

CRABTREE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH



THE VALLEY ECHO

December 19, 2022

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

Church Office hours: Monday-Thursday 9am-3pm (closed on Friday)

PASTOR'S SCHEDULE

Pastor Johnny will not have office hours this week due to Saturday being Christmas Eve. If you need to speak with him, please call, text or email him at jkrich54@gmail.com.



Christmas Eve Service December 24 at 5:00pm

We hope you will join us for this special time of worship as we sing, meditate, have communion and see Christmas through the eyes of children. We will conclude the service with a time of candle lighting. This is always a beautiful service so please invite your family and make plans to attend.



We will not have Bible study on
Wednesday, Dec 21st and 28th.

Church office information:

Interim Pastor •

Rev. Johnny Richards

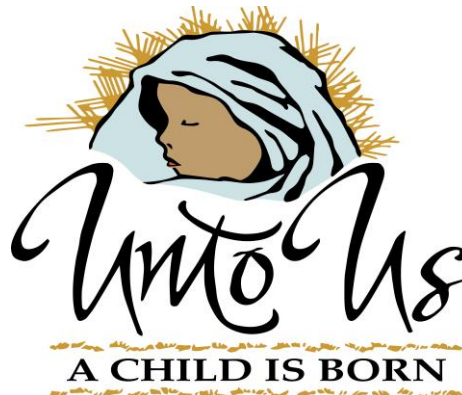
Music Director • Risa Poniros

Secretary • Peggy Utley

Youth Director • Anna Clark

Website updates/maintenance

webmaster@crabtreevalleybaptist.org



From the Pastor's Heart...

It's Christmas week. We have focused on the four gifts Jesus' birth brought to the earth. Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. For some, the hope is the most important part of the Christmas season as they look forward to family and friends gathering together. For others, peace is very much needed because of the way life has been. For some, joy is the greatest gift God sent because happiness can't

be found. However, joy is within their hearts. Others may experience the love of Christ and feel His presence. All of these are important. Neither is a small gift. But now what?

After we have focused on what Christ brought to the earth, what should we do until Christmas Day? I believe we should wait. You may think that sounds a little crazy because that really is not an option. We can't rush it. We can't make December 25th come before the 22nd. We have to wait. But waiting is more than just spending our days doing the same thing until Christmas. Waiting, to me, is focusing. Waiting, is praying. Waiting, is remembering.

Think about the two main women in the true Christmas story. There was Mary, and there was also Elizabeth. Did we forget her? I hope not because she was the mother of John the Baptist, the one who went before Christ telling people to "repent." The angel Gabriel was busy before Christmas as the angel told Zechariah and Elizabeth, who were up in years, they were going to have a son, and name him John. (Luke 1:13) If we read on in verse 24, Luke tells us Elizabeth spent five months in seclusion. I believe she was a little afraid of broadcasting her pregnancy until it actually happened. Some might have thought her crazy, given her age. But I believe something more important happened in her seclusion. Notice what she says in verse 25: **"In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people."** She spent time waiting and thanking God for what was about to happen. In this case, waiting meant a time to "praise God".

For Mary and Joseph, there was much to do before Jesus' birth. They had to travel to Bethlehem to be registered for the census. They had to find a place to stay, given Mary was tired from traveling and expecting the child. A lot had to happen in their waiting, but still the focus was on the Christ child. Joseph tried to get a room, but the inn was full. Thus, the stable. Then, Jesus was born. Shepherds came, magi visited, Jesus began to grow. In Mary and Joseph's time of waiting, there were things to do, but still they focused on the birth.

What about you this Christmas? This is the week before Christmas. What do you find yourself doing in the time of waiting? Do you have time to be still and thank God for this time? Or, are you busy getting things together for the week-end? Either one is fine, as long as you keep your focus on Christ. Until next week...

Peace and Blessings,
Johnny



Person of the Week for Dec 18-24

Mr. Charlie Capps
3325 Ashby Place Raleigh, NC 27604

Deacon for this week: 12/18 Sue Edwards

Deacon for next week: 12/25 Barbara Goodson

Properties for December: David Jenkins



Holiday Schedule **Wednesday, December 21 and December 28**

Open for Hope Pantry

Friday, December 23 – Tuesday, December 27

Office closed for Christmas

Please note:

There will not be a newsletter published the week after Christmas, December 26.

On Sunday, Christmas Day, we will not be having Sunday school, but we will be having our morning worship at 11:00am. What a great way to spend Christmas Day, worshipping with our church family. We hope to see everyone here!

JANUARY Birthdays

- 1/4 Ben Best
5009 Picardy Place 27612
- 1/4 Elizabeth Best
518 Matheson Place Cary, NC 27511
- 1/9 Cecil Brown
601 Beaver Dam Rd 27607
- 1/19 Anne Barden
Oak Hill Asst Living Suite 330
9767 NC 210 North Angier 27501
- 1/20 Lib Gordon
7130 Shellburne Dr 27612
- 1/25 Joanne Isenhour
5404 Farley Dr 27609
- 1/25 Yilong Wang
518 Matheson Place Cary, NC 27511
- 1/31 Peninah Landen
6083 S. Eagle St Centennial, CO 80016

Prayer Concerns:

HOME

Betsy Shaw
Frances Viano
Sandi Robinson
Walt Switzer
Jane Williams
Jetta Lewis
Marci Phelps – (friend of Jean Glosson)

REHAB & CARE FACILITIES:

Anne Barden – Oak Hill Asst Living in Angier
Catherine Mullins – Sunrise of Cary

OTHER:

Sonshine Person of the Week
The Price family – Missionaries in Wales



Lottie Moon and CBF Global Missions offerings

Lottie Moon goal is \$500 – rec'd to date: \$475.00

Global Missions goal is \$500 – rec'd to date: \$272.00

Make checks payable to CVBC – note LM or

Global on your check and/or envelope.

We will collect this offering through Sun, Dec 25.

The Deacons invite you to show your appreciation of our church staff. These gifts are given out at the Christmas Eve service. Rec'd to date: \$1,795.00

All 2022 contributions need to be received by Dec 25.



Retirement Luncheon for Pastor Johnny and Family Sunday January 1, 2023 following worship

Join us as we express our appreciation to Pastor Johnny for his time of ministry here with us. Please sign up in the lobby to bring your favorite cold salad. All food should be “ready to serve.” A ‘Retirement cake’ and beverages will be provided. Donations can be brought to the church on Sat, Dec 31 between 1:00-5:00pm, or on Sunday morning. We anticipate 40 people. Due to some who have food allergies, please include a note card listing the ingredients in your item. At the luncheon there will be a basket for cards and notes, and an opportunity to share your expressions of thanks.