



Do you know the story? Sure, you know the basic outlines, but just how well do you know it really? Do you know it through the eyes of the people who experienced it? Which story, you ask? Well, maybe you don't ask that at all since this is the December newsletter. But just so we're clear: I'm talking about the Christmas story. It's the crown jewel of the Christmas season...at least it is according to Linus, and he was a pretty wise young man.

Technically speaking, though, we aren't actually in the Christmas season at all. The retail industry has some folks convinced us the Christmas season starts sometime in mid-August, but do you know when the actual start date is? Believe it or not, it doesn't actually start until December 25th. According to the traditional church calendar, we are in the season of Advent—thus the Advent wreath and the lighting of the Advent candles each week. The season of Advent is about preparing for the coming of Christ—both into the world and into our lives. For we who live on this side of the cross, the coming for which we are preparing is not His first—although we rightly celebrate that one with joy and gladness. We are to be preparing for His second coming, the time when all wrongs will be made right and we will receive at long last the reward for our faithfulness.

Still, in celebrating the coming that was, we can find some pointers to a number of different truths which, if applied intentionally, will put us in a better place to celebrate His return with the same joy and gladness. With that in mind, this month in a series simply called, The Christmas Story, we are going to take a fresh look at this famous story, but through the eyes of the people who lived it. We'll do this with the help of some...special guests. That's all I'll say for now, but you won't want to miss the next few weeks.

While I have you, can we just celebrate together how exciting it has been to see the Holy Spirit moving and working in our midst of late? Whether through the new faces of families connecting with this incredible community, experiencing the joy of seeing people both young and old growing in their relationship with Christ, or rejoicing as our people are empowered to reach out to expand His kingdom, we are growing more each day into the body of Christ our heavenly Father designed us to be. I hope, like me, you've felt it in our worship times of late. I hope you've resonated with it as we fellowship at the Gathering Place each week. I hope you've experienced it in your Sunday school group (which is another good reason to get in one if you aren't already!). I hope you've noticed how the community is picking up on it when we take the Gospel there both in word and in deed. The Spirit is moving.

The Spirit is moving and we're going to celebrate it. In fact, go ahead and mark your calendars for Sunday, *January 12*. That morning will be our second annual

Celebrate Sunday. You will absolutely not want to miss the party that day as we glorify our faithful God for all He has done, is doing, and yet has in store for us.

We are becoming the church He made us to be. I can't wait to experience with you the joy of what He has ahead of us. What's coming—the Advent ahead of us—is going to be grand. Let's start the celebrating now. Merry Christmas!

Pastor Jonathan



Why Sing?

The second scripture verse under the topic of "Why Sing?" is from Psalm 105:1-2ESV. When we sing, we are helping unbelievers. "*Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; tell of all His wondrous works!*"

I encourage you to participate in all the services of worship and especially the music services during the Christmas season. Pray about inviting the unchurched to come and worship with you.

Merry Christmas! Much Joy! Dana B. Jenkins



COMMUNICATION



How do we as humans communicate? When we think of this topic of communication, we usually think of the words we speak toward each other. This topic has always intrigued me. It is what I studied in my undergraduate degree and something I read about often. But as of a few days ago, life has forced me to rethink the issue in a way that literally took my breath away. As a lot of you know already, the student lock-in this past weekend had one casualty, my voice. I went to sleep the night afterward feeling okay, but the next morning for church, I woke up with a vivid case of laryngitis. I then came to church wondering how in the world I was going to do announcements and teach children's church. Luckily, there were awesome people like my wife Marisa and Pastor Jonathan who were able to cover for me.

But after we went home after church, I began to think about the implications of this ailment plaguing me. I am, by craft, a pastor. A pastor, by craft, makes his living by using his mouth to communicate God's Word to the church. I then wondered how in the next few days I would talk to people in the daily responsibilities of ministry. After working through that idea personally, a more profound thought hit me. What if this condition became permanent? How would I then minister without a voice? What would I do? Marisa eventually quelled these fears with logical rationale, something I was not exhibiting at the time. But my mind continued to wander to those whose condition is permanent: those who are deaf or mute and do not communicate vocally. I thought of Ephesians 4:29 which states *"Let no corrupt talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up."* How can someone who cannot talk follow this verse, and what does this idea have to do with us who have fully-functioning voice boxes?

You see, in our communication as humans, only 15% of it is verbal; 85% of the communication we encounter is non-verbal communication. From body language, to written word, to how we say a word, even all the way down to how close we stand to a person, how we smell, or what type of accent we have, all these things are non-verbal communication. We make inferences and derive messages from each. So then, with this in mind, does Ephesians 4:29 only apply to the 15% of our communication? That is, to that which is verbal? Another verse might give us some clarity. Psalm 19:14 says *"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer."* You see the connection between these two ideas of the heart and the mouth. Just like verbal communication, non-verbal communication is connected to our hearts as much as verbal is. This is something to consider if 85% of our communication is non-verbal. The challenge then becomes as Christians, is our walk, aka non-verbal actions, matching what we are saying, aka our verbal actions? Do we use sarcasm in our tone more often than not? Is our body posture

one that communicates judgement rather than love? Do the ways we intentionally walk past someone without even recognizing them give off the vibe of haughtiness? The list could go on and on. And even all these could be up for interpretation if they are sinful or not. But what is the standard to measure the, by? What causes evil or good in both verbal and non-verbal communication? The heart. And only you and God can see yours.

So, from a person who lately has been forced to focus more on the non-verbal side of communication, take a moment and ask yourself: How's your communication? Verbal AND Non-verbal? Is it filled with love flowing from a redeemed heart? Is there something that you could confess to God and ask for help with?

Communication, the way we convey ideas to one another, will always be valuable to God, both verbal and nonverbal; both what we say and how we say it; walking the walk and talking the talk.

Nate

CHURCH VOLUNTEERS		
	Greeters	Nursery/Children's Church
Dec 1	Sue Greene - Sunday School Bonnie Lee - Worship	Lisa & Tracy Lowder April Tucker, Meredith Broadway
8	Doug & Sheila Hinson - Sunday School Jim & Cheryl Cameron - Worship	Cheryl Cameron, Sheila Hinson Lisa Waits, Angelina Smith
15	Jeff Chance - Sunday School Mary Nelms - Worship	Marilyn Huneycutt, Matt & Melanie Hudson/Sandra Chance, Julie Poplin
22	Danny & Julie Poplin - Sunday School Harold & Louise Floyd - Worship	Ashley Morton, Sandra Chance Marisa & Nate Gisson
29	Bobby & Renée Watkins - Sunday School Doris Hatley - Worship	Angelina Smith FAMILY WORSHIP
Jan 5	Eddie & Linda Arrowood - Sunday School Thomas & Ellen Meadors - Worship	April & Sophie Tucker

Date	Deacon of the Week	Stewardship
Dec 1	Matt Hudson	Betty Huneycutt
8	Tracy Lowder	Kevin Floyd
15	Thomas Meadors	
22	Shea Morton	Usher
29	Danny Poplin	Jeff Bowers
Jan 5	Nick Wadkins	



Poinsettia Dedications

While we don't have all the information, we will again be placing poinsettias in honor or in memory of loved ones during Christmas. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin boards for your convenience. Once we are given the price, that information as well as the deadline will be published in the bulletin. Money may be turned in through the offering in an envelope marked "poinsettia."

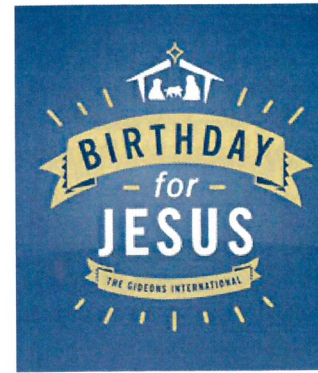
Boxed Offering Envelopes

Beginning **December 8**, the Stewardship Committee and office will be distributing your boxed sets of weekly offering envelopes. If you do not receive one by the end of December, please call or email the church office. **Reminder:** only the envelopes are forwarded to Delinda in the office, so they should be completed with your name and/or envelope number AND the amount enclosed. If this information isn't present, then your contribution statement at year-end will be incomplete.

A number of people are participating in our online giving, which you may reach by going to our website at www.fbcoakboro.org, clicking on this link  and following the prompts.

Our Record of Giving

Budget Goals – November	24,399.72
Budget Receipts – November	23,642.00
Budget Goals – YTD	79,299.09
Budget Receipts - YTD	95,381.93
Budget Variance	+16,082.84
<i>Special Offerings</i>	
Building Fund	1,328.00
Wednesday Meals	500.75
NC Baptist Children's Homes	605.00
Kids' Camp	412.00
Youth Donations	213.38
Operation Christmas Child Postage	120.00
Lottie Moon Offering	75.00
Brotherhood	360.00
Choir	100.00




Once again, our children's choir will be wishing "Happy Birthday to Jesus" on **December 8** at 6:00 p.m. with a very special musical "Angels Say What?" Beginning that night and continuing through Christmas, the children will be honoring Jesus with the very special gift of Gideon Bibles for Jesus for boys and girls in 201 countries worldwide. A display with a "Birthday for Jesus" tree will be set up in the fellowship hall. Please help the children to give as many Bibles as possible by 1) placing an offering of any amount in one of the donation envelopes that are under the tree, 2) placing the envelope in the donation box, 3) taking one of the gift ornaments and placing it on the tree itself, and 4) taking one of the ornaments home to put on your Christmas tree as a reminder to pray for whomever receives the Bibles you have donated. Last year, a total of 166 Bibles were provided for children around the world through this effort. *"And the word was made flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the father, full of grace and truth."* John 1:16

Thanks, Doug Hinson and Harold Floyd, The Gideons International

WEST STANLY PLAYERS
presents

The Southern-Fried Yuletide Comedy!

CHRISTMAS BELLES



a jones hope wooten comedy

Friday	December 6	7:00 pm
Saturday	December 7	7:00 pm
Sunday	December 8	2:30 pm

\$5 in Advance For tickets
\$7 at the Door Call: 704-791-3200

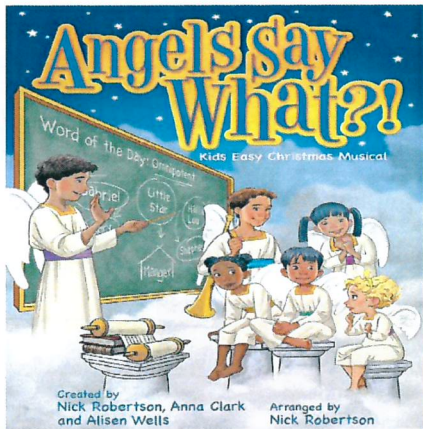
WEST STANLY PLAYERS THEATRE

HOPE Fellowship Happenings



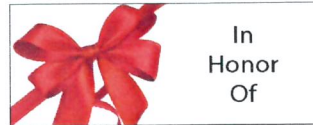
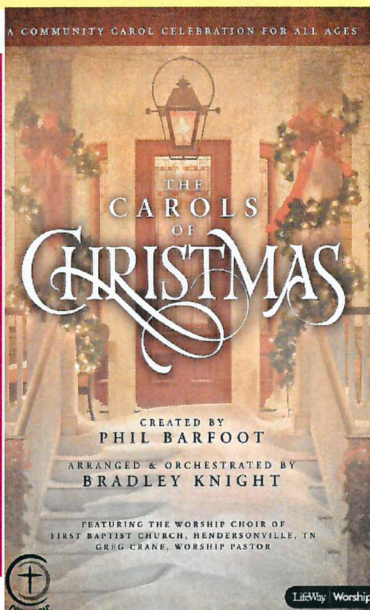
Come along **December 12**, leaving the church at 9:00 a.m., as we go to the outlets at the Yellow Mall in Gaffney, SC. We plan to do some Christmas shopping and tentatively will stop by McAdenville on the way back to see their Christmas lights.

On **January 14**, meet us at Outfitters in Locust at 11:30 a.m. for lunch. Again, anyone who is available is welcome to join us. In February, we plan to do the soup luncheon in our fellowship building, inviting those in the community to fellowship with us.



Children's Choir will present this musical Sunday night, **December 8, 2019** at **6:00 p.m.** in the fellowship building. All are welcome! Following the musical, there will be pizza and "Happy Birthday, Jesus!" cake for everyone!

The Handbell Choir will present Christmas prelude music, then the Worship Choir will present their musical Sunday, **December 15, 2019** at **6:00 p.m.** A Christmas reception for everyone will follow!



In Honor Of

In honor of **Lorrie Hatley, Chip Alsobrooks, Harold Floyd, Bobby Watkins**, the Worship Choir made donations to the Building Fund.

In honor of **Harold & Louise Floyd's 59th wedding anniversary**, a contribution was given to the Building Fund by Kevin, Erica, Hunter and Shelby.

A donation was given to the Choir by Mae Brooks in honor of **Dana Jenkins**.



Thank you, Coach Morton



December 1st – 31st 2019
Stanly Commons

