

# THE ACCENT



### **AUSTIN GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH**

5919 Austin Grove Church Road Marshville, NC 28103

Website: www.austingrovebaptist.com
E-mail: austingrovebaptist@windstream.net
YouTube Channel: Austin Grove Baptist Church

704-624-2929

Dear Church Family and Friends,

We are entering the last month of what I personally think has been a wonderful 2025 in the life of Austin Grove Baptist Church. We have been challenged to learn what our spiritual gifts are and then to USE them in serving the Lord. No job is insignificant—no task unnoticed by God.

Who would have thought that we would have a Baptismal Service with six being baptized and a total of eight new church members in one service? I am ashamed to say that I was surprised—ashamed because I can hear the Holy Spirit saying "Oh ye of little faith!" I encourage us all to pray for it and expect it. Tony reminded us that the Lord won't send them until the church is ready. My prayer is that we do the work to always be ready.

By the time you read this we will have celebrated Thanksgiving. I hope each of you had a chance to visit with your family and loved ones. Regardless of the trials and heartaches each of us face, if we are a child of God, we have the assurance of eternity with Christ to be thankful for.

Now we have the Christmas season in front of us. We can be easily distracted by the commercialization of the season. When I was a youngster, we had the JC Penney Christmas catalog. Today, you can spend hours on your smartphone looking at personalized feeds tailored just for you. It is estimated that the average smartphone user spends more than two hours a day viewing texts and emails enticing them to buy.

In contrast, scripture invites us to relinquish our grip on material things. 1 Peter 1:3-4 reads "In God's great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade."

As we enter this Christmas season, let us remember that we are celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Let's share the good news of what He has done for us and will do for anyone who simply believes and accepts His free gift of salvation.

Merry Christmas, Roger James



Date	Nursery	Children's Church	
12/7	Carter & Laura Dermid	Holly Morris & Katie Cuthbertson	
12/14	Christa Love & Shelby Hutson	Janel Griffin & Roger Haigler	
12/21	Barbara Simpson	Debbie & Baylee Jordan	
12/28	Sandra Helms	Cindy Whitley & Kelcey Griffin	

#### **SECOND HARVEST**

Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>
Pleasant Hill UMC, McFarlan
8:00 a.m.

### **December Fellowship Hall Clean Up:**

Knights for Christ, Adult Class #1, Adult Class #5 December issues of *Mature Living, Home Life, and Our Daily Bread*are in the vestibule for pick up.

#### 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.



The following items are needed for our Food Ministry. Your donations help tremendously.

December 7<sup>th</sup>: Can of chicken noodle soup (any brand)

December 14<sup>th</sup>: Box of mac and cheese December 21st: pack of Ramen noodles

December 28th" box of 6 individual servings of applesauce

January 4<sup>th</sup>: can of pasta (15 oz.)



DATE: Friday, December 5th

**TIME:** Be here at 11:30 a.m. and we will eat shortly afterwards

**PLACE:** Fellowship Hall



#### **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,
- 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
- 31 Huxley Riggins

### 1st Week of January

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





#### **Donna Pittman Christmas Toy Store**

Please drop off toys in the Welcome Center room. All toys are due in by Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to give a monetary donation, please give to Barbara Simpson or put in offering envelope marked for Donna Pittman Toy Store. If you would like to volunteer to help at the toy store, please feel free to call Teresa Polk at: 704-634-0530. Thank you.



#### **December Anniversaries**

- 5 Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Haigler
- 7 Mr. & Mrs. Reid Phifer
- 13 Mr. & Mrs. Wes Stewart
- 23 Mr. & Mrs. Joe Byrum
- 23 Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Edwards
- 29 Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Guffey

## January 1<sup>st</sup> Week Anniversaries

- 3 Mr. & Mrs. Roger Long
- 7 Mr. & Mrs. Calvin Hartis
- 7 Mr. & Mrs. Baxter Jordan
- 14 Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Walker
- 26 Mr. & Mrs. Wade Haigler
- 26 Mr. & Mrs. Don Post

# **Library News**

Since last report 34 books have been donated to the church library. They cover a wide array of topics mostly pertaining to one's spiritual life, the majority being given by Gene and Debra Stewart. Some of these include a biography by Laura Bush, *Spoken From the Heart*, six by Beth Moore, one each by Tim Tebow, Ann Graham Lotz, Ruth Graham, and Dr. Billy Graham. Max Lucado and Patricia Shirer each wrote two of the contributed books.

One of particular interest is *The 36-Hour Day* whose subject deals with being a caregiver to Alzheimer's patients.

Larry Smith continues giving study guides by Dr. David Jeremiah: *Ordinary People, Extraordinary People; Why the Nativity?* and *The Promise of Heaven*.

Carolyn Haigler donated a book for juvenile readers, ages 9 - 12, Lucy the Bee and the Healing Honey.

Too, Steve and Brenda Walker have provided two copies of *Lucy, The Careful Bee*, a children's colorful book written by Emily Smith, Leon and Cindy Whitley's oldest daughter, in honor of her dad. It is based on the expression that her dad used with her, her brother, and sister, "Careful Bee."

Now that the nights are long and dark, how about taking a look at the available reading material in our church library? There is something for everyone's reading interest. There are more than 5,300 in both libraries.

Brenda Lee, Librarian

Ten Commandments - Murphy, NC Trip Spring Break 2026 (Week of April 6<sup>th</sup>) Interest Sign-Up Sheet is on the bulletin board.

**Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Processing Night** 

Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Please sign up on the NEW bulletin board. If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Smith. Thank you.

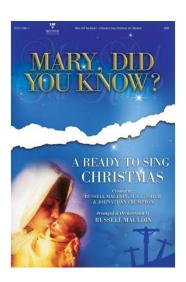


Children's Christmas Caroling - Wednesday, December 17th:



**Children's Christmas Play** 

December 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please come and join us.



Our Adult Choir Cantata will be on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:45 a.m. Please make plans to join us.



# 2025 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and Week of Prayer November 30<sup>th</sup> – December 7<sup>th</sup>

# What is the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering?

Lottie Moon was sent as a Southern Baptist missionary to China from 1873 to 1912. She saw firsthand the world's greatest problem — LOSTNESS. Meeting so many people who had never heard the gospel compelled her to write letters to American churches describing the need for a greater missionary presence.

She pleaded for increased prayer and financial support to send and sustain more missionaries. This challenge became known as the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering®.

100% of your gifts support International missionaries.

# Lottie's Tea Cake Recipe

As a way to earn the trust of the people, Lottie Moon made tea cakes for the children in her village in China. She would then be invited into homes where she could share the gospel with their mothers. The children began calling Lottie "the cookie lady."

## Plain Tea Cake (As made by Lottie Moon)

- 3 teacups of sugar
- 1 teacup of butter
- 1 teacup of sour milk
- 4 pints flour
- 3 eggs, well beaten
- 1/2 teaspoon of soda
- Flavor to taste, roll thin, bake in a quick oven.

# Adapted recipe:

- 2 cups flour
- ½ cup butter
- 1 heaping cup of sugar
- 1 well-beaten egg
- 1 tablespoon cream

Cream the butter and sugar. Add the egg and mix well. Add the flour and cream. Dust a board with flour. Roll the dough very thin. Cut cookies with a round cookie cutter. Place on a buttered or nonstick cookie sheet. Bake at 475 degrees for about 5 minutes.