

THE CHALLENGE

Volume 61, Number 12, December 2024

LYNN GARDEN BAPTIST CHURCH

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Pastor: Rev. Rick Meade
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Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Carl Strickler

Student Minister: Andy Walters

Worship Leader: Kevin Odom

Ministry Assistant: Debbie Gilbert

Ministry Assistant: Renae Fletcher

Caretaker: Cathy Lane

Pianist: Steve Davis

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Rick Meade -revmeade@yahoo.com

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December

Ministry & Fellowship Opportunities

- 1-7 Lottie Moon International Mission
Emphasis Week Goal \$5,000.00
- 1 Deacons 5 pm, WMU 5 pm,
- 4 Men's Bible Study 8 am, JAM 5:30 pm,
Bible Study 6 pm, Business meeting
(Vote to send Budget to Church),
Choir 7 pm
- 5 JOY Concert 11:30 am, Brian
Burchfield
- 8 Church Vote on Budget am service
- 8 Student Christmas Service 6 pm,
Church Christmas party to follow
- 11 Men's Bible Study 8 am, JAM 5:30 pm,
Bible Study 6 pm, Choir 7 pm
- 14 Fellowship Hall Reserved
- 15 Angel Tree Gifts Due
- 15 Pack Homebound Bags 4 pm
- 18 Men's Bible Study 8 am, Bible Study
6 pm, Choir 7 pm
- 18 JAM Christmas party 5:30
to Jan 3 KSC Winter Break
- 22 Cantata am service
- 22 Student Ministry Movie Night (Best
Christmas Pageant Ever)
- 22 Christmas Caroling 5 pm, only
activity tonight
- 25 Christmas Office Closed
- 25 Christmas, Candlelight and Lord's
Supper Service 8 pm



Here is our
Vision in a Nutshell!

“Growing God’s Garden Together”

- **Glorify** Jesus Christ through worship
- **Grow** in a relationship with Jesus and other people
- **Give** of one’s time and resources by serving Jesus and His Church
- **Go** and reach out to others who need to experience the love of Jesus

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR:



Well, it’s beginning to look (and feel) a lot like Christmas! Christmas shopping, special events, family gatherings, getting Christmas cards ready to send, decorating the house (inside and outside)—the whole works have arrived. During this “happiest time of the year”, if we’re not careful, we can become irritated and frustrated. Even though we know our focus should be on celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, it’s so easy to get distracted by many things and forget to stay connected with, and focused on, the one thing that really matters.

In Luke 10:41-42, Jesus told Martha that she'd lost her focus on what matters most - spending time with the Lord. Martha was so bent on planning the perfect dinner party and completing her tasks; she was too distracted to take time to enjoy the company of Jesus. Her sister Mary chose to sit at the feet of Jesus and learn from Him.

Martha’s pursuit of perfection left her frustrated with her sister Mary’s lack of help to make things “just right.” When Martha voiced her irritation to Jesus, He gently reminded her that she was worried about things that didn’t matter in the big picture. *“But the Lord said to her, “My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it....”* (vv.41-42)

Jesus wasn’t bothered with how fancy dinner was, or how clean her kitchen was, or if she had a perfectly decorated home. What really mattered to Jesus was Martha spending time with Him.

Just as Martha took her focus away from Jesus, the same can happen to us very easily in the fast pace of the holidays. The key to a more enjoyable Christmas is to make sure you stop and look at your “to do” list. Is your list crammed full of what you think is important, or what God thinks is important? Are you worried and bothered about things that really don’t matter that much?

Despite what the world says, Jesus really is the reason for the season. Take time every day to get alone with Him. Read His Word and talk to Him from your heart. You will be amazed at how your stress level will be replaced with perfect peace as you keep Christ first and foremost in your Christmas.

Carolyn and I want to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas! I hope you are planning to join us in church this coming Sunday. Have a great week and let your light shine for Jesus this week!

Pastor Rick

WHEN THEY
SAW THE STAR,
THEY
Rejoiced.
MATTHEW 2:10



VAN MINISTRY

NEED A RIDE SUNDAY MORNING?

CALL OUR DRIVERS THE DAY
BEFORE YOU WANT TO COME:

The Bus is for people of all ages.

If you would like a ride on a Sunday morning, please call the driver by 5 pm on Saturday. We would love for you to join us and this ministry is for you.

1	Louis Trivette 429-7537
8	Joe Collier 276-2154
15	Roy Chapman 782-0246
22	Louis Trivette 429-7537
29	Joe Collier 276-2154

JOIN US AT THE MOVIES!

Sunday, December 22
Student Ministry Movie Night



COME TO THE PARTY!



Wednesday, December 18

J.A.M Christmas

Party

5:30 pm

A MESSAGE FROM ANDY:



*"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
Though you are little among the thousands of Judah,
Yet out of you shall come forth to Me
The One to be Ruler in Israel,
Whose goings forth are from of old,
From everlasting."
Micah 5:2*

I loved our Revival Sunday nights in November! My prayer for each of us going into December is that our hearts are prepared as a result of the revival to celebrate the birth of our Risen Savior, Jesus Christ.

One of the things I appreciated about having revival services on Sunday nights throughout November was the anticipation of the next service over the course of the week in between. As the week went on, I grew increasingly excited about our next revival service based on how God was working on me through the pastors' messages. In thinking about the anticipation of revival, I can't help but think about the anticipation that the people of the Old Testament experienced in awaiting the coming of The Messiah! Micah's prophecy above was written in the 700's B.C., as was Isaiah's prophecy in Isaiah 9:6:

*"For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."*

I found it hard to wait 7 days between revival services...can you imagine waiting 700 years in anticipation for Jesus' arrival???

Today, I'm more and more anticipating, and excited about, the Rapture of the Church and God's fulfillment of scripture we read in Revelation. But I, like the folks of Old Testament times, have to rely on and trust in God's perfect timing, and remember always that it is all made possible ONLY through Jesus Christ, born in that manger in Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago!

Excited to celebrate His birth with you this month, church family, as we continue to GROW GOD'S GARDEN TOGETHER!

Andy



Student Ministry @ Lynn Garden Baptist

Sunday Mornings @ 9:45 am

- Elementary Sunday School
 - Leaders: Debbie Strickler, Delores Osborne and Vicki Wallen
 - Location: 2nd Floor of Sanctuary Building
- Middle School, High School and Young Adults Sunday School
 - Andy Walters and Roy Chapman
 - Location: Youth Bible Study Room - 3rd Floor of Education Building.

Sunday Evenings @ 5:30 pm

- Everyone Meets Together @ 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall for Dinner!
- Elementary, Middle and High School and Young Adult Bible Study
 - Guys' Bible Study: Andy Walters
 - Location: 3rd Floor of Education Building. Youth Bible Study Room
 - Girls' Bible Study: Debbie Gilbert
 - Location: Parlor - Main Floor of the Sanctuary Building

Wednesday Evenings @ 5:30 pm

- Everyone Meets Together @ 5:30 in J.A.M. in Fellowship Hall for Dinner
- Elementary School Bible Study
 - Leaders: Debbie Gilbert and Melinda Henard
 - Location: Children's Church Room – 1st Floor of Education Building
- Middle School Bible Study
 - Leaders: Caroline Gilbert and Kevin Odom
 - Location: Youth Worship Room – 3rd Floor of the Education Building
- High School Bible Study
 - Leaders: Andy Walters and Roy Chapman
 - Location: Youth Bible Study Room – 3rd Floor of the Education Building
- Young Adults Bible Study
 - Leaders: Kristy Walters
 - J.A.M. Room – 2nd Floor of the Education Building

December Sunday
Morning Ministries



Deacon of the Week:

- 1 Randy Livesay
- 8 Kenny Lawson
- 15 Doug Clark
- 22 Freddie Puckett
- 29 David Hammonds

Greeters:

- 1 Kenny & Deborah Lawson
- 8 Freddie Puckett, David Murphy
- 15 Allen Rhoton, Frances Bates
- 22 Carolyn Meade,
Lois Ann Southard
- 29 Kenny & Deborah Lawson

Audio:

- 1 Michael Strickler
- 8 Michael Bush
- 15 Michael Strickler
- 22 Michael Bush
- 29 Michael Strickler

Power Point:

- 1 Michael Bush
- 8 TBA
- 15 Michael Bush
- 22 TBA
- 29 Michael Bush

Video:

- 1 David Hammonds
- 8 Doug Clark
- 15 Conner Collins
- 22 David Hammonds
- 29 Doug Clark

Nursery Workers:

- 1 Kim Trivette, Christine Chapman
- 8 Aliceson Collins, Nancy Byrd
- 15 Debbie Gilbert, Michelle Dingus
- 22 Anissa Barrett, Caroline Gilbert
- 29 Kim Trivette, Christine Chapman

Transportation:

- 1 Louis Trivette 429-7537
- 8 Joe Collier 276-2154
- 15 Roy Chapman 782-0246
- 22 Louis Trivette 429-7537
- 29 Joe Collier 276-2154

Children's Worship:

- 1&8 Debbie Gilbert, Linda Walters
- 15&22 Doug Clark, Dolores Osborne
- 29 Children remain in Sanctuary

Tellers:

- 1 Rhoton, Marshall, Vicars
- 8 Rhoton, Sparks, Lawson
- 15 Rhoton, Tittsworth, Vicars
- 22 Rhoton, Trent, Marshall
- 29 Rhoton, Lawson, Tittsworth

Ushers:

- 1 Gale Osborne
- 8 Kenny Lawson
- 15 Andy Walters
- 22 Gale Osborne
- 29 Kenny Lawson

Outside Morning Security:

- 1 Roy Chapman
- 8 Louis Trivette
- 15 David Hammonds
- 22 Allen Rhoton
- 29 Kenny Lawson



CARE HOUSE

OUTREACH MINISTRIES:

Our Community Outreach continues as we collect food for the neighborhood food bank. The current needs are toiletries, food items or monetary donations. They can purchase the food at a cheaper cost. Please place them in the collection area behind the choir loft or drop donations in the offering boxes.

WMU Happenings

Mission Focus Meetings

...will be held at the same time the deacon meetings are held.
Join us, Sunday, December 1, 2024 at 5 pm, in the parlor.

Brotherhood Happenings

Men's Bible Study

Every Wednesday morning at 8 am, In the fellowship hall. All men welcome!
Deacon's Meeting, Sunday, December 1, 2024 at 5 pm

October 2024 FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

Budget Need:	\$306,500.00
Budget Received:	\$256,715.04
Amount Under Need:	\$49,784.96
YTD Budget Received:	\$256,715.04
YTD Budget Expenses:	\$285,126.56
Receipts Under Expenses	\$28,411.52
YTD Designated Given:	\$65,723.48



ANGEL TREE

This year we are sponsoring 50 John F. Kennedy Elementary children for Angel Tree gifts. A tree was placed in the sanctuary with children's sizes and toy request. If you would like to sponsor a Project JFK Angel, just choose an angel and write your name on the list beside the tree, on the line that's number matches your angel's number. Gifts are due back to the church by Sunday, December 15th.



Our Goal for 2024 is \$5,000

DECORATE the Church

Join us

Saturday, November 30th
at 10 am as we get the church ready to celebrate Christmas! Some of our regular helpers are out with injuries so we really need volunteers to help make this happen, please!!



During the Christmas Season we love giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering! This year's goal is \$5,000. It has been our church's tradition to achieve each year's goal through personal, sacrificial giving along with other creative ways, including the Lottie Moon Post Office!

HOW IT WORKS:

Please bring any Christmas Cards that you would like for other church members to receive, and drop them off in the Lottie Moon Post Office boxes that will be located throughout the church. If you use the post office, we ask that you give your postage to Lottie Moon instead of buying stamps. All donations given to the Post Office will go to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Each week you will be able to come and check the Lottie Moon Mailbox to see if there is any Christmas mail for you! Please remember:

- Be sure to only bring cards for people who are currently attending and coming to services in person and our homebound members (We will deliver only homebound Christmas cards when we deliver their baskets). You can choose those people from a list of everyone with a mailbox, which will be available outside the church office in the middle of December. You can pick up a list of members outside the church offices on the table at that time.
- The mailboxes are located outside the fellowship hall. You will be able to access the Lottie Moon Post Office anytime, as well as on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. The Lottie Moon Post Office will be set up to give and receive Christmas Cards starting on December 27th through December 31st.



Student Christmas Celebration Service

December 8
at 6 pm

Come join our students of all ages celebrate Christmas with a Worship Service full of songs, a parody and a message.

Everyone is invited downstairs for our...

Christmas PARTY

Come to the fellowship hall immediately following our Student Christmas Celebration. Everyone is asked to bring appetizers or sweets for sharing (we might have guest so bring a little extra). We will be serving punch, water and coffee. There might even be a surprised visit from Santa!



December 22 at 5 pm



*Lynn Garden
Baptist Choir
December 22 at 11 am*

December 25
at 8 pm



CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE

and Lord's Supper

Help us celebrate Kevin Odom! 2024 marked 10 years as our Worship Leader!

