

# Piney Grove Baptist Church

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“A Place of Transformation”

## December 2017 Newsletter

*“Making pathways to reach people where they are so they might know and grow in Christ.”*

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## THE Star A JOURNEY TO CHRISTMAS

Nearly 2,000 years ago, a miraculous star shone in the sky to signal to all the world that Christ, the Prince of Peace, had come. This Christmas, take a breath taking journey with us as we follow the star that leads us to Christ's birth and the life-changing messages of hope, love, joy, and peace that His coming brought to the world. Join us Sunday mornings December 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 24<sup>th</sup> for *The Star: A Journey to Christmas*.

### CHURCH WIDE CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

For me it doesn't really begin to look like Christmas till we get to gather as a church around Christmas goodies and holiday punch! OK, that may be a little bit of an exaggeration, but I do definitely enjoy the Christmas socials!!! And it is about much more than the goodies, punch and Christmas sweaters! Piney Grove Church is a body of believers in Jesus Christ – that makes us Family. And Families Get Together At The Holidays! I hope you will be here Sunday, Dec 10 at 6 PM for the Musical and stick around afterwards for the Church Wide Social. The church will provide the punch, you bring the snacks and sweaters.



### **Holiday Worship schedule.**

On Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve we will have just one worship service at 10 am. On both Sundays there will NOT BE any Sunday School. I am so grateful for the commitment our Sunday School teachers make ALL YEAR LONG! With the busyness of the holidays and the need for so many to travel to see family I hope this break will bring renewal and energy to both teachers and students. For families, a typical Sunday is such a hectic time getting ready to get to church. By having just one worship service on these two Sundays, Dec. 24 & Dec. 31, make use of the time by coming together at your home for a few minutes of family worship around God's Word.

## MEAL-n-MISSIONS

Wed., Dec. 6 at 5:30pm

**MENU:** Roast Beef, Company Potatoes, Green Beans, Salad, Rolls, Dessert & Beverages

**COST:** \$4.00 Adults  
\$3.00 Sr. Adults  
\$3.00 Children (11 & under)

**DEADLINE:** 12 NOON on Tues., Dec. 5  
Please RSVP by noon if you plan to attend by one of the following means: call (919-552-3522) or email the church office ([cpresnell@pineygrovebc.org](mailto:cpresnell@pineygrovebc.org)), or respond online at the church website. To do so, click on the Calendar, choose the month (Dec), then click on Meal Nite Sign-up, fill out the info and submit.

### November Attendance Averages

	Nov. 2016	Nov. 2017	YTD
SS	306	297	297
8:30am	142	162	157
11:00am	164	159	196

	<u>Budget</u>	
	YTD	Variance
Nov. 2017	47 weeks	(+/-)
\$57,736.30	\$763,400.26	(\$208.74)

### Building Fund

November 2017 \$10,925.00

\*\* Figures Based on 3 Weeks \*\*



## Children's Department Upgrade

A new coat of paint and an upgrade in lighting has helped to transform our Children's Department. But we want to be sure this ministry continues to look its best. For longer durability and an easier clean the Children's Leadership Team is seeking to upgrade the flooring in our children's hallways, classrooms and bathrooms. This needed upgrade adds \$4,800 to the original estimate. You can help to make this a reality by giving to our Children's Dept. Special Giving Fund.

**“Making pathways to reach people where they are so that they might know and grow in Christ!”**

### Children's Ministry Parent Meeting

on January 7<sup>th</sup> immediately following the 11am Service in the Sanctuary. This will be a short informational meeting to find out about the exciting summer we have planned and other 2018 calendar events. Don't miss it!



**Upcoming Youth Events!** Dates and times are subject to change so for the most up to date youth info check our weekly youth newsletter, "[The Informer](#)"! You can always find a current copy of [The Informer](#) on the Visitor Info Wall, Fellowship Hall and on the church website!

### Upcoming Youth Events!

#### Every Sunday

9:30am Breakfast  
9:45 am CORE Bible Study in the FH (No Core on Dec. 24 or 31)

#### Every Wednesday:

7:00pm Edge Worship (No Edge on Dec. 27)

#### Future Events to put on your calendar:

Sun., Dec. 3 SALT Meeting @ 6pm  
Sat., Dec. 9 Youth Christmas Party @ 5:30pm  
Sat., Dec. 16 Concord Mills shopping trip 6:30am-8:00pm  
Wed., Dec. 20 HotSpot @ 6:15pm  
Sun., Dec. 24 & 31 One Service at 10am (No Sunday School)



### FUTURE DATES: Guatemala Mission Trip 2018

We will be having a meeting at 6pm on January 14 to discuss fundraising and a training schedule.

**DNOW Weekend 2018** - February 8-11 If you would like to offer your home as a host home or be a co-host this year please let Alex know ASAP.

### Centrifuge Camp 2018

June 18-23 @ North Greenville University

## 2018 Winter New Journey Group Ministry Launch

Are you looking for a way to kick the new year off right?

Would you like to connect with a friendly small group?

Have you been searching for a way to grow spiritually?

If you answered yes to any of the above your opportunity begins in January. During the week of January 28<sup>th</sup> we're launching new PGBC **Journey Groups**! Journey Groups are sermon initiated, Bible based, small group fellowships. They meet weekly in friendly homes and journey together as a group towards Christ-like maturity in their understanding, relationships, service, and daily living.

Want to know more? Contact the church office (919 552 3522) and listen for updates during Sunday morning worship services in January.



**The Garden of Eaten** has worked hard this season, and the Lord has blessed with 5187.33 lbs. of fresh food all donated to The Food Pantry, The Welcome Mission, The Church in the Woods, and many individual and families. He provided a fabulous watering system and even direction and progress on composting. We now have a lovely pollinator garden with the help of the GA's. He multiplied our rather small pumpkin crop into a multitude of loaves of pumpkin bread baked and then distributed as blessings by Sunday School classes, individuals, and even the Agricultural Extension ladies. The Garden and its workers now rest and replenish until March. On behalf of the Garden Committee, many thanks to all who prayed, donated, labored in the Garden and behind the scenes.

*Valerie Macon*

## Candle Light Memorial Service Sunday, December 17 at 6pm

The holidays is a wonderful time, however it can be a difficult time for those who have experienced the recent loss of a loved one. On Dec. 17 we are offering a special candle light service to honor those who have departed from us and embrace the hope that is ours in the midst of that loss. Since in Christ, we are one family, the whole congregation is encouraged to join in and embrace the hope that is ours because of Emmanuel.



**Well... here it is... the time has come.** We have arrived! Have you ever heard the phrase, "Are we there yet?" Often accompanied by, "Not yet." Well, as a parent, you could say you've heard that phrase way too many times. Sometimes, depending on the distance, and the age of the child, you could hear that phrase 10, 15... maybe even 20 or more times!

Now imagine... if you were able, to hear that phrase for... 400 YEARS!

Well, God did hear it for that long... but His people heard no response. For generations over, there was no reply. Think about that for a moment... let it sink in. I think I would have given up hope if I had never heard a reply from the One who kept promising me that the answer to all my problems would one day arrive... then... nothing. Nothing! Complete silence... for 400 years. Not one year. Not one lifetime, but generation after generation... NOTHING!

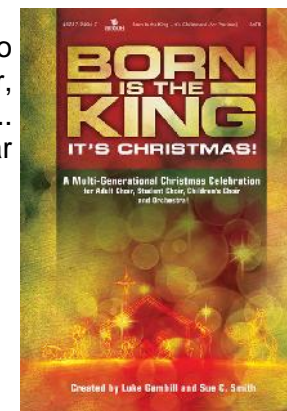
But God knew when to reply. And boy did He deliver. He not only replied, He provided the ultimate reply. The reply that puts all replies prior, and for all time... to shame! You would have thought that the trumpets would blow, the heavens would make such a noise that the earth would shake! But that's not how God choose to answer the cries of His people.

He came humbly. He came quietly. His answer to all the worlds problems came in the form of a child. The innocence of a helpless baby. What kind of a reply is that? A child? One that was born in an animal shelter and placed in a food trough? A baby that only uttered cries for care from the very people who couldn't care for themselves? What kind of a reply is this? It makes no sense. It goes against everything humanity expected. But this was God's way, not man's.

If you want to hear more of how God replied... I invite you to come on December 10th at 6:00pm. Bring your family, a neighbor, a co-worker. Just invite them, come, listen. It's a simple process... but I think you'll be surprised to hear God's answer to the 400 year question... "Where are You God?"

On December 10th, our Youth and Adult Choirs will combine to present, "Born Is the King (It's Christmas)... I invite you... Come, and hear how God replies to His people.

*John*





# December Birthdays

- 1 Katlyn Davis, Gretchen Sargent, Lisa Sellers
- 2 Susan Camden, Allison Prince, Penny Robinson
- 3 Buddy Lawrence, Robbie Ragan, Noah Rhodes
- 4 Anna Brim, Addie Collier, Olivia Jones, Ellen Mathis, Mary Lee Rollins
- 5 Wayne Beasley, Jason Hollingsworth, Julie Jones, Kasey Roberts, Ricky Temple
- 6 Megan Harbinson, Greg Jackson
- 7 Emma Campbell, Brody Hayner, Eliana Zagula
- 8 Doris Andrews, Kathy Hayner, Beth Inge, Jolie Lindley
- 9 Christian Bridgman
- 10 Luke Avant, John Forman, Tanner Stanley, Beverly Vaughan, Lisa Wood, Maxine Wood
- 11 Doug Jones, Harrison Matthews, Bonnie McIver
- 12 Brad McLaurin, Debbie Stowell
- 13 Sherrie Clarke, Margie Prince
- 14 Linda Connors, Robert Crabtree, Angela Williford
- 15 Melanie Crawford, Jason Matthews, Bernice Prince
- 16 Joe Ogburn, Horace Tart
- 17 Valerie Macon, Ellery McIntyre, Jason Stephens, Bethany Taylor
- 18 Sherry Edmunds, Erin Griffin
- 19 Nick Caspar
- 20 Karen Anderson, Jeff Russell, Robbie Wheeler
- 21 Karen Starr
- 22 Dawn Carroll
- 24 Kelly Clarke
- 26 Caroline Horner, Macy McLaurin, Kristen Pope
- 27 Mike Anderson, Paul Camden, Jack Holland, Caleb Jones, Dennis McLaurin
- 28 Tori Horner, Justin Stephens
- 29 Jaden Erwin, Ellie Holder, Andrea Raynor
- 30 Todd Freeman, Brenda Thomlinson
- 31 Dylan Avant, Kay Baltzegar, Susan Foster, Kim Prince, Sierra Raynor, Jessica Turner



## DECEMBER 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>FOOD CROP:</b> Soups (dried or canned) & Mixed Vegetables - for local Food Pantry					<b>1</b> 5-9pm Encore Music Recital (Sanc)	<b>2</b> 9am-12pm Adult & Student Choirs (Christmas Musical Rehearsal)
<b>3</b> <b>1st Sunday of Advent</b> 8:30am Worship Service 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship Service 6pm Deacons' Meeting (A14) 6pm S.A.L.T. Meeting (FH)	<b>4</b> 10:30am Hands of Love (FH) 6:30pm C.A.R.E. w/snack supper (FH)	<b>5</b> 9am Staff Meeting	<b>6</b> 5:30-6:30pm Meal-n-Missions (FH) 6:30pm WMU & Baptist Men 7pm Library Open (107), Youth (FH), GA's, RA's, Mission Friends 7:30pm Adult Choir Practice (111) 8:30pm Praise Team Practice	<b>7</b> 4:30-10pm Grace Missions SS Class Christmas Outing (bus)	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 9am-12pm Adult Choir Christmas Musical Rehearsal 5:30pm Youth Christmas Party (FH)
<b>10</b> <b>2nd Sunday of Advent</b> 8:30am Worship Service 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship Service 4:30pm Adult & Student Choirs prepare for Evening Musical 6pm Christmas Musical (Adult & Student Choirs) "Born Is The King" 7pm Christmas Church wide Social (FH) immediately following the Musical	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9am Staff Meeting	<b>13</b> 5pm Sunshine Singers (111) 6:45pm Instrumentalists 7pm Library Open (107) 7pm Prayer Meeting, Youth, GA's, RA's, Mission Friends 7:15pm Adult Choir Practice (111) 8:15pm Praise Team (Sanc)  NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<b>14</b> 10am-5pm JOY Group go to Rudy Theater (bus)	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 6:30pm Youth Concord Mills Shopping Trip (bus)
<b>17</b> <b>3rd Sunday of Advent</b> 8:30am Worship Service 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship Service 6pm Candlelight Memorial Service	<b>18</b> 10:30am Hands of Love (FH) 6:30pm C.A.R.E. w/snack supper (FH)	<b>19</b> 9am Staff Meeting	<b>20</b> 5pm Sunshine Singers (111) 6:25pm Youth Hotspot (FH) 6:45pm Instrumentalists 7pm Library Open (107) 7pm Prayer Meeting, Youth, GA's, RA's, Mission Friends 7:15pm Adult Choir Practice (111) 8:15pm Praise Team (Sanc)	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <b>4th Sunday of Advent</b> 10am Christmas Eve Service No Sunday School No Evening Worship	<b>25</b> Office Closed 	<b>26</b> Office Closed Christmas Holiday	<b>27</b> No Wednesday Evening Activities	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 10am New Year's Service No Sunday School No Evening Worship						