

THE CHALLENGER 2024



Second Baptist Church 201 N. Houser St. Cherryville, NC 28021

A Word from Matt,

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, so often we are pulled in numerous directions. Parties, get-togethers, shopping, special services, and volunteer efforts, all seem to pull us in so many directions that this time of year can seem like a blur. In the process of "celebrating" Christmas, we often neglect to truly celebrate Christmas. The message of the coming of Jesus completely and totally changes our world. If we put our faith in Him, Jesus not only changes our eternal lives but also our earthly lives as well. As Christians, we need to intentionally take time to truly celebrate what this time of year is all about. We need to remember that Jesus' coming is not just a sweet scene but is God's definitive statement of love to us. You see, Jesus came not to stay as a baby, but to be the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Jesus came to give us hope when we were hopeless. He came to shine light into our darkness. Christmas ultimately leads us to the cross and to know what God's love for us costs. Christmas ultimately brings us to Easter and the victory of Jesus over death and the grave. Christmas ultimately reminds us that God takes our sin seriously, but He loves us too much to not give us the means of forgiveness in Jesus. As you gather this Christmas season with your family and loved ones, maybe you will spend some time singing Christmas Carols. And if you sing Christmas carols, you may find yourself singing "Joy to the World." If you find yourself singing this great hymn, think about this truth. When Isaac Watts penned the words "Joy to the World" in 1719, he did not intend it to be a Christmas song. In fact, he wrote it to reflect on the second coming of Jesus. In the same way, Christmas reminds us that while Jesus came once to bring salvation, He will return to bring final victory. He will come to bring about the desired end of history and He will wipe away every tear from our eyes and we will be with Him forever. While Christmas is a time of joy, it is occasionally a time of joy tinged with sadness. Let us look forward in hope that one day Christ will return and when He does, we will experience true and lasting fullness of Joy.



Joy to the world; the Lord is come;
Let Earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry Heart prepare him room,
And Heav'n and nature sing.
Joy to the Earth, the Savior reigns,
Let men their Songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy.
No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found.
He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love.

Dr. Matt Thomas



*In Honor and
Memory*

GENERAL FUND

In Memory of Randy Ford's Birthday
By: Joette Ford

GIDEON BIBLES

In Memory Dot Crotts Sister, Pat Carpenter
By: Bill & Kathy Black

In Memory of Judy Heavner's daughter Jana Crow
By: Second Baptist Church
By: Chris & Tammy Kiser
By: Vickie Walker



Second Baptist Church would like to extend our sympathy to:
Judy Heavner on the death of her daughter.....Jana Crowe



Christmas with SBC

December 1,
God's Little Messengers &
The Youth
Carols & Crafts at Carolina Care
1:15pm

December 15
Children's Christmas Play
6:00pm



December 22
Cantata
6:00pm



December 15
Youth Christmas Party
7:00pm

December 16
Christmas Caroling
Please bring pickups to share.
We will eat at 5:30pm and
leave at 6:15 for caroling.

December 8th at 6:00pm

Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest

Bring a pot of your favorite soup to share, wear an ugly Christmas Sweater and vote on who you think is wearing the ugliest. There is a sign-up sheet in the back hallway.



Second Baptist Church & Staff,

I would like to thank you immensely for your recent donation of clothes for the student at WB Beam. I am very grateful for your service and love towards the students of Cherryville and your larger community.

Best Wishes,
Chloe Collicnio (School Social Worker)

Dear SBC Family,

Carolyn and I want to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Church for their unwavering support throughout this year. You truly don't know how much your prayers and visits have meant to us. It's been a tough year, but Second Baptist has been our rock and source of strength. Its such a comfort to know that we're never alone in facing life's challenges. God has blessed us with so many people who have or have gone through the struggles of watching a loved one's health slowly decline. Through it all, I keep in mind what God promised; "I will never leave you or forsake you." And I can confidently say that He has never failed us, I want to thank Carolyn, my dearest friend who always reminds when I start to worry that God hasn't let us down so far, and He won't start now. Again, thank you Second Baptist for all the love and support you've shown us.

Kenny & Carolyn Smith

Dear Church Family,

Thank you to the following who helped cut up the tree that fell on the Wellington Side Parking lot. Bobby Wilson, Donnie Schronce, Elizabeth & Mason Black.

Pastor Matt



If you have a gift for someone in the church you may give it to them personally during the month of December. We will not have a church wide gift giving.



Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Ways you can give to Lottie Moon:

Hang an ornament in Memory or Honor of someone you love. Fill out the form on the communion table and return it to the drop box with \$3/ornament.

Men and Women Bucket Challenge

The one with the most money gets a meal served by the other team.

Lottie Moon Christmas Change

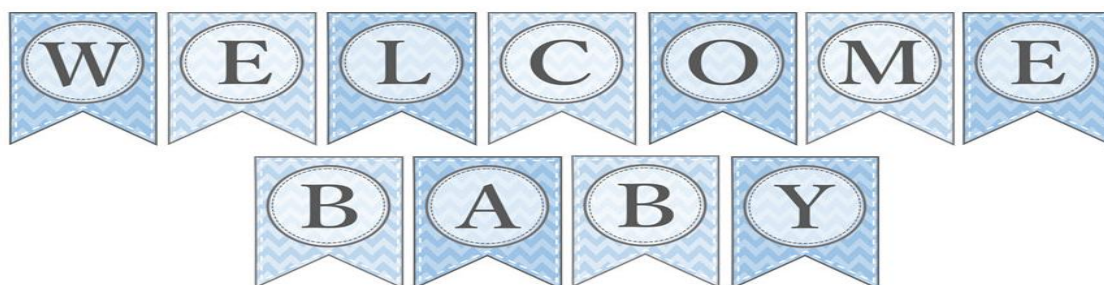
Adults and children can bring a bag filled with change and lay it in the Manger on December 22.

Christmas Cards

Do not mail your cards to people at the church, bring them and place on the table and put the money you would spend on stamps in an envelope marked "Lottie Moon" and place the envelope in the drop box. A Christmas card list is provided for those actively attending and our shut in's.

"L" Dollars

Place your dollars that have an L on them in the wooden urn on the stage.



Congratulations to Megan Collins & Chris Burris on the birth of their daughter *Lily Collins*. She was born November 3, weighing 6 lbs., 11oz. The proud grandparents are Melissa & Richard Collins.

Congratulations to Dola & Jimmy Willis on the birth of their great-granddaughter. *Willow-Jai Mira Present* was born Nov. 14th. She weighed 8 lbs. 3oz. and was 20-1/2" long. Willow-Jai's parents are Dixie Rose & Ethan Present and grandparents are Jan & Malory Miller.

There will be no Wednesday night service on December 25th.
The office will be closed, December 25 and 26th.

