

December 2019

Senior Pastor
Dr. Wayne Guynn

Next Generation / Youth Pastor
Rev. Brady Bassett

Pastor Emeritus
Dr. Doug Willett

Church Secretary
Mrs. Debbie Wilson

Treasurer
Mrs. Sandra Ittner

Choir Director/Pianist
Mrs. Jan Vaughan

Chairman of Deacons
Mr. Steve Carroll

Christian Leadership Director
Mr. Jimmy Murray

Year of the Bible

"Your word is lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."

Psalm 119:105

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The Olive Branch

From Your Pastor

Quick! Name all the words you can think of that you associate with Christmas. I bet the list would be long. Even the categories of words would be long: foods, songs, decorations, traditions, parties, television shows, movies, etc. and etc. Then of course, there are all the biblical words associated with Jesus' birth. So, as you see Christmas has a lot of words to describe it

During this year's advent and Christmas season at Olive Branch we are going to focus on six words – and they all begin with the letter "P." I don't know if alliterations help people remember anything but pastors love using them. The December sermons and devotions will focus on these six words.

December 1 – Problem of Christmas (Isaiah 7:1-26) – Christmas is more than the celebration of the joyous birth of a child. Jesus was born for a reason. We can't understand the full meaning of His birth, if we don't understand the problem of evil and why Jesus came to earth.

December 8 – Promise of Christmas (Isaiah 9:1-7) – Christmas is the fulfillment of a promise from God. Every promise God keeps strengthens our faith that He will keep all the others that haven't been fulfilled yet. So, Christmas reminds us to not just look to the past, but to look to the future as well.

December 15 – Preparation of Christmas (Luke 3:1-20) – Our hectic Christmas preparation usually consists of decorating, partying, and shopping. I wonder if all that really impresses Jesus much. There's nothing wrong with any of that. The right amount of decorating, partying and shopping can make the season enjoyable and festive as every celebration should be. But what God is more concerned about is whether our hearts and lives are prepared to meet Jesus. God sent John the Baptist to prepare the people for Jesus' first appearance. Jesus is coming again. Are you ready?

December 22 – Patience of Christmas (2 Peter 3:1-18) - It's hard to wait for Christmas morning to come, especially if you are a child. It was hard for the Jews to wait for the Messiah to come. They waited over 400 years after the last prophet spoke. We have been waiting almost 2000 years for Jesus to come back. Jesus' delay doesn't mean He's not coming. It means He's patient and we should be too.

December 24 – Present of Christmas (Luke 2:8-20) – On Jesus' birthday, somehow, we get all the gifts. There's no doubt that among all the gifts we've ever received at Christmas the most important is God's gift of a Savior – Jesus.

December 29 – Premature End of Christmas (Colossians 3:12-17) – The American Christmas celebration ends at midnight on December 25th. By the 26th the stores and most homes are taking down Christmas decorations and getting ready for New Year's and Valentine's Day. Why? December 25th should be the beginning of the celebration. And the message about Jesus, the Savior of the world, should be shared throughout the year. Furthermore, we should live our lives for Jesus January through December, not just during the Christmas season.

Don't forget all the ways Olive Branch helps to make your Christmas meaningful. Read the rest of the newsletter to find out more about the Christmas Cantata and breakfast on December 15th and our Christmas Eve service on December 24th. Also please pick up an Advent Guide to help you remain focused on the real reason for Christmas. Participate in your Sunday School classes Christmas parties. And please give generously to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions and/or the Gideons "Birthday for Jesus" project to fund the distribution of Bibles worldwide. You can find out everything about these activities and events at our website, obbcblackridge.com by clicking on the "Christmas" tab.

December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 10:00a Golden Eagles Shopping Trip	3 7:00p Choir 7:45p Cantata Practice	4 Lunch Buddy Christmas Party 6:30p-8:30p *YC, BOC, SG	5 9:00a - Ladies Breakfast @ Huddle House	6 6:30PM *GYL	7
8 2:00p Rosa Thompson WOM	9 7:00p Deacon's Meeting	10 10:00a Helen Cook WOM 7:00p Choir 7:45p Cantata Practice	11 Lunch Buddies 6:30p-8:30p *YC, BOC, SG	12	13	14 10:00a Cantata Practice
15 9:15a Breakfast 10:30a Christmas Cantata	16	17 7:00p Choir	18 Lunch Buddies	19	20	21
22	23	24 6:00p Christmas Eve Service	25 Office Closed 	26	27	28
29	30	31 8:30p—1:00a Light The Night at New Hope Baptist				

Services each Sunday

9:00a Traditional Worship Service
 10:10a Sunday School (all ages)
 11:05a Contemporary Worship Service

*YC: Young Church (6th - 12th)
 *BOC: Boys of Courage (1st - 5th)
 *SG: Sonshine Girls (1st - 5th)
 *GYL: God's Young Ladies (Girls 5th-12th)

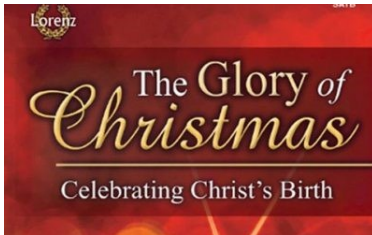
OBBC NEWS

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Olive Branch Baptist will hold their Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Tuesday, December 24, at 6:00 PM in the church Sanctuary. Come and celebrate the birth of Christ with music, devotions, and singing.



Christmas Celebration



On Sunday, December 15 we will NOT have a 9:00 AM Worship Service or Sunday School. Instead, our schedule will be the following:

9:15 AM - Breakfast in the Christian Life Center (CLC),
10:30 AM - Christmas Cantata in the Sanctuary.

Breakfast – Please bring your favorite Christmas breakfast goodies to share like casseroles and quiches; or southern favorites like sausage biscuits and gravy; or simpler things like pastries, muffins, and doughnuts; or healthier things like fruit and bagels. The church will provide the drinks.

Cantata – The Christmas Cantata “*The Glory of Christmas*” will be presented by the Sanctuary Choir and friends at 10:30 AM in the sanctuary.



Weekly Sunday School Attendance

10/27/19: 107
11/03/19: 122
11/10/19: 124
11/17/19: 111
11/24/19: 129

Month Average: 118.6

CHILDREN'S NEWS

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Christmas Caroling

We have about 35 children, 1st through 5th grade, who attend the **Sonshine Girls** and **Boys of Courage** groups each Wednesday night. They will be having their Christmas party on December 4th. Then, on Wednesday, December 11th they will be heading to Pine View Nursing Home to visit and sing Christmas carols with the residents.

December 11 will be their last meeting for 2019. They will resume again on Wednesday, January 8, 2020.

ANOTHER LEVEL BASKETBALL



Another Level Basketball Is Back! We will have a registration and evaluation day on Saturday, January 4 with K-2 girls at 8:30 AM; K-2 boys at 9:00 AM; 3rd-5th girls at 10:00 AM; and 3-5th boys at 11:00 AM. The season starts January 4 and runs every Saturday until Saturday, February 25. The program is FREE of charge to all participants. Please visit the OBBC website, www.obbcblackridge.com to register. If you do not have online access you may pick up a registration form in the Welcome Center, complete it, and return it to the church office. If you would be willing to volunteer to be a coach, help referee, work the scoreboard or concession stand, on one or more of the Saturdays, please contact either the church office, Pastor Wayne, or Pastor Brady.

YOUTH NEWS

Palmer Springs Day
Sunday, December 15
12:30 - 4:00 PM

The youth will be going to Palmer Springs Adult Homes immediately following the 11:05 worship service. Adults are invited too. We will be serving a meal for the residents. We will also play games and sing Christmas songs with the residents. We will be back at the Christian Life Center (CLC) by 4:00 PM.

Youth are asked to bring a modest gift, wrapped, for a man or women to give as a prize.

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

The Middle and High School Sunday School classes will be joined together beginning January 5th for a 13-week series on the Apostle's Creed. They will meet each Sunday in the Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School hour.

LUNCH BUDDIES ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Lunch Buddies will have their Annual Christmas party for the kids at LaCrosse Elementary School on Wednesday, December 4, at 2:00 PM. The children enjoy singing Christmas songs, and getting a candy cane and cookies from Santa. Wednesday, December 18 will be the last day for Lunch Buddies this year. It will resume on Wednesday, January 15, 2020.

God's Young Ladies

(5th—12th Grade Girls)

GYL will celebrate the Christmas season with a party on Friday evening, December 6th, from 6:30pm—8:30 pm.

This will be their last meeting for 2019. They will meet again in January 2020 on the 10th and 24th.

YOUNG CHURCH

Wednesday, December 11, will be the last night of YC for 2019. They will resume meeting on Wednesday nights on January 8, 2020. They will begin a study on the Gospel of John.



MISSIONS

LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING 2019

“I saw a great multitude from every nation and all tribes ...” Rev. 7:9

The 2019 Week of Prayer for International Missions is December 1st through 8th. Since 1845, the IMB has partnered with churches to send missionaries to live and work among those around the world with little to no access to the gospel. For the month of December we will be collecting for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering which goes to International Missions. The OBBC goal is \$2,500. Prayer guides and offering envelopes are available in the foyer and Welcome Center. Your prayers for the multitudes transform lives. In the guide you will find stories about and specific ways to pray for IMB missionaries during the Week of Prayer. This is just a glimpse of the incredible impact your prayers have on the work of taking the gospel to the multitudes. In-depth prayer stories are available at imb.org. The Lottie Moon campaign will continue through the month of December.

LIGHT THE NIGHT

NEW YEAR'S EVE EXTRAVANGANZA

Tuesday, December 31

8:30 PM—1:00 AM

New Hope Baptist Church

8:30 PM—DINNER

AWALL & THE
FLAMINGOS

CLAYTON POLAND
Speaker & Entertainer

BALL
DROP

WORSHIP

ICE CREAM BUFFET

HANG TIME



WOMEN HELPING WOMEN LUNCHEON

Saturday January 18, 2020 - 11:30 AM

@ New Hope Baptist Church

Save the date for the next Women Helping Women gathering! A sneak peek indicates that Jean Bagley will be one of the speakers, and Wanda Bailey is providing the music.



CONCORD BAPTIST ASSOCIATION NEWS

Rev. Joe McDowell, Director of Missions

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JAMAICA

May 30 to June 6, 2020

WANTED: 30+ Youth and up to 10-15 Adults

The 2019 Jamaica Mission Trip was a huge success! Twenty-three people partnered with ***Won by One to Jamaica*** to serve and share Christ in Jamaica. The trip filled very quickly. The first week of June 2020 CBA is planning to take 40-50 missionaries with the trip's emphasis on students. Adults need to be ready, willing, and able to lead, supervise, interact, and bunk with students. The Jamaica trip is an awesome trip for families (teens with their parents and/or grandparents). Youth need to be 13 years old, or older. Registration for the trip includes a completed application, an interview with Joe McDowell, and \$100 deposit. For more information contact Joe McDowell at jmcdowell@concordbaptistassoc.org.

NURSERY SCHEDULE

Nursery schedule for combined nursery for birth to toddlers. Pre K—Kindergarten go to Sunday School class for 10:00 hour & Children's church for 2nd half of 11:05 worship service.

Sunday, Dec. 1

9:00 AM: Pam Smith, Cathy Hardee
10:00 AM: Amanda McDowell, Teresa Robinson, Jo Clary
11:05 AM: Sarah Jones, Lynn Paquette, Jessie Paquette

Sunday, Dec. 8

9:00 AM: Mary Lou Arrington, Becky Aleman
10:00 AM: Patti Smith, Dale Bradley, Carolyn Wallace
11:05 AM: Sue Vaughan, Cindy Clevinger, Claudia Cropper

Sunday, Dec. 15

9:00 AM: No Worship Service
10:00 AM: No Sunday School
11:05 AM: Susie Carroll, Laurie Wright, Vance Wright

Sunday, Dec. 22

9:00 AM: Donna Jarrell, Linda Brooks
10:00 AM: Julia Braddy, Shannah Freeman
11:05 AM: Cheryl Parrish, Jane Wells, Jeannette Lewis

Sunday, Dec. 29

9:00 AM: Sandra Ittner, Weldon Jones
10:00 AM: Mae Jones, Wanda Watson, Kim Young
11:05 AM: Susie Carroll, Laurie Wright, Vance Wright

All nursery volunteers have submitted to and have approved background checks which are regularly updated.



The newsletter is published monthly. Deadline to submit information for the January 2020 issue is December 20, 2019.



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December

Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 Jean Bagley	18 Weldon Jones, Jr.
2 Mary Ellen Willett	18 Ken Parham
3 Max Hammond	18 Isaiah Priest
3 Alvin Parham	19 Anna Britt
3 Rex Watson	19 Sarah Ittner
5 Crystal Carnish	19 Bill Mills
5 Frank Farmer	20 Faith Williams
6 Matt Clark	20 Margie Wollenberg
7 Josh Robinson	21 Mike Bradley
7 T. J. Sykes	21 Colleen Cookson
9 Emory & Anna Britt	22 Joey Banes
9 Kayla Franck	22 Theresa Garnes
9 Thomas & Shirley Gittman	22 Tony Garnes
9 Jessie Paquette	23 Michael Land
10 Alvin & Rita Parham	24 Kenneth & Julia Braddy
10 Holly Robinson	25 Denny Hardee
11 George Boleter	27 Justin Gittman
12 Cheryl Parrish	27 Doug and Mary Ellen Willett
14 Matt & Shirley Clark	28 Jennifer Conner
15 Rodney Clevinger	28 Jeremiah Gilmer
16 Isabel Priest	28 Chris Hayer
17 Frances Aleman	28 Weldon, Jr. & Cathy Jones
17 Ricky & Amy Gosney	29 Genia Glantz
17 Lily Priest	29 Tim & Tracey Moseley
18 Jessica Gosney	30 Courtney Townsend
18 Dot Johnson	31 Ethan Murray



OLIVE BRANCH
BAPTIST CHURCH

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