



# The Link

Vol. 57, No. 1

January 6, 2016

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT

As the end of a fiscal year approaches, some businesses can boost their bottom line by selling a few more widgets or by drastically cutting expenses, often eliminating valuable positions and depriving someone of a livelihood. Churches, however, depend solely on the generosity of their members and friends to meet expenses. We have talked a lot about generosity over the past couple of years, primarily about how God's generosity toward us is a model for our own understanding of generosity. God's love toward us is a love of abundance, not scarcity. The ways in which we demonstrate our love for God and one another ought to also emerge from a sense of abundance rather than an attitude of scarcity.

How fortunate we are to have a generous congregation. Year after year, project after project, ministry after ministry, you respond to the needs placed before you. Thank you for the faithfulness and commitment you have to our ministry.

In 2015, we received \$625,863 in offerings. Approximately \$700 in other funds were received for a projected total of \$626,563 toward our Ministry Plan of \$637,111. Although we did not reach our goal, because our spending for the year should prove to be less than anticipated, we are confident that we have met all of our expenses. Well done!

Now it is time to undergird a new year of ministry. If you have not yet returned your Giving Plan Card, please do so. If you have not been as generous as you could be, please consider increasing your giving to our church. The investment we make in the lives of people is enormous. The results of our ministry are obvious. And the call of the Gospel rings clear for us all. Thank you for a wonderful 2015. Blessings for a phenomenal 2016!

On Christmas Eve we gave an offering of \$868.00 which will be used to help families in our community remain in their homes and stay warm this winter.

Jody Wright

## FREDERICK E. TURNAGE DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

Plan to join us January 24-25 for our 2016 Frederick E. Turnage Distinguished Speaker Series as we welcome Dr. William A. Graham, Harvard University Distinguished Service Professor and Murray A. Albertson Professor of Middle Eastern Studies. Dr. Graham is a leading scholar in Islamic studies and will help us to consider topics of religion, scripture, and politics in a pluralistic world.

### LAKESIDE AT WORSHIP

January 10, 2016 • Baptism of Christ Sunday

Scripture Lessons: Isaiah 43:1-7; Luke 3:15-22

Sermon: "Taking the Plunge"

Adult Choir Anthems:

"Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me" - arr. Scott

"Come to the Water" - Foley/arr. Hasseler

## OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

Please remember the following persons who need our prayers and support:

### At Home:

**Bettina Godwin Batts**

**Ernest Bridgers**, 4758 Gardenia Circle (04)

**Lee Broughton**, 516 Pelican Drive East, Pine Knoll Shores, NC 28512

**Janet Corbett** (Mother of Tracy Corbett), 3645 Elwell Ferry Rd, Kelly, NC 28448

**Natalie Stewart Cortez**, 6410 Lakewood Blvd., Dallas, Texas 75214

**Anne Crane**, 5105 Corner Rock Drive, Rolesville, NC 27571

**Sue Daughety**, 336 Cottonwood Road, Nashville, NC 27856

**Hank Dunham**, 1109 Meadow Drive, Townville, SC 29689

**Jayne Hamlett**, 1357 Fairway Terrace (04)

**Brenda and John Hartness**, 1041-I North Jamestown Road, Decatur, GA 30033

**Vernon Hoyle** (Bill Hoyle's brother), 201 J Morgan St., Forest City NC 28043

**Sherry Johnson**, Brighton Gardens, 3101 Durant Rd., # 247, Raleigh, NC 27612

**Winnie Johnson**, 105 Hampton Court (03)

**Harlon Mosley**, 421 Charlotte Avenue (04)

**Frances Pittman** 580 Coral Drive, A-4 Westport 1, Pine Knoll Shores, NC 28512

**Cristi Gonzales Pollock**, 5032 Crown Point Lane, Wilmington, NC 28409

**Cody Richardson**, 1518 Fountain Branch Road (03)

**Jean Smith**, 23 Weatherstone Drive (04)

**Becky Timar** (Jean Tripp's sister)

**Betty Watts**, 616 Nichole Lane (03)

**Tom Wicker**, c/o Andy Barker, 6313 Sapony Trail, Elm City, NC 27822

**Andy Wiggs** (Jim Wiggs' son), 523 Ward Street, Graham, NC 27253

We rejoice with Amy and David Green in the birth of their son, David Warren "Wren" Green, Jr. on January 5. Lindley is Wren's big sister.

We offer our sympathy to Doug and Norma Jordan in the death of Doug's brother, Ronnie Jordan of Camden, North Carolina, on December 28.

We offer our sympathy to the family and friends of Richard Jenkins who died on December 31 in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The family will receive friends in Sugg Foyer from 2:00-4:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 9.

We offer our sympathy to Carol and Chuck Taylor in the death of her mother, Mary Lou Boseman, on January 4.

## TOPNOTCHER'S NEWS

It's oyster time! Please join us for a ride on the new bus on Tuesday, January 19, as we travel to Williamston, NC to the Sunnyside Oyster Bar where we will enjoy delicious seafood. We plan to leave the church at 4:30 p.m. and should return by 8:00 p.m. Please call the church office to sign up.

## WINTER BIBLE STUDY

Because of a delay from the publisher, we will be unable to receive the study guides in time to begin the study of Luke's parables next week. The tentative start date will be January 19 and 20. As soon as the books arrive, Elizabeth will contact those who are registered to confirm these dates.

## WOMEN'S RETREAT

You are invited to participate in our annual Women's Retreat February 19-20. Carol Barker will host us at her beautiful home on the reservoir for a time of reflection, prayer and fellowship. The cost for the weekend, which includes meals, is \$75 per person. Please call the church office to sign up.

## YOUTH NEWS

Educator Maria Robinson said, "Nobody can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending." This is the opportunity of a new year, and it is the hope of our faith. As we embark on a new year, it is my prayer that each of us as individuals and as a Lakeside family will take advantage of every opportunity for learning, serving, worshipping, growing, and building relationships offered to us in this community.

Our youth group will begin considering some of those opportunities this Sunday night when all youth and parents will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the Lecture Room to plan our schedule for 2016. I hope each of you will bring your calendars as well as your ideas and enthusiasm as we look forward to a year of growing and blooming together. I look forward to seeing you all on Sunday. Elizabeth

## MUSIC NOTES

I don't really like New Year resolutions. They can be a source of failure and lots of hard work. Anyway, I try to resolve to do good everyday of the year. I do, however, think it is important to set goals to combat complacency, and continued growth surely beats it's polar opposite. I read an article recently that suggested making a resolution around things that bring happiness. For me, spending time with good friends makes me happy. Music, singing, and helping others make music makes me very happy. My joyful dog Tucker makes me happy. Gratitude makes me happy. Why not resolve to augment these joys in the New Year, I thought. Maybe some of the same ideas resonate with you. If so, I have a few suggestions. Perhaps join the church choir, a great way to spend time with people we love or want to know better and make music, too. Singing is good for body and soul. Or maybe take some time to cultivate a heart of gratitude by becoming part of the meditation group that meets weekly on Thursday at noon in the parlor. Our lives can be transformed with joy when gratitude and kindness are central themes. Perhaps resolve to grow in faith with a deeper commitment to participation in worship. However you decide to grow in the new year, there are many opportunities for your unique gifts to blossom just where and as you are, bringing happiness, even in the midst of a storm, to you and others.

All Wednesday and Sunday evening rehearsals resume this week. The Chancel Choir will take a field trip on Thursday, January 14, to hear the Westminster Choir perform at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Richmond, VA. All music lovers are welcomed. Contact me for further information. Amy

## SUNDAY AT LAKESIDE

Deacon Greeters - Carol Barker and Jennifer Cobb

Ushers - Group I, Grady Pittman, Captain

Crucifer - Carson Browder; Acolyte - Connor Evans

Extended Session - Elaine and Paul Jaber; Nursery - Jessica Evans

Audio Booth Volunteer - Wayne Cotton

### LAKESIDE'S MISSIONS AND MINISTRY PLAN

2016 Missions and Ministry Budget: \$651,111

	Week	YTD
Anticipated Giving	\$12,521	\$12,521
Receipts January 3	\$ 8,002	\$8,002
Variance	-\$4,519	-\$4,519

### LAKESIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

1501 Sunset Avenue, Rocky Mount, NC 27804

Phone: 252-446-0126 Fax: 252-446-4997

E-mail: lakesidem@embarqmail.com

Website: lakesidechurchmt.org

CareNet Counseling East of Rocky Mount

355-2801 • toll free: 866-355-2801

#### CHURCH STAFF

Jody Wright  
Senior Minister  
Linda Davis  
Administrative Assistant  
Susan Skinner  
Senior Adult Director

Elizabeth Edwards  
Associate Minister  
Liz Broome  
Secretarial Assistant  
Napoleon Taylor  
Custodian

Amy Shortt  
Minister of Music  
Mark Pichowicz  
Interim Organist  
Samantha Saiz  
Preschool Director

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## LAKESIDE CALENDAR

### Thursday, January 7

12:00 p.m. Meditation Group, Parlor

### Sunday, January 10

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

10:30 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship, Education Building Foyer

11:00 a.m. Worship

5:00 p.m. Preschool Storytime, Children's Missions Activities, Youth Choir

5:00 p.m. Neighborhood Ministry Committee, Conference Room

5:45 p.m. Dinner for Preschoolers and Children

6:00 p.m. Dinner for Youth

6:15 p.m. Preschool Music and Activities, Children's Choir

6:30 p.m. Meeting for Youth and Parents, Lecture Room

### Monday, January 11

10:30 a.m. WMU Group 9, Parlor

7:00 p.m. WMU Group 10, Parlor

### Tuesday, January 12

10:30 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting, Godwin Library

### Wednesday, January 13

6:30 p.m. Lakeside Ringers Rehearsal

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, January 14

6:00 p.m. Meditation Group, Parlor