

CRABTREE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH



THE VALLEY ECHO

December 16, 2013

Please mail all correspondence to: P.O. Box 30954, Raleigh, NC 27622

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*Wishing each of you a very Merry
Christmas & New Year blessings!*

*The CVBC staff: Rev. Nola Boezeman,
Ernie Rushing, Eleanor Aker, Cheryl
Walker and Peggy Utley*



Service of Remembrance

Wednesday, December 18 at 7:00pm

This reflective service provides a sacred space to set aside the busyness of the season. It allows for time to remember and to be reminded of the hope for healing and reconciliation that we have in the coming of True Light that shines in darkness.

*Thank
You!*

The Hospitality Committee is grateful to everyone who responded to our request for food for the reception following the Christmas musical. Your donations were well received by our guests. Thank you for making our jobs easier because of your generosity and willingness to greet, meet and serve our guests.



Close your eyes for a moment. Remember one of your favorite Christmas experiences. What smell would remind you of that event? For me, it would be the smell of chocolate chip cookies. Mom used to make these tiny chocolate chip cookies for special occasions. They were about the size of a 50 cent piece. Once you started eating them, it was hard to stop! I'm sure they were just like most everyone else's cookies but I have never been able to achieve the specific level of doneness that she did – not too goey and not too hard.

Mom's not able to make the cookies anymore and many of the family members who used to travel to our house have passed away. We don't exchange gifts with her and I don't think we ever exchanged with extended family. But even without the presents, we celebrated. Because of God's presence on earth through Jesus Christ, we can celebrate Christmas. Mom didn't do all the cooking by herself, either. My aunt would do the turkey and my uncle would bring a country ham with him (he raised hogs and we always got the best one out of the smokehouse). Steve and whoever else was there knew where the extra tables and chairs were in the basement, so they took care of bringing them up. Mom provided the venue and paper goods and a couple of sides. Everyone else brought their best casseroles and homemade dishes. But we could always count on those cookies. And a delicious chocolate cake with boiled icing, Mom's specialty.

Now it has become our responsibility to establish traditions regarding big family meals. I had lots of help at Thanksgiving and I expect that I will enjoy help at Christmas as well. We haven't yet identified everyone's special dish but I'm sure we will before long. I don't have a formal dining area big enough for all of us but we managed at Thanksgiving with a table full in the kitchen and a few folks in the den... watching football. I didn't really appreciate the big Christmas dinner when I was younger – I had no clue what it took to pull one of those things off. But over the years, I have grown to really appreciate those family times. Long ago I realized that the presents weren't what brought families together. It's the present we share with others by just being present. It's the opportunity to celebrate the greatest gift of all with friends and family. And as I grow older, and face more of life's challenges, I know that God's presence in my life is something that should be recognized and celebrated. Isn't it great that the best gift of all doesn't need to be purchased or wrapped or even requested? He is here - in the past, in the present and forever. Christmas is a great season to spend some time reflecting on how God has shown Himself in our lives over the past year. God's gift of Himself is really the greatest and most enduring of all gifts.

Submitted by Linda Wheeler

Lectionary Readings for Sunday, 12/22: Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25 **Lectionary Readings for Sunday, 12/29:** Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23

Weekly Church Calendar:

EACH SUNDAY

9:15-9:30am – Prayer – Ben Best classroom

*9:45am Sunday School

*11:00am Worship Service

*Child care provided downstairs.

2:30-7:00pm Kenyan Fellowship

EACH MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY

9:00am-12:00pm Hope Pantry is open

EACH TUESDAY: 6:00-7:30pm Kenyan Fellowship

EACH WEDNESDAY:

6:30pm Children and Youth Mission groups

7:00pm Bible study & Prayer

7:45pm Choir Practice

EACH THURSDAY:

8:00pm Gamblers Anonymous

EACH FRIDAY: 7:00-9:30pm Kenyan Fellowship

MONTHLY: (4th Thursday of each month)

6:00pm Young Hearts (Senior Adults)

Calendar of Events

Wednesday, December 18

7:00pm Service of Hope and Remembrance

Friday, December 20

5:30pm Faith & Cecil Ray SS class party at Forks in WF

Sunday, December 22 - No Business meeting

Monday, December 23 - Office and Pantry open

Tuesday, December 24

Office closed - 4:00pm Christmas Eve Service

Wed, December 25 - Office and Pantry closed for Christmas

Thur. Dec 26 & Fri, Dec 27 - Office closed.

There will not be a newsletter published the week of Christmas or New Years.

Monday, December 30 - Office and Pantry open

Tuesday, December 31 - New Year's Eve: Office open

Wednesday, January 1

Office and Pantry closed for New Year's Day

Thurs. Jan 2 & Fri, Jan 3 – Office closed

Attendance 12/15

Sunday School 42

Visitors

Total 42

Worship Attendance: 64

Deacon for this week: 12/22 Bonnie Wright

Deacon for next week: 12/29 Beth Jenkins

Greeter Schedule (front entrance)

12/22 Frances Viano 12/29 Pat Jenkins

Properties for January

Maurice Lewis

Ushers for January

Robert Best Darrell Jenkins

Jim Greene Whitt Stallings

Alternate: Rudy Barden

2014 Envelopes are in the Narthex.

Please note: The last day to make a contribution for 2013 is December 30th. Mailed contributions need to be mailed early enough to be received by Dec 27th.

PRAYER CONCERNS:

HOME:

Anne Jenkins

Eleanor Aker

Cassie Glover

Tom Haag

Faye Hayes

Sue DeWalt

Pat Jenkins

Larry Nunery

Jack Porter

Susan Carden – Francis Viano's daughter

Van Phillips

Lee Snyder

Jean Greene

Pam Bilbro

REHAB & CARE FACILITIES:

Bob Davis - Greensboro

Elouise Leffler – Crabtree Valley Rehab center - Room 412-A

Lois Capps – Rex Rehab - Apex

Al Coley – Sunrise at North Hills – Room 286

Wilton Harris – Heritage Woods Ret. Comm. - Winston-Salem



Please designate Lottie Moon, CBF or Staff on your check and envelope.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Our goal is \$1,800.00 – Rec'd to date: \$400.00

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Global Missions Offering

Our goal is \$500.00 – Rec'd to date: \$165.00

Staff Love offering

Please join the Deacons in grateful appreciation of our church staff by contributing to the Staff Love offering to be collected through Sun. Dec. 22nd



And what a “joyful noise” we heard at Sunday night’s Christmas musical celebration! We want to thank our Minister of Music, Ernie Rushing, the members of the choir, and the musicians for their outstanding performance. And, many thanks to the Hospitality Committee members and all those who helped with decorating and providing refreshments for the reception. Everything was beautiful and the food was abundant and delicious. We also appreciate all those who helped set-up and clean-up for this event. Thank you all for your help in making this a memorable and meaningful evening.