



CHURCH EVENTS

- December 3**
Church-wide Breakfast
Christmas Cantata
"The Christmas Story"
- December 4**
Church Council
- December 4-5**
WM Road Trip to Fort Mill
"REAL Christmas Story"
- December 6**
Church Christmas Dinner—Free
"The Christmas Star"
- DIVE Youth & Children's Choir
- December 11**
JOY Fellowship
Deacons Meet
- December 12**
6:30 p.m. Ladies Circle of Friends
- December 13**
Church-wide Christmas Party
- December 20 & 27**
NO WEDNEWDAY NIGHT
ACTIVITIES
- December 21**
Ladies Lunch
- December 24**
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
BRUNCH AT 9:45
WORSHIP STARTS AT 11 AM
- 6 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight
Service with Lord's Supper
- December 31**
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
WORSHIP STARTS AT 11 AM

WEDNESDAY SUPPER MENUS

Week 1 – Christmas Dinner
Ham, Sweet Potato Casserole, Green Beans, potatoes, Special salad, Rolls, Desserts

Serving starts at 5 pm. Please be in your seats ready to be served.

Week 2 – Church-wide Christmas Party – everyone bring finger foods. Party starts at **5:30 p.m.**

From the Pastor . . .

December is already upon us! Can you believe it? Several things are taking place on our campus this month, so please mark your calendar, so you do not miss out. As you enter the worship center each week, you probably noticed some new furniture.

Danny Miller and Richard Grice did an excellent job in constructing our connection center. I could not be happier. Our connection center will provide the opportunity for guests to better connect with our church. If you are interested in serving on one of our teams, please contact the office and let us know.

We are looking for volunteers who 1) Love the Lord, 2) Love people, and 3) Love our church. If you fit in these three categories, you are exactly what we need. More details to come.

I know it is early, but we are looking forward to BIG things in 2018. Please continue to pray for our church and the staff.

Serving Him,

Jordan

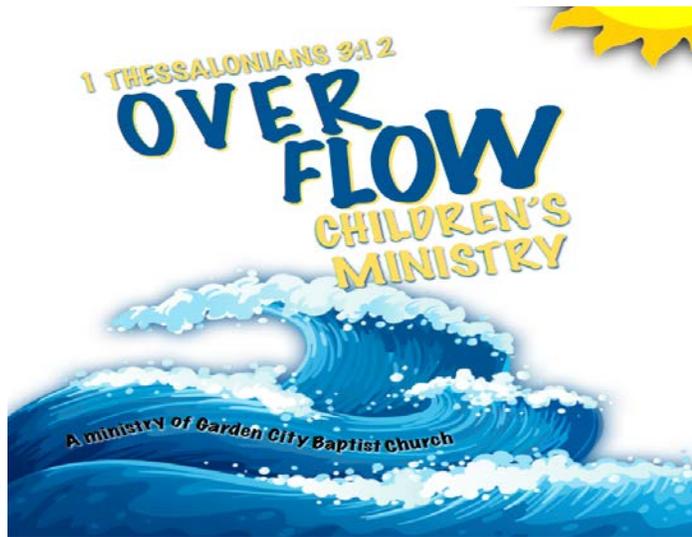
SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

by: Tim Hutto, Sunday School Director

One quarter of our church year has passed and our Sunday School average attendance was 193. **It has been many years since SS attendance has been this high.** A lot can be attributed to the large number of children and youth attending (approximately 40). If the kids attend the parents will come too. Attendance by older adults is increasing too. All of this is a praise to our teachers and leaders making their classes so interesting everyone wants to keep coming back.

Keep growing and sharing the gospel.

Merry Christmas



This is by far my favorite time of the year! Starting with my birthday in mid-November (because that's obviously a holiday, right?) and running through the new year, the sun going down earlier only builds my excitement to see the warmth and amicability between friends, neighbors and family as we celebrate the season!

We have much to be excited about in our children's and youth ministry as well! The calendar flip to December will see a children's Christmas party on Sunday evening December 10th in the fellowship hall from 5-6pm and a Youth Christmas party the night before in the youth house on Saturday, December 9th from 6-8pm. Further, our children and youth have been working hard on a Christmas production for the entire church! On Wednesday night, December 6th, we are pleased to bring you "The Christmas Star," a play which follows actors and actresses filming a nativity movie. Unfortunately though, they've all seemed to forget what Christmas is about, each contending for the spotlight! Join us to see if they'll get it together in time for the movie to be filmed! In between each scene of "The Christmas Star," our children will perform a Christmas carol, and many of them will have solos! We don't want you to miss this night!



I would personally like to wish a happy and warm "season's greetings" to each of you and your families. As we enter another Christmas season, may our focus be on the birth of our Lord and Savior. Perhaps worshipping the Spirit will help us keep our Christmas spirit at an all-time high!

In Him,
Timothy
Minister to the Next Generation

**Month of December
Prayer for International Missions &
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering**

Starting in 1888, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® was established to empower the international missions efforts for Southern Baptists. After more than a century, the annual offering continues its steady growth. The National Goal this year is \$160 Million. Your giving enables missionaries to be sent to make disciples and multiply churches among unreached peoples and places for the glory of God.
Our Goal: \$7,000 To date: \$206

Join the deacons for an amazing breakfast at 8:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall the first Sunday of each month. Donations go to the Deacon Relief Fund to help members who encounter a problem.

OLD TESTAMENT BIBLE STUDY
Sundays from 4-6 pm in the Fellowship Hall
Facilitators: Tish Walker & Mike Reese. You can start at any time. Will not meet December 17, 24 and 31. The class will state back January 7 with Deuteronomy and Joshua.

SOUTH STAND HELPING HAND
We provided dinner (turkeys and the fixings) so 255 families could prepare their Thanksgiving meal at home. Thank you for all the support—we love helping people but can't do it without you!!

We are getting ready for Christmas—I have names of children who the parent/guardian needs help providing Christmas toys and clothes for them. Come by the office and I will fix you up with a child or two, etc. When we give the gifts to the parent we see so many tears and get lots of hugs.

SOUTH STRAND MOBILE MEALS
December 25-29 ❖ Van 2
See Esther Holland or Phyllis Melton to volunteer or for information.

A REQUEST FROM THE NEW MANAGEMENT OF THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE.

Please do not leave food in the refrigerators. Food tends to spoil. If you have to put it there with plans to use it in the near future, please put your name and the date you will use it.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

WIDOW'S MINISTRY

Monthly luncheon at Red Lobster after the morning worship service on **December 17** to celebrate Peggy Hodges' birthday. Meet down front to carpool. If you have any questions or suggestions please contact Pat Hample at 843-748-0163 or 704-460-4056. As always we give God all the glory and praise for all He is doing through this ministry.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY IS SPONSORING OUR FIRST "DINE BY DESIGN" on January 19, 2018.

We are asking ladies to volunteer to decorate a table, using their own china (if you choose to) and theme. Other churches have held similar events and it is everyone's favorite. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Joan Brewer (803-467-4464) or call the church office.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY OVERNIGHT ROAD TRIP to Narrowway (a dinner theatre) in Fort Mill to see the REAL Christmas Story. **December 4 - 5!** Bus leaves at **10 am** (lunch on the way). We will go to the South Park Mall in Charlotte for a day of shopping, viewing Christmas decorations, and eating at the Cheesecake Factory (optional). Call Joan Brewer at 803-467-4464 for information.

Women's Ministry providing **GIFT WRAPPING FOR CHRISTMAS** Friday, **December 8** from 8 a.m. 12 p.m. and 2-6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for anyone having gifts that need wrapping. It's a fundraiser and all donations appreciated. If your gift needs a box please bring it. Paper and ribbon provided. No bags. If you want special paper or all gifts wrapped in the same paper please bring it also.

BUS TRIP TO THE LIVING CHRISTMAS TREE at Baptist Temple Saturday, December 2. The bus leaves at 12:30 pm. Bring can food for admission, money for a light meal on the return and \$2 for gas. Call Pat Hample at 843-748-0163 or 704-460-4056.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY BIBLE STUDY Dr. David Jeremiah's *Is This the End?* will finish December 8. The next study (*Hebrews*) starts **Thursday, January 4**. Sign-up sheets are on the WM bulletin boards in the side hall and front foyer.

Merry Christmas from Yvonne Marcum

Circle of Friends will meet Tuesday the 12th of December at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall of the Church! This is our Christmas gift swap where you bring a Christmas Ornament or Decoration that is wrapped and some lucky person will go home with a beautiful item! Spend no more than \$10.00 for this item. And, if you are a crafter, feel free to make something unique! We also bring a snack to share. The fellowship is always wonderful, so come and make a new friend. Any questions contact Yvonne at 843-283-6781.

Gospel Body is still going good and we are still meeting on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10:00am. So if your New Year's Resolution is to start getting healthy by walking, come and join us. It's in a safe environment and you're not alone! I would like to thank Karen Gray and Sandy Shell for stepping in and doing the exercises when I am unable to do them and also all the ladies for their support and prayers.

400+ Boxes!!!

Garden City Baptist has been collecting shoeboxes "for as long as I can remember," says Ministry Assistant Jo Anne Lee. Recalling when the shoeboxes were stacked around the foyer Christmas tree, she says the church was overjoyed when the collected amount was then an ambitious 93. This year, with a final count of 403, the church surpassed collections from all previous years.

These 400+ boxes will be shipped with millions of others to children all over the world. Thank you Garden City Baptist for your generous heart and willingness to share the love of Jesus in a practical way.



**Operation
Christmas Child**
A PROJECT OF SAMARITAN'S PURSE



Varina's

Tim and I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a new year filled with many blessings!

Please continue to check our "SONG OF THE WEEK" on our church's website. You can connect by going to "Ministries" and clicking Music. You will find the song at the bottom of the page. Please listen to the song and sing along with the lyrics. We will then use the song in our worship the following Sunday. Looking forward to worshipping with you!

JOYFUL PRAISE KIDS (Kindergarten-5th grade)

- Saturday, December 2: The children will rehearse, with the Youth, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. We will rehearse in the Sanctuary.
- Wednesday, December 6: "The Christmas Star" will be presented, by the Youth and Joyful Praise Kids, at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Supper will be provided, free of charge, at 5:00 p.m. Please call the church office at (843)651-3663, by MONDAY MORNING, December 4, to make reservations.
- Sunday, December 10: The children are invited to the Christmas Party, in the Fellowship Hall, from 5:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 13: Church-wide Christmas Party at 5:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 20 and Wednesday, December 27: no church activities.
- Wednesday, January 3: Rehearsals will resume at 6:00 p.m.

CHANCEL CHOIR (High School-Adults)

- Friday, December 1: Rehearsal, in the Choir Room, from 5:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. We will then go to the Fellowship Hall, at 7:00 p.m., for our Christmas Party.
- **Sunday, December 3:** "The Christmas Story" will be presented during the 11 o'clock service.
- Wednesday, December 6: NO rehearsal – the Youth and Joyful Praise Kids will present "The Christmas Star" at 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 13, Wednesday, December 20, and Wednesday, December 27: NO rehearsals. Please check the bulletin for Wednesday night events.
- Sunday, December 10, Sunday, December 17, and Sunday, December 24: Worship Choir. Please be in the Choir Room by 10:40 a.m.
- Wednesday, January 3: Rehearsals will resume at 7:30 p.m.

PRAISE BAND

- No rehearsals for December. Please be in the Sanctuary each Sunday morning, in December, by 9:15 a.m.
- Rehearsals will resume Monday, January 8 at 7:00 p.m.

THE LADIES LUNCHEON will be held at Litchfield Inn in Pawley's Island at 12 noon on **Dec 21**. If you choose to participate in the Christmas gift exchange bring a gift no more than \$10. Ladies if you have something red to wear please do so... All women of the church are welcome. Looking forward to seeing all of you. Any question call Shirley at 843-748-0465 or e-mail at Shirloest@aol.com

JOY FELLOWSHIP Monday, December 11 at noon. Come for a covered dish luncheon with ham & turkey provided--you can bring a side dish or dessert. Christmas music is the theme of the day.

Everyone 55 and better invited and encouraged to attend. It's a great time of fellowship.



- 1 – David Dooley
- 2 – Mytsi Coker
- 3 – Don Hinds
- 3 – *Karmen Cravens*
- 5 – Carmen Carella
- 5 – Skylar Hays
- 6 – Peggy Hodges
- 6 – *Carol Haire*
- 6 – Blanche Markley
- 7 – Madelyn Gandy
- 7 – Katelyn Hawes
- 7 – Alex Beri, Jr.
- 8 – Julia Barnes
- 11 – *Jean Bufton*
- 12 – Dolores Sharpe
- 14 – Skylar Stoll
- 16 – Myra Catoe
- 17 – Peggy Smith
- 18 – Patrice Brown
- 18 – Bob Wood
- 19 – Betty Wing
- 19 – Carolyn Enzor
- 20 – Doug Shirley
- 20 – Jim Kirkland
- 21 – Pam Hopkins
- 21 – Linda Joyce
- 22 – Mike Reese
- 22 – Bob Green
- 22 – Bob Archer
- 25 – Karen Peavey
- 26 – *Wendy K. Howell*
- 26 – Harold Smoak
- 26 – Linda Williams
- 26 – Alayna Lanier
- 28 – Benny Green
- 28 – Sandra Klein
- 28 – Amber Huffstetler
- 30 – Julie Skelton
- 30 – Phillip Joyce

Merry Christmas!

&
Thank you!!!

Spice

Charlie & Corne
Jorden
Tina
Paulina
Tim L.

Thank you all so very much for the gifts on the Pastor and Staff Appreciation days. We wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We are . incredibly blessed to be a part of such a loving and supportive church.

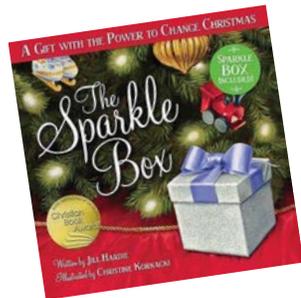
From the Media Messenger...

Once in a while I read a book and think it would make a great gift. There are two I would like to suggest to you in case you are looking for a book to give someone for Christmas. The first one is for a child and would be given before Christmas and the second one is for an adult.

The Sparkle Box: A Gift With the Power to Change Christmas by Jill Hardie
It is the story of a family's good deeds written on slips of paper and stored in a box to be opened on Christmas morning. Sam's parents explain that the good things they've been doing are actually their gifts to Jesus. The book comes with a sparkle box and encourages families to adopt this tradition during the holiday season. Ages 4-8

Long Way Gone by Charles Martin
"No matter where you go, no matter whether you succeed or fail, stand or fall, no gone is too far gone. You can always come home"

This is a radical retelling of the story of the prodigal son. Musician and songwriter Cooper O'Conner takes everything his father holds dear and drives 12,000 miles to Nashville, with his life riding on a six string guitar and the costly wager that he has talent. What a story of despair, love, hope, and spiritual truth.



2018 Calendar Dates

- January 16-23**
Taking pictures for a new directory
- January 25**
Lifeline Screening
- January 28**
Church-wide Bingo
- February 16-19**
DIVE Youth Ski Trip
- February 24**
ARC Blood Drive

Christmas

Candles in the window
Tinsel on the tree
Makes me stop and question
Is this what Christmas means to me?

Christmas cards and packages
Ready to be sent
When the angels sang his story
Could this be what they meant?

In preparing for Christmas
Our world's in a spin
With dinners and parties
There's no room for Him.

It must grieve the Savior
When we give our consent
To the frivolous manner
In which His birthday is spent.

Lord we ask you forgiveness
And promise to see
The real meaning of Christmas
You meant it to be.

Now we bow in repentance
And thank you so much
For the gift of salvation
Your present to us.

Pauline Dautlick
1992

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY We are taking pictures for the new directory **January 16-20 and 22-23**. Our goal is to include everyone in the new directory. It's also a great time to get updated family photos. Each family photographed gets a free 8X10 photo and there are photos and packets that can be purchased. Just for getting your picture taken you get a new color directory with everyone and a new picture of the family/individual.

Go to <https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/y7r9dzve/> to assess the website to reserve a spot. Select your date and time, enter your information and follow the prompts. If you don't use the intethe office for you.

Sunday Morning, 12/24

Brunch 9:45 am

Service 11:00 am



Christmas Eve

candlelight service
Dec 24th – 6:00 pm



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

FOLLOW

**LEARNING TO
FOLLOW
JESUS**

Thursdays at 8:00 am
January 11 – March 15



Church-Wide Bingo

Sunday, 1/28/18
4:00-5:30 pm