



# Ardmore Announcer

December 11, 2017  
Volume 60  
Number 49

Announcing the Mission and Ministries of Ardmore Baptist Church, Inc., Winston-Salem, NC

## Ardmore BAPTIST CHURCH

Connecting People with Jesus Christ

### WORSHIP CONNECTION

December 17  
The Third Sunday of Advent  
Morning (8:15 & 10:45)

**"Jesus' Genes"**  
Matthew 1:1-17  
Dr. Don Gordon

7:00 p.m.  
An Appalachian Christmas

### And the Lord Added

Ava Craven

#### Our Mission:

"To connect people of all ages with Jesus Christ and each other in life-changing relationships."

### 3rd Sunday Of Advent

*Lighting the Candle of Joy*

*"While Shepherds Watched"*  
by Joseph Martin  
Adult Choir

*Music by*  
the Adult Handbell Choir and  
Larry Andrews, French Horn



## An Appalachian Christmas



*Featuring*  
*Hammered Dulcimer*  
*National Champion*  
*Joshua Messick*

*Sunday, December 17; 7:00 p.m.*

A candlelight Christmas concert of Early American carols, Sacred Harp tunes, and beautiful Appalachian carols will feature the Ardmore Baptist Adult Choir and Handbell Choir, an Appalachian instrumental consort, and acclaimed hammered dulcimer musician, Joshua Messick. The magical touch of Joshua Messick's hammered dulcimer Christmas music will transport you to places of hope, joy, wonder, and love. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. with special pre-concert hammered dulcimer music by Joshua Messick.

### Preview Session: Financial Peace University

*Wednesday, December 13, at 5:30 p.m. in room F202*

The course will be on Wednesdays, January 3 - March 7, 2018 (no meeting on February 14); 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - led by Jay Van Nostrand. For more information, contact Jay Van Nostrand (336-793-6124).

**Our Pastor Writes...****De-paganizing a Pagan Holiday**

It's fairly common knowledge that no one really knows when Jesus was born. For the first three centuries of the church there was no celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, much less the particular date of December 25. The first known official celebration of December 25 as the birth of Christ came in 336 AD with the decree of Emperor Constantine. This date was co-opted from pagan holidays which exalted celebrating the birthday of Mithras, the Iranian "Sun of Righteousness" and a Roman celebration of the "Unconquered Sun." The much heard of "Winter Solstice" was another holiday occurring a few days before December 25.

The western and eastern expressions of the Christian church eventually settled on choosing December 25 as the day when Christ's birthday would be celebrated. Theological justification was provided by connecting the Son of God with the one who created the sun itself. It gave the Christian community a date in which it could reshape the culture for Jesus Christ in a positive way. As a theologian asserted in 320, "We hold this day holy, not like the pagans because of the birth of the sun, but because of him who made it."

Gift-giving, merry-making, and lights were part of this original pagan holiday. Christians adopted these practices in order to connect Christ to their world in an annual tradition. It would be hard to argue that the co-opting of the pagan holiday for Jesus has been all bad. There is great joy associated with the Christmas season and it nurtures the instinct for giving that is at the heart of God's existence.

However, it would be hard to observe the actual practice of Christians and churches during the Christmas season without wondering if the celebration of Jesus has been overwhelmed by all the "trappings of Christmas." Are the parties we attend centered on the birth of Jesus and his meaning for the world? Why is it that our Christmas gifts normally leave Jesus out mostly, if not completely? What, if anything, can we do to keep this former pagan holiday from becoming re-paganized?

This is a sweeping and rhetorical question with no easy answer. More than anything, it is a call for us to resist the paganization of the Christmas holiday season by putting Jesus Christ front and center. One act of resistance is to make an intentional effort to give Jesus a Christmas present through the Ardmore Christmas Offering which supports Baptist missionaries around the world. Their proclamation and enactment of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is one of the best ways to recognize, spread, and celebrate the love of Jesus Christ with the world. I want to encourage you to put Jesus on your Christmas gift list by means of this offering. Our church goal of \$29,000 will be a worthy gift for the Son of God who continues to shine brilliant light on all that is beautiful and eternal.

- Don Gordon

**City With Dwellings  
Overflow Shelter**

*Friday nights*

*December 1 - March 31*

*St. Timothy's Episcopal*

**Volunteers are needed.** Sign up at <http://signup.com/go/sttimoverflow>. Donations of insulated coffee cups (not styrofoam), coffee, sugar, creamer, ear plugs, and laundry detergent would be greatly appreciated. Contact Mike if you have questions (336-725-8767; [mnuckolls@ardmorebaptist.org](mailto:mnuckolls@ardmorebaptist.org)).

**PMBA Toy Store/  
Gift Mart**

*December 16*

*Benton Convention Center*

**Volunteers needed!** Opportunities of service include greeters, one-on-one companions for shoppers, re-stockers, and childcare attendants. To volunteer, register at <http://www.christmasforthecity.com/giftmart-sign-up>.

**Birthday Party For Jesus**

*December 13*

*6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.*

*Fellowship Hall B*

*Two years old through 6<sup>th</sup> grade  
(Children five and under should be  
accompanied by a parent.)*

**We will have several activities** to help everyone celebrate Jesus' birth, including birthday cake. Join us for this evening of celebration, wonder, and serving as we give thanks for God sending Jesus to us.

- Lee Ritchie

## Ardmore ABCs...

Congratulations to:

**Horace & Bea McRae** – 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on December 16<sup>th</sup>

## Ardmore Christmas Offering Goal: \$29,000 (Global Missions and Lottie Moon)

**Starting in 1888**, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® was established to empower the international missions efforts for Southern Baptists. Your giving enables missionaries to be sent to make disciples and multiply churches among unreached peoples and places for the glory of God. In 2016, IMB missionaries helped plant more than 4,500 churches where there had previously been none and saw 87,000 people come to know Christ.

## ABC Preschool Program

**You are invited** to join us for our Christmas Program on Wednesday, December 20, at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Our preschoolers are having fun celebrating Christmas and anticipating Jesus' birthday. As part of learning what it means to shine the light of Jesus to others that may not be able to come to church, we made cards and ornaments for our homebound members.

## Weekly Envelopes

**Boxed sets** of 2018 weekly giving envelopes will be distributed Sunday morning, December 17, before and after Sunday Bible Study. Stop by the brown desk in the main lobby. After December 17, please contact Susan Griffin in the church office to get your boxed sets. *Monthly contributors will still receive envelopes through the mail and don't need to pick up weekly envelopes.*

## Grace Notes

**I want to encourage** each of you to attend an exceptionally unique and beautiful program, *An Appalachian Christmas*, this coming Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m. I am not sure you will hear anything quite like this in Winston-Salem this Christmas. We are expecting a full house with such a highly acclaimed guest musician as National Hammered Dulcimer Champion, Joshua Messick. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and Joshua Messick will begin playing pre-concert music at 6:45 p.m. Spread the word and invite your neighbors and friends to join us!

- David Fitzgerald

## Deacon of the Week



December 11 - 17

**Jay Crumpler**

Phone: 336-945-2064

## Weekend Call

December 16 - 17

**Gina Brock**

Phone: 336-970-9117



## Caroling For Our Neighbors

Wednesday, December 20; 5:30 p.m.

**Everyone is invited** to spread some Christmas cheer as we carol through the Ardmore community. *Children must be accompanied by an adult family member/parent.*

We will meet at the church, where we will record us singing on Facebook Live (5:35 p.m. - 5:40 p.m.), divide into groups, be given a route and caroling book, and head out. If you can't join us, watch us on Facebook; and tell your friends! There is no Fellowship Supper. After caroling in the neighborhood, we will return to the church to warm up with some hot chocolate.

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## Memorials & Honoraria

GLOBAL MISSIONS/LOTTIE  
MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING  
*In Memory of Cornelia Simmons*  
Sandra Appelbe  
*In Honor of the Adult 9, Coed 2*  
*Bible Study Teachers*  
Adult 9, Coed 2

KITCHEN FUND  
*In Honor of Esther and Kitchen Staff*  
Howard & Alcie Byars

SPECIAL MINISTRIES  
*In Honor of ABC Musicians and*  
*David Fitzgerald*  
Richard & Karen Cain

WORLD HUNGER-GAZA  
*In Honor of Debra Norris*  
Carol Polk

## Save The Date

### Chili Cook-off

Sunday, January 14; 6:00 p.m.

## For the Record

### December 10, 2017

Sunday Bible Study:		444
Morning Worship:	8:15AM	NA
	10:45AM	456

### Stewardship

Weekly Budget Needs	\$	35,220
Budget Receipts 12/10/17	\$	37,573
Needs-To-Date	\$	1,725,783
Receipts-To-Date	\$	1,753,977
Over/(Under)-To-Date	\$	30,547

## Christmas Eve

**Christmas Eve** falls on Sunday this year. We will have 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. services that morning. The Family Christmas Nativity will be at 4:00 p.m. (see article below) followed by our Christmas Eve Communion service at 5:00 p.m.

### Family Christmas Nativity

December 24; 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

**The children will present** the Christmas story with the help of all who attend as we worship together through song and hearing of the birth of Jesus. Any child wishing to be a part of the pageant should come to E104 (1<sup>st</sup> Grade Sunday Bible Study class) by 3:40 p.m. to be fitted with a costume. All ages of children are invited; even our littlest have something important to add to the story. If your child is in 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grade and would consider a speaking part (reading scripture they can practice in advance), please email Lee (Iritchie@ardmorebaptist.org).



Christmas Eve

## Marriage Enrichment Seminar

Sundays, January 7, 14, 21, and 28

4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Cost: \$40 per couple (includes workbook)

**If you are newly engaged, been married for decades, or are somewhere in between**, all couples need intentional time to refresh, revive, and recommit to their relationship. Ardmore Baptist Church wants to help you enrich your marriage for years to come. On the Sundays in January, local licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Kevin Hampton, will lead us through 7 Principles for Making Marriage Work. Our time together will be lighthearted and encouraging and help couples create stronger, happier, healthier relationships. *Sign up by Wednesday, January 3* by bringing \$40 to Janet Hellard in the church office. For more information, go to <https://tinyurl.com/yaapxf83>.