



Westfield Baptist Church
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Westfield Staff

Interim Pastor Dr. Adam English
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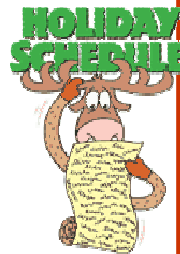
Secretary Marian Honeycutt
Organist Joyce Ballard

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Permit No. 29

Return Service Requested

December

- 1 Cantata Rehearsal 9 am
Church Decorating Party 10 am
- 2 WBC Post Office opens
Christmas Store at Sr Village 2 pm
Youth Hangout 3-5 pm
- 4 Secret Pal Christmas Party 6 pm
- 9 Christmas Cantata 10:30 am
Christmas Caroling 5 pm
(Soup & Sandwiches following)
- 11 Choir at Senior Village 6:30 pm
- 19 Children's Choir & Ensemble 6 pm
No Other Wednesday Services
- 23 Children's Christmas Mini-Musical, 10:30 am
- 24 Christmas Eve Communion Service 5:30 pm
- 25 Merry Christmas!
- 26 Church Office closed, No Wednesday Services



January

- TBD** Church-wide Birthday Party
- 6 Church Council
 - 12 Men's Workday
 - 13 Deacons Meeting, 6:30 pm
 - 20 Ensemble Practice, 5:00 pm
Business Meeting, 6:30 pm

February

- 2 WBC Book Club (The Saint Who Would Be Santa Claus, by Dr. Adam English)

The Westfield Wire

December 2012

Westfield Baptist Church

Volume 7 Number 12

Preparing for Christmas



Advent - the period containing the four Sundays before Christmas, observed by Christians around the world in memory of Christ's birth, a season to prepare mentally, emotionally, and spiritually to receive our King again into our lives.

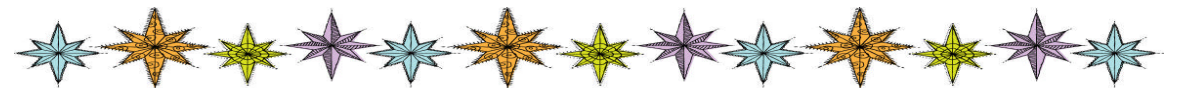
We know the Christmas holidays take preparation, but sometimes we're so busy with other things (making lists, decorating, shopping, traveling, attending parties, planning menus, cooking, etc.) that we forget to take time to reflect on the real thing. The candles of the Advent Wreath remind us what Christ's coming is really about—**hope, peace, joy and love.**

Are you hoping for a particular present this year, or that what you give someone will be just what he/she wants? Maybe you hope to visit with friends and family this Christmas or to take the kids or grandkids to see Santa Claus. Perhaps you're hoping for the economy to turn around, or perhaps you've given up hope entirely. True hope comes in remembering that Jesus has come to be our King.

Peace on earth—that's what God has promised. Jesus's people were expecting immediate peace when they heard that Jesus was the promised Messiah. The coming of the true King, a holy King of Love, would bring immediate peace on earth—the end of war, hunger, gangs, bigotry, racism, and evil. What joy that King would bring!

Our world is not peaceful. Evil, bigotry, misunderstanding, and violence are very much with us. Beyond that, many of us are so busy with work, family, social obligations, and recreational activities, so controlled by consumerism, that we know little peace and are too hectic for joy. As a result, we're too stressed to experience or share much love, even though sharing love is how Christ's Peaceable Kingdom spreads.

But as Christians our joy comes from the hope that peace will come just as God promises. This Advent season, don't focus on preparing for Christmas. Prepare for Christ—our hope, peace, joy and love. Let all our hearts prepare him room!

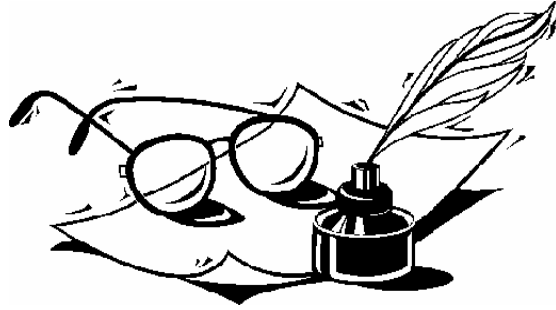


Vision Statement

To share Christ with all by leading and nurturing through a ministry of love, fellowship, Bible study, prayer, worship, praise, and proclamation of the Gospel; to seek God's guidance as we respond to needs and serve as missionaries in our community and beyond.

Santa Claus Training

One time, as a personal favor to a good friend, I agreed to put on a Santa suit and sit for pictures with children at the public library. The children were all under the age of two, which was fortunate for them, because anyone over two would not have been fooled by the get-up. I was not Santa Claus – not even remotely close. I was a skinny, thirty-something guy dressed in an oversized Santa costume with a fake white beard strapped to my face.



Pastoral Ponderings

As I sat there, lost in the folds of my costume, I felt ridiculous. And make no mistake, I looked ridiculous. I made one attempt at a “Ho-Ho-Ho” and then gave it up.

Anyone can buy a Santa costume off the Internet, but this alone does not make one Santa Claus. Those who have ever tried to play the part quickly realize there is much more to it. The experience made me wonder about the original Santa Claus – Saint Nicholas of Myra. Who was Saint Nicholas?

It might take a whole book to answer that question, but December 5 we will devote a special Wednesday evening study for adults and children to the study of St. Nicholas in preparation of December 6, **St. Nicholas Day**. I hope you will join us.

We will learn that Nicholas was a committed pastor of a church that Saint Paul himself had founded on one of his missionary journeys, as recorded in the book of Acts. Nicholas was also a judge, a lawyer, a protector, a businessman, and a social worker. We will be challenged by his acts of justice, mercy, and charity. Your own holiday season is sure to be enriched by the life of Nicholas.

During the month of December, I pray that your hearts will be drawn closer to the heart of God. I pray that God’s Son, Jesus, who inspired and called Nicholas to act, will inspire and call us to act too.

— Adam



Tithes & Gifts

through October 21, 2012

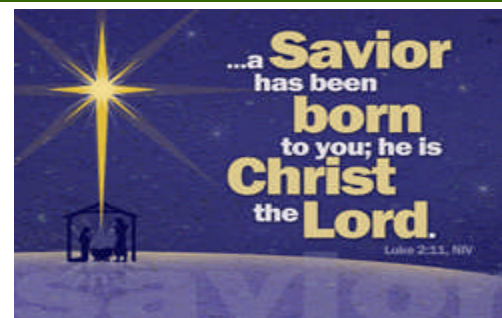
Budget Requirements	\$ 175,344
General Fund Offerings	163,925
Difference	(11,418)

Our Members at Home

Evelene Gardner
Harnett Woods
604 Lucas Road
Room 217

O.W. “Bill” Godwin, Jr.
1505 Lakeshore Drive, Dunn
892-7347

Mary Frances Gordon
Senior Citizens Village
Room 115



Westfield Post Office

Our post office will be open on Sunday, Dec. 2, 9, 16, and 23. You may send Christmas Cards (to fellow members and attenders!) as a fun way to give seasons greetings. Suggested donations are 25 cents for cards or 50 cents for packages. Proceeds go to the WMU mission fund.



Senior Citizens Village Christmas Store

We look forward to our annual Christmas Store at Senior Citizens Village on Sunday, Dec. 2, 2:00 p.m. We need your help providing items for the store. Please purchase items the residents can use as gifts for their family or friends or something that they can use for themselves. We also invite you to join us to help them shop.



Glory to God
 in the Highest,
 & on Earth
 Peace, Good
 Will Toward Men.



Be here for the Children's Christmas Mini-Musical, Sunday December 23 at 10:30 a.m.!

Parents, please have kids here by 10 a.m.!

Music Corner

- ◆ **Saturday, Dec. 1,** 9:00 a.m. Christmas Cantata Rehearsal
- ◆ **Wednesday, Dec. 5,** 7:25–8:45 p.m. Cantata Dress Rehearsal!
- ◆ **Sunday, Dec. 9**
 10 a.m.—Choir assembles in Sanctuary
 10:30 a.m.—“The Greatest Story of All” presented in worship
 5 p.m.—Church-wide Christmas Caroling
- ◆ **Tuesday, Dec. 11,** 6:15 p.m.
 Christmas Cantata at Senior Citizens Village
- ◆ **Wednesday, Dec. 12,** Choir with Trent (Chris away)
- ◆ **Wednesday, Dec. 19**
 6 p.m.—Children and Ensemble rehearse in Sanctuary
 No other Evening Activities
- ◆ **Sunday, Dec. 23,** 10:30 a.m. Children's Christmas Mini-Musical
- ◆ **Monday, Dec. 24,** 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service with Scripture, Special Music, and Communion



Join Us for
 Caroling

**Sunday, December 9
 5 p.m.
 Supper to follow**

USHERS THIS MONTH

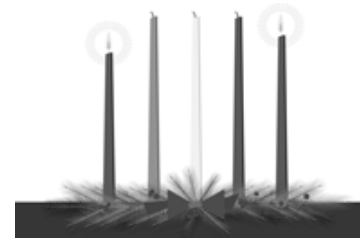
- *Charlie Carpenter
- Ethel Durham
- Abe Elmore
- Ray McLemore
- Lutie Murphy

Deacon of the Week

- Dec. 2: Susan Murray
- Dec. 9: Brinson Hunter
- Dec. 16: Ed Taylor
- Dec. 23: Edwin Bass
- Dec. 30: Lawrence Campbell

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Marsha Bass
- 3 Chris Cottingham
- 4 E. Ray McLemore
- 5 Violet Jackson
- 7 Nancy Rose
- 12 Lauren Bass
- 12 Lawrence Campbell
- 16 Ann Bailey
- 16 Bill Jackson, Jr.
- 16 L.B. (Bruce) & Winnie Ruth Smith
- 17 Chris & Michelle Dawson
- 18 Michael Murphy
- 23 Nonie Roberson
- 25 Abe & Jackie Elmore
- 25 D & Violet Jackson
- 30 Michael & Lutie Murphy
- 31 Milton Murray



NURSERY WORKERS

- Dec. 2: Bebe Melvin
- Dec. 9: Paula Jones
- Dec. 16: Betty Bass
- Dec. 23: Sylvia Campbell
- Dec.30: Carolyn Hairr



CHILDREN'S



Sermon

- December 2**
Betty Bass
- December 9**
Melissa Scott
- December 16**
Charlie Carpenter
- December 23**
Susan Murray
- December 30**

Westfield Baptist Church

December

2012



Sundays

9:15 a.m. Bible Study for all ages
10:30 a.m. Morning Worship

Wednesdays

5:45 p.m. **Keep It Simple Supper**
6:30 p.m. Discipleship for all ages
7:30 p.m. Adult Choir Practice

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 Choir 9 am Decorate 10 a.m.
2 Christmas Post Office Open Dec 2–23 Christmas Store 2 p.m. Sr. Citizens Village Youth Hangout 3–6p.m.	3	4 Secret Pal Christmas Party 6 p.m. Silent Prayer 7-7:30 pm	5 Wednesday NIGHT Activities All Ages Together!	6 St. Nicholas Day!	7 Youth Movie Night 6 p.m.	8
9 Choir Cantata, 10:30 a.m. Caroling at 5 p.m., Soup & sandwiches after!	10	11 Silent Prayer 7-7:30 pm Cantata Sr. Village 6:15 p.m.	12 Wednesday NIGHT Activities Choir with Trent; Chris away	13	14	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
16 Chris Vacation Dec. 12–17	17	18 Silent Prayer 7-7:30 pm	19 Children's Choir Rehearsal 6 pm No Other Wednesday Night Activities	20	21 Youth Hangout 2 -5 p.m.	22
23 Children's Christmas Mini-Musical, 10:30 am Children's Choir	24 Christmas Eve Service 5:30 p.m.	25 Merry Christmas!	26 No Wednesday Night Activities Chris Vacation Dec. 25–27	27	28	29 Thanks for a Great Year!
30	31 New Year's Eve					