

COVENANT NEWS

VOL. XXIX

No. 46

Weeks of December 17, 24, & 31, 2017

A Publication of
Covenant Baptist Church
3131 Erskine Drive, Gastonia, NC 28054



Rev. Dan Freeman, Intentional Interim Pastor
Rev. Pamela Phillips, Minister of Preschool and Children
Rev. Nick Clanton, Minister of Youth
Gene and Becky Bumgardner, Co-Directors of Music
Becky Bumgardner, Pianist
Jerry Fulham, Organist
Sharon Waters, Church Secretary
sharon@covenantbaptist.net
704-865-2538 www.covenantbaptist.net

OPPORTUNITIES – Week of December 17, 2017

Sunday, December 17 **Third Sunday in Advent**
9:00 am Pick Up Breakfast
9:45 am Sunday School
Joint Adult SS - Fellowship Hall
taught by Rev. Lynwood Lavinder
11:00 am **The Christmas Story**
Presented by Covenant Children
Youth – Lunch Together
following Worship

OPPORTUNITIES – Week of December 24, 2017

Sunday, December 24 **Fourth Sunday in Advent**
10:30 am Worship Service
5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

Monday, December 25 *Merry Christmas*

OPPORTUNITIES – Week of December 31, 2017

Sunday, December 31
9:30 am Coffee Fellowship
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service
Tuesday, January 2
8:15 – 11:30 am CBS Leadership Team Meeting
9:00 am Staff Meeting
Wednesday, January 3
5:45 pm Fellowship Meal
6:30 pm Prayer Meeting
6:20 – 7:15 pm Children's Music & Missions
6:20 - 7:15 pm Youth Hang
7:15 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

VOLUNTEERS

	BABIES & TODDLERS	PRESCHOOL
DECEMBER 17	Renee & Hannah Phillips	Remain in Worship Service
DECEMBER 24	TBD	TBD
DECEMBER 31	Livvie Richard & Linda Pettigrew	Susan Herd & Dianne Duncan

DECEMBER

DEACON Wanda McCraw	BUILDING LOCK-UP Art Morgan	USHERS Covenant Diaconate
-------------------------------	---------------------------------------	-------------------------------------

JANUARY

DEACON Bill Walters	BUILDING LOCK-UP Randy Strider	USHERS Men's & Ladies' Class
-------------------------------	--	--

WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP MEAL

Wednesday, January 3, 2018

ADULTS – Salmon Patties, Pintos, Cole Slaw, Corn Muffins
Dessert, Beverage **CHILDREN** – Mac & Cheese

OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

*“Devote yourselves to prayer,
being watchful and thankful.”*

Colossians 4:2 NIV

Pam Buckner	(Salvation for a Mother)
	(Regina Elmore, Linda Bess' sister)
(Mary Kerley)	(Charlain Fitzgerald)
	(Lena Marston – 4 years old – Cancer)
	Betty Ammons, Friend of Family)
(Larry Marshall)	(Ernie Smith)

ANNUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL PICK UP BREAKFAST SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

9:00 am – Breakfast

Everyone invited! Bring your favorite pick-ups for our breakfast.



9:45 am – Bible Study

Following breakfast, the adults will remain in the Fellowship Hall for joint Bible Study. The lesson will be taught by Rev. Lynwood Lavinder.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY



The Covenant children will present their annual drama on Sunday, December 17, at 11:00 am.

"She will bear a Son, and you shall call His name

J e s u s

For He will save His people from their sins."

-Matthew 1:21

Our wish for you is a happy celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior with your family and God's blessings for the New Year!

Thank You for our Christmas Gifts!



Merry Christmas

**Dan, Pam, Sharon,
Becky, Gene and Jerry**

The Snowman

Once upon a Christmas, a snowman I did see.
He sparkled white as diamonds and seemed to smile at me.

I too should have the smile that's on the snowman's face,
for God has taken all my sins and cleansed me by His grace.

He sent my precious Savior born so long ago,
who paid my debt and made me clean
as freshly fallen snow.



***"... though your sins be scarlet, they shall
be as white as snow..."***

-Isaiah 1:18b

Thank you to Betty Ammons for the poem.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- No Diaconate Meeting on December 18
- First Day of Winter – December 21
- Worship Service Only - December 24 10:30 am
- To receive credit for 2017, your contributions must be placed in the offering plate by Sunday, December 31, or mailed with a postmark no later than December 30.
- Contribution envelopes are located in the church office hallway. Please take as many as you need for your family.
- Inclement Weather --- Check WBTV, WSOC, WCNC or WHKY, or call your deacon.
- The church office will be closed each Friday in December, December 25 and 26 (Christmas Eve holiday), and January 1.

Remember the Pastor Search Committee in prayer as we seek a pastor for our church.

—The Pastor Search Committee



Special thanks to all who provided snack suppers for the youth during October, November and December. The meals were very much appreciated.

Youth Reminders:

Youth who are going to see the Star Wars movie, meet at church at 5:00 pm Friday, December 15.

We will lunch together following worship on Sunday, December 17.



CHRISTMAS CARD COLLECTION

Recycle your Christmas cards for a mission project. A container will be provided in the narthex to collect your cards after Christmas.

GLOBAL MISSIONS - YOU WELCOME SOMEONE HOME

Too many people are homeless and hungry. Gifts to this year's Offering for Global Missions will *Cultivate Beloved Community*. You can create a loving community and offer radical hospitality to a person who is alone.

Ministries like *Grace & Main*, led by CBF personnel Jessica and Joshua Hearne, include:

- Offering beds in homes for those who need it
- An urban farm and weekly meals
- Worship, community, and communion

Covenant's 2017 goal for Global Missions is \$5,000.00 and 100% will go to missionaries in the field.

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. -John 15:12

"I ended up in Danville homeless. I lived under a house . . . The first time that I went to Grace & Main, I felt like I was welcome and that I mattered . . . I was surrounded by people that encouraged me, that stood by me. My whole life has been transformed. I have a place now. I bought a car. I've got two jobs . . . I feel like I belong and that I can make a difference."

-Bruce, Danville, VA