



WORDS FROM THE PASTOR...

New Visions

How do you feel when you remove all the Christmas decorations at your home? Relieved? Do you have a sense of “completeness”? Depressed/ saddened? For me it is a combination of all the above. While the most important component of Advent is celebrating the birth of Christ, the sensory images of decorated trees and homes, lights, garland, Christmas cards, music, homes invaded by the smells of fresh-baked cookies, and special programs at church, school and in the community, all serve as the traditional “reminders” of the season. These “reminders” help us remember past Christmas seasons and are a rich part of our culture and family traditions.

In his book, *Deep Symbols*, Edward Farley states that “remembering an enchanted past is one way a people endure through time. Because of this remembering, a people are not forced to reinvent all truth, all wisdom, all life solutions every generation. Because of tradition, something accumulates out of the past that assists a people in the ordering of life . . .” Although Farley’s reference to symbols is more toward “words of power . . . that shape the values of a society and guide the life of faith. . .” (p.29), I believe that the Advent season’s “deep symbols” help us in our remembering the past just as Scrooge experienced with the first “visitor” that Christmas Eve night in “A Christmas Carol.”

So now, it is back to the old routine. The “symbols” of Christmas have all been packed up for another year. “Relieved?” Yes, in the sense that it is done. “Saddened?” In a way, for there is a “lightness” that surrounds the Advent season; a time when our thoughts and actions tend to be on people other than ourselves and it is sad that we cannot carry with that throughout the year . . . or maybe we can? **What a radical notion!**

Edwina and I wish to “Thank You!” for the cards and other expressions of love we received from our “adopted church family” during this Advent and Christmas season! It is our hope that each of you will have a Happy and Prosperous New Year!!

Grace, Peace, and Blessings!
Rick

The Messenger

Happy New Year!

A Newsletter of the

Murfreesboro Baptist Church

JANUARY 2023

UPCOMING DATES IN JANUARY

- Jan. 1 Communion
- Jan. 10 Deacons’ Meeting
- Jan. 17 Food Bank of the Albemarle
- Jan. 16 Martin Luther King Holiday
Administrative Office Closed

COMMUNITY MISSIONS

FOODBANK OF THE ALBEMARLE

Volunteers are needed on Tuesday, January 17 by 1:30 p.m. in the church parking lot to distribute food.

FOOD PANTRY

We were fortunate enough to be able to provide 16 White Christmas Boxes to families in need in our community. If you have committed to help us keep our pantry filled, please remember to bring twelve of your selected items to the church by the 15th of each month. As always, any donations are greatly appreciated.

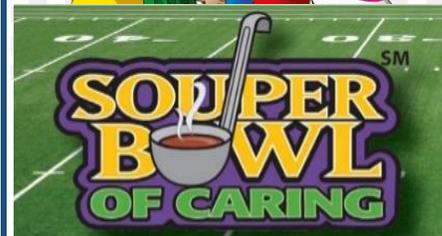
CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE



Thanks to you, Murfreesboro Baptist Church provided 15 local children in need with gifts for Christmas. If you were able to see the tree...the gifts for the children were absolutely amazing... Our church may be small, but our members have hearts of gold.

KIDS’ CLUB NEWS...

Kids' Club will once again participate in



Please bring cans of soup to the box in the connector from now until Sunday, Feb 12.

This year’s goal is 100 cans. The cans of soup will go in our church food pantry.

Thank you.

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY SCHEDULE

- Jan 4 Kids’ Club 6-6:45
- Jan 11 Kids' Club 6-6:45
- Jan 15 Children's Church
- Jan 18 Kids' Club 6-6:45
- Jan 25 Kids' Club 6-6:45

FUEL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Thank you to Ben McLean for organizing and to many of you who donated to the Fuel Assistance Program. Donations collected were used to help local families pay for home heating costs that they might otherwise have been unable to pay. A portion was also given to the MBC Community Missions Fund.

Thanks be to God
For the Life of
Larry Wilson Futrell

September 18, 1943 – December 17, 2022

USING THEIR GIFTS TO SERVE IN JANUARY

Deacon of the Month
Susan Alston

Opening the Church
Jay Revelle

Ushers

January

Johnny Jenkins, Freddie Bazen,
Bob Lee, Bob Turner

February

Colon Balance, Armando Torres,
Charlie Cole, and Garth Faile

Radio Ministry Sponsor

Mike and Susan Alston

Caregivers

Jan.1-Jan 14 Patty Joyner; Jan. 15-28
Garth and Erin Faile; Jan. 29-Feb. 11
Charlie and Dell Aycock

Children's Sermon

Jan. 1 Sarah Davis; Jan. 8 Sarah Davis;
Jan. 15 Sarah Davis; Jan. 22 Sarah Davis;
Jan. 29 Sarah Davis

Nursery Caregivers

Jan. 2 Mollie Madden; Jan. 8 Charlie
Cole; Jan. 15 Sarah Davis; Jan. 22 Ed
Snyder; Jan. 29 Sarah Davis

Flowers

January 8 Sarah Davis

January 15 Sarah Frances Hill

January 22 Dave and Carole Farnham

January 29 - Available

February 5 - Available

To place flowers in the Sanctuary on dates
available...Please contact the church office.

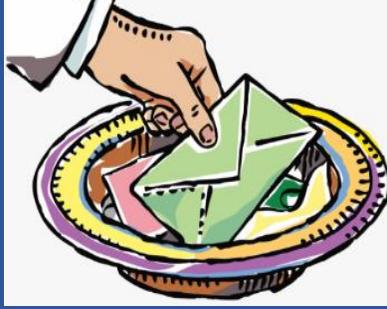
Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
252-398-3613

www.murfbc.org

Office Will Be Closed Monday, January 16th
for Martin Luther King Holiday

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES



The 2023 offering envelopes have arrived and are available for pick-up in the church library. Names have been placed on the boxes and you may notice that your number on the envelopes may have changed from last year. If you do not see a designated box with your name, please contact the church office.



It's the winter season yet again, which means some of you are hoping for snow and others are praying it'll stay away. As a reminder, church activities will be cancelled if Hertford County Public Schools have been cancelled or dismissed early.

For Sunday mornings with inclement weather, our policy is to have Sunday school and worship as normal unless otherwise notified. However, if you feel uncomfortable driving or walking into church, please stay at home. Use your best judgement and stay safe.

THANK YOU...

Thank you to everyone for the thoughtful gifts and cards this Christmas. Your kindness means the world to me, and I pray each of you had a very meaningful Christmas with family and friends.

Thank you also to each one who participated in our Lessons and Carols. I always enjoy congregation participation.

Choir rehearsals have begun for the new year! Please consider joining us! The choir and I will do everything we can to help and encourage you.

Paula Pressnell



January 1 Rosemary Royce
January 5 Don Johnson
January 8 Mamie Ballance
January 8 Jennifer Taylor
January 12 Jessica Torres
January 15 Jack Cole
January 15 Patty Joyner
January 16 Addie Grace Reich
January 16 Chris Sumner
January 22 Emma Wood Boone
January 23 Claire Revelle
January 30 Charlie Cole
January 30 Jacqueline Madden
January 30 John Page Revelle
January 30 Tristan Miles

Don't see your birthday? Please call the church office and let us know when your special day is

CHURCH STAFF

Dr. R. Richard (Rick) Bailey
INTERIM PASTOR

PAULA PRESSNELL.....ORGANIST
& CHOIR DIRECTOR

TOM CAULKINS.....PASTOR
EMERITUS

TERESA MARTIN....ADMINISTRATIVE
ASST.

Our Shared Commitment to Supporting Missions and Ministry for December 2022

| | Dec. 4 | Dec. 11 | Dec. 18 | Dec. 25 | Dec. 30 | Monthly Total | For the Year |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Weekly Budget | \$3,942.31 | \$3,942.31 | \$3,942.31 | \$3,942.31 | | \$15,769.24 | \$51,250.03 |
| Weekly Tithes & Offerings | \$3,014.00 | \$3,570.00 | \$3,716.00 | \$6,278.00 | \$26,480.00 | \$43,058.00 | \$80,265.75 |
| Other Income | | | | | | | |
| Over (Under) | (\$928.31) | (\$372.31) | (\$226.31) | \$2,335.69 | \$26,480.00 | \$37,288.76 | \$29,015.72 |

Murfreesboro Baptist Church
200 West Main Street
Murfreesboro, N. C. 27855

Return Service Requested