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WYTHEVILLE Baptist Church

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PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

PREPARING

We have now entered a time of preparing for a major holiday. People are giving thought to all the tasks which must be done prior to family gatherings and celebrations within the month of December. There is shopping for food and for gifts. There are decorations to find, clean-up, and display. Calendars will need to be checked and synced with other family members. Sometimes it seems as though all the material items that need to happen before the celebration will never be done.

(Continued on page 2)

For our spiritual life, this month is also a time of preparation, or it should be, if we do not allow the material items to get in the way. This time of year starting the fourth Sunday before Christmas is called Advent. During these four Sundays we will focus on getting ready for the baby Jesus once again. Yes, God came as a child named Jesus into our world needing our help and support. Preparations were made for this event thousands of years before it happened. Isaiah shares God's thoughts in Isaiah 40:3-5 (NIV)

A voice of one calling:

"In the wilderness prepare
the way for the Lord;
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.

And the glory of the Lord will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.

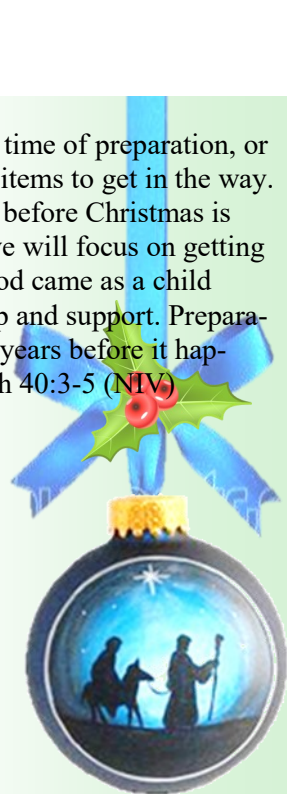
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

We should look at this month as a time to refocus and revisit what God has done. We should seek to know this event as new once again. Each of the four Sundays before Christmas, we will light an Advent candle to help us focus on one aspect of the season (Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love). The sermons will help us to prepare our hearts for a new place for Jesus to reside. The Choir's Cantata on the 18th at 10:30 a.m. will help us to see the whole story. And then on Christmas Day, a shepherd will be here to share a first-hand account of the birth of our Savior. Make plans now to be here each week. The excitement will build to prepare a way for the people of God to better see what God has revealed to us.

It is my prayer for you as we travel through Advent and Christmas, you will find a new place for the baby Jesus in your heart.

Because of God's Love,

Pastor Tim



Western Blue Ridge Baptist Network Churches November Report

Jennifer Mullins will be leaving the Radford BCM at the end of this semester. The team elected at the annual meeting, to review the BGAV funding of our local BCMs, is closely monitoring the replacement process at Radford. This is of great concern especially due to decreased funding for all Baptist Collegiate Ministries here in Virginia. BCM leaders are now being ask to raise part of their support and no one knows just what that entails. We may be required to consider increasing the Network's support of Tech and Radford even more than the 10% just approved at the annual meeting. The Team will keep us posted as things develop.

As you know the Western Blue Ridge Baptist Network web site can be reached by searching the name or by copying and pasting

<http://westernblueridge.wix.com/baptistnetwork>

At the November Leadership team meeting plans were made to continue having dinners for leaders of ministries in our churches (starting early January) with Vacation Bible School. We are also talking with the BGAV about deacon training. Will keep you updated as plans come together.

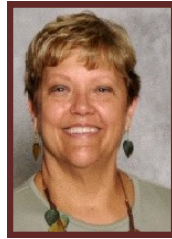
Roland Byrd (540 951 2183) from Blacksburg Baptist is in the early stages of organizing teams to help with the rebuilding process in the flood damaged Rainelle area of West Virginia. Pray about what the Lord would have us do to help. In His service,

Every Network church has an equal say in what we do as a group, so it is very important to have a representative at Leadership Team meetings. The next meeting will be 6:30 pm at Dublin Baptist on December 1. Holly Aker is working with Network churches to give the camp building a thorough cleaning once a month next summer. We will need a total of eight volunteer teams to cover the entire summer.

David Clonch, Moderator
Western Blue Ridge Baptist Network



Shoebox Ministry



Thank you to everyone who participated in any way with Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry. We received a total of 993 boxes and 142 of them were WBC's part of that number. You are an amazing, loving, and giving congregation and for that I am so blessed.

With much love to you all,
Janet Montgomery

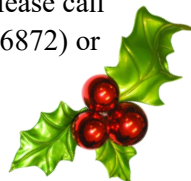


WE'RE GOING CAROLING

On Saturday, December 17, at 2:30 p.m., our Choir and the Inreach Team would like to invite the whole church to go to the residences of our elderly and shut-ins, carol for them,

have a short visit and prayer. Since we have 18 people we want to visit, we would like to have a good sized group so we can divide the visits in half. We would also like to take small gifts to them. So each of us needs to be looking for nine gifts, like something you have made (cookies, brownies, candies), small lotions, soaps, books, fruits or any little treats so they will have something tangible to remember our visit. We want to be a Christmas blessing for each of them but you know who will get the biggest blessing—US!!!

Please meet at the church at 2:15 on Saturday, December 17, with your bag of nine goodies and make this a part of your Christmas Blessings to our precious folks who are unable to worship with us or just need loving on! If you are unable to go but would like to send a bag of goodies, that would also be wonderful. Please call Gena Anders (276.620.7704) or Judy Collier (276.780.6872) or (276.686.4932) if you have any questions."



Judy Collier

Notes from our Music Director

"Arise, shine, for your Light has come ..." Isaiah 60:1

How blessed we are to still have the privilege of openly celebrating the coming of God's Son, the Light and Peace of the world, our Friend and only possible Redeemer. So, what shall we give Him for His birthday?

Each year I ask the Lord what He would like for Christmas, besides my total commitment and love. Even the process of expectantly waiting for His reply is a joy; and then watching how He "parts the sea" in my responsibilities so I'm able to lay my gift at His feet—well, it's nothing short of amazing. As a church musician, the few times I could just relax and "enjoy" Christmas, well, those weren't the best ones. No, it was the ones in which I searched for what He wanted and watched what He did with my small gift—those are the ones I most remember with joy.

So, it's in this spirit that I can ask you to join in the

Christmas activities of our loving church, as a birthday gift to Jesus. I might suggest the use of your voice as a gift; to consider arising and singing! We know He wants singing around Him for all eternity. Both the choir and I are so blessed to see and hear your heart-felt singing during the worship services. You too are a leader in worship as you sing from your soul and your pew—your voice helps others to worship Him through song. Thank you for your voice—or as some claim: their "noise"—as an offering to the King.

We're planning a live nativity scene with caroling for the week before Christmas, as well as several enactments during the cantata on December 18. A Caroling outing is planned for December 17 as an additional "gift opportunities." Please watch your bulletin insert for more information. A sign-up sheet will be on the table in front of the library windows.

At this writing, we are looking toward Thanksgiving. My heart overflows in thank-

(Continued on page 4)

fulness for the Lord's bringing Maria Hildebrand to lead us in worship through the piano. She is an absolute joy both in our rehearsals and services, and we can only thank our Lord for also bringing her in time for Thanksgiving and Christmas—His timing is perfect! And how thankful we were to see Cathy Valley back at church and choir rehearsals; we're looking forward to her returning as she is able.

The choir is such a blessing to me personally and they are working hard on the cantata. And though you've heard the beautiful solo voices of Lisa and Eric Crowgey, JoBeth and Joel Hilton, Janet Montgomery, and Rick Walker; you may tend to think, as one person mentioned, that they thought we had enough choir members. But nothing could be farther from the truth. We need you very much! And what better time to join than the Christmas season. That just might be the gift Jesus wants you to give Him for Christmas!!

Judy Collier



HONDURAS MISSION

FEBRUARY 4—11

PASTOR DANNY W. COLLINS

Our former Interim Pastor Danny W. Collins will once again be on Mission to the Northern Mountains of Honduras. The trip is February 4-11, 2017. If you would like to help Pastor Danny raise funds for the trip and the project they will be working on, your help will be a blessing.

Williams Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary are reserved Saturday, December 3, beginning at 10:00 a.m. by Betty Matheny

Williams Fellowship Hall has been reserved Tuesday, December 13, beginning at 11:00 a.m. for a Retired Teachers' meeting.

Christmas Eve Candle Light Service

We will gather on Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24, at 6:00 p.m. to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We will give honor to our Savior with songs of the season, remember His birth with the reading of scripture and a devotional, share in Communion, and light our candles. Please make plans to be with us and celebrate the real joy of Christmas.



CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed Monday, December 26.



To the
Wytheville Baptist
Church Family:

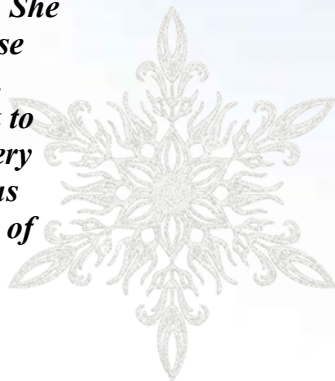
Our church staff wishes everyone
a very
Merry Christmas
full of God's
hope, peace, joy, and love.

FAMILY NIGHT AT CHRISTMAS

We will have our annual "Family Night at Christmas" on Wednesday night, December 21, beginning at 6:00 p.m. We will enjoy a wonderful Christmas meal together prepared by Janet Montgomery and then go outside at 6:30 p.m. to view the Live Nativity Scene and sing carols. Our Youth have worked hard in order to present this for our church family and the community. This night is always such a blessing. Invite your friends and family.

BLESSINGS FOR JANET

During Family Night at Christmas on Wednesday night, December 21, there will be a basket placed in the fellowship hall to place cards of encouragement and monetary gifts for our wonderful Janet Montgomery. Janet tirelessly works to provide a meal every Wednesday night for our church family. She creates a menu, buys the food, transports the food to the church, stocks the refrigerator and shelves, cooks the food, then welcomes us and serves us with a smile and a hug. She doesn't do this for the pay, but because she loves God and her church family. Therefore, we would like to give back to her in a wonderful way during this very special time of the year. Please help us bless this very special lady with cards of love and monetary gifts.



Youth News

Highlights from Trunk-or-Treat 2016.

Photos by
Gary Carson



I am so thankful for the people who helped with Trunk-or-Treat!!! It was a great and wonderful night sharing with our community and reaching out to them. We know there were more than 1,100 kids. We served 406 hot dogs in 2 hours. To those who helped in anyway: decorating your cars, preparing and serving food, handing out candy, doing activities with the kids,

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

holding small children allowing moms to participate with their other kids, bringing candy and goodies to share, serving hot chocolate, making another candy run and another candy run, playing games with the kids, helping to clean up, etc., and etc. May God bring great blessing to everyone who took part in any way. What a wonderful night it was!!!

Because of God's Love,
Pastor Tim

This is the first time that I have been in town to participate in Trunk-or-Treat. Wow!!! Once again I felt that the volunteers got the biggest blessing from the night. What a great show of love, unity and shared commitment from everyone. Activities like this one help to join our hearts for God's purpose.

Love to all,
Janet Montgomery

The Red Cross is involved in many more services than what we think. Becky Hudson enlightened 14 Young-at-Heart members with all kinds of information at our November meeting. We will be glad to share all the wonderful information we learned with the YAH members that could not be at the meeting. Many thanks to Becky and her husband, Roger, for their dedication to this program for several years. They started volunteering with Katrina and haven't stopped.

Our December 20 meeting will be a "*POT LUCK LUNCHEON*" in the fellowship hall. We are to bring small sandwiches, salads, desserts, fruit or vegetable trays, nuts, chips, dips, fudge or whatever you wish to share with everyone. But the headliner for our meeting will be Rick Walker entertaining us with Christmas music. You won't want to miss this meeting. May God bless each of you through out the Christmas season.

Carroll Stewart



Children's Clothes Closet



It's getting colder and there are warm clothes available in our WBC Children's Clothes Closet. These children's clothes are free and we always have new families that utilize this ministry. If you have any new or gently used children's clothes, shoes, new underwear, t-shirts, or socks; bring them to the clothes closet down stairs next to the nursery.

If you would like to make a monetary donation, please earmark your check "Children's Clothes Closet" and place it in the offering plate. ***Due to the Christmas schedule, the Children's Clothes Closet will open Thursday, December 15, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.***

Spread the Word of God by telling others to listen to the Sunday morning message by logging onto:

www.wythevillebaptist.org

then click the Sermons tab.

Once there, people will find each Sunday's sermon plus all the previous sermons of past months. Thank you to our Multi-Media Team Leader, Daniel Burke, for providing this link for our encouragement, learning, and inspiration.



DEADLINE:
Newsletter Articles

**JANUARY 2017
BEACON ARTICLES**

Due to the busy Christmas schedule, all January 2017 Beacon articles, announcements, meetings, events, times, etc. need to be turned in to the church office no later than Wednesday, December 14. Thank you for your help.



DON'T FORGET OUR BENEVOLENCE OFFERING

The purpose of the Benevolence offering—to help others in need.

Last month you helped:

- ◆ One Person with a room for the night
- ◆ Four families with gas for their cars
- ◆ Two families with electric bills

We will receive a Benevolence offering Sunday, December 4, following our worship service. We ask that you once again give from the heart. This offering is never hoarded up or put in a savings account, but always used to help others for the glory of God.

Thank you for giving from the heart.



AGAPE FOOD PANTRY



Please bring Peanut Butter, Spaghetti Sauce, and Spaghetti Noodles for the month of December to help feed those in need in our community. Please, no glass containers.

WBC considers it a privilege to help the Agape Food Pantry distribute food on the second Saturday of every month beginning at 10:00 a.m. and the fourth Thursday of each month beginning at 12:00 p.m. If you would like to be part of this vital ministry, please contact Chris and Rhonda Bracknell or Guy and Linda Sutphin.

COMMUNITY FOOD KITCHEN

The Community Food Kitchen is open every Monday and Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for those who are in need of a meal.

If you would like to help feed those less fortunate, please consider sending a check to Hope Ministries, P.O. Box 987, Wytheville, VA 24382, and earmark your check "Community Food Kitchen."



Kathryn Isaacs and Mabel Crabtree Circle News

Our December meeting will be held Monday, December 5, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Williams Fellowship Hall.

This event will be a **"Christmas Potluck Dinner."** Please bring your favorite dish and don't forget your scrumptious desserts. Members are asked to bring an ornament for an "Ornament Exchange." Spouses and friends are welcome. The Mission Action Project for December is "Agape and Sweet Potatoes."

The following Circle Meeting will be the 2nd of January at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Cathy Valley will be our hostess and Linda Lively will provide the program. The Mission Action Project will be "Agape."

Thanks to all our members. Ladies we extend an invitation to those who are not members, **"Come Join us."**

Janet Montgomery

100% of YOUR GIFTS HELP SEND AND SUSTAIN IMB MISSIONARIES

You have...heard about this hope in the message of truth, the gospel that has come to you. It is bearing fruit and growing all over the world, just as it has among you since the day you heard it...

Colossians 1:5—6 (HCSB)

the gospel resounds through your prayers.

2016 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

LOTTIE MOON

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

AND

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR
INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS**

DECEMBER 4—11, 2016

NATIONAL GOAL:

\$155 MILLION

WBC GOAL:

\$1,000



The Flower Team has ordered 25 Christmas Poinsettias from Coulter's Florist. This year we ordered red poinsettias with two plants per eight inch pot, wrapped in gold foil, and adorned with a red bow. The price will be \$18.95 per pot. If you would like one or more pots of poinsettias "In Honor Of" or "In Memory Of" someone special, please fill in the form below, earmark your check

"poinsettia" and attach it to the completed form. Place your check and completed form in the offering plate or bring them to the church office no later than noon Friday, December 9. We will have a booklet of remembered loved ones on December 18.

Please Print Legibly

Your Name: _____

Number of pots: _____

Amount Paid: _____

"In Honor Of": _____

"In Memory Of": _____

All orders must be turned in no later than Friday, December 9.

We will only order 25. If you would like one or more of these poinsettias, you must turn your form and money into the church office before they have all been purchased.

Please print legibly.

The Nellie Bausell Library Notes



You'll want to read *Chasing the Sun* by Tracie Peterson. When Hannah Danbridge's father disappears in war-torn Mississippi (1863), she finds herself responsible not only for her younger siblings but also for the Texas ranch her father recently acquired. A marriage of convenience could ease her predicament—but is it the true desire of her heart.

Wounded soldier William Barnett returns home only to find out that his family's ranch has been seized. Though angered at this turn of events, he's surprised to discover that it is a beautiful young woman with amazing fortitude who is struggling to keep the place running.

Despite these circumstances, Hannah and William form an uneasy truce—and an undeniable attraction builds between them. In a land where loyalties are divided in a country ravaged by war, is there any hope that the first blush of love can survive? This is a book purchased at the Wytheville Public Library Book Sale.

We also have a new Jan Karon Mitford novel, *Somewhere Safe with Somebody Good*. After five hectic years of retirement from Lord's Chapel, Father Tim Kavanagh and his wife, Cynthia, return to Mitford from a so-called pleasure trip to the land of his Irish ancestors.

While he is glad to be at home in Mitford, something is definitely missing from Father Tim's life: a pulpit. But when he's offered one, he decides he doesn't want it. Maybe he's lost his passion. His adopted son, Dooley, wrestles with his own vision to become a successful country vet. Does Mitford take care of it's own? This is a large print book.

HOME: Lola Rogers, Almetta Cruff, Bill Valley, JoAnn Campbell, Sylvia McGhee, Norma Jean Wolford, Nancy Herndon, Velma Roberts, Rosalene "Posey" Heath, Frankie Massey

EXTENDED CARE: Henrietta Price, Linda Osborne, Mary Evelyn Whitt, Margaret Moore

FAMILY: Bill and Linda Lively's daughter, Melanie Obermiller, Bea Shearwood's nephew, Alex Puckett; Velma Roberts' nephew; Jamie and Diane Saunders' mother, Peg Saunders; Frank and Charlotte Newland's daughter, Cathy Biglin, and son, Frank; Almetta Cruff's uncle, George Parks; Harlen Clemons son, Curt; Debbie Campbell Armtrout's son-in-law, Brad Hoffeditz; Bill Lively's brother, Bob Lively; Delores Dove's daughter, Deloris Romaro; Cathy Valley's mother, June Taylor; Veronica Lopez's mother, Maria Hernandez

FRIENDS: Rita Puckett, Debra Sutphin, Sharon Shupp, Ronnie Grubb, Megan Phillips, Shirley Corvin, John and Linda Phillips' daughter, Megan Govin; Barbara Johns, Ed Bowen, Lilly Neel, Sarah Burchette, Kenny Davis, Hunter Ingo, Kevin, Stanley Houseman, John Oblinger, Monica Grubb, Dolly Monroe, Bland Ministry Center

THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES: Zachary Taylor, Gregory Carson, Thomas Munsey, Ryan Shupe, Kevin Dalton, Benjy Bird, Cory Todd, and all the others who serve our nation

PASTORAL CARE: Our Pastor, Rev. Tim Irving, is accessible for any pastoral need. If you would like to make an appointment with Pastor Tim, please call the church office at 228-3712 or his cell phone: 276-284-1575. For pastoral emergencies at night or during weekends, please call Pastor Tim on his cell phone or the Deacon of the Week.



CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO:
Norma Jean Wolford upon the passing of her sister-in-law, Betty Meek

Dan and Christian Newberry and family upon the passing of their son, Jarred Kemp

Thomas and Christina Collins and Eric and Ann Collins upon the passing of Christine's grandmother, Dorothy Devillier



December 7: Baked Potato Soup, Pimento Cheese or Ham Salad Sandwiches, Chips, Pickles, Crackers, Chocolate Éclair Dessert
December 14: Spaghetti, Tossed Salad, Garlic Bread, Banana Pudding

December 21: Family Night at Christmas: Christmas Dinner (main dish—surprise), Twice Baked Potatoes, Broccoli Casserole, Christmas Salad, Variety Christmas Desserts

December 28: No Wednesday night supper or any church functions

Merry Christmas



Meetings

Thursday, December 1: Western Blue Ridge Baptist Network Leadership Team—6:30 at Dublin Baptist Church
Wednesday, December 14: Staff meeting—7:30 p.m.

December Birthdays

41: Brandi Logan
4: DeAnne Irving
Holly Montgomery
6: Mary Evelyn Whitt
10: Madeline Catron
11: Aaron Garst
15: Mae Clemons

16: Lesa Wood
17: Rachel Crowgey
18: Luis Lopez
Robin Moore
20: O. J. Campbell
23: Danny Taylor
Bonnie Wright
25: Forest Newberry
26: Betty Matheny
Joe Kincer

28: Chris Lambert
29: Mike Cassell
31: Teresa Wassum



NURSERY 10:30 AM

December 4: Nursery Worker
December 11: Nursery Worker
December 18: Nursery Worker
December 25: Nursery Worker

SPLASH CHILDREN'S CHURCH 10:30 AM

December 4: Children's Ministry Team
December 11: Children's Ministry Team
December 18: Children's Ministry Team
December 25: Children's Ministry Team

DEACON OF THE WEEK

December 4: Guy Sutphin
December 11: Tommy Anders
December 18: Tommy Hilton
December 25: Janet Montgomery

USHERS

Team IV: Tommy Hilton, John Willis
Betty Robinette

TELLERS

Guy Sutphin and Lynn Arnold

GREETERS

Designated Ushers for the month of December

December 2016



Sunday

Monday









Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

				1 11:30am Community Food Kitchen 6:30pm Western Blue Ridge Baptist Network Leadership Team meeting at Dublin Baptist Church	2	3 10:00am Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall reserved by Betty Matheny 6:00pm Wytheville's Christmas Parade
4 <i>The Lord's Supper</i> <i>Benevolence Offering Received</i> 8:45am Prayer in the Conference Room 9:00am Fellowship Time with Coffee and Treats. 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Adult Choir practice 6:30pm Higher Ground Youth	5 11:30am Community Food Kitchen 6:30pm Kathryn Isaacs and Mabel Crabtree Circle Christmas Dinner 	6	7 6:00pm Wednesday Night Supper 6:30pm Higher Ground Youth Program 6:40pm Adult Bible Study 7:30pm Staff meeting	8 11:30am Community Food Kitchen	9  <i>Deadline for all Poinsettia orders</i>	10 10:00am WBC helps at Agape Food Pantry 10:00am Organizational Meeting/ Practice for Cantata Nativity Scene 5:30pm Fellowship Hall reserved for the EMS Christmas Dinner
← <i>Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and Week of Prayer for International Missions, December 4--11</i> →						
11 8:45am Prayer in the Conference Room 9:00am Fellowship Time with Coffee and Treats. 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Adult Choir practice	12 11:30am Community Food Kitchen	13  DEADLINE: Newsletter Articles 11:00am Fellowship hall reserved for a Retired Teachers' meeting	14 6:00pm Wednesday Night Supper 6:30pm Higher Ground Youth Program 6:40pm Adult Bible Study	15 11:30am Community Food Kitchen 12:00pm WBC helps at Agape Food Pantry 2:30pm Children's Clothes Closet	16	17 10:00am Christmas Cantata Workshop 2:15pm Meet at the church and go caroling with us. 
18 8:45am Prayer in the Conference Room 9:00am Fellowship Time with Coffee and Treats. 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship in Music as the Choir presents <i>Night of the Father's Love</i> 6:30pm Higher Ground Youth 	19 11:30am Community Food Kitchen	20 12:00pm Young-at-Heart Christmas Lunch.  6:30pm Live Nativity Scene 	21 6:00pm Wednesday night supper. 6:30pm Live Nativity Scene	22 11:30am Community Food Kitchen	23	24 6:00PM CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 
25 Merry Christmas 10:30am Worship Service	26 11:30am Community Food Kitchen CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	27	28 NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER OR ANY CHURCH FUNCTIONS	29 11:30am Community Food Kitchen	30	31