

THE HERALD

Everyone is welcome. Really.

Chamber Cantata

FBC Elkin Chancel Choir along with Elkin Presbyterian Choir presents:

A Weary World Rejoices

A CHAMBER CANTATA
— FOR CHRISTMAS —

By Joseph M. Martin

December 17th

5:00PM

Elkin Presbyterian Church

December 24th

10:00AM

First Baptist Elkin

December Dates To Remember

Dec. 3rd- Global Missions Sunday
10:00 AM- FBC Sanctuary

Dec. 3rd- Community Chorus
4:00PM & 7:00PM
First United Methodist Elkin

Dec. 11th- VOCE Concert
7:00PM- FBC Sanctuary

Dec. 13th- Christmas Dinner
5:30PM- Fellowship Hall

Dec. 17th- Jingle Jam
5:00PM- FBC Chapel

Dec. 17th- Chamber Cantata
5:00PM- Elkin Presbyterian

Dec. 24th- Chamber Cantata
10:00AM- FBC Sanctuary

Dec. 24th- Christmas Eve Candlelight
5:00PM- FBC Sanctuary

Fellowship Meal Menu

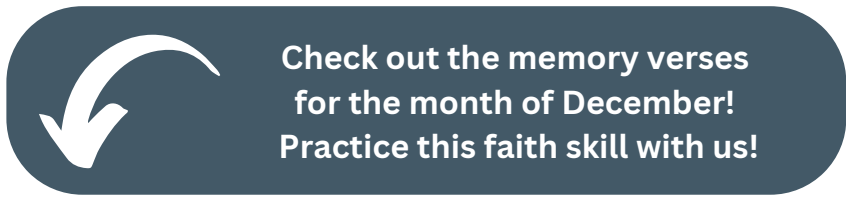
Dec. 6th
Chicken Pie, Mashed
Potatoes, Peas/Carrots,
Roll, Dessert

Dec. 13th
Annual Christmas
Dinner

Dec. 20th
No Meal

Dec. 27th
No Meal

NEXT GEN HAPPENINGS



| Preschool | Elementary | Youth |
|--|---|--|
| "God loved the world so much that he gave his only son!" John 3:16a | "A child will be born to us. A son will be given to us." Isaiah 9:6 | "Glory to God in the highest Heaven and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." Luke 2:14 |

PARENT CUE: PARENTS WHO HURT DURING THE HOLIDAYS

The holidays come with joy and pain. We like to talk about the joy, but if you're a parent who is hurting, Leah Jennings shares a few ways to do the holidays differently.

Feel free to grieve. Putting on a brave face isn't a requirement. If you're hurting or angry, honor and make room for those feelings.

Be okay with minimizing stress in whatever way you need to. That may look like saying no to things that used to be yeses. Maybe it means skipping out on functions that make you uncomfortable. Maybe it's enforcing a strict spending limit. Maybe it's boundaries.

Prioritize what matters. What are the things that matter to you most during this season? What are the things you actually like, not the things that you're obligated to enjoy? Make time for those things.

Do something for you. Maybe the holidays aren't your favorite, but that shouldn't stop you from doing your favorite things. Why not reframe this season as a time when you focus on the things that also make you happy?

News Updates

December Praise Time

Family Advent Kits
December 3rd

Youth Christmas Party
December 6th



A Message from Pastor Mark

Advent and Christmas are upon us! Indeed, it is the most wonderful time of the year! These liturgical seasons invite us to consider the sacred intersection afforded us by the busy holiday routines and the narrative of our beloved nativity. I'm blessed to have the most wonderful Connect Group leader in Judy Nance who regularly equips our small family of young adults with thoughtful devotional content. A couple year's ago she blessed us all with "Advent and Christmas Wisdom" by Henri Nouwen.

In one of his daily entries, Nouwen quotes a sermon by Oscar Uzin who offers these words that were very meaningful and timely for me: "Be alert, be alert, so that you will be able to recognize your Lord in your husband, your wife, your parents, your children, your friends, your teachers, but also in all that you read in the daily papers. The Lord is coming, always coming. Be alert to his coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognize him at any moment of your life. Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord."

This simple devotion came to me after growing somewhat weary of Advent preaching. Of course, we all need to learn patience and the importance of waiting. I remember asking myself, "how many more sermons can I preach about waiting?" Of course, Advent is not so much about "waiting" as it is a particular kind of "active waiting." A better word to use may be "anticipation." Since we just spent several weeks in Matthew's gospel, you're all very familiar with a few parables about anticipation. Christmas will give new meaning to keeping our lamps filled with oil and using our talents wisely. We'll soon be inspired by Mary who said "here am I, the servant of the Lord, let it be with me according to your word."

The best things in life are worth searching and waiting for. The Spirit of Christ is within us and all around us. God is always revealing God's self to us and each day is an opportunity to experience God in a fresh way. I trust you'll join me this month in taking intentional time to allow the endless chatter of our minds to fade so we can focus on the wonder of God's love and presence with us. This season encourages us to look around, open our eyes and ears, and make ourselves available for God to speak newness into our world. May the extraordinary presence of Christ be discovered by each of you in the ordinary people and places that you encounter each day. Wishing you all a meaningful Advent journey and a very Merry Christmas! ~Mark

VOCE Presents
Hal H. Hopson's
Come Ye Faithful

Featuring:
Summit Strings
&
Jones Elementary School
Melody Makers

December 4th, 2023
First Baptist Church Mt. Airy

December 11th, 2023
First Baptist Church Elkin

Come Join Us
7:00PM

North Carolina Arts Council
City years of leadership

THE GREAT ARTS COUNCIL

Christmas Card Mailbox

Members of the FBC Elkin Chancel Choir are headed to NYC to sing at Carnegie Hall, and we need your support! We all want to send Christmas cards to friends and family, so save on postage stamps by bringing your cards to church.

The Choir will set up a Christmas Mailbox at the side entrance where you can drop off your cards. There will be a donation box where you can leave your donation for "postage". Please put choir trip in the memo. Your donation will be used for the choir's trip expenses. Choir members will serve as the mail carriers to assist and deliver your cards. Drop off cards in the corresponding letter box with the recipients last name, make sure you include first and last name on each card. Cards will be delivered throughout the month of December.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Dec 1st- Mary Johnson

Dec 2nd- Randy Neese, Ric Thompson

Dec 3rd- Roger Gibbons

Dec 4th- Lola Salley

Dec 5th- Sharon Kallam

Dec 6th- Sara McCann, Gabby Moses,
Sierra Moses

Dec 7th- Sarah Campbell, Chanda Brown

Dec 9th- Keith Gambill

Dec 12th- Jennifer Swaim, Marcia Hampton

Dec 14th- John Kubecka

Dec 15th- Hugh Conaway

Dec 16th- Mavis Sebastian, Cory Wood

Dec 19th- Lynn Mahon

Dec 20th- Maria Briggs

Dec 21st- Bill Owen, Rick Tilley, Bob West

Dec 23rd- Larry Kallam, Bob Puckett

Dec 26th- Xan Charles

Dec 29th- Chris Newman

Dec 31st- Becky Charles, Anne Marie
Woodruff

Tri-C Item

Soap

Labyrinth Keepers

Beth & Chris Charles

December Opportunities for Service

Labyrinth Keepers

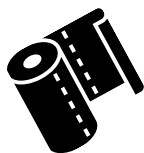
Paper Recycling

Food Donation to Tri-C

Food for Blessings in a Backpack

Playschool Need of the Month:

Paper Towels



Worship Schedule

10am, Facebook Live and In-Person

Sunday, December 3rd

Scripture Focus- Global Missions Sunday

Nursery- Kay Monday

Sunday, December 10th

Scripture Focus- Isaiah 40:1-11

Nursery- Frank Hendrick

Sunday, December 17th

Scripture Focus- Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Nursery- Lois West & Carrie Nations

Sunday, December 24th

Scripture Focus- Chancel Choir Cantata

Nursery-

Sunday, December 31st

Scripture Focus- Galatians 4:4-7

Nursery- Ken & Anne Greene

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Global Missions Speaker



We are pleased that Delores Stimpson will be speaking at our worship service on Global Missions Sunday, December 3 rd. Delores is originally from Boonville and is a graduate of Winston-Salem State University. She worked as a Director of Information Technology Programs with Fortune 500 companies at the World Trade Center in New York until 9/11 when she decided to make a career change after losing hundreds of colleagues. She became affiliated with Welcome House when she helped Temple Baptist Church in Durham, her home congregation, open a house in 2020. Marc Wyatt recruited Stimpson to expand beyond Temple's house and coordinate Welcome Houses on the west side of the Triangle. CBF Field personnel Kim and Marc Wyatt founded the Welcome House ministry in 2015. Now Delores looks at her work with CBF's Global Service Corps and Welcome Houses as her new career.

Delores became manager on Jan 1 st of the Welcome House Community Network's Triangle West region, which provides temporary residences for newly arriving refugees. All the refugees she meets quickly know they are loved. They receive blessings from her deep well of compassion, empathy for overcoming challenges and belief that Jesus meant what he said about loving your neighbor as yourself.

Our Global Missions offering this year will be sent to CBFNC's Welcome House Community Network which currently has 40 houses. Our offering goal is \$2,500 and we will be accepting donations through the month of December. Thank you for your generosity and support.

THANK YOU, EVERYONE!

On behalf of our church's Mission Council, we would like to thank everyone for your food donations to the "Blessings in a Backpack" endeavor with Elkin City Schools over the past number of years. Food insecurity continues to be a major problem in our community and in the schools. Our food collection in the months containing 5 Sundays has been much-appreciated help for the schools in meeting this need.

After the food collection in December, we have decided to pause our periodic food collection. Instead, the Council proposed, and the congregation approved at our November 15th Church Conference a \$1,000 donation to the schools as part of the special Endowment Missions contributions, to be used by the schools to purchase food for the Backpack program. We know that this support will continue to help the children in our schools, and we thank everyone for your continuing love and compassion.

THANK YOU ALL!

From the Missions Council, Jean Lyles, Chair and Diane Tucker, WMU Director and "Blessings in a Backpack" Coordinator

Church Family,

Thank you for the overwhelming love, prayers, and support you have showered upon my family during this incredibly difficult time of losing our beloved, Christine Powers Morris.

I also want to express our deep appreciation for the nourishing meal you provided after the service. During this challenging journey, the love and unity of our church family have been a source of comfort and reassurance.

Love,

Kathryn Powers & Family

A God Moment



With our December focus on Global Missions, our Missions Committee chair, Jean Lyles, asked if I would share a “God moment” that I experienced a few months ago. While gathering with college friends in Nashville last summer, my friend, Donna from Atlanta, asked if any of us North Carolinians knew of resources for a refugee woman in Durham, who needed all kinds of help. Her story follows. Of course, I spoke up and told her about the CBF Welcome House ministry established by Marc and Kim Wyatt. That chance conversation has made a lifechanging difference to the woman, Delkiss, and her daughter, Antonella.

Delkiss is Honduran. She came into the US more than a decade ago, crossing the Rio Grande. She had been a university student, but she began the harrowing journey to leave her country out of fear after her sister was raped and assaulted for her work on behalf of a government political candidate. On her journey in search of a safer life, a labor-trafficker kidnapped Delkiss, forcing her to work long hours in poor conditions while withholding her passport and threatening deportation. Delkiss was eventually able to escape. A woman named Jane, who is a friend of my friend Donna, picked her up out of hiding and helped her begin to navigate the lengthy legal process to a new life in the US. Delkiss is now in the Raleigh area on a T-visa, which is available to trafficking victims who aid law enforcement in identifying their traffickers. A very frightening ordeal, as you can imagine. Delkiss is now awaiting a green card.

Delkiss had trouble finding housing, work, and medical care for her four-year-old daughter, Antonella, who has severe asthma. As soon as Jane found out from my friend Donna about the Wyatts and the Welcome House, she contacted Marc Wyatt, who has been instrumental in setting up Delkiss as a World Relief client, which has assisted her and her daughter in so many ways. She now has housing and has begun a job as a preschool teacher. Delkiss has met every requirement and hurdle thrown at her, and her daughter’s health is much improved now that she has regular medical care.

I believe God intervened in a very convoluted way through my random conversation with an old friend to enable Delkiss and Antonella to get the help they need. The two friends, Donna and Jane, have both written to me to express their appreciation for the referral to the Wyatts, and asked that I convey that message to our church. I hope you will remember Delkiss, Antonella, and the countless others like them in your prayers, as well as the Wyatts in their Welcome House ministry.

Susan Neaves