

CRABTREE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH



THE VALLEY ECHO

December 1, 2014

Please mail all correspondence to: P.O. Box 30954, Raleigh, NC 27622

Church location: 4408 Lead Mine Rd Raleigh, NC 27612 Phone: (919) 781-5345

Email: cvbc@crabtreevalleybaptist.org

Website: www.crabtreevalleybaptist.org

Facebook: Crabtree Valley Baptist Church

Twitter: CrabtreeBaptist



Soup & Scripture is back!

Dec 3 & 10 at 1:00pm

Invite your friends!

Come enjoy the warmth and fellowship as we share a meal (soup prepared by the Pastor) and study scripture.



Advent is a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the coming of the Lord, a celebration of Christmas. To help you prepare for this special time, we have Advent devotional booklets available in the narthex, please take one per family.



**SERVING MEALS
TO THE HOMELESS**

At the Shepherd's Table soup kitchen in downtown Raleigh on Friday, December 12th. Meet at CVBC at 9:45am sharp to carpool, we'll be at the soup kitchen from 10:15-12:15, returning around 12:45pm. Call or see Shirley Keener to participate 919-844-1987.



"Advent Blessings"

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name." Psalm 103:1

During Advent, I often sign my correspondence with "Advent Blessings" as compared to "Sincerely," "Yours Truly," or some other traditional ending. Over the time I've been doing this, my understanding of the word "blessing" and of what it means "to bless" has been broadened.

Have you ever wondered how we bless the Lord, as in Psalm 103? How can we (the creation) bless God (the Creator)? Doesn't that seem a little backwards? God blesses us, but what can we do to bless God? The Hebrew word that is used in this Psalm is the word "barak" (בָּרַךְ). This word means to bless, but also means "to kneel." When we bless the Lord, we are not passing blessings unto God. We are expressing how blessed God is, kneeling humbly before the Lord. In the Psalm, "Bless the Lord" could also be translated as "Adore the Lord with bended knees."

Around Thanksgiving, my friend Debra, who teaches religion classes at West Virginia Wesleyan College, had the following thought-provoking statement written as her Facebook status: *"Count your blessings" is pop-theology with a dubious connection to the Bible. In the Old Testament, "bless" is most commonly used as a liturgical exhortation, as in "Bless the Lord." In the New Testament, we are enjoined to bless those who curse or persecute us. We're not so much the recipients of blessings as we are those who bless God and bless others.*

My friend's statement reminds me of whom Jesus calls blessed. Jesus did not say blessed are those who have nice houses or drive BMW's or even those who have good health, loving marriages, or beautiful children (not that we shouldn't be thankful for these things). Jesus said those who are blessed are the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, and those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake. (Matthew 5:3-10)

My prayer for the Crabtree Valley Baptist Church family this Advent season and beyond is that we will bless the Lord (adore the Lord with bended knees), that we will bless others, and that we will consider whom it is that Jesus himself calls blessed.

Advent Blessings, Pastor Nola

P.S. One way we can bless the Lord is through song. Our Advent sermon series will be on the "Songs of Advent." Last Sunday we looked at "Mary's Song." We will also look at: "Zechariah's Song" (Luke 1:57-69), "John the Baptist's Song" (Luke 3:1-18), "The Angels' Song" (Luke 2:13-24) and "Simeon's Song" (Luke 2:22-35).

Church office contact information:

Pastor • Nola Boezeman pastor@crabtreevalleybaptist.org

Secretary • Peggy Utley cvbc@crabtreevalleybaptist.org

Office hours: Mon-Thurs, 9am-3pm

Music Minister • Christopher Reed music@crabtreevalleybaptist.org

Website updates/maintenance: webmaster@crabtreevalleybaptist.org

Weekly Church Calendar

EACH SUNDAY

- *9:45am Sunday School
- *11:00am Worship Service
- *Child care provided downstairs.
- 2:00-7:00pm Kenyan Fellowship

EACH MONDAY:

- 9:00am-12:00pm Hope Pantry is open
- 1:00-2:00pm Crafting with a Purpose

EACH TUESDAY:

- 6:00-8:00pm Kenyan Fellowship

EACH WEDNESDAY:

- 9:00am-12:00pm Hope Pantry is open
- 6:30pm Children and Youth Mission groups
- 7:00pm Bible study & Prayer
- 8:00pm Choir Practice

EACH THURSDAY:

- 8:00pm Gamblers Anonymous

EACH FRIDAY: 7:00-10:30pm Kenyan Fellowship

MONTHLY: (4th Thursday of each month)

- 6:00pm Young Hearts (Senior Adults)

Calendar of Events:

Wednesday, December 3

- 1:00pm Soup & Scripture

Thursday, December 4

- Young Hearts going to dinner and Meadow lights

Friday, December 5

- Church in use by Flower Committee for decorating.

Sunday, December 7 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

- Crabtree Cafe – Soup, sandwiches & dessert.

- Kids on Mission: Craft Sale for Lottie Moon Offering

Wednesday, December 10

- 6-8pm – Children's Christmas party

Saturday, December 13

- 11:00-3:00pm – Sanctuary in use by Chris Reed.

Sunday, December 14- 3rd Sunday of Advent

- 9:15 – Kids on Mission serving breakfast

Attendance 11/30

Sunday School	34
Visitors	2
Total	36

Worship Attendance: 53

Deacon for this week: 12/7 Barbara Best

Deacon for next week: 12/14 Walt Switzer

Greeter Schedule (front entrance)

12/7 Anne Jenkins 12/14 Youth group

Properties for December

David Jenkins

Ushers for December

Rudy Barden Ben Best
Ed Glover Frances Viano
Alternate: Whitt Stallings



This week: November 30-December 6: Lee & Iva Snyder

Next week: December 7-13: Pam and Rick Bilbro

PRAYER CONCERNS:

HOME:

Lee Snyder
Ed & Cassie Glover
Susan Carden – Frances Viano's daughter
Jean Greene
Pam Bilbro

REHAB & CARE FACILITIES:

Al Coley – Sunrise at North Hills – Room 286
Wilton Harris – Heritage Woods Ret. Comm. - Winston-Salem
Gerry Campbell - Arizona



WANTED - YOUTH WORKERS!

Due to work and other obligations, Chris & Elizabeth will need to cease their leadership with the youth activities later next year. Please contact Nola, Beth Jenkins or Steve Wheeler by December 15th if you have an interest in working with our Youth Ministry. Your life will be enriched as you help grow our young Christians.



Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Our church goal is \$1,800.00

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Global Missions Offering

Our church goal is \$500.00

Staff Love offering

Please join the Deacons in grateful appreciation of our church staff by contributing to the Staff Love offering to be collected through Sun. Dec. 21.

Please designate Lottie Moon, CBF, or Staff on your check and envelope.



The Young Hearts December meeting will be Thurs, Dec 4th

Make plans to join us for a trip to the Christmas Lights at Meadow, with a stop for dinner at the Meadow Village Restaurant at 6:30pm. Cost for the buffet dinner is \$12.45 (inc. drink & dessert). The bus will leave the church at 5pm. Please call Jean Glosson or the church to sign up.

ADVENT EVENTS



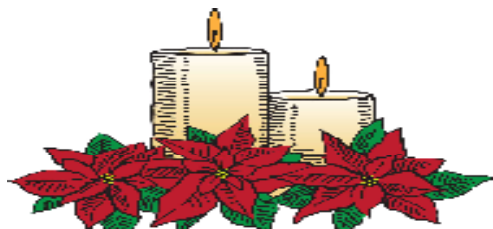
Children's Christmas Party **Wednesday, December 10th** **6:00-8:00pm**

Children's activities: making candy, cards, ornaments and gifts. There will also be a gift wrapping station where you can bring your gifts and let us help you wrap them! Also – a special visit and pictures with St. Nick! For questions or more information, call Cheryl Walker, 919-851-6976. Donations will go toward Missions.



Sunday, December 14 at 9:15am

The Kid's on Mission group will be serving light breakfast items and beverages before Sunday School to raise money for the Lottie Moon Christmas offering.



Service of Hope and Remembrance **Wednesday, December 17 at 7:00pm**

Not everyone feels like singing "Joy to the Word" in the month of December. Job loss, missing loved ones who are no longer with us, illnesses, and broken relationships can feel even more pronounced this time of year. This reflective service provides a sacred space to set aside the busyness of the season. It allows for time to remember and to be reminded of the hope for healing and reconciliation that we have in the coming of True Light that shines in darkness.



LESSONS & CAROLS

Sunday, December 21 at 7:00pm

Join us for an evening of worship as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Prayers and scripture readings will be interspersed with singing of Christmas carols, hymns, and choir music.



Christmas Eve at 5:00pm



The Lottie Moon Christmas card box is outside the church office for those who regularly attend worship services on Sunday mornings. In lieu of postage, please make a donation to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering and/or to the CBF Global Missions offering. Please mail all cards to those who can't attend on a regular basis, who have moved away, or are in Rehab or Nursing Homes.



POINSETTIA DONATIONS

We are accepting \$12.00 donations to the Flower fund to help with the cost of the Poinsettias that decorate our church for the Christmas season. If you would like to make a donation "in honor of" or "in memory of" a loved one, please use the form in the bulletin or mail it to the church (PO Box 30954, 27622) along with your donation information. A printed insert will be in the Dec 21 bulletin.