



FROM THE PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE...

I know it can sound like a cliché, but I have to ask it: Can it already be 2025?

It truly does amaze me how quickly time seems to pass. Recent years have certainly hurried by for me! I've heard for years that the older you get, the faster time seems to go by. At 64 years old now, it seems to me like it's already flying! Indeed, as the face of many a grandfather clock declares, *tempus does fugit!*

The passing of one year and the beginning of another is always a good time to pause both to reflect and to look forward. God has blessed us wonderfully here at Murfreesboro Baptist Church. Though our church, like so many others, has faced some difficulties and transitions over the past five years, the Lord has seen us through them. The Lord is moving among us, and for this I say, *Thanks be to God!*

As time goes by, this year of our Lord 2025 will also pass. And as it does, many things will take place—some positive, some negative. Plans may be fulfilled, yet things that we never expected, good and bad, may come our way.

We don't yet know everything this year will hold for us, of course. But we do know that as a church, our mission will be the same: to be on mission with Christ as we love God, follow Jesus, and serve others.

Some aspects of how we fulfill that mission will remain constant; other aspects may have to be adjusted or even totally changed. But in all we do, we must be clear about who God calls us to be and what he calls us to do. We must be a faithful community of disciples of Jesus Christ who embody his presence to the world around us through our worship, our walk, and our witness. We are, after all, *the body of Christ* in this place. As time goes by, keeping this as our focus and ordering our life and ministry together accordingly will



help us to be a healing and helping presence in our community as we worship God together, as we walk together as disciples of Jesus, and as we serve and share the Gospel with those who don't know Christ through words of witness and works of love.

It's another new year, with a whole new set of challenges and opportunities. So my new year's wish for our church—indeed my prayer—is that throughout this year and the years to come we will be on mission with Christ, obedient to and following him wherever he may lead us, trusting in the Father's will, the Son's heart, and the Spirit's power. May we truly embody Christ's presence to those around us, near and far, as we love God, follow Jesus, and serve others.

Happy new year!

Grace and peace,

Mark E. Perkins

Wednesday Evening

BIBLE STUDY

We will resume Wednesday evening Bible study beginning on January 8 at 7:00 p.m. Our regular schedule will be at 7:00 weekly including Big Wednesday event dates. There will be breaks from mid-June to the first Wednesday of August and mid-November until the first Wednesday of January. Studies will vary from books of the Bible to biblical themes to studies of Christian doctrine, and how these all apply to our lives today.

We hope you'll join us on Wednesday evenings as we pray and study God's word together!

Thanks Be To God

for the life of

Carson Allen Revelle

October 3, 1956 - December 12, 2024

We are Excited for the Return of Big Wednesday

Wednesday, January 8

6:00 p.m.



Mary Etta's Menu:

Chinese Chicken Casserole, Green Beans, Cranberry Congealed Salad, Rolls, and Dessert

Please call the church office by Monday, January 6 to make your reservation!

Cost: \$10.00 Per Plate

Kids Club



Kids' Club will once again participate in



Please bring cans of soup to the box in the connector from now until Sunday, Feb 9.

This year's goal is 350 cans. The cans of soup will go in our church food pantry.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Jan 8 Kids' Club 6:30-7:15

Jan 15 Kids' Club 6-6:45

Jan 22 Kids' Club 6-6:45

Jan 29 Kids' Club 6-6:45

Thanks Be To God

for the life of

Thomas Wells "T.W." Hill, Jr.

April 14, 1948 - December 25, 2024

USING THEIR GIFTS TO SERVE IN JANUARY

Deacon of the Month
Bardin Torres

Opening the Church
Colon Balance and Wayne Brown

Ushers
January
Johnny Jenkins,
Bob Lee, Bob Turner

Radio Ministry Sponsor
Charlie and Dell Aycock

Caregivers
Dec.29-Jan 11 Lynette Bunch
Jan. 12-25 Charlie and Dell Aycock
Jan. 26-Feb. 8 Garth and Erin Faile

Flowers
January 5 Sarah Davis
January 12 Available
January 19 Available
January 26 Available
To place flowers in the Sanctuary on dates
available...Please contact the church office.

UPCOMING DATES IN JANUARY

Jan. 5 Epiphany Sunday
Communion
Jan. 8 Big Wednesday
Jan. 14 Deacons' Meeting
Jan. 20 Martin Luther King
Holiday
*Administrative Office
Closed*
Jan. 21 Food Bank of the
Albemarle

Church Office Hours

Monday – Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
252-398-3613
www.murfbc.org
Office Will Be Closed Monday, January 20th for
Martin Luther King Holiday

2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES



The 2025 offering envelopes 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.

COMMUNITY MISSIONS CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE

Thanks to you, Murfreesboro Baptist Church provided 15 local children in need with gifts for Christmas. Our church may be small, but our members have hearts of gold.

FUEL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Thank you to Ben McLean for organizing and to many of you who donated to the Fuel Assistance Program once again. \$3,000.00 was donated towards helping those in need of home heat, and the excess of donations was given to the MBC Missions Fund.

WHITE CHRISTMAS BOXES

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the White Christmas Boxes. With your donation, we were able to provide 16 families with the fixings for a wonderful Christmas meal.

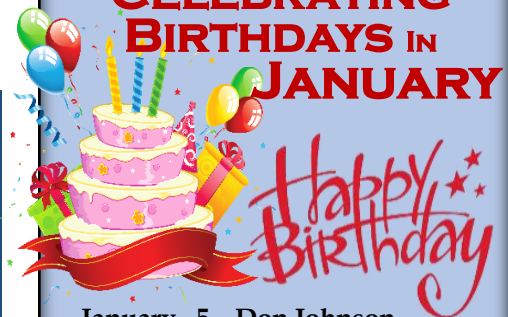
FOODBANK OF THE ALBEMARLE

Volunteers are needed on Tuesday, January 21 by 1:30 p.m. in the church parking lot to distribute food.

FOOD PANTRY

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.

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN JANUARY



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 18 Chris Sumner
January 23 Claire Revelle
January 30 Charlie Cole
January 30 John Page Revelle

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

CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Mark E. Gaskins
PASTOR

PAULA PRESSNELL.....ORGANIST
& CHOIR DIRECTOR

TOM CAULKINS.....PASTOR
EMERITUS

TERESA MARTIN.....ADMINISTRATIVE
ASST.

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

Return Service Requested