



Manly Memorial Baptist Church
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 540-463-4181

BIBLE STUDY FLOATERS
 December 2nd—Loretta Ballard
 December 9th—Barbara Heckman
 December 16th—Loretta Ballard
 December 23rd—Barbara Heckman
 December 30th - Loretta Ballard

HALL WATCH
 December 2nd—Jimmy Crowder
 December 9th—Mike Bozeman
 December 16th—Gary Judy
 December 23rd—Bucky Joyce
 December 30th - Patsy Paxton

OFFERTORY PRAYER
 December 2nd—Roger Williamson
 December 9th—Clyde Keen
 December 16th—Brenda Grose
 December 23rd—Sherry Miller
 December 30th - Mike Bozeman

BIBLE STUDY NURSERY SCHEDULE
 December 2nd—Robyn Sherman & Sherry Baucom
 December 9th—Cathy Wranek & Bobbie Canfield
 December 16th—Debbie Fox & Beverly Shotwell
 December 23rd—Molly Kay Moore & Barbara Cash
 December 30th - Sandy O'Connell & Bobbie Canfield

WORSHIP SERVICE NURSERY SCHEDULE
 December 2nd—Cathy Wranek & Deborah Caylor
 December 9th—Patsy Williamson & Wendy Higgins
 December 16th—Sharon Martin & Rosanna Garcia
 December 23rd—Linda Bond & Will Wranek
 December 30th - Linda Carter & Brenda Grose



- 1st Sandra O'Connell
- 5th Sue Seaman
Noah Campbell
Gladys Cauley Crist
- 10th Lee Higgins
- 15th David Campbell
Janice Oyler
- 17th Brian Kave
Jennifer Fuller - Spears
- 22nd Don Heckman
Nick Oyler
- 23rd Roger Williamson
- 24th Maxine Smiley
- 25th Rick Cruze
- 28th Vickie Kave
- 29th Jeannie VanNess
- 30th Addison Moore
Beth Lollis
- 31st Ursula Rochelle



21st Ronnie & Sherry Miller

Celebrating a birthday or anniversary? Share it with us!

OUT OF MY MIND

If this year is like previous ones, someone will soon ask me “Are you ready for Christmas?” Usually when people ask that question, they’re wondering if all the usual preparations of the season have been checked off my “to do” list. Are the outside lights and inside decorations up? Have we set up our tree? Have Christmas cards been addressed and mailed? Have I finished shopping for presents and wrapping them? Have the traditional holiday cookies and other deserts been prepared? The question “Are you ready for Christmas” is really asking whether you’re at that point where you feel that you can finally relax and enjoy the season.

This year though, let me suggest a different application to that traditional question. Whenever anyone asks “Are you ready for Christmas”, ask yourself: “Am I spiritually ready for Christmas?” That gives a different, and important, focus to the question. Are you really ready to “come and adore him”? Too often we spend so much of our energy focusing on the outward tasks of Christmas, that we are left too exhausted to actually worship the Christ.

Since the 4th century A.D. the church has used the season of Advent, the four weeks before Christmas, as a time of spiritual preparation and reflection. As a counter-balance to all the demands our culture places on us in preparing to celebrate Christmas, this year I urge you to use this time of Advent prepare your soul to worship the Christ. To help you do that you might want to take time to: read some of the daily scripture readings in this newsletter in a different Bible translation than you normally use; or read/sing a different Christmas carol each day and think about the meaning of the words; or read a book of devotions for Advent and Christmas, or focus on a different title for Christ each week as you pray (Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, etc.) The point is to refuse to give into the hectic, demanding rush to get things ready for Christmas, and instead focus on getting yourself ready to worship the Christ.

If someone asked me today “Are you ready for Christmas?” my honest answer would be “Not yet, but with God’s help I will be soon.” May the Lord help you get ready too.

Your Pastor,
Mike



December 5th
 Brian Kave & Friends
 (Chili, corn bread and dessert)

December 12th
 Patsy Paxton & Friends
 (Kenny’s chicken, hash brown casserole, mixed vegetables, waldorf salad & dessert)

December 19th
 Lannie & Loretta Ballard
 (Ham steaks with pineapple, sweet potato casserole, green bean casserole, pear/peach salad, rolls and dessert)

December 26th
NO MEAL



Cake & Casserole Ministry

The Cake & Casserole Ministry will meet Saturday, **December 8th at 9:00** am. Please join us!



The annual Deacon-Staff Christmas Party will be held **Sunday, December 9th, 5:00 pm** at Dale & Alysan Raymond’s home (1945 Fredericksburg Road, Rockbridge Baths).



Thanks to all who filled shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse! We had **120** boxes (**71** from Manly)! Special thanks to Lib Bowyer for all her work wrapping the boxes and to Gary Judy for delivering them!

Thanks to all who filled **41** hygiene bags for Fluvanna Women's Correctional Center!

Thanks to everyone who donated money and food & those that helped serve **87** people on Thanksgiving Day!

Thanks to everyone who filled goody bags for VMI & W&L students during exams!

Your generosity and love shine brightly in Lexington and throughout our state and world!!!!

Our December projects include sponsoring a Honduran child and participating in the Western State Christmas gift program for patients.



Our week of prayer for International Missions is **December 2nd thru 9th**. Remember, as you give to our goal of **\$2,500** you can chose which Baptist Missionaries and Mission projects you wish to support. You may give to the Alma Hunt Offering of Virginia Baptists which helps fund the International Mission Projects which Virginia Baptists sponsor, the Global Missions Offering of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship or the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering of the Southern Baptist Convention. Your gifts to any of these will be added to help us reach our International Missions Offering goal. Please prayerfully consider what you can give to spread God's word to the lost!

Children's Christmas Cookie Outreach



On **Saturday, December 8th at 11:30 am** children will enjoy lunch before baking & decorating cookies to deliver to home bound members. Each child is asked to bring their favorite cookie dough (rolled or precut) to share.



As we prepare for this Christmas season, may I suggest that we consider specific ways to honor God. Along with all the family gatherings, shopping, baking, and traditions, perhaps we can also include some random acts of kindness – ways to show God's love to others by doing something in God's name. Is there someone who could use a phone call, a note, a lunch, during December? Someone who has weathered a loss, or is just lonesome, or just needs a bit of encouragement? We have done several worthy events this year as a church family, and I thank you for your willingness to volunteer to make each of these events happen. Let's use December to do more personal, one-on-one activities that honor the birth of Christ! ~ *Alysan Raymond*



There are many ways to contribute to the MMBC Endowment Fund. You may have recently made a donation during our Endowment Fund Month or you may have made a donation earlier this year to the Beverly Saunders Children's Fund. If you did, thank you very much! Other ways to contribute include making memorial gifts designated for the Endowment Fund and making a donation to the MMBC Endowment Fund as a bequest in your will. You might wish to discuss bequests with your financial or legal advisor. For the Endowment Fund, every gift counts, and no gift is too small to help the church show God's love to others. ~ *Linda Hooks*



Join us for lunch and fellowship on **Thursday, December 6th, 12:30 pm**, at **Pink Cadillac**. Please **RSVP with Patsy Williamson (910-214-1106) by Monday, December 3rd**.



The Meador-Steele Handbell Choir will be ringing during the worship service on **Sunday, December 2nd** and **Monday, December 24th**.



During the worship service on **Sunday, December 9th**, children and youth will be presenting our Christmas Musical "Jesus Means Christmas to Me" with song, narration, dramatization and liturgical dance. Join us to celebrate the everlasting gift of hope and joy that Jesus brings!



On **Sunday, December 16th at 11:00 am**, the Adult Choir will lead in worship with a special Christmas cantata, Christmas Presence: A Gathering of Hope, Peace, and Love, by Pepper Choplin. In this hour you will experience the presence of God and learn how God wants us to have His Presence with us always so we can share it with those around us. Plan now to come to this very special service!



It has been a Manly tradition to gather with family and friends on Christmas Eve for a service of carols and special music. We hope you will join us on **Monday, December 24th at 5:00 pm**.

Please let Pastor Mike Wilkins or the church office (463-4181 or office@manlybaptist.com) know if your family would like to sing a Christmas hymn!



Sunday, December 2nd 4:30 pm
Christmas Musical Rehearsal

Monday, December 3rd 4:00 pm
Youth Outreach at the Roanoke Rescue Mission

Saturday, December 8th 10:00 am
Christmas Musical Rehearsal

Saturday, December 15th 9:00 am
Youth Outreach (Packing Christmas Boxes @ VHC)

Sunday, December 16th 5:00 pm
Christmas Party (Bring dish to share and \$5 gift)

Monday, December 24th 5:00 pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (Sanctuary)

Monday, December 31st 7:00 pm
New Year's Eve Celebration (Robbie & Molly Kay's Home)



"Christmas Break" Bible Study
Christmas is the most magical time of year, except when it isn't –when nothing looks like the Christmas we see in commercials, movies, and even our friends' families. In this series, we will discover that, even when Christmas doesn't live up to our expectations, because of Jesus, we still have a reason to celebrate!

Sunday, December 2nd 9:45 am
"You Can Celebrate, Even When Things Don't Feel Great!" with Molly Kay Moore

Sunday, December 16th 9:45 am
"God Loves Who You Are, As You Are!" with John Wranek

"Phones" Bible Study
We are constantly on our phones. But is that really a bad thing? While our phones have done a lot of things to make our lives better and easier, we all also know that some of the ways our phones have impacted our lives aren't all that great. It is not so much about our phones, but about the wisdom we have to use them in the right way that makes all the difference!

Sunday, December 23rd 9:45 am
Breakfast & Bible Study at Niko's
"Don't Be Owned By Your Phone!" with Thomas Smals

"Following Jesus Can Make Your Life Better" Bible Study
Boring. No fun. Mad. Serious. Disappointed. Unhappy. For many of us, those are words we would use to describe God. And when we see Him this way, it can make wanting to follow Him really hard to do. But what if we're missing the mark? What Jesus really wants for us when we follow Him is way better than we think!

Sunday, December 30th 9:45 am
"Following Jesus Can Make Your Life Better!" with Molly Kay