



THE ACCENT
December 2023



AUSTIN GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH
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To Our Church Family and Friends,

It is hard to imagine that 2023 is almost history. This year has passed by so quickly and now Christmas is just around the corner. May the birth of Christ be realized in each of our hearts, helping us to focus on His birth. It is so easy to allow the world to overshadow the real meaning of Christmas. May God give us His strength and wisdom to help us to always put Christ at the very forefront of our lives and the lives of our families.

Isaiah 9:6 reminds us that Christ was born in the flesh and He was given to us helping us to acknowledge Him as Lord. He is Jesus the Wonderful Counselor. Jesus is there to provide for us His divine and eternal guidance and at that time we know that His directions are always what is best for our lives.

“For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor.” Isaiah 9:6

“We should always trust in Him because He believes in us and invites us to a life that is eternal. He can forgive us of all our sins in the past, present and in the future.

So, this year, please stop and gaze at the manger, and the cross and open up your heart to Christ today.
“For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. (Romans 10:13)

May this year be the best Christmas you have ever experienced!

Thanks for allowing Cindy and I to serve you!

Merry Christmas!

Leon and Cindy



Date	Nursery	Children's Church
Dec. 3	Christa & Brandon Love	Julia & David Godwin
Dec. 10	Beverly Napier	Gayle Throckmorton & Helper
Dec. 17	Debbie Jordan & Amanda Vann	No Children's Church
Dec. 24	No Nursery	No Children's Church
Dec. 31	Carter & Laura Dermid	Christa & Brandon Love

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

The *Open Windows* and *December* issues of *Mature Living* and *Home Life* are in the vestibule for pick up.

Senior Trip 😊



Amish Country

If you are interested in going to the Amish Country during Spring Break 2024. Please sign up on bulletin board. Contact Holly Morris for more details.

SECOND HARVEST

Wednesday, December 6th
 Pleasant Hill UMC



Sunday, December 24th

Please, notice the earlier times.
 9:00 AM Sunday School for ALL AGES
 10:00 AM Worship & Communion Service



**Operation Christmas Child
 Shoebox Packing Night in Charlotte**

DATE: Thursday, December 7th **TIME:** 7-10 PM

BUS LEAVES FROM CHURCH AT 5:45 PM

Meeting this Sunday, December 3rd at Sunday School class outside of sanctuary following Morning Worship to see if anyone wants Chick-fil-a.

Please sign up on the bulletin board.



5 minute devotional time each day on Facebook/Youtube at 6:00 AM beginning December 1st.

You are invited to FHHS for our
Community Senior Citizen Christmas Breakfast on
Wednesday, December 13th at 9:00 AM.
RSVP by December 6th at 704-296-3025.



Senior Chicken n' Dumplings Christmas Luncheon

DATE: Friday, December 1st

TIME: Lunch will be served at 12 noon

BINGO and door prizes.

Please sign up on the bulletin board.

An Old Fashioned Christmas

Sunday, December 10th • 6:00 PM • Fellowship Hall



New Blankets

New blankets will be donated again this Christmas to needy senior citizens within the Marshville area. Sizes include twin, double, and queen. Please place donated blankets in the Welcome Center by Sunday, December 10th. Thank you for your help in this ministry. Brenda Walker



Myrtle Beach, SC Trip

BUS LEAVES AT 7:00 AM – Eat breakfast before you come.

We have reservations at **the kitchen table**, 4601 HWY 17 South, North Myrtle Beach, SC (Across from Alligator Adventure/Barefoot Resort) on Tuesday, December 12th at 11:00 AM. Please let us know if you will be eating with us by marking on the sign up sheet on the bulletin board. We also need to know if you will be riding the bus, so please mark that also on the sign up sheet. Thank you.

BUS LEAVES AT 7:00 AM Eat breakfast before you come.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 1 Jack Napier, Allison & 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, Sue Austin
- 15 Nick Napier, JV Walden
- 16 Mandy Phifer
- 17 Landon Newsome
- 18 Laura Stoddard
- 19 Aaron Griffin, Jacob Griffin, Brandon Love
- 22 Julie Davis, Cynthia Miller, Clark Smith
- 23 Wanda Staton
- 24 Carole Helms, Sophia Hutson
- 26 Lewis Throckmorton
- 28 Melva Seay, Cindy Whitley
- 30 Becky Brazell

1st Week of January

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



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 5 Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Haigler
- 7 Mr. & Mrs. Reid Phifer
- 13 Mr. & Mrs. Wes Stewart
- 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

No 1st week of January



DECEMBER FOOD MINISTRY NEEDS

Thank you for your contributions to helping feed the children in our community.

- 12/3: Box of Christmas tree snacks
- 12/10: Box of Christmas tree snacks
- 12/17: Box of Mac n cheese
- 12/24: Can of green beans
- 12/31: Can of pasta

Library News

Debra Stewart has generously donated books to the Austin Grove Church Library through the years. Recently she contributed twenty-three books. Among those are three autobiographies:

The Hiding Place (Corrie Ten Boom)

Rebel With a Cause (Franklin Graham)

Frontier Follies (Ree Drummond, the Pioneer Woman)

Also, there are four novels in the Home to Heather Creek Series:

Before the Dawn

Sweet September

Circle of Grace

Homespun Harvest

Five books by Christian author, Priscilla Shirer, were donated, plus other inspirational readings. The above books, along with others, are displayed on the small bookcase in front of the library desk for your convenience.

Come check out these to read on these long nights of darkness.

Brenda Lee, Librarian

LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Growing up in Virginia, Lottie Moon and her siblings chose to rebel against Christianity. At 18, Lottie followed Christ and was baptized. When she was 33, she sailed to China as a Southern Baptist missionary. She saw firsthand the world's greatest problem

- LOSTNESS.

In letters to Southern Baptists in America, she pleaded for increasing prayer and giving. Her letters raised more support for missionaries to be sent to China.

Every year, Southern Baptists collect the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® where **100% of the gifts collected send and support missionaries.**



Your financial gifts to the Lottie Moon offering support pioneering efforts to take the gospel to unengaged, unreached people groups.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® is a registered trademark of WMU®.

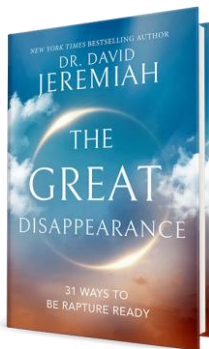
Lottie Moon Week of Prayer Mission Study

Wednesday, December 6th
6:45 PM



The Coming Messiah

Children's Musical Adult Choir Cantata
Sunday, December 17th at 10:45 AM Service



The Great Disappearance Book Study Dates

The Great Disappearance Book Study Dates (Updated)

Wednesday December 13th: "Will Children Be Raptured?"

Wednesday December 20th: "Live Like You Were Dying"

2024 wall calendars/pocket calendars are in the vestibule for pick up.

Veterans Pavers

If you would like to purchase a Veterans Paver for \$100.00, please pick up a form in the envelope on the bulletin board. Make checks payable to : **Friends of the Marshville Veterans Memorial** and give form along with check to Barbara Simpson or Teddy Griffin.

Children's Play Practice

Wednesday nights at 6:45 PM
See Debbie Jordan for more information.

FELLOWSHIP HALL RESERVATIONS
REMINDER...If you or your Sunday School Class wants to use the Fellowship Hall, please be sure to schedule with Sheri. Thank you.



Donna Pittman Toy Store - Saturday, December 9th

Contact Teresa Polk at 704-634-0530 if you would like to volunteer.
Toy donations can be dropped off anytime here at the church.