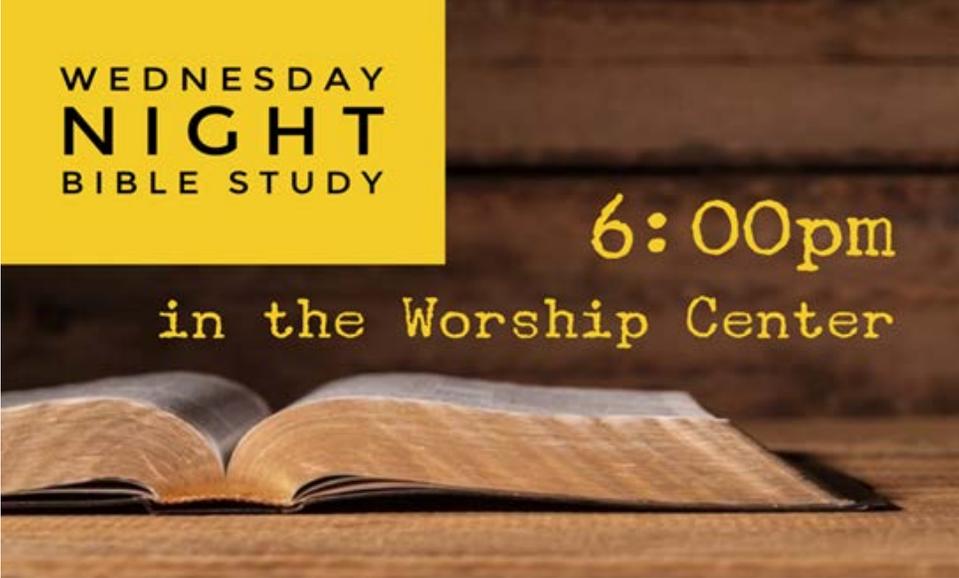
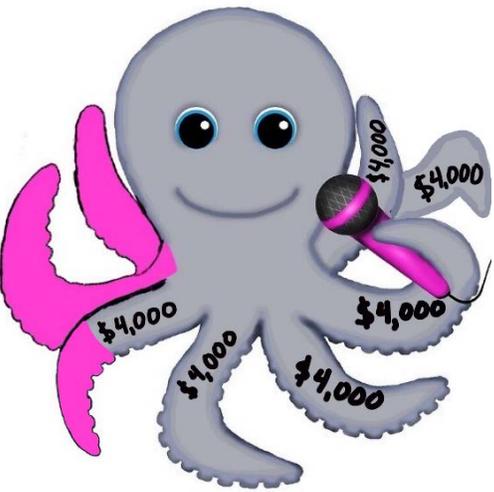




**Happy New Year!** My prayer is that we will be overwhelmed with God's amazing love in the year 2021. Starting, January 10, we will begin a new sermon series in 1<sup>st</sup> John, **Walking in the Light.** -Pastor Charlie



AUDIO/VISUAL UPGRADES



GOAL: \$31,000

## Youth and Children's Update

I also wanted to give you an update on where we stand with the youth and children's ministries.

### Children's ministry:

We recently had our children's ministry Christmas party on 12/16/2020. We had a great crowd of amazing kids who were able to enjoy Christmas songs, hearing Pastor Charlie read the Christmas story, crafts, yummy treats, and they left with a stocking filled with toys and candy from our awesome children's ministry volunteers!

In the coming months, be on the lookout for announcements on events and activities for the children. As we plan, we will continue to prioritize budget-friendly local events that will allow for safe distancing while we have fun and fellowship together! Further, we are continuing to take steps at the church to ensure the safety of our children. We have re-arranged a few classrooms to allow for better spacing, and continue to sanitize high-touch surfaces before and after meetings. Continue to join us in praying that God will continue to bless Garden City Baptist with a thriving children's ministry and for the safety of our students and volunteers.

If you are a parent of a student in our children's program, please take a moment to email or text me the following information so I can continue to build a contact list to ensure you are kept up to date with all the news and information about the children's program.

Please provide: a) You and your spouse's name, b) the names of your children in the program, c) your email address and phone number. This info can be sent to my email address at [jaketwhittaker@gmail.com](mailto:jaketwhittaker@gmail.com) or texted to my cell number at 704-254-1808. Thank you!

### Youth Update:

During my first couple weeks on staff here at Garden City Baptist, I have been meeting with many of our youth families, youth, and youth ministry volunteers to begin casting a vision for the future of the youth program. As we have considered what to call our youth program, we have decided to return to the original vision and name for the program, "E.D.G.E Student Ministry", with EDGE standing for Every Day God Encounters. This fits well in line with my ultimate goal for youth ministry, which is seeing each student accept Christ as their Savior and begin maturing in their faith, all while making God a primary part of their everyday lives.

As we discussed how best to do this, we have decided that a new curriculum will aid in this process. After spending countless hours poring through months' worth of material from around eight different curriculums, I feel that Grow Curriculum meets the needs of EDGE Student Ministry. Using this curriculum, our meeting times will be infused with high-energy games, worshipful fellowship, impactful small-group discussion time, and biblically sound topical lessons that will be relevant to the lives of our youth. I will be preparing and teaching the lessons with this curriculum in the coming year, but many of our amazing youth ministry volunteers have agreed to continue to use their gifts and talents at the weekly meetings while investing in the lives of our youth!

**This new Curriculum for Sunday nights and youth Sunday school will officially start on Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>** so please have your youth invite their friends! I also ask that any church members who have youth aged family members, or neighbors in the area to invite them to join us!

By the time this Newsletter is out, we will have had our Youth Christmas party on 12/20/2020 where we will have played a ton of fun games, packed gift bags for the students to give to their friends, and had an amazing time of Christmas fellowship! Please be on the lookout for coming announcements about youth events and trips in the coming month. We are taking the same precautions mentioned in the children's update to ensure our youth are healthy and protected.

If you are a parent of a student in our youth program, please take a moment to email or text me the following information so I can continue to build a contact list to ensure you are kept up to date with all the news and information about the children's program.

Please provide: a) You and your spouse's name, b) the names of your youth in the program, c) your email address and phone number. This info can be sent to my email address at [jaketwhittaker@gmail.com](mailto:jaketwhittaker@gmail.com) or texted to my cell number at 704-254-1808. Thank you!



### Thank you:

Hope and I want to thank every one of you who have made us feel so welcomed here at Garden City Baptist Church. We have received so many beautiful heartfelt cards and well-wishes that our hearts are overflowing with gratitude to our Lord who has brought us to such a loving and caring church family. Thank you as well for all the amazing gifts given during our "old fashion pounding," they have truly helped us as we settled into our new home this year. Through your generosity, the Lord has given us an easier transition into this new life and ministry. Words cannot adequately express the thankfulness that we hold in our hearts for you all.

We are excited to do ministry alongside you all in the coming months and years! I truly believe and expect to see the Lord working amongst our students here at GCBC. I hope that you will join us in praying that God will bless our church with a thriving youth and children's ministry where we will be able to impact the next generation with foundational Gospel truths. It takes every one of us to invest in the lives of our young church members to ensure that the next generation of Christian adults will be spiritually strong and ready to impact the world and build the Kingdom!

With our love,  
Jake and Hope Whittaker

## Varina's

Happy New Year! This New Year is a year of exciting possibilities! I am looking forward to all the Lord has in store for us!

Please join us Wednesday, January 13 at 7:00 p.m. for a combined Choir/Praise Band rehearsal. We will meet each Wednesday for approximately 20 minutes. We will sing monthly for our worship service beginning in February. If you have any questions about joining us, please contact me.

I want to thank each of you who participated in or came to our Christmas Celebration. I also want to thank Nancy and Woody Gaul for the hot chocolate and Christmas Tree cakes. No event is ever complete without the assistance of Jo Anne, Charlie, and Jake. I am blessed to work with such a great staff and congregation.

Our Music Ministry will not be complete this new year without our sweet Yvonne Marcum. She was always ready to sing, always had a smile on her face, and always showed how much she loved the Lord through everything she did. I am so thankful to have called her friend all these years and am so grateful for her help with Joyful Praise Kids, VBS, Music Committee, Music Camp, and of course, Chancel Choir. We love you, Yvonne! We will see you soon!



Hi Girls

Still missing you a lot. Can't wait 'til we can meet once again for some great fellowship. It has been a bit difficult but we need to keep looking up.

From Sarah Young's Devotional: "When your mind is occupied with thanking Me, you have no time for worry or complaining. If you practice thankfulness consistently, negative thought patterns will gradually grow weaker and weaker. Draw near to Me with a grateful heart, and My Presence will fill you with Joy and Peace"

My prayer for you is...May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.  
Romans 15:13

Love  
Shirley

### Old Testament Chronological Study

Sundays from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Both men and women are welcome. All social distancing rules will be followed and you are encouraged to bring your own snack and drink.

**SOUTH STRAND  
MOBILE MEALS  
VAN 1  
February 1-5**

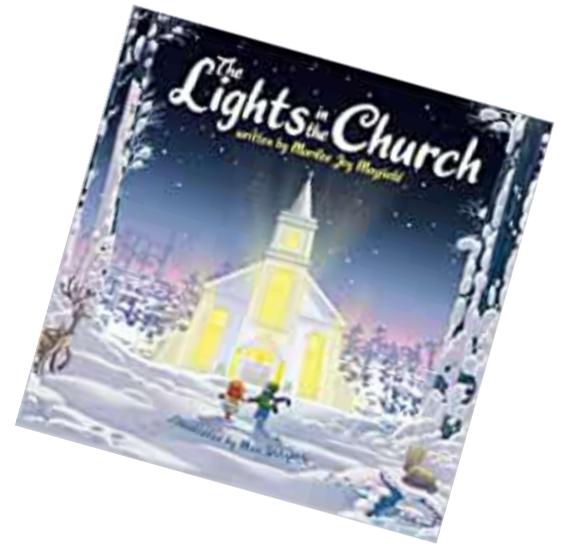
See Esther Holland or Phyllis Melton for information or to volunteer.

## *From the Media Messenger...*

***The lights in the Church*** written by Marilee Joy Mayfield

A brother and sister are walking in the park when they become separated from their parents. Soon they find themselves lost in the woods and stumble upon a curious site, a church. They get closer hoping for shelter, but the doors won't open, but there are the most beautiful hymns being played. They walk closer and see magnificent stained glass windows that come to life. Amazing!

Follow the children as they see some of the miracles of Jesus in the windows and learn lessons about His life. Each window tells a story and lesson about the love of Jesus Christ. It is a sweet little book to teach children about faith and there are just enough miracles to hold their attention. I was a bit disappointed that the birth of Jesus was not included somewhere within the pages, but it is still a good story to read aloud or share with little ones.

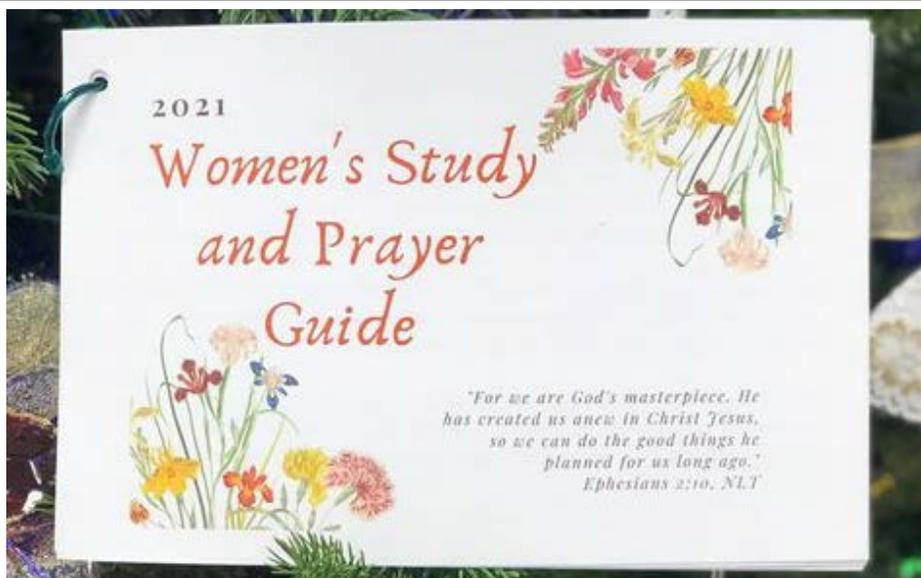


***Thank you for your continued love and support. You are very special to us.  
Happy New Year!***

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT**

Children Sunday school classes are up and running pretty smoothly. The youth Sunday school class should officially begin back January 10th with Pastor Jake teaching the youth Sunday school class. Looking forward to that.

Please pray and see if the Lord is leading you to be a Sunday school teacher for the children's kindergarten through second grade. Also, a helper is needed for that class. As the church grows and we have infants, we will need more workers for the nursery. Please let Charlene know if you can help in any areas. Have an awesome New Year!



Our 2021 Bible study and prayer guides are available now! You can find them on the table in the side hallway (near the church office) or at the connection center in the main lobby. It's self-guided and thin enough to keep in your Bible. Our hope is that it will be a blessing and encouragement to you throughout the year!

### **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

1 – Bette King  
10 – Rose Price  
11 – Howard Thompson  
14 – David Kearns  
14 – Jerri Howie  
14 – Anne Langlo  
15 – Josh Huggins  
15 – Jakob Devlin  
15 – Sheila Britt  
18 – Charlene Ware  
19 – Carolyn Gates  
20 – Aubrey Johnson  
21 – Donna Hills  
21 – Gary Hawes  
22 – Cathy Menke  
23 – Pauline Denton  
24 – Debbie Bolynn  
26 – Kelly Wakley  
29 – Dawn Melvin  
29 – Tanya Yow  
29 – Betty Robertson



## **FROM THE APPALACHIAN MISSION FIELD, DECEMBER 2020 – Eric & Sissy Rutherford** **Christmas Cheer!**

In Kentucky there is still a heightened awareness with increasing numbers of COVID cases; and, restrictions are still in place that have been relaxed in other parts of the country, but we did not let that Grinch COVID spoil our Christmas celebrations. (In fact, we are used to being a little behind the curve and we're okay with it.)



with his wife Belinda founded our ministry, saw me and jumped in to help set it up directly across from the Lamp House Coffee shop.

Each year our ministry hosts a Live Nativity at “The Farm” where our camps are held. Normally groups are loaded onto hay wagons and travel from scene to scene with a narrator on board. This year our organizers adjusted to COVID restrictions and set it up as a drive-through event with narrators at each scene instead. Sissy and I narrated the first and second scenes (where Gabriel visits Mary and the angel visits Joseph). Over two nights we read our page-long parts more than 230 times, presenting the gospel to more than 400 people. As each car exited at the “empty cross scene” more of our missionaries prayed with each car load. (You can view each scene by scrolling down the posts at [facebook.com/ShekinahVillage](https://facebook.com/ShekinahVillage).)



-In His Love and Service, Eric and Sissy (pictured in the white scarf above)

### **SOUTH STRAND HELPING HAND (SSHH)**

Requests for food assistance has increased during the past months. At Thanksgiving, families that signed up for help received a voucher to take to Food Lion instead of picking the food up at SSHH.

At Christmas, requests for toys and clothes were down by half. More agencies may have provided help. At any rate the parents/grandparents who signed up were well taken care of by three local churches: Belin UMC, Shepherd of the Sea Lutheran Church, and Surfside Presbyterian Church. After one of the grandmothers signed up for help for two children her family increased by four additional kids, ages 7, 5, 4, and 3. Belin took care of the extra gifts and help find them a place to live.