

The Link

“What Child Is This?”

Sun. 12/5
at 6:30 pm

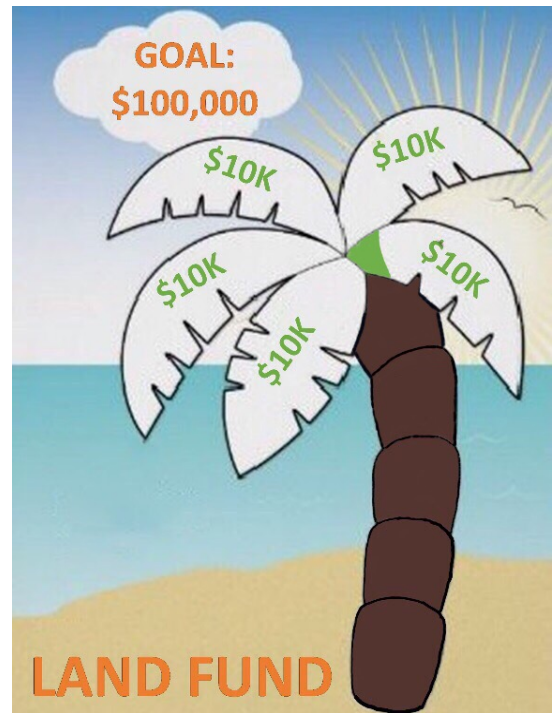


Sunday, 12/9
at Noon
in Room 109

starting  point



Monday
12/10
at Noon
in Fellowship Hall



YOU ARE INVITED TO A
CHRISTMAS PARTY

Bring Finger Foods!

Wednesday,
12/12
5:30 pm
in Fell. Hall



Christmas Eve

candlelight service
Dec 24th – 6:00 pm

From the Media Messenger...

The Prayer Box by Lisa Wingate

Lola Anne Poole, an old timer passes away in her bed at the age of ninety-one. Lola has always been a thorn in an otherwise harmonious town of Fairhope. When she is found dead the citizens are not exactly upset. A struggling young mother, Tandy Jo Reese, who lives in her rental cottage, is charged with the task of cleaning out her huge Victorian house. She is not exactly thrilled with the job, but she needs the money.

Tandy is running from a dangerous and uncertain past. She never expected this job to provide more than... for her and her two children. While cleaning the house she discovers eighty-one decorated prayer boxes which will change her life. The boxes represent Lola's life from her youth to her last days. Written on bits of paper are the hopes and wishes, fears and thoughts of an unassuming and complex woman. These boxes contain her life's journey, one filled with faith. She realizes that this little old lady the whole town has been at odds with on several occasions has actually been their savior.

Lisa Wingate doesn't disappoint. She delivers a first-class novel filled with faith self-discovery and love.

About the Author: Lisa Wingate is a former journalist and New York Times Best Selling Author of thirty novels. She is also an inspirational speaker.



WOMEN'S MINISTRY BIBLE STUDY

HE IS, an advent study on the attributes of God meets **Thursdays, November 29, December 6, and 13** from 6:00-8:00 p.m. There is no book and you can attend one, two, or all three nights. If you need transportation, call Tish Walker at 843-742-8508.

The book of Revelation is the next Bible study and will be divided into four sections. The first section, *7 Churches of Revelation*, starts **Thursday, January 10**.

**December is the Season of
Prayer for International
Missions**

**Lottie Moon Christmas
Offering** Our Goal: \$7,000

Every Church. Every Nation.

WHY THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING IS NAMED FOR LOTTIE:

While living in China, Lottie wrote letters to the Foreign Mission Board (now the International Mission Board) and to Baptist women. She asked for more missionaries and for money to grow her work on the Chinese.

Because of Lottie's determination, WMU collected a Christmas Offering to give to the Foreign Mission Board. In 1919, Annie Armstrong suggested that the offering should be named for Lottie Moon.

Today, we still give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering in honor of her work and sacrifice to keep our missionaries on the field.

One hundred percent of the offering goes to the missionaries, none to administration.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS will be **Tuesday, December the 11th at 6:30 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall of the church. If you would like to participate in our festive game, bring a wrapped Christmas ornament or decoration for the home with you. Please do not spend more than \$10 for this item. Also bring a snack to share with others. We hope you come to celebrate this special time of year with us! Merry Christmas from the Women's Ministry

GOSPEL BODY We are continuing to exercise at **9:00 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday** in the Fellowship Hall. If interested in getting your New Year jumpstarted, come and join us. There is no charge for this fellowship and fun time. We do not lie down on the floor, just walking in place to music and with friends. So get on your walking shoes and bring a bottle of water and start walking!

WIDOW'S LUNCHEON is **December 2** after the morning worship service. We are eating at Golden Carrol to celebrate Peggy Hodges' birthday. Meet down front to carpool.

*Merry Christmas
South Strand Helping Hand*

No WMU Meeting in December. See you **January 3** for our next meeting. Merry Christmas!

Varina's

Tim and I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas! We pray you experience a child-like excitement celebrating our Savior's birth. He is worthy of worship and praise!

Please mark your calendar for Wednesday, December 5 at 6:30 p.m. Our youth, Joyful Praise Kids, and Chancel Choir will present "What Child Is This?". The skits and music remind us of what Mary, Joseph, the Shepherd, and the Wiseman experienced as they "witnessed the arrival of a baby who would save the world" (Skit Guys quote). Come celebrate our Savior's birth!

JOYFUL PRAISE KIDS (Kindergarten-5th grade)

- Rehearsal schedule: (1) Saturday, December 1 at 12:30 p.m. (pizza will be served) and then rehearsal until 2:00 p.m.; (2) Sunday, December 2 at 5:00 p.m. for dress rehearsal. Once the children have sung and read scripture they may leave as I know it's a school night. Please plan to stay so they can leave once their part is complete; (3) Wednesday, December 5 at 5:45 p.m.: We will have supper that night, but I need your child in the Choir Room by 5:45 p.m. The program begins at 6:30 p.m.

CHANCEL CHOIR (High School-Adults)

- Rehearsal schedule: (1) Sunday, December 2, 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. with pizza afterwards; (2) Wednesday, December 5 at 5:45 p.m.: We will have supper that night, but I need you in the Choir Room by 5:45 p.m. The program begins at 6:30 p.m.

PRAISE BAND

- Praise Band rehearsal is every Monday at 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in joining us, please contact one of the members for information.

MUSIC COMMITTEE

- Our next meeting is Wednesday, December 12 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 109.

Hello Girls,

I want to thank all of you who donated fabrics, lace, threads and other sewing goodies. You have been a real blessing to those in need. You have given so much fabric that at this time the seamstresses don't have anywhere to store it. They couldn't believe how generous all of you are. So hold off for a few months and we will collect again sometime in the new year. The sewing group continues to make adorable dresses for the little ones in need, supporting South Strand Helping Hand and they also blessed me with little dresses to put in my shoe boxes. Again I thank you for always jumping in to help on a project when needed.

Shirley

LADIES LUNCHEON

Due to the holidays the luncheon will be on **TUESDAY December 18 at 12:00 p.m.** at Ocean One in the Litchfield Inn. We will be doing a gift swap at our luncheon. If you would like to participate, bring a gift for no more than \$10.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 – David Dooley
- 2 – Mysti Coker
- 3 – Don Hinds
- 3 – *Karmen Cravens*
- 5 – Carmen Carella
- 5 – Skylar Hays
- 6 – Peggy Hodges
- 6 – Blanche Markley
- 7 – Madelyn Gandy
- 7 – Katelyn Hawes
- 7 – Alex Beri, Jr.
- 8 – Julia Barnes
- 11 – *Jean Bufton*
- 12 – Dolores Sharpe
- 12 – Rachele Smith
- 14 – Skylar Stoll
- 16 – Myra Catoe
- 17 – Peggy Smith
- 17 – Pat Oliver
- 18 – Patrice Brown
- 18 – Bob Wood
- 19 – Carolyn Enzor
- 19 – Betty Wing
- 20 – *Melissa Rutherford*
- 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 Kirkpatrick 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

NEXT GENERATION MINISTRY

by: Timothy Laurent, Minister to the Next Generation

December Giving Challenge:

Parents and children in Overflow Children's Ministry...during the month of December we will up our focus on giving to our sponsored child through Compassion International: seven year old David Valle in El Salvador.

Children's Sunday school classes are challenged to bring in money each of the five Sundays in December, and we'll keep up with which class brings in the most! The winning class will be rewarded with a prize in their class on the first Sunday of 2019! This is a great opportunity to give!

CHURCH EVENTS

December 2

Church-wide Breakfast
Widow's Luncheon
Staff Love Offering

December 4

Women's Ministry Carolina Opry
Christmas Show

December 5

Christmas Dinner & Christmas
Concert

December 7

Youth Christmas Party

December 9

Starting Point
Church-wide Neighborhood
Caroling

December 10

12:00 p.m. JOY Fellowship
Christmas Party. Varina will
lead the group in Christmas
carols, Tim Alexander will
read the Christmas Story and
Bob Gray will sing a special
solo.

1:00 p.m. Church Council

December 11

Women's Ministry Circle of
Friends Christmas Party

December 12

Music Committee
Church-wide Christmas Party

December 18

Ladies Luncheon – Ocean One
Litchfield Inn

December 19 & 26
**NO Wednesday Night
Activities**

December 24

6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service

GO
GIRLS ONLY
Time

Beginning on **Friday, December 28th**, all youth girls are invited to Rachele Smith's home for a night of fellowship and fun! This will be an ongoing gathering, so keep an eye out for more opportunities ladies!

From the Pastor . . .

Christmas is here! As Christians, the month of December is one of the most important months on our calendar. I am sure you have seen all the decorations throughout almost every store you venture in these days. I love seeing all the Christmas candy, cards, decorations, etc. as I walk through Wal-Mart.

Church, may we never forget the reason for the season. May we never forget that Jesus came, born of a virgin, in a lowly stable, on a silent night in Bethlehem. He came to be with His people.

I want to challenge you this Christmas season to share the love of Christ with people wherever you go. I want to challenge you to read the Christmas story to your children and grandchildren. Take some baked goods to your neighbor. Invite your neighbor to our Christmas Eve service.

Ultimately, make this season about Jesus! He is the reason for the season!

Serving Him,
Jordan

LOTTIE MOON
CHRISTMAS
OFFERING®

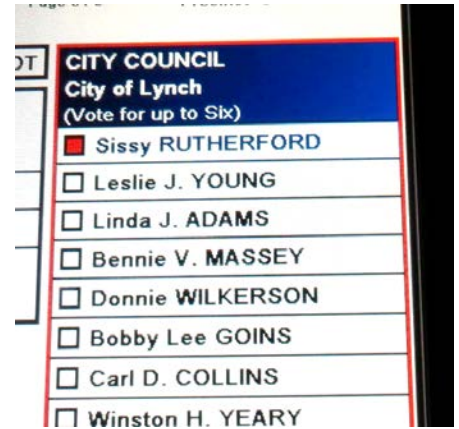
OUR GOAL: \$7,000



NOVEMBER MISSION UPDATE FROM EASTERN KENTUCKY

– Eric & Sissy Rutherford

THE CITY WHERE I HAVE SENT YOU Most of us are familiar with Jeremiah 29:11 (*“For I know the plans that I have for you,” declares the LORD, ‘plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.’*), but God’s plans do not only concern us as individuals. He cares about our communities, too – even if they were not our home until the Lord sent us there. **Jer. 29:7: *“But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you..., and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.”***



The welfare of Lynch, Kentucky and the surrounding community is exactly where God has us. Sissy was re-elected to serve on the city council, and while Sissy is operating the coffee shop as a means to (literally) serve the community and to provide jobs, I have taken over (at least for now) managing our ministry’s Black Mountain Exchange gas station and convenience store. At first the notion of adding something else to our plates seemed a little overwhelming, but God has shown us that His timing is perfect, as we are heading into our slower time of the year. It has been exciting to see God apply our experience as entrepreneurs to serve Him and help the

community in His name.

...AND THE CITIES HE IS SENDING TO US

God has allowed us to work with several Christian coffee shops from Kentucky to as far away as Detroit, Mich. and Las Vegas, Nev. who have come to us seeking help. Sometimes it is just to pick our brains for advice or a moment of prayer; but, in other cases we have actually hosted barista training for their staff; attended their Grand Opening; or, they end up wholesale customers selling our Lamp House coffees. The latest venture to reach out to us is a very cool and unique one. A church/school in



Matthews, NC has donated a converted shipping container housing a complete coffee shop inside to a native American couple on the Pine Ridge (Lakota) Indian reservation in South Dakota. (Learn more at covenantday.org/containit) Even more desperate than eastern Kentucky, the unemployment rate there is 84%; drug and alcohol abuse is rampant; the homes they are living in resemble the ones we are tearing down; and, their heartbreaking teen suicide rate is four times the national average. We look forward to seeing how God will use us to help them create a shop that, like ours, can be a source of not only jobs, but of genuine hope - the kind that only comes from a relationship with Jesus. We have already been able to share prayer “seeking the welfare of their city” too; and, to provide several pounds of coffee and frappe mixes for an upcoming event that will both promote the shop and help provide for a community meal. Please keep both of our ministries in your prayers. We appreciate your continued love and support. - Eric & Sissy