

Info from CBC December 2016 Newsletter

Well, we made it through the election and Turkey Day with family, and we lived to tell about it. I am looking forward to Christmas and all that it brings. I love our church all decorated in wreaths and poinsettias. I love the Christmas parties and the Love of Christ that is in the air. You can almost feel it. I love our Christmas musicals (children and adults) and our Christmas Eve candlelight service. I love the smiling faces and the anticipation of Christmas morning.

There is a reason I love it so much. JESUS!!!! He is the reason for the joy, love, gifts, and that special feeling in the air. He is the Light of the world. He is God in the flesh. Christmas is the time of year that the masses are reminded of what we get to experience all year long. I have been teaching about who Christ is in the Book of John. One observation I make is that Jesus did not start in Bethlehem. It is just where He made His appearance to us. The Gospel of John says, "In the beginning **WAS** the Word..." The **WAS** in that sentence is very important. It means continual action in the past. That is a weird statement. The past is done when it meets the present. However, that is not the case here concerning the Son of God. When you get to the "in the beginning," He was there, and when you go back a second further, He was there and so on. He is Eternal God. He is without beginning or end. Praise the Lord!!!

So, I conclude Jesus is more than a cartoon character that has super power to raise the dead or wisdom to see the future. He is more than a carpenter from Galilee. He is more than a Jewish Rabbi or great historical figure. He is God revealed to us, Emmanuel! However, it does not stop there. He is the undeniable God of the Universe revealed in human flesh, but He wants to be God received. He wants a relationship with you. That always "blows my mind" and gives me pause to think. That Eternity would step into time and look for me? That is humbling, awe inspiring, and gracious. The Creator of all the earth became a servant of no worth (Phil. 2). He gave up the right to be worshipped for ridicule. He gave up His splendor for a cow trough and gave up his royal dress for swaddling clothes. Oh, how He loves you and me! He gave up His

crown in exchange for a cross so that you and I could know Him and live a life of forgiveness and hope.

Now I hope you see why I love this time of year so much. I cannot forget those that struggle through this time of year because of loss or sad memories. Just remember, in Christ there is hope. In Christ there is a future. In Christ there is forgiveness and life. Just hit the pause button of your life and look around you and you can see what God sees. Through all of the clutter and nonsense, there are people worth loving, and you have infinite value. So much so, that God would not spare His own Son that you might live. So during this season of salvation, remember when you give or receive a gift that "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son." So, maybe by looking through the lens of God, you can see what I see and that is value in every human being regardless of race, creed or social status. Join me in the celebration of God coming to earth to show us the way to know Him and to rescue us.

Merry Christmas---Pastor Mike and Family!!

Deacon Update

Annual Budget Meeting

Calendar of Events

- 3** Children's Christmas Cookie Bake
(For 5th gr. & under and the young at heart) 10 - 11:30 a.m. ~ CBC FH
Children's Christmas Musical Practice
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. - CBC FH
Lunch provided.
- 4** CBC Proposed 2017 Budget Ready for Pick Up
Children's Christmas Musical "Signs of Christmas" - 6:30 p.m.
Youth Committee Meeting
(immediately following musical in choir room)

- 8 Elderberry Christmas Dinner
5 - 7 p.m. ~ Captain's Quarters
Cost \$10 per person
Deadline for Signup is Dec. 4
Point person: Doris Daniel
- 9-11 Winterblast at Camp Lonridge
- 11 Adult Choir Christmas Musical
"While the World Slept"
6:30 p.m.
Drop-In afterwards at the home of
Ray & Janice Richburg
- 16 Youth Christmas Party
6 - 8 p.m. ~ FLC
- 18 Vote on 2017 CBC Budget
(in morning service)
Sunday School Christmas Tree
FLC ~ 6:30 p.m.
- 21 AWANA Christmas Celebration
6:30 p.m. in FLC
Prayer Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion
Service ~ 6 p.m.
- 25 Christmas ~ "Happy birthday,
Jesus!"
Morning Worship at 11 a.m.
*No Sunday School, No evening
activities/worship*
- 27 Harvest Hope Food Truck Distribution
10:30 a.m. ~ Point person: Karen
DeCosta
- 28 No activities/services

*CBC Offices will be closed a half day on
12/22 and all day 12/23 and 12/30.*

Workers for December

Audiovisual:

- 12/4 Rob Hussey
12/11 Will Thomas
12/18 Scott Tanner
12/25 Mark Evans

Nursery:

- 12/4 Kim Gardner, Vassar Turner
12/11 Erica Eaddy, Casey Pelfry
12/18 Heather & Lundee Olsen
12/25 Allyson, Tori, & Hardy Goff
Toddler's Church (ages 2 thru 4):
12/4 Barbara Hussey
12/11 Tami Blascak
12/18 Mary Kathryn Jordan
12/25 **NO TC**

Children's Church (K5 - 8-yrs. old):

- 12/4 Casey Pelfrey
12/11 Brandi Holladay
12/18 Trish Feeney
12/25 **NO CC**

Building Attendant: James Richburg

Flowers: Poinsettias

Ushers: Dan McInnis, Stacey McInnis,
Reese McInnis, Cory McWhite, Mack Mutchler,
Brad Pelfrey, Bobby Pierce, Aaron Powell

Prayer Ministry

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Ed Hinson | Juanita Hunter |
| Mary Frances Lee | David McCabe |
| VeLinda Reynolds | Jim Walker |
| David & Melva Young | Francis Young |

November Monthly Records

Avg. Sunday School Attendance: 132
Avg. Worship Attendance: 158
Monthly Offering Total: \$26,474.68
Building Fund: \$24,579.59

Encouragement Opportunities

Faith Promise Missionary:

Matt & Joy Burke

(with World Gospel Mission)

PO Box 11788
Kampala, Uganda

Joyandmatt.burke@gmail.com

Student of the Month:

Katenell Locklair

Campus #230

5130 E. Palmetto St.

Florence, SC 29506

Shut-in of the Month:

Lila Sue Thompson

1356 CLEMSON RD.

ALCOLU, SC 29001

Happy Birthday

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 5 Jessica Gabert | 20 Katherine Ann Gardner |
| Rodney Richburg | 21 Rhyan Gaff |
| Nikki Woodard | Hilton Layton |
| 6 Jack Henson | Lee Mahoney |
| 8 Hugh Thompson, Jr. | VeLinda Reynolds |
| 9 Maria Rose | John Thompson |
| 10 Mary E. Lee | 22 Jennifer Clark |
| Darrell Turner | 25 JESUS CHRIST |
| 11 Clayton Lee | Esther Blackmon |
| 12 Brittani Steen | Jamie Hodge |
| 15 Ed Hinson | Beniece Smith |
| 17 Johnny Baker | 28 Kayla Acord |
| Kelly McCrea | Linda Ard |
| 18 Scott Tanner | Cory McWhite |
| 19 Charlie Ard | 29 Kathy Thompson |
| Sadie Gardner | Jim Walker |
| Kris Tufares | 30 Welborn Brewer |
| | 31 Heather Alsbrook |

If we have missed your birthday, please call the church office so that we can add your name to our birthday list.

Wednesday Night Menus & Kitchen Teams

- 12/7 Menu: Hotdogs w/fixings, Chips, Dessert
KT: Cory & Aimee McWhite, Chris & Jordan Price, Scott & Chandace Tanner
- 12/14 Menu: Chicken nuggets, Mac-n-cheese, Veggie, Dessert
KT: Jewell Brown, Tommy Geddings, Harriet Locklair
- 12/21 Christmas Party/Prize Night/Pizza in Rooms

*May you know that comfort and joy of God's presence this Christmas season and always!
Pastor Mike, Pastor Jon, Shirley, & Pam*