



NEWS FROM THE WELL

Shallow Well Church
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Making A Difference In Our World In Christ's Name

Well Wishers Trip

The Well Wishers will leave to go to the Rudy Theater on Tuesday, December 4 at 9:00 a.m.

Women of the Well

The Women of the Well will meet on Tuesday, December 11 at 6:30 in the Parlor. All women of the church are invited to come and join us in fellowship. You are asked to bring a finger food to share.

Men's Fellowship

The Men's Fellowship will meet on Sunday, December 16 at 8:30 in the Multi-Purpose room. All men of the church are invited to come and join them.

Poinsettias



Poinsettias will be placed in the church on Sunday, December 16 and December 23. 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 money (\$10) to Mary Griffin by December 9th.



Our Choir will present a Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 16 during the 10:55 Worship hour. It is entitled "A Christmas Celebration". We hope you will plan to be present.

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 allows you to send more cards. The box will be in the Narthex beginning on December 2 and continue through December 23. 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 Caroling Outreach



We will be going to Eames Drive and Winslow Drive Housing complexes on Tuesday, December 18 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.



Children's Christmas Play

The Youth will present a Christmas program on Sunday, December 16 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 bringing something for everyone to enjoy.

Trustee Meeting

There will be a Trustee Meeting Tuesday, December 4 at 7:00 in the Library. All Trustees are urged to be present.

December Birthdays

1	Corbitt Thomas
2	Greg Kelly
3	Madison Schooley
3	Harley Schooley
9	Cortney Maness
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
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



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

It is tradition for the congregation of Shallow Well United Church of Christ to be empathetic, loving, and generous. We seek to serve our fellow man in a variety of ways.

Therefore, our church is involved with many non-profits in our community. Our work in the mission field reaches outside into other places in the country and the world.

We have filled five and one-half shipping boxes in the last year for **Outreach Mission's** shoe donation project. In turn, we helped raise money and send refurbished shoes all over the world.

We constitutently donated food to **CUOC** over the course of the past twelve years. This month we are focusing on **canned vegetables**. Please remember at least two **personal hygiene** items.

Family Promise of Lee County has just passed our seventh anniversary of serving homeless families of Lee.

We are hosting our annual breakfast with Santa at St. Luke United Methodist Church December 8. Breakfast begins at 8:30. Tickets are \$5.00, with children three and under enjoying free breakfast. There will be photo opportunities here. See Joy Murphy for tickets.

We have partnered with Morris Chapel for quite a few years. Our week to help is December 23. We are unsure how Christmas Day will be handled. We provide volunteers for Tues.-Thurs. in addition to the evening meal. These dates are Dec. 25-27. Please be thinking of the volunteer times 5:00-8:00; 8:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. As stated, we are unsure how this will be handled. Stay tuned!

It was a special privilege for Sherry Shudra, Executive Director of **HAVEN** to be with us Nov. 18. A part of our church-wide Christmas project is creating kitchen starter kits for clients that are exiting the shelter. Overall, we have been involved with **HAVEN** since 2007. Over 50 clients restarted their lives with the assistance of kits from our church.

PLEASE make our outreach a regular part of your life.

Youth News

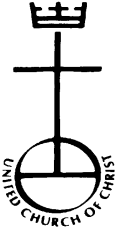
The Youth will be very busy this Christmas season. They will have Youth groups on December 2 and 9 at 4:00. There will be a Youth Christmas Party in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 on December 15. The Youth and anyone else interested will go play Bingo and caroling at Liberty Commons on December 21 at 10:00 a.m.

Any youth that is interested in being in the annual Christmas play there will be play practice on December 2 at 3:15 and December 9 at 6:00. The Christmas program will be on December 16 at 6:00 (youth will need to arrive at 5:00) with light refreshments and a visit from Santa Claus afterwards in the Fellowship Hall.

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

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Celebrating Over 175 Years of Ministry



December Ministry Assistants



Acolytes: Dec. 2: Lauren Godfrey, Gracie Currin; Dec. 9: Keaton Haas, Brennan Haas; Dec. 16: Layton Griffin, Lily Currin; Dec. 23: Jensen Gunter, Calley Gunter; Dec. 30: Layton Griffin, Lily Currin.

Deacon on Call: Dec. 2: Dawn Morris; Dec. 9: Sandra Cotten; Dec. 16: Alan Cox; Dec. 23: John Godfrey; Dec. 30: Audra McKenzie

Trustee to lock/unlock: Auburn Griffin

Ushers: Sloan Griffin, Greg Kelly, Johnny Watson, Eddie Thomas, A. K. Griffin, Kenny Cotten.

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

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I have had an interesting relationship with Christmas music. As a child, I absolutely loved Christmas music. Everything about it excited me (especially the thought of getting gifts.) As a teenager and young adult, I didn't like it. I thought it was cheesy and not very deep. In my mid-twenties up to my mid-thirties, I was ambivalent towards it. I would sing it, but not be moved by it. I would laugh at those who started playing it after Halloween and make loud announcements about everything in its season. The last 5-6 years my attitude has changed again. I love it like I did when I was a child.

Part of the reason for the change is my family. My family loves Christmas music. I married a lady who would play it in August and we had kids who would start decoration in September if I would let them. Their enthusiasm is contagious. Another reason I have we learned to love Christmas music is the message. I'm not talking about the wretched Wham! Or Mariah Carey type songs. I'm talking about the ones who unashamedly proclaim the birth of Jesus. I am moved by "Joy to the World", "O Come All You Faithful", and even "The Little Drummer Boy" (he just wants to play his drum for the king!) It's not just the old hymns I like, but even the newer ones like "Mary Did You Know?"

One of my prayers for you this Christmas is to let the songs of Christmas, the true songs about the birth of our Lord and Savior, move your heart. Let them lead you into worship of our King. Let them remove the distractions of this season and focus on the reason for this season. Sing them loudly and proudly. Sing them with all your might. And if you started singing them two months ago, keep on. The rest of us will catch up.

Pastor Marty



