

Iotla Baptist Church
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Knowing God
Growing in
relationship to Him
Going into the world
in His name and with
his message
Showing others how
they can do the same.

PRAYER LIST

Church Members

Teresa Ammons
Hugh & Gaye Blaine
Ron Bohlender
Linda Evans
Kay Guy
Charlie Leatherman
Pauline Luke
Simeon & Shirley Martin

Marcelle Shuler

Crystal Stamey

Barbara Wilson

Janis Wilson

Family and Friends

Francis Dewitt

Leonard & Betty Halman

Brandon Ledford

Dixie Mason

Margie Moss

Tommy Nicholson

C.J. Norris

June Sorrells

Doug Tallent

Jeff Tate

Erin B.

Cade and Lanie

IOTLA

BAPTIST CHURCH

Here to Serve

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CHRISTMAS COMMITTEE UPDATES

It's that time again when our committee is busy working to help fill the needs of those in our community. I wanted to update you on some dates and things that are taking place:

December 1st - Christmas tree will go up in the vestibule with tags that have items that you may purchase for the children that we are serving. These will be due back to the church by December 12th!

December 7th - Christmas Committee shopping trip to Walmart.

December 15th - 5:30 pm - Christmas dinner and fellowship with our Holiday families. We will be having Christmas dinner beginning at 5:30 pm for our families. A traditional Christmas dinner will be served with ham, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, sweet potatoes casserole, rolls and a dessert. (this meal will be for our Christmas families and volunteers), After dinner the children will hear the Christmas story and do a craft while their parents/guardians pick up the gifts and get them wrapped.

Iotla/Burningtown Fire Department

A few children and adults representing IBC delivered a cookie tray and basket of fruit to the Iotla/Burningtown Fire Department. We just wanted to show our appreciation for their service to the community and to tell them *Thank You*.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are anticipating the return of Sunday School with the beginning of the new year. Winter quarter begins the first Sunday in December with the study of Ezekiel and Daniel. You may pick up personal study guides in the office if you want to get a *jump start!*

We will need volunteers to help with the following:

- ◆ *Decorating*
- ◆ *Food preparation*
- ◆ *Wrapping packages*
- ◆ *The Bible Story and craft*
- ◆ *Assisting families with parking and carrying gifts to their cars.*

We also have baskets in the vestibule and downstairs for food collection. All items received will be distributed to the families. You can bring items up until Sunday, December 12th.

As always if you know of anyone in our church family that has a need during this season please contact me at 828-371-1868. We want to meet the needs of those within our church family.

Tammy Dills

Christmas Committee Chairperson

TOGETHER, WE TRANSFORM LIVES THROUGH PRAYER

We are entering the season of giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. IMB missionaries offer help and hope to people all over the world. If God is calling you to go, then go. God is calling you to send. You send by praying for those who go and by giving to support the missionaries. Please be in prayer for your part in the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

God's work through Prayers:

- ◆ *Missionaries both stateside and overseas.*
- ◆ *Pray for ones who are suffering this season with illness, loss of loved ones, homeless and destitute.*
- ◆ *Pray for our government leaders.*
- ◆ *Pray that we will make our \$4000 church wide goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas offering.*

Message from Pastor Brandon

As I write this article, another Thanksgiving has come and gone. I hope that yours was a good one. Now it's that time of year when folks start to "get into the Christmas spirit," as we say. What does it look like for you to be "in the Christmas spirit"?

One of the things that marks that shift at our house is the placement and decoration of the Christmas tree. In fact, our tree is already in place and decorated. It stands dutifully and beautifully (Nancy does a great job decorating it each year; my job is to carry the boxes of ornaments up from storage and hang whatever goes on top of the tree) in the corner of the living room as a reminder of the season that's upon us.

The Bible talks about a Christmas Spirit, if you will, that helps to tune our hearts to the joys of the celebration of Christmas each year. He has nothing to do with Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," and He's more than a tradition; He's a part of the triune God who is the author of Christmas. He is the Holy Spirit. Think about it; the Holy Spirit is the real "Christmas Spirit".

It was the person of the Holy Spirit who led the prophet Isaiah to proclaim, 6-700 years

before Jesus came into the world in the little town of Bethlehem, *"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."* Not only did the Holy Spirit proclaim the coming Messiah, He was actually present and active at the conception of Jesus in Mary's womb. Luke 1:35 tells us that when the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary to announce the coming of the Christ-child through her womb, he said to her *"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the Holy One to be born will be called the Son of God."* If we are Christians through placing our faith in Jesus to save us then the same Holy Spirit is alive in us and guides our hearts to make much of the Christmas miracle, too. For example, Luke 2 tells of a righteous man named Simeon who was awaiting the birth of the Messiah. When Joseph and Mary came to present Jesus in the temple shortly after His birth, this Simeon worshipped, being led to do so by the Holy Spirit. It reads like this *"And it had been revealed to him (Simeon) by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God ..."*

You see, to be walking by the (Holy) Spirit is to be in the Christmas spirit. He was present and active at the very first Christmas, He proclaimed its coming hundreds of years before it came to pass and He's still proclaiming the joy of Christmas in the hearts of His people today. Are you walking in the Christmas Spirit?

For His glory: Pastor Brandon



Operation Christmas Child

Your boxes are on their way to the processing center in Atlanta and soon on their way to children all over the world. We collected 85 boxes this year. Each box not only carries goodies and special little gifts to each child but it carries the gospel to the children and their parents.

JOY Group

Members of the IBC JOY Group visited the W. C. Recue Ministries in Asheville on November 18th with a bus load of clothing, blankets and linens.



Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing.
Come adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
—James Chadwick

Let's Celebrate !

ANNIVERSARIES

- ◆ JACK & GLORIA ZIMMERMAN 12/06
- ◆ TOM & PAT BENNETT 12/07
- ◆ SAM & LISA SANGREGORY 12/12
- ◆ HUGH & GAYE BLAINE 12/15
- ◆ JIM & SUE HEDDEN 12/24
- ◆ WAYNE & BARBARA LYNCH 12/28

BIRTHDAYS

- ◆ DEBBIE SHULER 12/03
- ◆ MARGARET WILLOUGHBY 12/05
- ◆ NANCY KRAG 12.09
- ◆ CHARLIE LEATHERMAN 12/09
- ◆ STEVE NORTON 12/12

- ◆ SARAH STAMEY 12/14
- ◆ CONNIE WALTON 12/14
- ◆ BENNIE SANDERS 12/18
- ◆ PAT SMITH 12/20
- ◆ DAVID PANGLE 12/23
- ◆ RICHIE ROWLAND 12/26
- ◆ BEVERLY PENLAND 12/27
- ◆ JOHN TIPPETT 12/27
- ◆ ALIVIA CLOUSE 12/29
- ◆ TAMMY DILLS 12/31
- ◆ SAM SANGREGORY 12/31
- ◆ GENEVA SHULER 12/31