

Baptist Tabernacle Church

December 2022 Newsletter

Our Memory Verse for December is:

Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you. 2 Corinthians 13:11 KJV

December 2022 Reading Schedule

Day 1	Daniel 4-6	Day 16	Micah 1-3
Day 2	Daniel 7-9	Day 17	Micah 4-7
Day 3	Daniel 10-12	Day 18	Nahum 1-3
Day 4	Hosea 1-3	Day 19	Habakkuk 1-3
Day 5	Hosea 4-6	Day 20	Zephaniah, Haggai
Day 6	Hosea 7-9	Day 21	Zechariah 1-3
Day 7	Hosea 10-12	Day 22	Zechariah 4-6
Day 8	Hosea 13-14	Day 23	Zechariah 7-9
Day 9	Joel 1-3	Day 24	Zechariah 10-14
Day 10	Amos 1-3	Day 25	Malachi 1-4
Day 11	Amos 4-6	Day 26	Revelation 1-3
Day 12	Amos 7-9	Day 27	Revelation 4-6
Day 13	Obadiah	Day 28	Revelation 7-10
Day 14	2 & 3 John, Jude	Day 29	Revelation 11-15
Day 15	Jonah 1-4	Day 30	Revelation 16-18
		Day 31	Revelation 19-22

SAVE THE DATE

Churchwide Events:

Christmas Cantata Service Sunday, December 11th at 11:00am

Live Nativity: Saturday, December 17th 6:00pm to 8:00pm

Children's Choir before conclusion of Worship Service Sunday, December 18th

Christmas Morning Communion Service Sunday, December 25th at 10:00am

Children's Event:

Open House at Kennedy Home in Kinston Leave Church at 5:00pm on December 9th

Youth Upcoming Event:

Christmas Party: Friday, December 9th 6:00pm to 10:00pm at Seller's Home



December Birthdays

1st	Elizabeth Hocutt Emma Maidon Juan Trippe	15th	Madison Adams Adam Driver John Nowell Autumn Hargreaves
4th	Layla Mack Anna Martin	17th	Nita Edwards
5th	Bruce Whitley	18th	Benjamin Hocutt Bobby Sellers
6th	Cassie Hinnant Holly Hughes Joette Oliver Kemp Moore	19th	Jon Carroll Austin Himmel
7th	Patsy Coates Kelly Currie Lauren Driver Craig Strickland	20th	Linda Hammett Charles Johnson Clay Lewis
8th	Sean Bannon Glen Horton Ken Spencer	21st	Erma Adkins Carolyn Stevens
9th	Jackson Briggerman Stacy Bunn William Hocutt	22nd	Rebecca Boykin Fred Flowers
10th	Wallace Bunn Matthew Lee	23rd	Sean Melvin
11th	Blair Driver Linda Strickland	25th	Merry Hocutt Vickie Hocutt
12th	Dena Brannan	26th	Everly Boyette Benjamin Green Chris White
13th	Sheila Currin Jimmy Lewis Billy Hales	27th	Jerry Richardson Brooke Scott Jennifer Thompson
14th	Frances Carroll	28th	Wendy D. Jeffreys Brandon Carroll
		29th	Nicole Batten Joan Privette
		30th	Rose Godwin



December Anniversaries

8th	Joseph & Samantha Lambert
9th	Ryan & Brooke Hargreaves
12th	Charles & Mary Padgett
14th	Tracey & Cynthia Hudson David & Holly Hughes DJ & Kayla Scott
16th	Kim & Jamie Jeffreys
20th	Jimmy & Brenda Lewis
21st	Tommy & Rowena Perry
22nd	Matthew & Brooke Sanders
29th	Tracy & Angela Gilmore

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Sunday School 11am Children's Church 11am Worship Service 	28 O.W.L.S. Bus to Myrtle Beach	29 O.W.L.S. Bus	30 8-12 Flea Market <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Adult Bible Study 6:30pm Children's Programs 6:30pm Youth 7pm Choir Practice 	1 1	2 8-12 Flea Market 6pm Deacons Christmas Party	3 8-12 Flea Market 6pm Deacons Christmas Party
4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Sunday School 11am Children's Church 11am Worship Service 	5 7pm Deacons Meeting FMC	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am J. Strickland Prayer Group 	7 8-12 Flea Market <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Adult Bible Study 6:30pm Children's Programs 6:30pm Youth 7pm Choir Practice 	8 8	9 Children Bus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5pm Children to Kennedy Home 6pm Youth Christmas Party 	10 7-1 FMC RSVP Wanda Custer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Live Nativity
11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Sunday School 11am Children's Church 11am Christmas Cantata Service 7pm Robinwood Service 	12 12pm Nevada Dinner Crt Gp FMC 7pm Leadership Meeting	13 O.W.L.S. Bus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30am O.W.L.S. to Meadow 	14 8-12 Flea Market <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Adult Bible Study 6:30pm Children's Programs 6:30pm Youth 7pm Choir Practice 	15 15	16 16	17 7-1 FMC RSVP Wanda Custer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Live Nativity
18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Sunday School 11am Children's Church 11am Worship Service 11:45am Children's Choir 	19 1pm Vera Hooft Crt Gp 7pm Administrative Team Mtg FMC	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am J. Strickland Prayer Group 	21 8-12 Flea Market <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Adult Bible Study 6:30pm Children's Programs 6:30pm Youth 7pm Choir Practice 	22 22	23 23	24 1-5 FMC RSVP Wanda Custer
25 Christmas Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Communion Worship Service 	26 Christmas Day (substitute)	27 27	28 8-12 Flea Market <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Adult Bible Study 6:30pm Children's Programs 6:30pm Youth 7pm Choir Practice 	29 29	30 30	31 31

What are our Ministry Teams up to?

Pastoral Team (Bobby Sellers-Team Leader/Ricky Narron-Co-Leader):

Don't forget, Dec 3 @ 6pm deacon Christmas party in FMC. RSVP to Danielle Gidding--919-930-9339.

A special thank you to all that have been a part of helping BTC navigate the challenges of the past year. We are moving forward and growing in many due to your dedicated efforts. Looking forward to 2023!

Merry Christmas Baptist Tabernacle Family

Administrative Team (Ricky Watson -Team Leader/David Hughes-Co-Leader):

The Administrative Team continues to meet monthly to review the monthly financial reports, discuss any needed changes to the Constitution & By-Laws, and monitor the Church's investment accounts. In addition to the normal activities, at the last meeting, we began working on the 2023 Baptist Tabernacle Budget and will continue working on it to present to the Church at the January Church Conference.

Beginning last month, the Administrative Team began providing a review of the Constitution & By-Laws each month in the newsletter. Due to the length of Article III, we will provide that article in portions monthly. This month we continue with Article III, Section 2: Terms of Pastor, Officers, and Ministry Teams for review. If you have any questions about any of these Articles, please ask one of the Administrative Team Members. **NOTE: Some of these sections are currently in revision, what is provided to you in this article is what is currently approved.**

If you do not have a copy of the Constitution & By-Laws, please contact the Church Secretary for a copy.

Article III

(Approved 4/18/18)

Section 2: TERMS OF PASTOR, OFFICERS AND MINISTRY TEAMS

A. Pastor

The pastor shall serve indefinitely at the will of the church. Whenever a vacancy occurs a pastor shall be called by the church to serve until the relationship is dissolved at the request of either the pastor or the church. In either case, at least thirty days notice shall be given of termination of the relationship, unless otherwise agreed upon, with both pastor and church seeking to follow the will of God through the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

B. Officers and Ministry Teams

The terms of all other officers, teachers, and Ministry Team members shall be specifically provided in these by-laws.

Section 3: Elections

A. Pastor

The call of the pastor shall take place at a meeting especially for that purpose of which at least one week's notice has been given to the membership. The elections shall be upon the recommendation of a Pastor Search Committee after consultation with the Administrative Ministry. The Pastor Search Committee shall bring only one name at a time for the consideration of the church and no nominations shall be made except by the committee. Elections shall be by secret ballot. An affirmative vote of 85% of church members present and voting is necessary for an extension of a call. Should the minister recommended by the committee fail to receive an 85% vote, the committee will be instructed to seek out another minister and the meeting at which the vote was taken shall be adjourned without debate.

The Pastor Search Committee shall be nominated by the Church Leadership Team and voted on by the church. The Pastor Search Committee shall consist of a minimum of five church members in good standing with the church and represent the following organizations:

- One from Pastoral Ministry Team (Deacons);
- Two from Missions Team (Women On Mission and Brotherhood) (One to serve as an alternate);
- Two from Age Specific Ministry Teams (Youth Council; Senior Citizens) (One to serve as an alternate)
- One from Worship Ministry Team
- One from Administrative Ministry Team.

At the discretion of the Pastor Search Team, the entire team can serve as a whole (seven members); however, only five are needed to recommend a perspective pastor to the church for a vote.

The Leadership Team shall also recommend the Chairman of the Pastor Search Committee to be voted on by the church.

To ensure there is not a tie vote on the recommendation of the prospective pastor, the committee shall be an odd number of persons.

The pastor's position description and Benefit Package is contained in the Personnel Manual and Job Descriptions. It can be revised only by approval of the church at a regular church conference.

B. Youth/Children's Director (Approved 4/15/09) (revised 7/21/21)

The call of the Youth/Children's Director shall take place at a meeting especially for that purpose of which at least one week's notice has been given to the membership. The elections shall be upon the recommendation of the Youth/Children's Director Search Committee after consultation with the Administrative Ministry Team. The Youth/Children's Director Search Committee shall bring only one name at a time for the consideration of the church and no nominations shall be made except by the committee. Elections shall be by secret ballot.

An affirmative vote of 85% of church members present and voting is necessary for an extension of a call. Should the candidate recommended by the committee fail to receive an 85% vote, the committee will be instructed to seek out another candidate and the meeting at which the vote was taken shall be adjourned without debate.

The Youth/Children's Director Search Committee shall be nominated by the Leadership Team and voted on by the church. The Youth/Children's Director Search Committee shall consist of a minimum of five church members in good standing with the church and represent the following organizations:

- One from Pastoral Ministry Team (Deacons);
- One from Missions Team (Women On Mission and Brotherhood)
- One from Age Specific Ministry Teams (Youth/Children's Advisory Council)
- One from Worship Ministry Team;
- One from Administrative Ministry Team.

The Leadership Team shall also recommend the Chairman of the Youth/Children's Director Search Committee to be voted on by the church.

To ensure there is not a tie vote on the recommendation of the prospective Youth/Children's Director, the committee shall be an odd number of persons.

The Youth/Children's Director Position description and Benefit Package is contained in the Personnel Manual and Job Descriptions. It can be revised only by approval of the church at a regular church conference.

C. Church Secretary (revised 4/18/18)

The church secretary shall be hired by the Personnel Committee (Deacons) and the Pastor. No vote by the Church is required to hire the Church Secretary.

Church Staff (i.e., choir director, custodian, etc.)

Church staff shall be recommended to the church by a committee appointed for such purpose, which includes the pastor as an ex officio member, at a special called Church Conference for that purpose of which at least one week's notice has been given to the membership. The committee shall be appointed at a regular church conference by a recommendation and vote of the church and comprised of individuals interested in working to interview such positions and have a desire to employ the best candidate for the position. A position description and salary shall be developed by the appointed committee after consultation with the Administrative Team (for salary) and approval of Church Relation Deacon Ministry Team.

The vote for the church staff shall be by secret ballot at a regular church conference, with a majority of those members voting for the extension of an offer to hire the staff.

E. Deacons.

Deacons for the church shall be elected at a business meeting called for that purpose. Refer to Article IV for details on Deacon Election.

Discipleship Team (Jeany O'Neal-Team Leader/Tonya Bailey-Co-Leader):

Sunday School is available from 10:00 -10:50 in the following locations:

Children's Classes: Education Building

Nursery 1: Ages birth - 2 years (1st Floor)

Nursery 2: 2 - 3 years (1st Floor)

Bible Learners: (4 years-2nd Grade) (2nd Floor)

Bible Discoverers: (Grades 3rd-5th) (2nd Floor)

Youth: Grades 6th - 12th (2nd Floor)

Adult Classes: Education Building

Journey— Young Singles & Couples (2nd Floor) (Various Topics)

Mildred Driver Class (1st Floor) (Lifeway Lessons)

JOY: Ladies Class (1st Floor) (Lifeway Lessons)

Andrew Batten/Gary Hocutt Class: Men's Class (1st Floor) (Lifeway Lessons)

Adult Class: FMC

Growing in Jesus Class (1st Floor) (Various Topics)

Anyone interested in teaching a Sunday School class, please call or email the Church with your contact information and interest.



Worship Team (Susan Andrews -Team Leader/Dana Hocutt-Co-Leader)

1. WORSHIP NURSERY: If you enjoy working with birth - 2 yr. olds, we can utilize your talents in our nursery during our Sunday Worship Service on a rotation schedule. Please call or email the church office and let Ashelyn know of your interest and your contact information. Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve our young families.
2. CHRISTMAS LIVE NATIVITY: Save the date! Saturday, December 17th at 6:00pm at the shelter behind the cemetery. Chairs will be available. Stay for refreshments afterwards in the FMC. Practice starts on Sunday, December 4th at 12pm.



Mission Team (Annette Ragan-Team Leader/Sandy Trippe-Co-Leader):

Thank you, thank you to everyone who was in any way involved in the Fall Fest/Missions Marketplace on November 12. There are so many that helped -- the volunteers preparing all that wonderful food, taking the money, manning the 50/50 raffle station, taking care of the dessert/treats/canned goods table, auctioneers, and those who helped clean afterwards, and to those volunteers downstairs who worked tirelessly with the flea market shoppers. Of course, we would be remiss without thanking the Church Body for supporting this effort through your donations of soft drinks, water, baked goods, preserves, crafts, cakes and other items for auction. Over \$15,000 was collected, including a \$4,600 donation. It was a great day! Christmas will be here very soon, and there are so many people who are hurting financially this year. If you know of an individual or family who needs a little extra help, please let a member of the Missions Team know so that we can be of assistance. This is true throughout the year, but especially at Christmas. Please pray for the Missions Team as we continue to seek ways to best find God's purpose for us and what we do.

Senior Adult Team (Olivia Cooke-Team Leader):

OWLS-Older, Wiser, Livelier, Seniors (Leaders Olivia Cooke and Patsy Narron):



On November 17th we enjoyed a great lunch in Siler City, then we traveled to the Southern Supreme Fruit Cake Factory. Everyone should have plenty of fruitcake and candies for Christmas. We had a bus load and then some, a total of 17.

On November 28th-29th we traveled to Myrtle Beach to see the Carolina Opry Christmas Show. We had 21 attend and we had a great time.

All Seniors are welcome to join us for our next outing to Meadow restaurant on Tuesday, December 13th leaving Church at 10:30am.

God Bless, Olivia Cooke, Patsy and Ricky Narron



Children's Team (Wayne Batten-Team Leader):

Ask and you shall receive. For the past few years, we have been looking for ways to increase the number of children and families in our Church. We have had Easter Egg Hunts, Block Parties, Trunk or Treats, Live Nativities, and even started twisting balloon animals.

Have you noticed a lot of new children's faces around our Church? If you haven't, you need to look around. Children's Church, Journey Kids, Mission Friends, and our Nursery have grown by leaps and bounds. **PRAISE THE LORD!!!**

During Children's Church we are studying the birth of Jesus with a 5-part series from when the Angels appeared to Mary, through the trip to Bethlehem, the Birth of Christ, and the Wise Men helping to save Baby Jesus. Our children are making a nativity set that each one of them can take home and display. That is the reason for me recently asking for 100 toilet tissue roll cores. Thanks to all who contributed.

Wednesday nights are a little louder and a lot more active than they used to be at BTC. Thanks to our new leaders who have stepped up to provide Journey Kids and our new Mission Friends group with opportunities to grow in Christ.

Our BTC Balloon Twisters were a GREAT HIT at the Wendell Harvest Festival. We set the tent up and got ready to twist balloons around 9:00 am. One of our kids was concerned there were not many kids showing up to get a balloon animal. We told them to rest until the parade ended and the line went from non-existent to over an hour wait time to get a balloon. We were so PROUD of our young kids that day. Each child who received a balloon animal also received a "Goodie Bag" with candy and information on our Church. Our kids passed out 350 of those bags that day. They had sore fingers and wrists the next day but were already asking "when can we do it again." It was a blessing to hear some of our young children telling parents and their kids about our Church. PRAISE THE LORD!!!



The Kennedy Home will be holding their Open House on Friday, December 9. We will be taking our children to the open house, and we are "adopting" the resident children. We have had donors provide financial support so we can let our children purchase nice gifts for each resident child.

Our CHILDREN'S CHOIR will be performing at the conclusion of Church on Sunday, December 18. This is a new ministry program for BTC. PRAISE THE LORD!!!

Mark your calendar and hold the date. Our annual Live Nativity will be held December 17 from 6 until 8 pm. We will begin with the Birth of Jesus at the BBQ Shelter and then move into the Family Ministry Center for snacks and entertainment.

We want to welcome several new families into our Church and are delighted their children are participating in our programs.

Ask and you shall receive. PRAISE THE LORD!!!

Thank You All, Wayne

Youth Team (Christin Brown-Team Leader):

December is here and Christmas activities are in full swing! While this time of year is busy let's not forget WHO we are celebrating and the HOPE and JOY he brings!

Youth Outreach

-Our youth will be preparing "Blessing Bags" for the residents of Robinwood on **Wednesday, December 7th**. We will deliver these bags on **Wednesday, December 14th**. If anyone would like to donate any items we need: hard mints, small packs of tissues, Christmas candies, ChapStick, small lotions, and small candy canes.

-Our youth have adopted several families (19 kids total) off the Angel Tree at Corinth-Holders Elementary. Gifts should be bought, wrapped, and labeled appropriately by Wednesday, December 14th!

Youth Christmas Party

The annual Christmas party is coming up on **Friday, December 9th from 6:00-10:00**. A sign-up genius has been sent out through email to sign up to bring an appetizer, dessert, and/or drink. Please remember to bring your wrapped \$10 gift for the gift game as well. We will also travel over to Christmas Lights on The Farm. Bring \$ for souvenirs or other goodies if you wish.

Property Management Team (Ross Carroll-Team Leader/Steve White-Co-Leader):

Nothing new to report this month. We hope you have a very Merry Christmas!

Thank you and God Bless You.



On Hold....

Until we can resume normal Church activities, the following Committee is on hold. We will resume this process as soon as we can. Please be in prayer for this area of ministry for our Church:

*Children's Director Search Committee

Recurring Prayer Needs

Donald Adams	Ashley Coleman	Mike Himmel	Carol O'Neal
Bradley Allen	Wendy Cox	Danny Hocutt	Karen Pearce O'Neal
Chris Allen	Sharon Craven	Elizabeth Hocutt	Mike O'Neal
Harold Andrews	George Creech	JoAnn Hocutt	Jennifer Pervis
Stephanie Andrews	Jerry & Sally Creech	Sue Hocutt	Vickie Peters
Brenda Arnold	Michael Creech	Carolyn Holbrook	Jeaninene Pratt
Dennis Atkins	Peggy Creech	Carl Holt	Larry Price
Dorothy Bailey	Addison Cunningham	Nova Hopkins	Joan Privette
Freddy Bailey	Jane Denton	Summer Hurst	Donald Pulley
Natalie Bailey	Lewis Denton	Kenneth Jones	Randy Raper
Addie Batten	Charles Driver	Shirley Lane	Dale Renfrow
David Batten	David Driver	June Lanier	Connie Scott
Kathryn & Neal Batten	H.E. & Phyllis Edwards	Sandra Leonard	Sally Sledge
Leigh Batten	Jeremy Edwards	Landon Mack	Phillip Smith
Traci Boyette	Fred Flowers	Sue Cline Mack	Joey Spruill
Melanie Brock	Will Fuller	Janice Mantyc	Nell Stallings
Natalie Brock	Anita Hales	Pam Maynor	Linda Stevens
Everly Bryant	Randy Hales	Kenny Morgan	Lori Stokes
Brenda Bunn	Gabriele Hall	Ann Mosley	Mark Stokes
Tim Burgess	Linda Hammett	Kenneth Nowell	Carmen Wall
Ross Carroll	Annette Heffinger	John Nowell	Curtis Willobey
Barry Chamblee	Beverly Heilig	Ricky Nowell	

New Prayer Needs

Mildred Bailey Family	Joan Hunter	Don Weathers
Elaine Barham	Debbie Jones	Clay Whitley
Jonathan Barnes	Oscar Lane	Eddie Wright
Judy Boswell	Dennis Lockleair	Unspoken Requests
Blake Boyette Family	Emma Maidon	
Errol Briggerman	Jennifer Martinez	
Wayne Currie	Brian Munger	
Rickie Driver	Annette Ragan	
Sawyer Gay	Dolores Renfrow	
Gayle Haines	Christi Sasser	
Carolyn Hicks	Libby Seagroves	
Peggy Huggins Family	Dale & Sandra Weathers	

From the Pastor's Desk:

*"For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."* (Isaiah 9:6)

Picture it... The entire region of Palestine was in dire straits. There was this tyrannical and fearful leader called Herod, that was ruling by force and fear! There seemed to be no hope! What the people needed was a Savior, a Redeemer, a Messiah! Remember John 3:16? Well, God acted upon the needs of the people, and He sent His only Son!! *"That whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life!"* Folks, just as in the days of Herod, we need a Savior, right now, today! Our world is a bit more sophisticated and complex than the one that Jesus was born into, but we are, in need of, a Savior! This world is as blind and deaf and evil, as the days of Jesus. Where can we find HOPE? As we stand at the threshold of another Christmas, the same Savior that was born in a stable and that Savior that offered Hope for the Hopeless and sight to the blind and hearing to the deaf, is beckoning us to Him, right now, today! Our Hope is in the One who lit the Bethlehem star and directed the Heavenly Choir that mesmerized the shepherds on that Galilean hillside and led the Wise Men to His presence! *"Our Hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' Love and Righteousness! May you find Hope in this Christmas Season and may you continue to Hope in Jesus! Each year, as I look at the splendor of Christmas and the decorations that abound, I remind myself to look past the tinsel and glitter to the REAL reason for the Season, JESUS CHRIST! May you experience the Majesty and Glory of the SAVIOR! MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!*

Merry Christmas! Pastor Glen & Annette

