



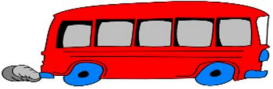
# NEWS FROM THE WELL

*Shallow Well Church*  
1220 Broadway Road  
Sanford, North Carolina 27332  
Church Phone 919-776-1121

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## *24 Making A Difference In Our World In Christ's*



### Well Wishers

The Well Wishers will leave to go to the Rudy Theater at 9:30 on Monday, December 11. They will eat lunch at Holt's BBQ, attend the matinee, and stop at the mall before returning home.

### Women's Fellowship

The Serenity Circle will meet on Tuesday, December 12 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Pam Gunter

### Operation Christmas Child

Thanks to all who gave to help us make up 139 shoeboxes. If you would like to see what happens to the boxes after they leave us, please come and go to Charlotte on Wednesday, December 13. We will leave at 8:30, work the 1:00-5:00 shift and come home. Please let Mary Griffin know so transportation can be arranged.

### Men's Fellowship

The Men's Fellowship will meet on Sunday, December 17 at 8:30 a.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room. All men of the church are invited to join them in fellowship.

### Poinsettias



Poinsettias will be placed in the church on Sunday, December 17 and December 24. If you would like to add to the beauty of our Sanctuary by placing a poinsettia in memory or in honor of someone, please fill out a form found in the Narthex and give it and the \$10 to Mary Griffin by December 10.

### Christmas Card Exchange



The Board of Deacons will sponsor a Christmas card exchange again this year. You may bring Christmas cards for those who attend service here at Shallow Well and place them in the box in the Narthex. This saves you postage and allow you to send more cards. The box will be in the Narthex beginning on December 3 and continue through December 24. If you would like to donate something to the Deacon Fund, which assists needy families, there will be an offering receptacle on the table near the box.

### Christmas Shopping

On December 9 there will be a Holiday Affair in the Fellowship Building from 9:00-3:00. The youth will be selling cookies, cakes, and pies to raise funds for the youth general fund. Please help by providing some of the goodies and coming to shop.



### Christmas Caroling Outreach

We will be going to Eames Drive and Winslow Drive Housing complexes on Thursday, December 14 at 6:00. We need you to help spread Christmas cheer. We give each residence a pound cake, candy for the children, and sing a Christmas carol. You will be blessed by spending an hour of your time this Christmas sharing the love of God. We will meet at the mailboxes at Eames Drive. If you would like to donate to help buy cakes the cost is \$1.00 per cake. You can give the money to Mary Griffin.

## December Birthdays

1	Corbitt Thomas
2	Greg Kelly
3	Madison Schooley
3	Harley Schooley
9	Cortney Maness
10	Charles Billings
10	Linda Parson
11	Barbara Norris
11	Mark Coggins
12	Ralph Yarborough
12	Grace Collins
14	Kolby Harrison
15	Ricky Taylor
17	Dawn Morris
17	Tyler Williamson
18	Steve Hempte
19	Brenda Marsh
20	Thomas McNeill
21	Faye Thompson
21	Donald Gaster
22	Kayla Harrison
22	Tracey Parson
24	Camden Adcock
27	Joshua Rosser
27	Wayne Parson
28	Brittany Griffin
28	David Watson
28	Jeremy Currin
30	Carolyn Williamson



## Christmas Cantata

Our Choir will present a Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 17 during the 10:55 Worship hour. It is entitled "Go Sing It on the Mountain" by Pepper Choplin. We hope you will plan to be present.



The Youth will present a Christmas program, "Christmas Around the World" on December 17 at 6:00 in the Sanctuary. Afterward, there will be refreshments in the Fellowship Hall while we wait for Santa to come. Please help by bring something for everyone to enjoy.

## Bible Readings for December

- 1 Mark 1:1-8
- 2 Mark 1:9-20
- 3 Mark 13:1-23
- 4 Mark 13:24-37
- 5 Isaiah 7:1-25
- 6 Isaiah 42:1-17
- 7 Isaiah 44:1-28
- 8 Isaiah 48:1-22
- 9 Isaiah 49:1-13
- 10 Isaiah 51:1-16
- 11 Isaiah 51:17-23
- 12 Isaiah 52:1-12
- 13 Isaiah 55:1-13
- 14 Isaiah 56:1-8
- 15 Isaiah 60:1-22
- 16 Isaiah 61:1-11
- 17 Isaiah 62:1-12
- 18 Isaiah 63:1-14
- 19 Isaiah 65:17-25
- 20 Isaiah 66:1-14
- 21 Luke 1:1-25
- 22 Luke 1:26-56
- 23 Luke 1:57-80
- 24 Luke 2:1-20
- 25 Isaiah 9:2-7
- 26 Luke 2:21-52
- 27 Revelation 7:1-17
- 28 Revelation 19:1-10
- 29 Revelation 21:1-27
- 30 Revelation 22:1-21
- 31 Numbers 6:22-27



We are looking back at the things we have accomplished together as a congregation, while we are looking forward with excitement and anticipation to the coming Christmas season. Maybe we're looking ahead with a touch of panic at all the things we need and propose to do.

Yes, we work and plan towards having mission opportunities happening practically all the time. As of late, we thank Earl Murphy, Barbara Norris, Jerry Parson, Tracey Parson, Faye Thomas, and Patsy Thomas for representing Shallow Well in the Hunger Walk. Thanks to you, family, and friends they raised \$720.00 to be donated to eight local non-profits, with the Salvation Army being the newest one added. At the time our contribution was submitted the total raised was \$5,760.00...with more anticipated.

A second installment of emergency school supplies has been delivered to our partner school, East Lee. We donated at this time 56 units of materials.

December 2, we can head to St. Luke for a Family Promise benefit pancake "Breakfast with Santa". Also, we are assisting Morris Chapel, our partner in the Family Promise of Lee County network, in hosting this week.

Our November food donation to CUOC of 72 food items and 90 personal hygiene items has been faithfully delivered. We plan forward for our December donation of **canned vegetables** and personal hygiene items, as always.

Please check out our angel tree in the Narthex. We trust you read the details in the bulletin insert of November 26. Our church has a reputation from many years ago for being generous, caring, and involved. Let's continue to become stronger and stronger.

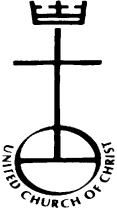
## Youth

The Youth are busy getting ready for the Christmas play. They will practice every Sunday from 12:05-2:00. They will present the play on Sunday, December 17 at 6:00 in the Sanctuary. On Saturday, December 2 there will be a Parents' Night Out starting at 5:00. Dinner will be served and please sign up online.

Shallow Well Church  
1220 Broadway Road  
Sanford, North Carolina 27332  
*Rev. Donald R. Thompson, Minister*  
*Rev. Marty Johnston, Associate Minister*

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Sanford, NC 27330  
Permit No. 106

*Celebrating Over 175 Years of Ministry*



**December Ministry Assistants**



**Acolytes:** Dec. 3: Lauren Godfrey, Layton Griffin; Dec. 10: Lily Currin, Gracie Currin; Dec. 17: Keaton Haas, Brennen Haas; Dec. 24: Ava Baldwin, Elyse Baldwin; Dec. 31: Jackson Godfrey, Caleb Johnston.

**Deacon on Call:** Dec. 3: John Godfrey; Dec. 10: Mitzy Douglas; Dec. 17: Barbara Norris; Dec. 24: Audra McKenzie; Dec. 31: Jerry Batchelor.

**Greeters:** Faye Thomas, Brittany Griffin

**Trustee to lock/unlock:** Greg Kelly.

**Ushers:** Sloan Griffin, Greg Kelly, Allen McKenzie, Eddie Thomas, A.K. Griffin, Kenny Cotton.

**Jr. Ushers:** Elijah Godfrey, Corbin Gunter, Macy Gunter, Kolby Harrison, Jada Holifield, Katie Kelly, Cortney Maness, Alex McKenzie, Thomas McNeill, Abby Thomas, Luke Thomas

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If we were to truly think about it, we would have to say that the Christian faith is borderline absurd. Think about our favorite people of the Bible. Noah, who had never built a boat in his life, had to build a boat to save humanity. Abraham became a nomad that only owned a cemetery at the time of his death. Joseph was a wrongly accused convict. Rahab was a prostitute. Ruth was a foreigner. David was a shepherd. Not exactly a strong start for a religion. If the absurdity of the Old Testament was not enough, the New Testament takes it up to eleven.

The New Testament begins with the family tree of Jesus, warts and all. Then it tells of the absurd birth of Jesus. It starts with a teenage, unmarried girl and ends with the Son of God spending His first night on Earth sleeping in a feeding trough. The first visitors to the King of Kings were shepherds. Philippians 2: 6-7 tells us exactly what happened with the birth of Jesus, “<sup>6</sup>(Jesus) who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. (ESV)” How crazy is it that Jesus “emptied Himself” so that He could come to save us?

Sometimes when I think about Christmas, I can’t help but smile and shake my head at the absurdity of it all. Then I am reminded that all of this craziness was to bring salvation to the world. The baby in the manger would soon become the hated man on the cross. And what for? For us. Let us never forget what the end result of the baby born to Mary is – salvation for all who accept it.



