The flowers that were placed in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 31, were placed in honor of Erin and Garth Faile's 60th wedding anniversary on December 28th by Yolanda and Bill, their daughter and son-in-law. Please join us in congratulating Garth and Erin.

Using their Gifts to Serve in January:

Deacon of the Month of January: Susan Alston

January Radio Ministry Sponsor: Colon and Jane Ballance

Opening of the Church in January: Johnny Jenkins

Ushers for January: Johnny Jenkins, Freddie Bazen, Bob

Lee, and Bob Turner

Ushers for February: Colon Balance, Armando Torres,

Charlie Cole, and Garth Faile

Caregiver for December 31 – January 13: Lynette Bunch Communion Today, January 7, 2024: Sarah Davis

This Week at Murfreesboro Baptist Church . . .

Sun.	Radio Broadcast, 98.3	10:00 A.M.	Tues.	Deacons' Meeting	6:00 P.M.
	Worship	11:00 A.M.	Wed.	Prayer and Bible Stud	ly 6:15 P.M.
	-			Choir Practice	6:00 P.M.
				Kids' Club	6:00 - 6:45 P.M.

The Deacons will meet on Tuesday, January 9 at 6:00 p.m.

The Installation Service for our pastor, Dr. Mark Gaskins, will be held on Sunday, January 14, 2024. There will be a covered dish luncheon afterwards. The church will provide the meat. We ask that you please bring a covered dish, vegetable, or dessert. Please join us for the special occasion.

For anyone that may be a bit chilly during worship service, throws are available and are on the steps to the right (used to go to the choir loft) just outside the sanctuary on the elevator side.

If anyone with children under the age of five desires a nursery during the worship service, please speak to an usher and they will let Sarah Davis know, and she will go to the nursery. Thank you.

The 2024 offering envelopes are in the church library available for pick-up. If you do not see your name on a box and would like envelopes, please contact the church office.

The children will once again participate in the Souper Bowl of Caring. We will collect cans of soup until Feb 11. Please place your cans on the table in the connector. Our goal this year is 250 cans.

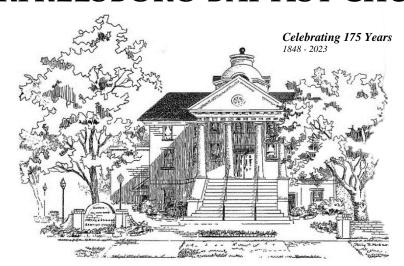
If you are looking for a way to help local families, the church food pantry is in need of volunteers willing to donate food items. The sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board next to the pantry in the fellowship hall.

Please remember these friends who cannot worship with us regularly:

Phil Royce Janet Collins Bern Davenport Tom and Ann Caulkins Randy and Cheryl Whitley

Contact us at:

MURFREESBORO BAPTIST CHURCH



The Lord's Day, January 7, 2024 Epiphany Sunday

Dr. Mark E. Gaskins, Pastor Mrs. Paula Pressnell, Organist and Choir Director Rev. Thomas Caulkins, Pastor Emeritus

We Gather to Worship

Prelude Communion with Thee Franklin Ritter

Gathering Hymn Worship the Lord JANICE

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness! Bow down before Him, His glory proclaim; With gold of obedience and incense of lowliness, Kneel and adore Him; the Lord is His name!

Fear not to enter His presence in poverty, bearing no gifts to present as Your own.

Bring truth in its beauty, and love in its purity.

These are the off'rings to lay at His throne.

Words of Welcome Dr. Mark Gaskins

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

Ministry Opportunities Dr. Gaskins

Call to Worship Psalm 72:1-2, 4, 10-14 (NRSV)

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son. May he judge your people with righteousness, and your people with justice.

May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.

May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute, may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts. May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service.

For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper. He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy. From oppression and violence he redeems their life; and precious is their blood in his sight.

Invocation Dr. Gaskins

We Hear God's Word

*Hymn of Praise No. 150 As with Gladness Men of Old DIX

Children's Sermon Ms. Sarah Davis

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 60:1-6 Dr. Gaskins

The Word of God, for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

The Church at Prayer

*Hymn of Thanksgiving No. 151 We Three Kings KINGS OF ORIENT

Thanksgiving with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Sentence
Offertory
Son of God
*Doxology 706
Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow
*Offertory Prayer

Dr. Gaskins
OLD 100TH
Dr. Gaskins

New Testament Lesson Matthew 2:1-12 Dr. Gaskins

The Word of the Lord. **Praise His Holy Name!**

Message in Song Beautiful Star of Bethlehem

Scripture and Sermon Ephesians 3:1-12
The Mystery of Togetherness

We Respond to God's Word

Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table Quiet Meditation and Reflection Communion Prayer and The Lord's Prayer (*trespasses*) The Bread and Cup

*Hymn of Response No. 163 Wonderful Words of Life

WORDS OF LIFE

R. Fisher Boyce

Dr. Gaskins

We Go Forth with God's Blessing

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Commitment

Dr. Gaskins

Commission and Benediction

**Postlude Festal Piece G. F. Handel

*Please stand as you are able.

 $**Please\ remain\ seated\ until\ the\ conclusion\ of\ the\ music.$

To our guests this morning . . .

In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you to worship today at Murfreesboro Baptist Church. We believe that worshiping together is one of the most important activities we do as a church, strengthening our faith and drawing our attention to God, who created us, calls us, and sustains us by the power of the Holy Spirit. In keeping with New Testament practices, we believe that worship rightly involves every member of the congregation, not just the few people in leadership roles. We encourage active participation in worship through responsive readings, corporate prayer, giving our tithes and offerings, and singing the hymns together.

As Baptists, we emphasize the reading and preaching of the Bible, God's written word. We also practice believers' baptism. Toward the end of each service, we invite those who are not already believers to make a public profession of faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior. We frequently share the Lord's Supper, which is open to all baptized Christians.

As members of the larger body of Christ, we affirm our kinship with our fellow believers in other traditions and around the world by following the seasons of the Christian year. Today is Epiphany Sunday. The color for today is white, symbolizing the light and joy that Jesus Christ has brought as the Lord of all nations.