
Forecast



December 2014

Our mission is to know Christ, to serve Him, and to make Him known.

Dear church family,

When I read the scriptures leading up to the birth of Christ, I am always struck by how similar that very first Christmas is to Christmas today: a lot of people are tired from travelling; families are gathering together; people are packed in together; there are gifts; and it is a time of worship. All in all, it is a powerful time, which is precisely why our joy for our Savior – and grief for those who are going through this season without a loved one – abounds. It is so easy to miss the wonder amidst the business, which is why we are slowing down this year as we read from Luke's Gospel to listen to what God is doing.

As we prepare our hearts for the “coming” or “Advent” of Jesus, it can be hard to be still, so consider picking a time to intentionally relax, be refreshed and soak in worship and fellowship on one of these occasions:

- Dec. 1 – Church to order white poinsettias. (To be placed in sanctuary Dec. 14)
- 2nd Week of Dec: **Supper Club!** This is the deadline to sign up for a warm time of fellowship over yummy food. Groups of 6-8 friends will meet for a meal (either at someone's house or at a restaurant, depending on the group's preference). If you haven't tried it, or you would like to make new friends, this is your chance. Guaranteed to be more fun than you think! Mary Lee and I are signed up!
- Dec 12, 7pm, Friday – **Piedmont Choral Society concert**, with our own dear friend Kay Yates, returns with another wonderful service (See details in David's music column).
- Dec. 14 – Time to drop off your **Angel Tree** gifts at church so they can be delivered!
- Dec. 14, 6pm: **Annual Youth & Children's Play** in Fellowship Hall (see David's nearby column).
- Dec. 21, 11am worship: **Lessons & Carols**.
- Dec. 24, 5:30pm. On **Christmas Eve** we will have our annual Children's Impromptu Pageant. By way of reminder, this pageant is very simple: right down the hall outside the sanctuary is the parlor. Children (parents are welcome, if they wish) will be given simple costumes to go over whatever they are wearing (e.g. a shepherd or a wise man costume), and at the appropriate time the children will be directed to simply walk to the front of the church as a narrator (Andrew Baker) reads from the Bible. It is a time of teaching our children the faith, and it is a fun visual presentation of the Christmas story. After it's over, the costumes will be returned to the parlor, and then the children will return to the pews (or nursery, if you wish). No rehearsals necessary!
- Dec 28: **Youth Sunday**, where the youth will be leading the entire worship service.

peace,

Darryl

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Youth News

With a chilly November it is hard to believe that Christmas is upon us! The youth had a great time of fun, fellowship and pizza as they packed 37 Operation Christmas Child boxes! We were not only able to pack the boxes but we also enjoyed a brief word from Emily Griggs about her experiences in Rwanda watching the faces of those who received the boxes. The youth not only spent time serving the world but they also helped to Hang the Greens on the evening of November 23rd!

I am excited about December! On December 7th the youth have a Christmas party full of cookies, Christmas movies, and tacky Christmas sweaters. They will also leave their mark on the youth room by placing their hands on the wall.

With Christmas madness upon us, it is difficult to think about after Christmas, but the youth will lead the worship service on Youth Sunday, December 28th. Sign up date deadline is December 7th.

Lindsey



Blood Drive

FPC will sponsor a blood drive on Monday, December 22 at 2:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. We need volunteers to help with check in, help out in the canteen, and/or provide home baked goodies. A sign up sheet is located upstairs just outside the parlor. For more information, contact Amy Hurst at amyhurst1000@yahoo.com.



JOY Group Christmas Party!

The JOY Group will have their Christmas Party on Monday, December 8th at 12:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Bring a covered dish and a small wrapped gift (around \$5.00 or you can re-gift something). After enjoying our lunch, we will play the "Right/Left" Christmas game. All seniors are welcome!!





Angel Tree is here!

Angel Tree is a ministry geared toward local children who have one (or both) of their parents incarcerated. Someone close to the child requests Christmas gifts on their behalf, which are written on "angel tags" that are hung on the Angel Tree. The Angel Tree is in the foyer

outside the sanctuary so go choose your Angel today! You simply take an "angel tag" off of the tree, make sure it is recorded so we know which Angel you chose, purchase the gift, and return it to the church by Dec. 14 so that it can be hand-delivered in time. If you take a tag when there is not someone to record it, please let Sharon Stricker know so that no gifts fall through the cracks. If you would like to participate but are not interested in shopping, you may make a donation that will be used to keep a variety in the gifts, and include either Bibles or gift cards. If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Stricker at stricks1@nationwide.com.

Music News

Everyone is invited to **Light of the World** (the annual Youth and Children's Christmas pageant) which will be presented on

Sunday, December 14th at 7 p.m. with supper before at 6 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Dress rehearsal for **Light of the World** will be on Saturday December 13th from 10 a.m. to 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone involved please plan to attend this important rehearsal.



Lunch will be provided for you following rehearsal.

The adult choir will present **A Festival of Lessons and Carols** on Sunday morning, December 21st at 11 a.m. This traditional service will be led by the adult choir and will also include a bagpiper, guitarist, cellist, handbells, choristers, flutist, and other musicians. Dress rehearsal for **A Festival of Lessons and Carols** will be Saturday December 13th from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the sanctuary. Everyone involved (readers, choir, handbells) please plan to attend this important rehearsal.

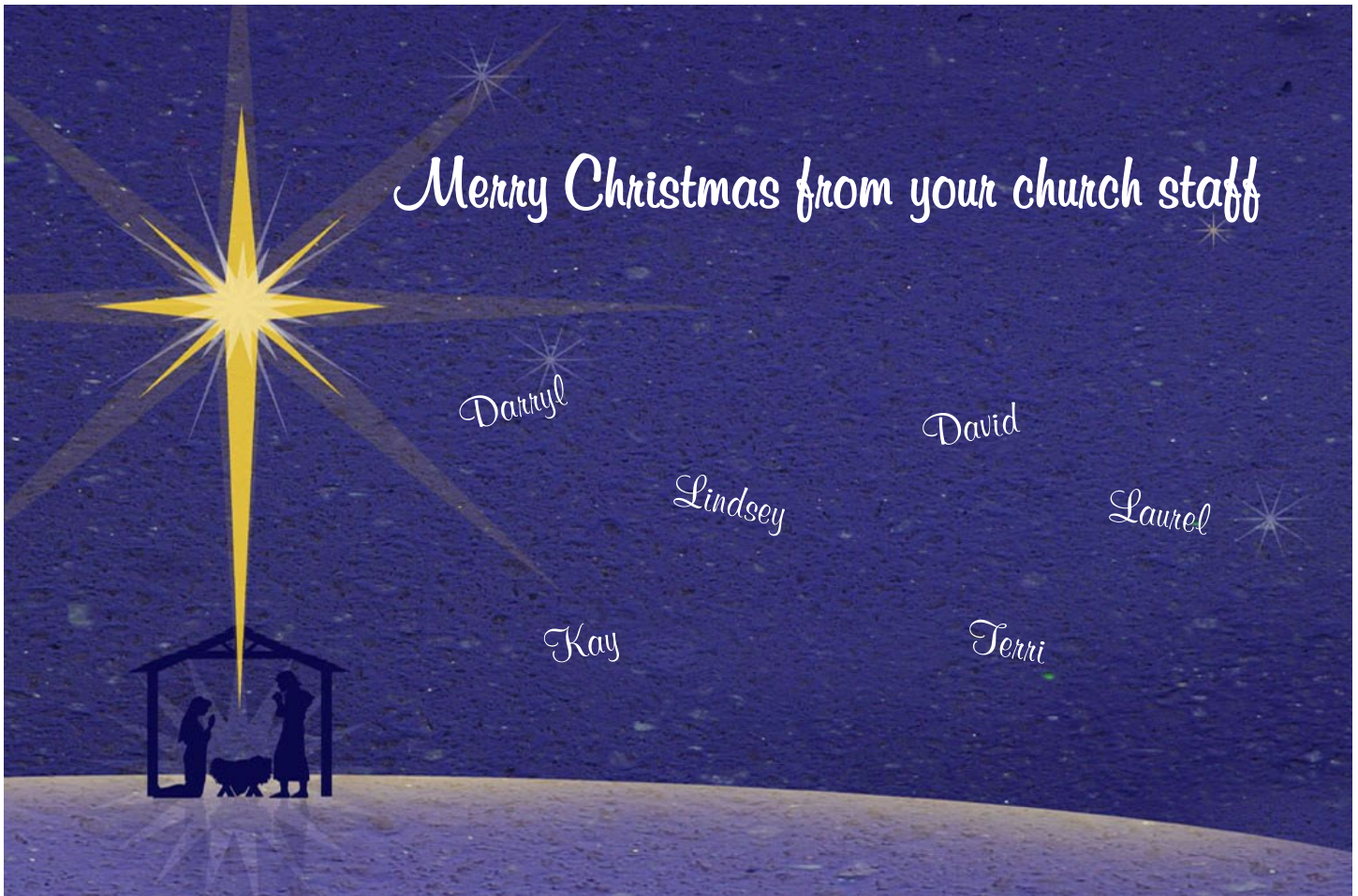
Adult Choir and Handbells have been invited to Judy and Steve Goodnight's on Friday December 5th at 6:00 pm for a covered dish Christmas Party. This will be a fun time of fellowship and fun. Don't miss it!

I will be conducting my choirs at A.L. Brown for the annual tree lighting ceremony at Village Park on Saturday November 29th at 6 p.m. and on Thursday December 18th at The Kannapolis Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m. for our annual Christmas concert.

The **Piedmont Choral Society**, with our own Kay Yates, will present its annual Christmas concerts on Friday, December 12th at 7 p.m. at First Presbyterian and again on Sunday, December 14th at 3 p.m. at Forest Hill UMC, Concord. The choir and orchestra will present arrangements of favorite and familiar carols along with classic pieces, including selections from Handel's "Messiah". Joseph Judge is director and Don Simmons is accompanist. All are invited!

Also don't forget all children are invited to join us for **Christmas caroling** on December 17th at 4:30 p.m.

David



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