

# THE VOICE

December 2024  
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ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH  
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Antioch is going  
**PAPERLESS**

**Beginning January 2025**

**THIS will be the last paper edition of the “The Voice”**

**ACTION REQUIRED:** If you would like to continue to receive your copy via email, please send your request to the email address above, to get added to a “SPECIAL Newsletter” email group.

If you **DO NOT** have email and would like a special mailing call the church office.

If you are currently receiving an electronic version ~ **NO ACTION IS REQUIRED.**

*Copies will be available monthly in the Welcome Center.*

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT:**

**LOVE GOD. EXALT CHRIST. SEEK HIS WILL. SERVE HIS PURPOSE.**

## A Message From The Pastor:

“It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year”

So proclaims one favorite song as it describes the coming of this Christmas season. Already, preparations have begun. Soon, offices will close, parking lots will empty, and highways will be filled with families headed home for the holidays. But what about those whose hopes and plans just can’t measure up? Those recovering from the devastation of Hurricane Helene with its loss of possessions, vanished homes or even missing family members. Those languishing in hospitals or nursing homes. Those serving the country in faraway places. Or simply alone.

It can be a depressing time of year when your dreams have no chance of coming true. If you ever find yourself in that situation (and most of us will at some point), take heart. You aren’t alone. Sometimes we look for more in a holiday than was ever there to begin with. Sometimes we expect festivities to give us what only God can. Our aloneness might even offer us the opportunity to rediscover the real meaning of Christmas. Sometimes our emptiness can lead us not just to the baby in a manger, but to the Lord of our life as well. And if we are fortunate enough to have each other, I remember the words of a former commanding officer of the USS FRANK CABLE who once advised, *“Treasure each other; everything else is just stuff.”*

Christmas of 1944 was also lonely for many. Chaplain Robert Costner (the father of two of my college classmates) was “somewhere in England” with the 486<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group. His words, in a letter to soldiers that Christmas season, are as relevant today as in that world nearly a century away:

*“The real meaning of Christmas is given in the announcement of the angels to the shepherds: “Fear not, for I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people; for unto you is born this day in the city of David a savior, which is Christ the Lord. How harshly and out of tune does that Bethlehem chorus of ‘Peace on earth, goodwill to men’ seem today. And yet it is no more out of tune today than when it was first uttered. ...*

*“The babe born in Bethlehem that night has given to the world an ideal... which will not let us rest until, by the grace of God, we have achieved it.... Let us rededicate ourselves to the cause of Him who first set the world to hoping for peace and righteousness and love. ... We have seen Him with the eyes of faith. Let us arise and follow after Him.”*

May it be so. And may each of you have a blessed Christmas. – Pastor Dave



# December 2024 Antioch Calendar of Events



*YouTube Channel: Antioch Baptist Church Chapel Hill ~ 11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship Services*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1  "Sunday lunch"	2	3  Women's Bible Study 9:00 a.m.	4  6:00 p.m. Supper 7:00 p.m. Missions Journey Kids, Youth, Adult Bible Study 8:00 p.m. Choir	5	6	7  B&G Leaf Raking Event 9:00 a.m.
8  "Angel Tree" gifts are due  "Sunday lunch"  6:00 PM Business mtg	9	10  Women's Bible study 9:00 a.m.	11  6:00 p.m. Supper 7:00 p.m. Christmas Card Campaign 8:00 p.m. Choir	12  Outing to the Temple Theater 10:30 a.m. (Lunch & Play) Outreach Comm. Mtg 7:00 p.m.	13  Newsletter articles due	14  B&G Rain Date Leaf Raking Event 9:00 a.m. (FHR) "Parents' Nite Out" 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.
15  Christmas Cantata 11:00 a.m. "GOD'S GREAT LOVE"  "Sunday lunch" (FHR) 1-5	16  (FHR) ENTIRE DAY  6:30 Deacon's Dinner	17  Women's Bible Study 9:00 a.m.	18  RSVP for Christmas meal due 6:00 p.m. Supper 7:00 p.m. Missions Journey Kids, Youth, Adult Bible Study	19	20	21  (FHR) 11:00—3:00 Private Event
22  "Sunday lunch"	23  7:00 p.m. Budget & Finance Comm. mtg.	24  <b>Christmas Eve Communion Service &amp; Family Meal</b>  Meal: 5:30 p.m. Service: 7:00 p.m.	25  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  	26  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  (FHR) PRIVATE EVENT ENTIRE DAY  RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE MEAL	27  6:00 - 10:00 p.m. Youth Friday Night (FHR)	28
29  "Sunday lunch"	30	31	<p><b>Outreach Sponsored: "Parents' Nite Out"</b>            December 14th / 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. (FH)            Dinner provided!            Ages: 2 yrs. to grade 5/6            Register At: <a href="http://www.abccommunity.com">www.abccommunity.com</a>            Let us entertain the kids while you take time to reconnect and recharge.</p>			



# News and Opportunities



## OUR MISSION PROJECTS THIS MONTH:

If you would be willing  
to assist, please contact  
Robin Farrell

(919) 323-2528, call or text.

e-mail: [rpf0321@hotmail.com](mailto:rpf0321@hotmail.com)

You may also call the church office at  
(919) 929-2230.

**Lottie Moon Christmas Offering---** The 2024 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering theme is "the Great Pursuit". This theme reflects the idea that missionaries are part of a global effort to share the Gospel with those whom have not yet heard it.

### THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT LOTTIE MOON:

- 1—Lottie was born in Virginia on December 12, 1840.
- 2—Her name was Charlotte Diggers Moon, but everyone called her "Lottie".
- 3--She stood a very tall 4'9".
- 4—Lottie loved to pull pranks on others.
- 5—Lottie was appointed to China as a missionary at age 33 and served there for 39 years, primarily in Tengchow and Pingtu.
- 6--She wore Chinese clothes and lived like her Chinese neighbors.
- 7—Lottie had several nicknames in China—foreign devil, foreign lady teacher, heavenly book visitor, and the cookie maker. Lottie baked cookies to win the hearts of the children and families who were frightened of her.
- 8—Lottie led in the campaign to end the practice of bound feet. Girls with bound feet could hardly walk, infections, gangrene, and even death were common side effects of this practice.
- 9—In 1912, at the end of her career, famine, flood, and war encircled her China. Her friends were starving. In a final act of empathy, Lottie stopped eating and gave all her food away. When her friends realized the depth of her sickness, they put her on a boat to return to the United States. Lottie died on Christmas Eve while en route to the United States.  
Because of Lottie's determination, WMU collected a Christmas offering to give to the Foreign Mission Board.

In 1918, at Annie Armstrong's suggestion, WMU named the offering for Lottie Moon. We still give to the LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING in honor of her work and sacrifice to keep our missionaries of the field. 100% of the LMCO goes to support the missionaries.

2024 Church Goal is \$3,000.00

**Ronald McDonald meal:** December 26th. Having a child in the hospital is challenging for a family. Coming "home" to a home-cooked meal is greatly appreciated by the families after a long day at the hospital. Antioch's team cooks a balanced home-cooked meal as a way show God's love to each person at the Ronald McDonald house. Please pray for the families and their children, staff, and volunteers at RMH.

### GOOD NEWS! GREAT JOY!

612 Gospel opportunities were collected by the church family in 2024. These boxes of gifts demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. We are partners of the local church worldwide to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and make disciples of the nations. From jungles to deserts, megacities to remote villages, millions of people around the world have yet to hear the life-saving Good News of Jesus Christ. Samaritan's Purse is delivering OCC shoeboxes to children in some of these communities to share God's love even to the ends of the earth. (copied)



# News and Opportunities

## December Usher Schedule

**Sun. 1st:** Keith Webster, Keith Harris, Charles Smith, Connor Blake

**Sun. 8th:** Kitchin Durham, Gordon Neville, Daniel Tayloe, Blake Tayloe

**Sun. 15th:** Tim Dameron, Angie Dameron, Crawford Dameron, Jonas Parrott

**Sun. 22nd:** Kim Dunn, Luke Carwile, Matt Carwile, Tucker Parrott

**Sun. 29th:** John McGuire, Gregory Bronson, Hugh McGuire, Tom McGuire

## December Nursery Schedule

**Sun. 1st:** Lisa Upchurch, Lucy Upchurch

**Sun. 8th:** Lyn Lloyd, Keri Carwile

**Sun. 15th:** Pat Cecil, Dawn Blake

**Sun. 22nd:** Lisa Upchurch, Cindy Durham

**Sun. 29th:** Keri Carwile, Lisa Up-



**December:**  
Carol Dawson  
Karen Whitfield



## **Antioch Angel Tree 2024**

Gift collection for children in need. Antioch Angel Tree with gift tag information is available for adoption on **November 24th**.

Share the joy of Christ's love with a child. Please consider making this special mission a part of your family's Christmas, by choosing an Angel Tag from the tree. Gifts are due by **December 8th**.



Once again we find ourselves searching for a fresh way to tell the story...the searching always points to the manger and one simple verse: "For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Please join us for worship on December 15 as the choir presents

**"GOD'S GREAT LOVE"**

A Cantata created by Keith Christopher

**Christmas Eve Meal** - Turkey, ham, rolls, dressing, and a few desserts will be provided, we ask that if you are able that you bring your favorite side or dessert and that you **RSVP** to

Brenda Temple at  
[brstemple@gmail.com](mailto:brstemple@gmail.com)

by **Wednesday, Dec. 18th**. Please invite any neighbors or friends, especially anyone who might be alone on Christmas Eve.

Meal begins at **5:30 p.m.**,  
Christmas Eve Service begins at **7:00 p.m.**

**Parsonage Mowing and Trash Pick-Up Schedule  
Buildings and Grounds 2025**

Following is the list of people who “Volunteered” to mow the church parsonage lawn and remove all the trash from the facility this past year. When you see them, please **THANK THEM** for their commitment and loyalty to accomplish these tasks for the church family.

It was an outstanding TEAM every month this past year!

	<b>Trash Pick-Up</b>	<b>Parsonage Mowing</b>
January	Gene Williams	-----
February	Miles Temple	-----
March	Ray Thompson	-----
April	Ross Ludwig	Ray Thompson
May	Lyndon Whitfield	Strowd Lloyd
June	Keith Harris	Joel Lloyd
July	Joel Lloyd	Mark Lloyd
August	Chris Miller	Todd Lloyd
September	Gene Lloyd	Mark Lloyd
October	Charles Smith	Danny Long
November	Kitchin Durham	Danny Long
December	Carl Lloyd	-----



*Your continued  
service is  
greatly  
appreciated!*

*Note: Mynor Morales continues mowing for the church, including the basketball court and corner lot. Additionally, he is professionally handling the difficult cemetery area.*

**If you are unable to perform these duties for 2025, please call  
Gordon Neville, Buildings and Grounds, 919-932-6993.**

**BE THE ONE Tell someone about JESUS!**



**GLOBAL INFLUENCE OF OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

**Who delivers shoebox gifts?**

Operation Christmas Child is a global program facilitated through hundreds of thousands of trained volunteers. Local believers in more than 170 countries deliver shoebox gifts, present the Gospel, and facilitate our follow-up discipleship program, [The Greatest Journey](#). With this approach, local

Christians who know the culture and language best are given effective resources with a solid biblical foundation to share the Gospel in their communities. We equip ministry partners—local pastors or church leaders—to be our volunteer representatives by providing thorough, detailed training for them to be able to facilitate a shoebox outreach event and present the Gospel. Trained National Leadership Team (NLT) members, ministry partners, and [The Greatest Journey](#) teachers are volunteer roles filled exclusively by these national Christians.

### **How do shoebox gifts impact local economies?**

In each shoebox receiving country, we partner with a NLT that consists of year-round volunteers from various church denominations. Together, they strategize how to reach children in their country with the Gospel. It is our desire to give one shoebox to a child in his or her lifetime, and this is the model used in our training. Local churches distribute shoebox gifts to children in different communities each year to avoid giving the same children gifts year after year. Because of this strategy, the economic impact on a community is minimal and allows us to reach millions of new children every year with the Good News of Jesus Christ. According to Henry Manthanamba, OCC prayer coordinator in Malawi, “If shoebox gifts impacted our local economy negatively, the government would never allow them. They see it as a blessing to the children of Malawi.”

### **How are different cultures incorporated into shoebox distribution events?**

More than 81,000 pastors and church leaders share the Gospel every year at outreach events where shoebox gifts are delivered. The shoebox outreach events are planned and implemented by volunteers in the local church who know the culture and language best. Through our volunteer NLT, local believers are trained to present the Gospel in a child friendly way. We work with the volunteer NLT to develop an annual strategy for evangelism, discipleship, and multiplication of believers and churches in their communities.

### **Do children have to say or do anything to receive a shoebox gift?**

Shoebox gifts are given to children regardless of their gender, ethnicity, or faith. Children do not have to do or say anything to receive the gifts. We work in and through local Christians in each country who understand the context in their area. Simple gifts—packed with love in Jesus’ Name—deliver hope and joy to children all around the world, regardless of their faith or religious background.

### **How does a shoebox gift impact a child in need?**

Operation Christmas Child is not intended as a solution for meeting physical needs, but rather a strategy for the local church to meet spiritual needs of children in their communities. The unexpected gift delights and sparks hope in the life of a child as they hear of Jesus’ love for them. Shoebox gifts are given freely in Jesus’ Name.

*19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*  
*Matt. 28:19-20*

**December shoebox needs:** Pray for the safe delivery of the boxes to the processing centers, to the ports and airfields, and to the in-country volunteers who will distribute the boxes. And, please pray for the safety of the hundreds of volunteers across the country who will be traveling to the eight processing centers to sort and prepare for shipping the shoeboxes. Most especially pray for the hearts of the children that will hear the gospel for the first time that they will accept Jesus as their personal Savior.

***After Christmas sales are a great time to get deals for 2025 boxes!***

***THERE IS POWER IN PRAYER!***

ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH  
1707 WHITE CROSS ROAD  
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27516-9715

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## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### REGULAR OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP

#### *SUNDAY*

Prayer Rally: (Parlor)	9:20 a.m.
Sunday School	9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship	11:00 a.m.
AWANA (Sept.- April)	4:00 - 5:30 p.m.
Youth Bible Study (Sept. - April)	4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

#### *WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE*

Supper	6:00 - 6:35 p.m.
Missions Journey Kids	7:00 p.m.
Youth Group	7:00 p.m.
Adult Bible Study	7:00 p.m.
Choir Practice	8:00 p.m.

#### *CHURCH STAFF*

Dave Atwater, Pastor  
Harold Greene, Interim Minister of Music  
Denise Lloyd, Ministry Assistant

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS OF OPERATION  
MONDAY-FRIDAY, 9:00 - 3:00 P.M.