Cindy Whitley & Kelcey Griffin
December 11 <sup>th</sup>	Christa & Brandon Love	No Children's Church
December 18 <sup>th</sup>	Hannah Napier & Hunter Canup	Teresa Hilton & Gayle Throckmorton
December 25 <sup>th</sup>	Debbie Jordan & Amanda Vann	No Children's Church



## Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Packing Night

**DATE:** December 10, 2022

**TIME:** 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM

See Melissa Smith for details. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you would like to volunteer.

## Deacon Nomination

We will nominate one candidate to fill the vacancy on the deacon board for the remaining time on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. Deacon election will be on Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>.

## Senior Christmas Luncheon

Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup> in the Fellowship Hall  
 11:00 AM

Sign up on bulletin board.

## Children's Play & "One Small Child" Christmas Cantata

**Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:45 AM**

## Christmas Worship, Play Practices, Office Holiday Information

### Adult Drama Practice

Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM, Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM  
and Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 Noon.

### Children's Play Practice at 6:00 PM

Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM  
Saturday, December 10 at 10:00 AM



### Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup> or Sunday December 25<sup>th</sup>.

No Children's Church

### Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>

No Classes/Services

### Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>

Church Office Closed – December 25<sup>th</sup> & January Newsletter items due December 18<sup>th</sup>.

### Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

No Sunday School. We will have worship at 10:00 AM and dismiss by 11:00 AM.

*Merry Christmas from the Staff of Austin Grove Baptist Church.*



## Thank you to all who gave food to our Food Ministry during the month of November!

Our food ministry is increasing drastically as inflation is hurting so many needy families. Marshville Elementary food bags have doubled from 25 to 53! Turning Point has asked for help with a request of 25 bags. This does not include our community families of approximately 30. Money is becoming tight in our ministry, but we don't want to burden anyone. We have determined a way to give each of you an opportunity to help at very minimal cost! Each Sunday of the month we will ask for a specific item. There will be boxes set out for you to place each item. Below you will find the requests for December's items. Thank you for any donations for our food ministry. Please see Brenda Walker if you have any questions.

### DECEMBER FOOD DONATION ITEMS

December 4<sup>th</sup>: Box of Macaroni & Cheese.

December 11<sup>th</sup>: Box of individual packs of grits or oatmeal.

December 18<sup>th</sup>: Each Sunday School Class take up money for purchase of a 20 lb. bag of rice.

Great Value is \$9.78; Mahatma is \$11.74. Brenda will be glad to shop for you.

December 25<sup>th</sup>: 15 oz. can of pasta such as spaghetti, spaghetti and meatballs or any can of pasta .

**As always, thank you for helping provide food for needy children during the week ends.**

Whether you shop at Food Lion, Aldi, HT, feel free to purchase their store brand.

Thank you!

**DECEMBER  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

- 1 Jack Napier, Parker Ivey, Allison 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 Whitney Baucom
- 10 Alice Jordan Long
- 13 Stuart James, Joanne Trull
- 14 Eric Helms, Maleah Long Batchelor
- 15 Sue Austin
- 16 Mandy Phifer, Kenny Stewart
- 17 Landon Newsome
- 18 Laura Stoddard
- 19 Aaron Griffin, Jacob Griffin
- 22 Julie Davis, Cynthia Miller
- 24 Carole Helms
- 26 Lewis Throckmorton
- 28 Melva Seay, Cindy Whitley
- 30 Becky Brazell

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
First week of January**

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



**December**

- 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
- 23 Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Edwards
- 26 Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Craiglow
- 29 Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Guffey

**First week of January**

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

**YOU ARE INVITED TO FOREST HILLS HIGH SCHOOL FOR OUR COMMUNITY SENIOR CITIZENS' CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST**

Thursday, December 15 at 9:00 AM

Forest Hills High School Cafeteria, 100 S. Forest Hills School Road, Marshville, NC 28103

Please RSVP by December 8<sup>th</sup> to 704-296-3025

(Please take note...this is the same day as our Fruitcake Factory/Seagrove Pottery Trip. We wanted to announce in case you are unable to go on our church trip.)



**Bethlehem Inn**

**DATE: Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> PLACE: Church Fellowship Hall**

**TIME: 5:00 PM**

The play is set in the dining room of the Bethlehem Inn on the night Jesus was born. This will include dinner at the Inn, so everyone that comes will be guests at the Inn that night. Please fill out a meal reservation form and drop in the offering plate. The meal is free.