

Rev. Mike Winters
 Pastor
 Leigh Clark
 Minister of Music & Youth
 Dr. Ray Jones, Jr.
 Pastor Emeritus

WISE BAPTIST NEWS

A PUBLICATION FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF
 WISE BAPTIST CHURCH

December 15, 2015

A place for faith and fellowship with family and friends.



Dear church family and friends,

Christmas is coming! I hope you are prepared, spiritually. Tim Elmore has some spiritual growth ideas in reference to the newest “Star Wars” movie. Elmore suggests we surround ourselves with people who are like the main characters from the “Star Wars” movies: Yoda, R2D2, Chewbacca, and Jar Jar Binks.

We all need a Yoda. Yoda was the ancient wise man who helped to mentor Luke Skywalker, the young hero of the early Star Wars movies. The New Testament tells us that Mary, pregnant with our Savior, went to spend time with Elizabeth. Mary had a “Yoda” to help guide her. Do you have a Yoda?

We all need an R2D2. R2D2 was the tiny robot who, provided practical service to Luke. The shepherds in the New Testament were on the lowest rung of the social scale, yet, they provided the important practical service of telling the good news that our Savior was born. Do you have an “R2D2” in your life?

We all need a Chewbacca. Chewbacca was the giant encourager to Han Solo, another hero of “Star Wars”. He was always there for Han. The New Testament records that an angel appeared to Joseph to encourage him when he was confused about what to do about Mary. The angel Gabriel encouraged Mary about the meaning of her pregnancy. Do you have a “Chewbacca” in your life?

Finally, we all need a Jar Jar Binks. He was a very difficult person to be around. These folks have been called “extra-grace” people. They can force us to rely on God more. We grow as we try to minister to them or, occasionally, in spite of them. Joseph and Mary had to face a lot of criticism from people who did not know or appreciate that Mary was carrying our Savior. Do you have a Jar Jar Binks in your life?

Love, Pastor Mike

IMPORTANT DATES

**Christmas Dinner
 December 16**

**Christmas Eve
 Communion**

**Office Hours
 Closed
 December 24 & 25**

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DEACONS 2015-16

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Lewey Lee | 328-3845 |
| Dan Helton | 328-6086 |
| Edgar Owens | 328-6129 |
| John Kennedy | 328-5013 |
| Matt Meade | 328-2111 |
| Daniel Ray | 328-2483 |
| Jerry Baird | 393-0923 |
| Gill Blackburn | 328-0046 |
| Ron Helton | 393-6145 |

How to Join Wise Baptist Church:

Express one of the following to the Pastor during the closing hymn:

- † **Transfer of Letter** Transfer membership to Wise Baptist Church
- † **Baptism** Desire to express faith in Christ through baptism
- † **Statement of Faith** Baptized believer not on a membership roll
- † **Watch Care** Desire to be connected to our Church family without official membership

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WBC CHRISTMAS DINNER



Join us for our Christmas Dinner, Wednesday, Dec. 16th at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall. The Church will provide the ham & turkey. If those planning to attend could bring a side dish or a salad to share. (If anyone would like to make dressing or mashed potatoes please contact Sherlene Hall).

If you have not signed up and plan to attend please let the office (328-6247) or Teresa Adkins (393-0977) know. A reminder that serving teams 6 & 7 plan to bring 2 desserts each and help with set up and clean up.

Don't forget to wear your Christmas sweaters! We will have our 2nd annual "Tacky" Sweater contest.

Prizes will be given for the tackiest, most original, cutest, most Christmas Spirit and best couple or group.

Family Fun Day!



A fun time was had by every one at the Festival of Trees on Sunday! We had 22 who attended and enjoyed seeing 81 beautifully themed

decorated Christmas trees at the Southwest Virginia Museum in Big Stone Gap. Afterwards we enjoyed fellowship during dinner at El Castillo. Stay tuned" for more children's/family activities in the new year!

CHRISTMAS TRAIN DISPLAY

Everyone is invited to see the Collie's Christmas Train Display. Please call 328-5133, to let them know when you will be by. Address: 310 Woodland Court St., Wise.



As you pray, please remember...

Irene Black, Lois Stallard, Papa Joe and Reba Smiddy, Ray and Carolyn Jones, Artie and Clifford Bailey, Kim Boggs, Pat Boggs, Archie and Joanne Kennedy, Elizabeth and Susan Davidson, Hubert Breeding, John and Kay Wright, Pat and Fred Adkins, Jerry Reynolds, all the cancer patients in our area, and our men and women in the military.



Our Shut Ins: Hazel Dixon (Mountain View), Martha Gilliam, Eddie Culbertson, Vernoy Bolling, Peggy Tolbert (Heritage Hall—BSG), and Florine Pennington (The Laurels).

LOTTIE MOON

As of 12/14/15 WBC has donated \$466. to Lottie Moon Missions.



PIECEMAKERS AND CARING FRIENDS

will resume on Monday, January 11th.

SINGING SUNBEAMS will be on Christmas break and will resume practice tentatively on Monday, January 11th.

CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION

December 24 at 11:00 pm we will gather in the sanctuary to worship and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, our Savior. The service will include music, drama, scripture, Holy Communion and "Sharing the Light". This is the highlight of the Advent Season. Join us! Invite someone to come with you!

LET'S HELP!

GRAB N GO MINISTRY



The Grab N Go Ministry is a year round ministry to help the Department of Social Service Adult Protection Services. Non-perishable food items and other items (a list is available on the table by the elevator) help bridge the gap at the end of the month, when supplies run low. You can also donate small gift cards to Food City or to Payless for the Social Workers to buy perishable food items for those in need. Once items are at the Social Service office, a bag is filled with each of these items. The social worker keeps some of the bags with them while out on their home visits. If there is a need, a bag of assorted food, etc. is ready and available to those in need.

Sherlene Hall gathers the items you place in the white baskets twice a month and takes them to Social Services. Thank you for giving. Thank you for your prayers.



From Leigh

I have enjoyed reading "Experience Christmas" - an Advent Devotional by Christine Trevino this season. She has some wonderful thoughts and insights on this time of *waiting*.

She spends time exploring the perspective of the different characters in the Christmas story. It has helped me consider how difficult and challenging a time it was! There were so many pressures and choices and consequences—we think we have it tough today! How did Mary, at such a young age, have the faith and courage to say "yes"? Can you imagine the danger, scrutiny, ridicule, judgement she faced? Not to mention her own self-doubt! And Joseph. *Really?* Faith is not nearly a strong enough word to describe his trust in God and in Mary. How about Elizabeth? She waited and trusted. The shepherds—afraid and astonished but eager and curious enough to overcome their fear which resulted in witnessing the greatest miracle ever!

I pray that I will see the Christmas story not just as a story but as a very real experience—then and now! One of the songs from the Cantata was called "The Miracle of Christmas". The chorus said, "The God who spoke is speaking still. The God who came still comes. The miracle that happened still happens in the heart that will believe and receive the Miracle of Christmas". May it be so!

I am praying for all of you this week. Pray for each other, too. Blessings, Leigh

Thank you Singing Sunbeam choir for your wonderful music on Sunday. Debbie and Donna do a great job!

This Sunday we will enjoy music from the Sanctuary Choir, Misty Belcher, and Anna Clark! Plan to be here and invite a friend!



December 14

Jim Sturgill

December 16

Irene Black

December 17

Alex Knox

December 20

Marsha Tolbert

Bryan Crutchfield

December 19 Shane & Susan Mullins



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us at 10 am for Sunday school on Sunday mornings. There are classes for all ages. It is a great way to get to know people and to grow spiritually.

Plan to join us this week!

CHURCH LIBRARY

Be sure to check out the Church Library which is located in the Ladies SS Classroom on the first floor. There is something for everyone - fiction, non-fiction, novels, devotionals, Bible translations and more!!



Central One Act Team—2A State Champs

Lily Snodgrass, Emma Snodgrass, Mary Steudemann,
Reagan Elkins, Noah Hall

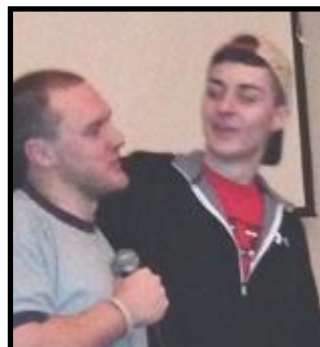


CONGRATULATIONS to the Central One Act Team on their 2A State Championship. We are so proud of all of you!

CONGRATULATIONS to the Central Lady Warriors Varsity and Junior Varsity teams for winning the PNVB basketball tournament!

The LIGHT is working on a song for the Christmas Eve service. There will be a rehearsal on Sunday morning at 9 am in the sanctuary.

Following worship on Sunday, December 20, The FLOCK will board the bus bound for Dollywood. We will return late that night. Please let Leigh know if you plan to go no later than Thursday. Friends are welcome! (need to know that too!) Final details via Facebook and text later in the week.



Some fun with The Flock on Sunday evening while we were practicing for LIGHT. Never a dull moment!



Mark Collins, Grayson Hall, and Noah Hall

JESSEE TREE



PASTOR MIKE



SINGING SUNBEAMS



Family Night Out—"Festival of Trees"



**FAMILY FUN DAY
"FESTIVAL OF TREES"**



DAYS OF CHRISTMAS KINDNESS

IDEAS

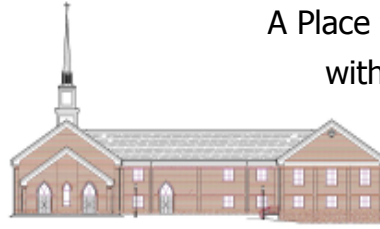
Here are some ways we can change the spiritual climate of our area! You are encouraged to pick up “Connection Cards” in the church foyer. You can hand these out as you do each act of kindness. These cards identify who we are (as a church) and how people can contact us.

- ◆ Collect canned goods for the food bank
 - ◆ Make a plate of treats for someone, place on their doorstep and run!
 - ◆ Pay for the order of the car behind you in the drive through
 - ◆ Take a treat and thank you card to your local fire, ambulance or police department (please put your name and phone number on these)
 - ◆ Tape candy canes and note of happy holidays to a neighbors door
 - ◆ Pay for a strangers coffee
 - ◆ Send a care package/letter to someone in the military
 - ◆ Put a comment on someone’s blog, letting them know how much you enjoy reading the blog
 - ◆ Make holiday cards, put them on car windshields/doors
 - ◆ Call or text someone, ask if they need anything from the store
 - ◆ Send a card to a friend/relative you haven’t seen in a while
 - ◆ Purchase gifts/gift cards for someone in need
 - ◆ Send a paper “hug” to someone
 - ◆ Make Christmas cards for your neighbors
 - ◆ Tape change and holiday message to a vending machine
 - ◆ Leave a book mark in your library book and give one to your librarian
 - ◆ Send a thank you to those who decorate their homes for you to enjoy
 - ◆ Send thank you notes to those who have had a positive impact on you
 - ◆ Leave a gift or note for your mail carrier/garbage pick-up
 - ◆ Leave a happy note or smile stone for someone to find
 - ◆ Bring up the neighbor’s garbage cans/recycling bins/yard work
 - ◆ Take a flower/plant to a nursing home
 - ◆ Shovel someone’s driveway
 - ◆ Pick up litter in your neighborhood/local park
 - ◆ Purchase flowers, hand them out to people
 - ◆ Donate toys to a family, day care, nursery, hospital, charity, church
 - ◆ Send a box of gently used mittens/hats to a school, homeless shelter
 - ◆ Donate your favorite holiday book to a library/school
 - ◆ Leave a dollar in the shopping cart for the next person to find
 - ◆ Leave an extra tip for your server
 - ◆ Check in on someone who is alone
 - ◆ Pay a stranger a compliment
 - ◆ Return a shopping cart for a stranger
 - ◆ Make eye contact and smile at everyone you see
 - ◆ Help someone who is in need of assistance
 - ◆ Tell your family members how much you appreciate them
 - ◆ Be a holiday helper—volunteer
 - ◆ Compliment a sales clerk/let their manager know
 - ◆ Collect old towels/washcloths to donate to a local animal shelter
 - ◆ Put out fresh water for the birds
 - ◆ Purchase extra bags of pet food to donate to a local animal shelter
- Students/kids:**
- ◆ Tidy up your room/help around the house without being told
 - ◆ Sharpen all the pencils in the classroom
 - ◆ Write a letter to your siblings, telling them you love them
 - ◆ Take coffee to your teacher
 - ◆ Sit next to someone during lunch you usually don’t and be nice to them
 - ◆ Leave happy chalk message out where you live

Volunteers this Week

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|--|
| Deacons On Call: | 12/13-12/19 | John Kennedy, Dan Helton |
| | 12/20-12/26 | Bill Sutherland, Daniel Ray |
| Building Stewards: | | Ron, Dan, Scott S. |
| Instrumentalists: | | Susan M., Susan S. |
| Worship Welcome Team: | | Dave Belcher, Misty Belcher, Jeff Kiser, Oscar Raile, Daniel Ray |
| S.S. Greeters: | 12/20 | John Kennedy |
| | 12/27 | Lewey & Brenda Lee |
| Nursery: | 12/20 | Sandy Mullins, Caroline Mullins |
| | 12/27 | Cari Braddock, Susie Clasby |
| Children's Church: | 12/20 | Erra Sutherland |
| | 12/27 | Karen & John Ponish |
| PA: | 12/20 | Mike Osborne |
| | 12/27 | Oscar Raile |
| Tellers: | December | Jeff Dotson, Teresa Adkins |
| Ushers: | 12/20 | Gary Smith*, Bob Adkins^, Bill Sutherland^, Lewey Lee, Mike Strouth, Matt Meade, Ron Swindall, David Mullins |
| | 12/27 | Brian Burton*, Jeff Elkins^, Roger Williams^, David Be;cher, Kenneth Bowling, Donnie Bradley, David Sheppard, Daniel Ray |
| | | (*Offertory Prayer; ^Choir Ushers) |
| Wed. Serving Team: | 12/16 | Susan Smith, Brenda Lee, Ann Wade, Ruby Salyers, Linda Bailey, Karen Ponish |
| | 01/06 | Potluck Team |
| Wed. Meal: | 12/16 | Christmas Dinner |
| | 01/06 | Potluck |

A Place for Faith and Fellowship
with Family and Friends



WEEKLY OPPORTUNITIES

| | | |
|-----------|--|----------|
| Sunday | Sunday School | 10:00 am |
| | Worship | 11:00 am |
| | Youth | 6:00 pm |
| Monday | Office Hours | 9-2 pm |
| | Piecemakers & Caring Friends (1st & 3rd) | 9:30 am |
| | (resume January 11th) | |
| | Singing Sunbeams | 3:45 pm |
| | (resume January 11th) | |
| Tuesday | Office Hours | 9-2 pm |
| Wednesday | Office Hours | 9-2 pm |
| | Christmas Dinner | 6:00 pm |
| Thursday | Office Hours | Closed |
| | Women on Mission(2nd) | 2-4 pm |
| Friday | Office Hours | Closed |

Rev. Mike Winters Contact Information

Mailing Address: 8915 Red Maple Dr., Wise, VA 24293

E-mail: MikeWinters@wisebaptist.com

Phone: 276.328.6247 **Cell:** 540.280.5598

Phone: (276) 328-6247 Website: www.wisebaptist.com Email: wisebaptist@verizon.net Fax: 276-328-6204

Wise Baptist Church

P.O. Box 777

Wise, VA 24293

Like us at: Wise Baptist Church and at

Wise Baptist Youth



Thought for the week:
May the "Force" of the Holy Spirit awaken in you.