

The BETHLEHEM CHALLENGE

6103 Appomattox Road, P.O. Box 56, Climax, NC 27233

Office 336 674-0155, Fax 336 674-0157



"A PASTOR'S VIEW"

"In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was

with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" Luke 2:8-14

We live in a difficult world. As I write this article the recent news of the shooting tragedy in Pleasant Garden is still unfolding. It may very well be that we never know the entire story about all the events. While it usually seems these events happen elsewhere it reminds us that tragedy can come to anyone at any time and any place.

Not only are we struck by the closeness of this event, everyday the news is filled with similar stories from all over the state, country and even the world. If it isn't an event like this, it is another story of a natural disaster, or tragic human conditions from some place far away.

When people hear these types of stories, they can't help but ask the question, "Where is this Christ child that was to bring peace to the world?"

When Jesus was born, he too was born into a world that was tragic. That is precisely the reason he came. God wanted to remind us that we were not forgotten or alone. That when struggles of life came our way we didn't have to face them alone. Jesus coming into the world didn't change our world from a human standpoint. He didn't say that tragedy would never come or that we would be kept safe from the evil in the world.

He said that he would be with us. Emmanuel means "God with us." That is the good news of the birth of Jesus, God is with us." The God we worship isn't some god that watches from a distance, but came to be involved in our lives. A God that got his hands dirty and became involved in humanity.

In this Christmas season, with all that we see in the world, know that you are not alone. The true peace comes not from outside events or the world around us, but from the presence of the Christ child in our lives.

Merry Christmas,

A.C.

December 2011

Editor: Kathy Mitchell



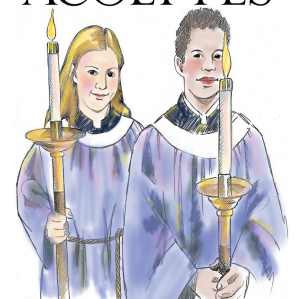
December Ushers

**Bud Lauder
David Fields
Barry Norris
Glenn Getner
Joe Garrett**

Acolytes

12/4	Joy Massarelli Leah Fields
12/11	Clark Hinshaw Will Rivers
12/18	Ally Fields Mario Massarelli
12/25	Mario Massarelli Clark Hinshaw

ACOLYTES



Celebrate DECember Birthdays



- 1st Jane Aleen Barbee
- 2nd Barbara McClintock
- 3rd Jeanna Bates, Carrie Royal
- 4th Kyle James Campbell, Rebecca Thomas
- 5th Gene Flinchum, Ryan Goad
- 7th Michelle Clawson, Pam Greeson, Jeff Routh, Virgil Thomas
- 8th Laura Pipe, Tara Leonard
- 9th Benjamin Bowden, Cory Fields, Luke Hinshaw
- 10th Sarah Faucette, Wanda Ingold
- 11th Erin Edwards, Dawn Ingold, Charles Wells
- 12th A.C. Brock, Frances Canter, Kalyn Garrett, Shannon May
- 13th Wayne Alley, Pam Cox, Ken Curtis, Karon Monnett, Nathanael Shoffner
- 14th Adam Jones
- 15th Jerry Berry, Nikki Going, Jerry Monnett
- 16th Laurie Ann Oliver, Clem Royal
- 17th Macy Bowman, Nelle Haywood, Jane Chamelin
- 18th Doris Hockett
- 19th Grant Allen, Tammy Brock, Donna Herr, Tommy Kirkman, Eric Adams
- 20th Heather Bowman
- 21st Kimberly Dunham, David Fields, Bill Stokes
- 23rd Leigh Garrett, Mike Hammond
- 24th Todd Hughes, Sarah Kearns, Kelly Humble
- 25th Zachary Pipe
- 26th Amber Cook, Cindy Franklin, Leah Fields, Toni Smith, Tonya Waugh
- 27th Joy Cranfill
- 28th Logan Royal, Beth Wray, Cynthia Duncan
- 29th Marjorie Mabe
- 30th Sara Macdonald, Andrew Coward
- 31st David Allen, Rachel Cox, Alan Fields



Stewardship Report

Budget Results for October 2011

\$101,478.94	Total Money Available October 1, 2011
+ 44,437.82	Money Received in October
- <u>39,916.42</u>	Money Spent in October
\$106,000.34	Total Money Available Oct 31, 2011

During the month of October we received \$4,521.40 more money than we spent.

Major Maintenance & Repair Fund Results October 2011

\$13,774.97	Total Money Available October 1, 2011
+ .00	Money Received in October
+ 1.76	Interest Earned
\$13,776.73	Total Money Available October 31, 2011

Frank Willis, Stewardship Ministry Chair

Thank You to the Bethlehem UMC Crop Walk Team.....

We raised \$1201 to fight world hunger. Our walkers were...

Lorrie Roth, Mario & Joy Massarelli, Krimson Gunter, Brittany & Dawn Ingold, Gail & Jeffrey Welker, Kaye Fry, Susan Coward, Lore Lambert, Emily Robb, Jonathan King, Madison & Stephanie Nance, Alex Garrett, Luke & Daniel Hinshaw, Susan & Austin Jones, Cody & Angie Routh.

Thank you for all the support our church gave to make this successful !!



Upcoming Meeting/Event Reminders

- December 1** Missions Team 6:30 pm
Cub Scouts 7:00 pm
Trustees 7:30 pm
- December 3** Youth—Charlotte 1:30 pm
- December 4** Called Church Council Meeting 7:00 pm
- December 5** Wesley UMW 6:00 pm
Joint UMW 6:00 pm
Child Care Board 6:30 pm
- December 6** Backyard Grille Breakfast Club 8:00 am
Girl Scouts 6:00 pm
Women in Christ 7:00 pm
Boy Scouts 7:00 pm
- December 7** Women of Faith 6:45 pm
Zumba 7:30 pm
- December 8** Cub Scouts 7:00 pm
- December 10** Youth –Loaves & Fishes 8:15 am
- December 11** Christmas Cantata 6:00 pm
- December 13** Friendly Club 10:30 am
Evangelism 6:30 pm
Boy Scouts 7:00 pm
Women in Christ 7:00 pm

Upcoming Meeting/Event Reminders

- December 14** **Women of Faith 6:45 pm**
Grief Support Group 7:00 pm
- December 15** **Cub Scouts 7:00 pm**
- December 16** **Youth Christmas Party 6:30 pm**
- December 17** **K-5 Youth Group Party 4:30 pm**
- December 18** **Children's Christmas Play 6:00 pm**
- December 19** **Building Fundraising 7:00 pm**
Zumba 7:00 pm
- December 20** **Girl Scouts 6:00 pm**
Women in Christ 7:00 pm
Boy Scouts 7:00 pm
- December 22** **Cub Scouts 7:00 pm**
- December 24** **Candlelight Service 6:00 pm**
- December 27** **Boy Scouts 7:00 pm**
Women in Christ 7:00 pm
- December 29** **Cub Scouts 7:00 pm**
- December 31** **Youth-Potter's House 5:30 pm**
All night lock in at church afterwards

Can you imagine what your life would be like if Jesus had never been born? Can you imagine what the world would be like if Jesus had never been born? Can you imagine what your life would be like if you had not heard about Jesus; the baby born to an unwed mother, in a stable far from home; who grew up to be a teacher (rabbi) who died and rose again?

Many of us have grown up in the church. We have heard the "Christmas Story" countless times. For those of us who have believed in Jesus most, if not all, of our life that's hard to picture in our minds—a world; our world without Jesus. But remember there are scores of folk around us who don't know about God's gift of a Savior that is available to them. How can we share this story with them this Advent season?

As Christians we are called to live lives that are a reflection of Jesus Christ. How can we live lives that are different from those around us in this world that is filled with people without Christ in their heart?

Advent, this time leading up to Christmas gives those of us who believe opportunities to share Christ that we may not have the rest of the year. We go shopping more often so we encounter the stranger more. As we stand in the checkout line (you know the line wraps around the store) we have an opportunity to be cheerful, gracious, thoughtful and kind. In that line, we can ask, questions like, "How does your family celebrate the holiday?" or "Do you attend a church?" We can invite family, friends and neighbors to the worship with us. This season provides us with many "nonthreatening" opportunities to expose others to Jesus through things like the children's play (and remember Santa comes for a visit after the play), the cantata, and even the Christmas Eve service.

Thank you God for sending your Son, Jesus, who is born to give us hope through the gift of relationship with God. Let's remember to share the love of Christ and good news of the birth of our Savior, Jesus the Christ, at every opportunity.

Peace, Kaye

Zumba Classes at Bethlehem



**Tuesday Night
Women's Bible Study**
Tuesday
Evenings
@ 7:00 pm
PLEASE JOIN US!



The Evangelism Committee meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. We invite any member of this church who is interested in promoting church growth to come join us. All ages are encouraged to come and participate. Any questions, please contact the church office at 674-0155.

**Church Schedule For
Opening & Closing**

8:30

10:55

Byron & Phyllis Dahl



Opening/Closing Schedule

Veterans

The list of veterans buried at Bethlehem is being updated. Call Phil Smith at 685-4323 or the church office at 674-0155 to verify that we have the correct information. A veteran is entitled to a foot stone with name, rank, & branch of service, but paperwork is required to verify service.

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you so very much for your help with collecting shoe boxes in our Relay Center this year! Your participation with making shoe boxes and collecting them is just one of the ways that Christ works in and through Bethlehem UMC.

Church Council Meeting

There is a called Church Council Meeting on Sunday, December 4th at 7:00 pm in the fellowship hall.

Zumba

No Zumba on Dec. 5th. We will have Zumba on Dec. 7 at 7:30 that week.
No Zumba on Dec. 12
(none that week at all)
Zumba on 12/19 last class until after Christmas

**Breakfast Club – Meet at
Backyard Grille @8:00 a.m. the first
Tuesday of every month!
See you there!**

Adult Fellowship Class

The Lord's Light Within

Lord we reflect with thankful hearts
On the wonder of your birth
The love you expressed when you left
Your glory to come to earth

For your life was like a beacon, Lord
Shining brightly in the night
Filling the world with the radiance of
The Father's glorious light

And we, too, long to have inside
Your light for others to see
The beautiful reflection of your grace
And the wonder of your majesty

For as your life indwells our hearts
We can shine wherever we are
And arise to take hold of each new day
With your light ablaze in our hearts

So rekindle the flame within us Lord
So it will not flicker nor dim
Ignite us with the light of your love
So you will shine brightly within

© By M.S.Lowndes ~ 2007

Arlene Stokes UMW Circle

Christmas Projects

You are invited to participate in area mission Christmas projects sponsored by the Arlene Stokes UMW Circle.

In lieu of Salvation Army Stockings this year, place **children's hats, gloves, toboggans, scarves** on the Christmas Tree in the narthex. Around the base of the tree place these school supplies: **white & colored paper, colored markers, Elmer's Glue Sticks, tissues and non-Clorox wipes**. All these items will be distributed to area elementary schools with an emphasis on Level Cross Elementary.

Clapp's Nursing Center Angels are available in the narthex. Select an angel and indicate your name, phone, and email on the sheet by the resident number you chose. Gifts are to be UNWRAPPED in a gift bag with the "angel tag/number" attached.

All these items should be in place by Sunday, December 18th so they can be delivered to Clapp's and schools before the Christmas holiday.

Fundraising Announcements by Martha Oakes

Current Fundraising:

A few cut-outs of the current church facility are still available. See Becky Windsor or Betsy Hockett to purchase one for \$20.

Plans are being made for the birthday celebration for all members of the Birthday Club. The tentative date is for February, 2012. Donate \$1.00 for each year of your age during the month of your birthday to join. Special envelopes are available throughout the church building. Even if your birthday month has slipped by, you can still join until December 31, 2011. Don't miss this chance for good food and a fun time.

The Festival of Tables is scheduled for January 21.

News:

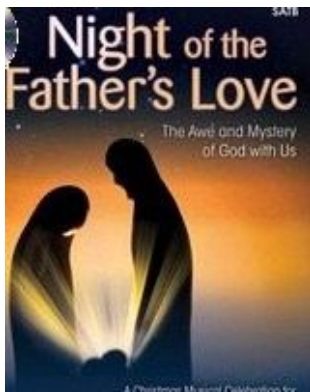
The balance on the Building Fund mortgage is \$213,298.26 after the November payment. Please consider joining the Building Fundraising Committee which meets on the 3rd Monday night of each month at 7:00.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



One of the most time-honored traditions at Bethlehem is the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. There is something special about gathering in the sanctuary, singing hymns, hearing the Christmas story, celebrating communion and then ending the service outside that is very moving. The service will be December 24 at 6:00pm. We look forward to seeing you at this meaningful service as we celebrate the birth of the Christ child.

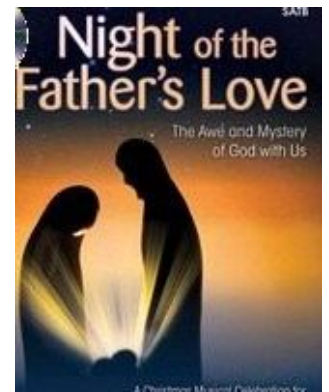


Christmas Cantata

December 11, 2011

6:00 p.m.

Night of the Father's Love



A Christmas Cantata written by

Pepper Choplin

Presented by The Chancel Choir & Children of Bethlehem UMC

Come and join us for a night of good music and fellowship.

There will be a reception following the presentation.

Inmates' Christmas Dinner: The Inmates' Christmas Dinner at **Randolph Correctional** will be held **Wednesday, December 14**. This year we will again be asking for your time and generosity making side dishes and desserts to serve at this event that means so much to the men residing there.

This year we have been asked to make **seven** side dishes of **each** of the following: **stuffing, green bean casserole, candied sweet potato casserole, and macaroni and cheese**. These side dishes need to be made in large (turkey roasting pan size) foil pans. Bethlehem church has also been asked to make **twelve desserts**, such as sheet cakes, pies, persimmons pudding and cobblers. Large foil pans are also requested for the desserts, such as 9 x 12 cake pans and deep-dish pie plates. Sign up sheets will circulate soon!

All donations need to be at Fellowship Hall by 3:00 p.m. on the 14th. Please mark them "CRC" for the Community Resource Council.

Operation Christmas Child: 947 shoeboxes were brought to the Bethlehem Church Relay Center to fill cartons that will be shipped to children throughout the world to share the love of Christ through the work of the **Samaritan's Purse**. 94 of these boxes were from BUMC from individuals and groups. Many thanks to all who filled boxes, donated money, bought items to pack, and gave their time to help pack the shoeboxes and fill the shipping cartons. It was truly awesome to see the cartons stacked in our conference room and to think about what their impact might be. Please pray for all the children who will receive these shoeboxes.

Greensboro Urban Ministry: The Missions Team is again selling **Honor Cards** painted by local artist William Mangum. These Christmas cards will be available until December 15 from any member of the Missions Team for a cost of \$5.00. All card purchases are tax deductible. All proceeds from the Honor Cards go to help people who are struggling to meet basic needs, such as the homeless.

In October Bethlehem Church set a record for itself in donating **84** pounds of food at the beginning of the month, and **47** pounds at the end. Please keep up these generous donations since food is constantly needed by so many in the Greensboro area.

Men's Homeless Shelter: The Men's Homeless Shelter will again be provided at the Pleasant Garden Baptist Church from December 1, 2011 through March 31, 2012. Thanks to all who have signed up to purchase and/or deliver food. **Our day for providing breakfast will be on Thursdays, so we need to have everything delivered before 5:00 p.m. on Wednesdays.** A master schedule of who will deliver food on which dates will be available soon. If you have any questions please contact Missions Team Chair, April Wreath, 674-5209.

Rapid Deployment Kits: The Missions Team **Veterans' Day collection** to purchase Rapid Deployment Kits for U.S. came to \$114.25. The kit consists of a New Testament Bible that include Psalms and Proverbs, a daily devotional,, and a booklet that clearly shares the Gospel. Your donations will allow us to purchase 35 kits to send our troops.

Thank you so much for helping to spread the Word!

Flood Buckets: Your generous donations for **UMCOR flood buckets** amounted to \$878.00. The Missions Team has already purchased supplies to fill the buckets we have on hand, and will start the process of filling them for shipment early in 2012.

Thanks to the outreach efforts of Bethlehem Church many locally and around the world will experience the true meaning of Christmas. May God bless you for all your good works!

Festival of Tables

The Festival of Tables will be held on January 21st. The cost is \$12 a ticket. Viewing tables will begin at 5:30 pm with dinner at 6:30 pm. If you want to host a table or have any questions, contact Tracy Alley at 339-0443, Jackie Smith at 685-4323, or the church office at 674-0155.

The Child Care Board Meeting is December 5th at 6:30 pm. For more information about Bethlehem Child Care contact Jackie Smith, Director @674-9879.



Bethlehem Childcare

Friendly Club - Joyce King

The Friendly Club will meet Tuesday, December 13th at 10:30.

Program: Dirty Santa—Bring \$2.00 gifts

Program followed by covered dish. Please come & join us for fun & fellowship!

Christmas Card Post Office

The youth will again be sponsoring a church-wide post office in the conference room starting on Sunday, December 4 and ending on Sunday, December 25. Keep in mind that due to Christmas being on Sunday this year, it would be best to have your cards out at the church prior to Dec. 25 if at all possible as we may not be able to get them sorted in time to give out on the 25th. We look forward to performing this service for you again this year!

YOUTH GROUP

Sat. Dec. 3 - There are 15 slots that are filled - those signed up need to be at the church at 1:30pm and will return at around midnight. Participants need to bring money for supper.

Sat. December 10 - Youth will go serve at Loaves and Fishes - leave church at 8:15am and serve 9-11am. Will be back at church at 12 pm.

Fri. December 16 - Christmas Party at Bill and Kim's house - 6:30-10 pm - Please bring a "white elephant" gift (a "used" item in your house that you don't use any longer - nothing gross please - or anything that you think someone else may like). Then, we can exchange with each other at the party.

Sat., Dec. 31 - Leave church at 5:00 pm to go to Potter's house to serve the homeless. Lock in at church to follow to bring in the New Year!!!

This year is off to a great start! We have many new members this year and welcome each and every one. We continue to have lessons on Courage. We have also participated in the CROP walk as well as served at the Potter's House. We have many exciting service projects this month. In January, we will continue our lessons on Courage and go on our ski trip. We have many other awesome things planned for the rest of next year so come and join us!!

Facilities Usage

If any group or person(s), not supported or sponsored by the church, uses the Fellowship Hall or Church for financial benefit/profit, make a donation to defray the additional cost of utilities.

Thank you! Trustees

Girl Scouts

The Girl Scouts had a food and clothing drive. The girls donated 145 canned foods to the church for the Food Pantry. They donated 30 large bags of clothing to Goodwill and 200 toothbrushes and 10 large bags of food to the Center for Working Families at GTCC High Point Campus. Great job Girls!



Boo Bash

Thanks to Jackie and the Day Care for sponsoring the Boo Bash again this year. Thanks to everyone who helped in making the Boo Bash such a huge success again this year with 285 hot dogs served! It was a great event for the community!



Words of Appreciation

A simple act of kindness
has a beauty all its own
thank you for all the
cards, calls and visits
during Ernie's surgery
and recovery.

Ernie, Alan + Kathy
Wilkinson

Words cannot begin to express what we
feel for you as individuals & as a church.
Our time at Bethlehem has been
enlightening, educational, inspirational,
thought provoking, entertaining,
musical, worshipful, & wonderful.
And, that is because of you.

Jim & Valerie Thornton

Here's our new address: James and
Valerie Thornton, 192 Edmonson Lane,
Cedar Creek, Texas 78612.

My e-mail: valerie.thornton@yahoo.com

Thank you church family
for helping make our
50th Anniversary Celebration
a memorable event.

Love,

Leo + Doris



Poinsettias for Christmas!

We invite you to provide Poinsettias to adorn our sanctuary on
December 18th! Flowers can be ordered through the Church
office and the cost is \$13.50.

If ordering Poinsettias through the Church office:

*Please complete this form

*Enclose check (payable to Bethlehem UMC or cash in offering envelope & write your name & Poinsettia on the outside

*Place in offering plate, church secretary box, or bring to the Church
office

***Deadline for ordering is Tuesday, December 6th.** If you have any questions, please call Kathy at
the Church office 674-0155.

Donor _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

In Memory of Bill Garrett

given by:
Kelly, Wendi, & family
Gene & Vickie Flinchum

In Memory of Max Rees

given by:
Gene & Vickie Flinchum

In Memory of Robbie Monnett

given by:
Mom & Dad
Bob & Margaret Hackett
Bette Weatherly

In Memory of Mabel Allred

given by:
Bob & Margaret Hackett

In Memory of A.C. Weatherly

given by:
Bette Weatherly

In Memory of Gary Bowman

given by:
Mom & Dad

In Memory of John Bowman

given by:
Mom & Dad

In Memory of Larry Bowman

given by:
Mom & Dad

In Memory of Myrtle Ingold McClintock

given by:
Arnold & Joyce Ingold

In Memory of Harmon Moser

given by:
Thomas & Janice Garrett



In Honor of Leo & Doris Kirkman

given by:
Dave & Martha Oakes
Ruby Hockett
Wallace & Betsy Hockett
Betty Kirkman
Raeford & Carol Fields
Buddy & Judy Fields

In Honor of Fred Cook

given by:
Buddy & Judy Fields

In Honor of Sarah Hinshaw

given by:
Dave & Martha Oakes
Buddy & Judy Fields
Bette Weatherly
Jerry & Karon Monnett
Shirley Hackett
Bob & Margaret Hackett
Ruby Hockett

In Honor of A.C. Brock & family

given by:
John & Nancy Kivett

In Honor of Kaye Fry & family

given by:
John & Nancy Kivett

In Honor of John & Nancy Kivett

given by:
Amy & Bruce Litton & children

In Honor of Mildred Moser

given by:
Thomas & Janice Garrett



BETHLEHEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CALENDAR

December 2011



6103 Appomattox Road, P.O. Box 56, Climax, NC 27233 www.bethlehemumc.org
 Phone: 336-674-0155 Fax: 336-674-0157 E-mail: beth2@bellsouth.net



				1 Missions 6:30 pm Trustees 7:30 pm Cub Scouts 7 pm	2	3 Cantata Rehearsal 10am Youth-Charlotte 1:30 pm
4 Called Church Council Meeting 7 pm	5 Wesley UMW 6:00 pm Child Care 6:30 pm Joint UMW 6:00 pm	6 Backyard Grille 8 am Girl Scouts 6:00 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm Women in Christ 7 pm	7 Women of Faith 6:45 pm Zumba 7:30 pm	8 Cub Scouts 7 pm	9	10 Choir Dress Rehearsal 10 am Youth-8:15
11 Christmas Cantata 6:00 PM	12	13 Friendly Club 10:30 am Women in Christ 7 pm Evangalism 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm	14 Women of Faith 6:45 pm Grief Support Group 7 pm	15 Cub Scouts 7:00 pm	16 Youth Christmas Party 6:30 pm	17 K-5 Youth Group & Choir Christmas Party 4:30 pm
18 Christmas Play 6:00 pm	19 Building Fundraising 7 pm Zumba 7:00 pm	20 Girl Scouts 6 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm Women in Christ 7 pm	21	22 Cub Scouts 7 pm	23	24 Candlelight Service 6:00 pm
25 Christmas Service 11:00 am	26	27 Boy Scouts 7 pm Women in Christ 7 pm	28	29 Cub Scouts 7 pm	30	31 Youth-Potter's House 5:30 pm Lock-in after at church

BETHLEHEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
P.O. BOX 56
CLIMAX, NC 27233

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Web Site: www.bethlehemumc.org



CHILDREN'S CHURCH

GREETERS

	8:50 Worship	10:55 Worship	8:50 Worship	10:55 Worship
Dec 4	Communion	Communion	Sandie Harris & Zoe	Ritchie & Melanie Robb Emily & Parker
Dec 11	Kim Regan	Jana Fields	Jerry & Karon Monnett	David Fields & Will Rivers
Dec 18	Abbey Windsor	Melanie Robb	Norma Arrington	Jim & Joyce King
Dec 25	Tracey Adams	Krista Neelley		Sid & Haley Fields



If you need information updated, something put in the bulletin, to inform us about someone in the hospital, upcoming surgeries, or a newsletter, contact the church office at 674-0155.