

# THE ACCENT

January 2025 

## AUSTIN GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

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To Our Church Family and Friends,

What a wonderful God we serve and what a wonderful Christmas season He has blessed us with! We have seen and felt God's blessing and presence in a multitude of ways. How much enjoyment and excitement did we feel as we watched and learned during our Children's Drama... "A Quizzical Christmas". As the choir spoke with each other last Wednesday night, a member of the choir said that our Cantata "Messiah, Heaven's Glory" was not a "performance, but rather a "presentation". It did, indeed, feel like a presentation of honor and praise to God. Many of us enjoyed a long, tiring, but very rewarding night at Operation Christmas Child.

We need to keep in focus so many of the people who have lost those who were so dear to them and so loved by them. The first Thanksgiving, the first Christmas, and the first birthday after they left us for Heaven are very difficult. These times give us a great opportunity to love and minister to those folks.

I believe we have seen the creation of a wonderful and representative group of folks to serve as our Pastor Search Committee. I would urge you to lift Brenda Walker, Janel Griffin, Julia Godwin, Roger James, and Brannon Crowe each time you pray. I believe them to be Godly servants who will represent our congregation well as they lead the search for God's shepherd to lead us into the future here at Austin Grove.

Finally, may I take a personal moment of reflection. If I think back 5 months, my mind never fathomed the challenges and opportunities that would be facing our church family. To be honest, I was scared and overwhelmed as I thought about trying to step in behind the magnificent pastor that God had blessed us with for so many years. I knew that I was completely incapable of what needed to be done. But, I have been overwhelmed by the outpouring of love, willingness, and desire to honor God by stepping up to serve. ALL OF YOU HAVE BEEN AMAZING!!

I have had the honor of working with a most wonderful group of fellow deacons who have been tireless in helping shoulder the load and providing help and hope. I appreciate you guys!

I wish you the Merriest of Christmas seasons and a blessed 2025!

Teddy

**Fellowship Hall Clean Up:**

**Prophecy Class**

January issues of *Mature Living*, *Home Life*, *Open Windows*, and *Our Daily Bread* are in the vestibule and Sunday School classes for pick up. Please see Roger Haigler to update the number of each your class needs. Thank you.

**2025 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.

2025 wall calendars/pocket calendars are in the vestibule for pick up.

**No SECOND HARVEST this month.**



The following items are needed for our January Food Ministry. Thank you for your faithfulness in helping feed our hungry neighbors! Brenda Walker

January 5<sup>th</sup>: Box of macaroni

January 12<sup>th</sup>: Pack of Ramen noodles

January 19<sup>th</sup>: 4 or 6 pack of applesauce

January 26<sup>th</sup>: box of snacks: oatmeal cakes, Swiss cake rolls, or any of your choice.



**91<sup>st</sup> Baptist Men's Day**

Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>

**Baptist on Mission and Western NC Mountains  
Received as of December 22, 2024: \$15,212.00**



The following is a list of needs that was shared with our WMU group. Annette and Greg Aldridge and Jamie Helms shared with us how they have been involved with helping in one of the devastated communities. Anything you can provide would be greatly appreciated. Please drop off any donations in the Welcome Center across from the Sunday School office. Please continue to pray for our western neighbors.

Laundry detergent, dish detergent, paper towels, napkins, paper plates, and coffee (no pods)



Nursery &  
Children's Church  
Schedule

Date	Nursery	Children's Church
January 5 <sup>th</sup>	Beverly Napier	Holly Morris, Katie & Mason Cuthbertson
January 12 <sup>th</sup>	Christa & Brandon Love	Janel Griffin & Roger Haigler
January 19 <sup>th</sup>	Hannah Napier & Hunter Canup	Cindy Whitley & Kelcey Griffin
January 26 <sup>th</sup>	Debbie Jordan & Amanda Vann	Julia & David Godwin



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

- 2 Brittany Crowe, Laura Ann Strickland, Shane Michael Jordan
- 5 Matthew Oster
- 6 Chris Guffey, Nathan Baucom
- 8 Delane Bennett
- 9 Anna Edwards, Jacklyn Edwards, Eddie Rivers
- 10 Khoury Nassef, Kathy Hazelwood
- 11 Toni Riggins, Hunter Smith
- 12 Tommy Traywick
- 14 Barbara Faulkenberry
- 15 Pat Autry, Lindsey Faith Nassef, Sarah Williams
- 16 Asher Simpson
- 17 Teresa Hilton, Easton Strickland
- 18 Benjamin Collins, Lainey Preslar
- 19 Laikyn Nicole Newsome, Cary Preslar, Morgan Lapinsky
- 21 Kaylan Haigler, Alexandria Miller
- 23 Sandra Helms, Jay Tiffany, Kris Tiffany
- 24 Brittany Edwards, Beverly Napier, Trent Strickland
- 25 Lisa Tarleton
- 26 Aidan Figueroa, Emily Oster, Michael Jordan
- 29 Amber Griffin Witmore
- 30 Pearl Wood
- 31 Cameron Williams



**January Anniversaries**

- 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
  - 29 Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Guffey
- No February 1<sup>st</sup> Week Anniversaries**

**Happy FEBRUARY 1<sup>st</sup> WEEK Birthdays**

- 1 Caleb Davis
- 2 Wes Stewart
- 5 Mary Deese, Kinley Grace Griffin, Helen Phifer
- 6 Andy Little
- 7 Harriet Smith

**12/5/2024:** Baptists on Mission is responding in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene in the mountains of western North Carolina. Right after Helene hit, we set up large feeding and recovery (mud out, tear out, chainsaw, etc.) operations in 14 locations in Western North Carolina. Currently, we are operating 8 different sites. Volunteers are helping with feeding, shower and laundry and recovery. We are also rebuilding homes. We are providing Essential Rapid Repairs (ERR) to get homeowners back into their homes as quickly as possible (see below). You don't need to be trained to serve. So far, more than 450,000 hot meals have been provided, over 10,000 volunteers have served and more than 4,500 recovery jobs on homes have been completed.

We are starting the first rebuild phase called ERR (Essential Rapid Repairs). In this first phase we are trying to get people back into their home and make it safe, sanitary and functional (not finished) before the worst of winter. Volunteers will be needed for the next few years to help people finish their homes.

Please know that we will have many opportunities to serve for many weeks, months and years to come.

All financial gifts go directly to assist those impacted by the storm. Designate your gift for Helene and 100% will go towards Helene recovery efforts. Would you challenge your church or Sunday School class to help a family get back in their home? There is a donations button to give. On the comment section just put Helene/ERR and 100% of what you give will be used to help a family get back in their home. A gift of any amount will help!

Thank you for helping us offer hope to families affected by this massive storm. Please continue to pray for everyone impacted by Hurricane Helene, including first responders and our volunteers.

