

# CRABTREE VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

## "CONTINUE IN PRAYER"



THE VALLEY ECHO

December 3, 2018

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

Church location: 4408 Lead Mine Rd Raleigh, NC 27612 Phone: (919) 781-5345

Email: [cvbc@crabtreevalleybaptist.org](mailto:cvbc@crabtreevalleybaptist.org) Website: [www.crabtreevalleybaptist.org](http://www.crabtreevalleybaptist.org)

General Office hours: Monday-Thursday 9am-3pm (closed on Friday)

*Celebrate  
the Season*

**"Jesus, The Advent of the Messiah"  
Christmas Cantata**

**Sunday, December 9 at 2:00pm**

Make plans to join us for this special Christmas concert as we combine our choir and the choir from Ridge Road Baptist Church. Reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up in the lobby to help with food, thank you!

**Children's Christmas Party  
Wednesday, Dec 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm**

Children's activities, candy making, cards, ornaments and gifts. For questions or more information, contact Cheryl Walker, 919-632-1427.

**Special Christmas Worship Service  
Sunday, December 23 at 11:00am**

We will have a Special Christmas Worship Service with a Mini-Concert by Risa Poniros and Timothy Sparks.

### Church office contact information:

**Pastor • Charles Allard**

Office: 919-781-5345 Home: 919-606-8360

**Music Director • Risa Poniros**

Office: 919-781-5345

**Secretary • Peggy Utley**

Office: 919-781-5345

[cvbc@crabtreevalleybaptist.org](mailto:cvbc@crabtreevalleybaptist.org)

**Website updates/maintenance**

[webmaster@crabtreevalleybaptist.org](mailto:webmaster@crabtreevalleybaptist.org)

**KEEP  
CHRIST IN  
CHRISTMAS**

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

There is no mention in the Bible of the Date of Jesus Birth. As best we can determine, it didn't even occur to early Christians that they should celebrate His Birthday. The fact is that the Baptism of Jesus was far more important to them than his birth date. Before the birth of Jesus, midwinter festivals were already in full celebration and had been for thousands of years. In those times, homes were lit by small

fires or candlelight. The early festivals or celebrations came in what is called the "winter solstice" which in some areas of the world are the darkest, shortest, coldest days of the year. What better way to fight boredom and depression than to have a celebration, a festival, anything to cheer you up.

It wasn't until the 4th Century AD that church leaders in Rome decided that the lengthening days following the winter solstice should be embraced as a Christian Holiday to celebrate the birth of Jesus. In part, Christians decided that Jesus' Birthday needed to be celebrated even if they did not know the actual date of his birth. The deciding factor in establishing a birth date for Jesus was the growing heresy that began to take root that Jesus had never really existed as a man, but as a sort of spiritual entity. So, what better way to give credence to the reality of Jesus coming into the world than to select a birth date for him and in the most humble circumstances.

If the Catholic Church was early in supporting the Birth of Jesus and celebrating Christmas, Protestants of the 16th Century considered it little better than paganism because of the rowdy, bawdy way in which the event was celebrated by some. At the same time in England under Oliver Cromwell, Christmas was banned for 25 years and considered illegal. Later, leave it to the Puritans to declare war on Christmas by banning it.

In research, you will find that many of our modern Christian Traditions of celebrating Christmas actually have their roots in pagan practices. Christmas trees, decorating with greenery, The "Twelve Days of Christmas," Christmas Caroling, kissing under the mistletoe, Christmas Lights & Ornaments, Fruitcake, the Yule Log, gift giving, etc.

Christians around the world firmly believe that the birth, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are historical facts. At the same time, history proves that some pagan practices have found their way into modern Christmas Christian Traditions. It seems to me that if Jesus Christ can transform unbelieving sinners into born again believers then why can't we transform pre-Christian traditions into meaningful Christian practice and experiences? Hopefully while we enjoy our traditions, we don't worship them. We worship the Living Christ, The Son of God, The Savior of the world.

In His Love, Charles

## Weekly Church Calendar

### EACH SUNDAY:

- \*9:45am Sunday School
- \*11:00am Worship Service
- \*Child care provided downstairs.

### EACH TUESDAY:

- 6:30pm Triangle Toastmasters

### EACH WEDNESDAY:

- 9:00am-12:00pm Hope Pantry is open
- 6:30pm Children and Youth Mission groups
- 6:30pm Bible study & Prayer
- 7:30pm Choir Practice

### EACH THURSDAY:

- 8:00pm Gamblers Anonymous

### MONTHLY: (4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month)

- Young Hearts (Senior Adults)

## Calendar of Events:

### Sunday, December 9

- 2:00pm Christmas Cantata with Reception to follow

### Wednesday, December 19

- 6:30pm Children's Christmas Party

### Sunday, December 23

- 11:00am Special Christmas Worship Service

### Monday, December 24

- 5:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

### Tuesday, December 25

- Christmas Day

### Wednesday, December 26

- No church activities - office closed

### Thursday, December 27

- Office open normal hours

### Attendance 12/2

Sunday School 23

Worship Attendance 49

**Deacon for week:** 12/9 Elizabeth Best

**Deacon for week:** 12/16 Frances Viano

### Properties for December

David Jenkins

### Ushers for December

Randy Walker Walt Switzer

Ben Best Frances Viano



## *SHARE THE SONSHINE*

*Make a call, send a card, or make a visit!*

December 2 – 8 Greg Small

*Lists are available on the lobby table.*

## PRAYER CONCERNS:

### HOME:

George and Louise Shore

Bonnie Wright

Eleanor Cromartie

### REHAB & CARE FACILITIES:

Jean Greene – Snow Hill Asst. Living - Snow Hill, NC

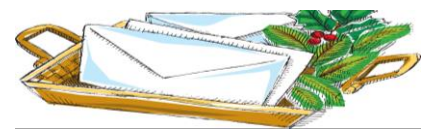
Mary Cain – 806 Springmoor Circle 27615

Anne Jenkins - Morningside of Raleigh Room 132

Phyllis Goodwin – Rex Rehab Room 140



During the month of December we will receive our Lottie Moon and CBF Global Missions offerings. There are envelopes for each of these special offerings on the lobby table. Remember to write Lottie Moon or CBF on your check and envelope. Our goal is \$900 for each of these offerings.



**Please note: December 23<sup>rd</sup> is the last day to make 2018 contributions for the budget or Christmas offerings.** Mailed contributions need to be mailed early enough to be received by Dec 24<sup>th</sup>.



## *Christmas Cards*

The Lottie Moon Christmas card box is outside the church office. Use this box to exchange cards with other members or those who regularly attend worship services on Sunday mornings. In lieu of postage, please make a donation to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering and/or to the CBF Global Missions offering. **Please mail all cards for those who can't attend on a regular basis, who have moved away, or are in Rehab or Nursing Homes, the church will not mail these for you.**

## **New \$ Budget**

The 2019 Church Budget was approved at the Called Business meeting this past Sunday, December 2, 2018.