

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 13, 2016



Dear church family and friends,

We celebrate a life-altering mystery every Advent season. It is the Incarnation, God coming to us all as a human being. We have heard the story so many times, that we mentally check out with the nearly unconscious thought, "I have heard this all before". Then, our attention quickly turns to something else that seems more urgent.

Let's stop everything and go deeper into this mystery. Three basic characteristics of God are: He is all-powerful, all-knowing and all-present. He gave up all these qualities to better communicate His love to us.

God is all-powerful...but a baby? New-born babies are almost completely powerless and helpless. They cannot lift their heads, crawl or walk. They cannot feed themselves. Babies are completely dependent on people to care for and protect them.

God is all-knowing. The human Jesus admits that even He does not know the exact date of the end of time.

God is all-present. He is can be anywhere at any time. Jesus was confined to a human body. He got tired and hungry. He could only be at one place at a time.

For 33 years, in the person of Jesus, God gave up so much so that He could show and tell us of His enduring love. What a wonder! What a mystery! Let's hear the Christmas story all over again with this in mind!

This Advent season, let us worship more deeply and serve more devotedly. Wise Baptist has many Advent events coming up. Join us. Invite a friend.

Love, Pastor Mike

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 |

IMPORTANT DATES

Christmas Dinner
December 14, 6pm

Reception for
Leigh & Mark Clark
December 17, 3pm

Ballroom Dancing Practice
Dance
December 18, 4pm

Children's Christmas
Caroling
December 18, 5:30pm

Church-Wide Christmas
Caroling
December 21, 7pm

Candlelight Communion
December 24, 11pm

Christmas Day Service
December 25, 11am

Church-Wide Birthday Party
January 15, 12noon

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DEACONS 2016-17

Jerry Baird	393-0923
Gil Blackburn	328-0046
Jeff Dotson	393-8417
Ron Helton	393-6145
John Kennedy	328-5013
Matt Meade	393-9177
Mike Osborne	365-0968
Edgar Owens	328-6129
Daniel Ray	328-2483

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS DINNER

We will have our annual Christmas Dinner on Wednesday, December 14 at 6pm...featuring our 3rd annual "Tacky Christmas Sweater" Contest!

Please bring a side or dessert. Meats, drinks & bread will be provided.



Children's Christmas Caroling Sunday, December 18

We will meet at the church bus at 5:30 pm & travel to Bear Creek Subdivision to carol from house to house; afterwards: hot chocolate at the Winters' home!



A Ballroom Dancing "Practice" Dance will be held on Sunday afternoon (Dec. 18) at 4-5:15pm in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone is welcome to join in the fun! We will review East Coast Swing, Foxtrot & Waltz, as well as teach basic steps to newcomers & maybe teach a new step or 2! Bring a snack to share. Contact Mike or Terry Winters for more information.

TRAIN DISPLAY!

Jim & Sherry Collie graciously invite you to visit their Christmas train display anytime between now & after the New Year. Call them at 276-328-5133 to set up a visit.



Jewels of Alpine Europe Tour

Join Mike & Carolyn Strouth
May 1 - 13, 2017 for a 13-day guided tour...

"Journey from Switzerland's mountain-lined Lake Lucerne to France's inspiring Lake Annecy. Take in the picturesque Chamonix Valley & stroll along Italy's Lake Como. Then, cross Liechtenstein & hit the winter wonderland of Innsbruck before heading to Munich, the lively capital of Bavaria."

Contact Mike Strouth at 865-394-8930 or amstrouth@gmail.com if you are interested.

As you pray, please remember...

Pat Boggs & family, Irene Black, Ray and Carolyn Jones, Artie and Clifford Bailey, John and Kay Wright, Pat and Fred Adkins, Bea and Glenn Hill, all the cancer patients in our area, and our men and women in the military.



Hospitalized: Wesley Kennedy (Florida), Elizabeth Davidson (NCH, Norton)

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

*If you know of other prayer concerns, please contact the church office (328-6247).

*With Heartfelt
Sympathy*

We extend our deepest sympathy to Pat Boggs, Lee & Amy & their families in the death of Kim last week. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

Handmade Christmas Ornaments

See Sherlene Hall to purchase Christmas ornaments made by women in India. All proceeds will be used for local mission projects. Small ornaments are \$8, large are \$12.

THANK YOU!!

Thank you to Debbie Collins & Donna Hutchinson for faithfully leading our Singing Sunbeam Children's Choir! The children presented a wonderful Christmas program this past Sunday, entitled "God's Christmas Rainbow"! Thank you also to Susan Mullins for accompanying the children & also to Matt Collins & Abbie Crutchfield for their participation. Singing Sunbeams will begin meeting again on January 16 from 4-5pm at the Rock.



END-OF-YEAR GIVING

As we look back over the year 2016, we can see how richly God has blessed us. His greatest Gift was His only Son! It is a good time to consider what we will give back to God. Your giving is vital to the ministries of Wise Baptist Church. Won't you consider an end-of-year gift to WBC? Thank you!

From the Personnel Committee about Future Staffing Needs:

Leigh will conclude her ministry on Dec. 18. Therefore, steps are being taken to address needs in the areas of Music and Youth. Music is a very important part of our church and we are fortunate to have talented individuals to step up and fill in. Donna Hutchinson agreed to lead the choir, temporarily, until the Personnel Committee recommends a more permanent Music Director. Buster Brown has also agreed to help when he is in town. We look forward to what God is going to do in our church as we continue to worship and serve Him with the gifts He has given us.



Wise Baptist Church also values our youth and the Youth Ministry. The Personnel Committee will also address the need for a Youth leader. Volunteers will help fill in while we search for a more permanent leader. This is an occasion for parents, youth and the church to step up as we follow God's leadership for our church.

Please join us as we pray for God's direction and wisdom.



- ⇒ **Dec. 21** - Fellowship Dinner (6pm), followed by caroling at the Laurels
- ⇒ **Dec. 22, 23** - Church Office closed
- ⇒ **Dec. 24** - Candlelight Communion, 11pm
- ⇒ **Dec. 25** - Christmas Day Service, 11am (No Sunday School)
- ⇒ **Dec. 26-28** - Church Office closed
- ⇒ **Dec. 27** - No Newsletter this week
- ⇒ **Dec. 28** - No activities
- ⇒ **Dec. 29-30** - Church Office open 9am - 12pm
- ⇒ **Jan. 1** - New Year's Day Service, 11am (No Sunday School)
- ⇒ **Jan. 2** - Church Office closed
- ⇒ **Jan. 4** - Fellowship Meal, 6pm
Bible Study led by Pastor Mike, 6:45pm
Choir Rehearsal, 7:50pm

**Kindred Spirits
met on December
6 to make
snowmen out of
tube socks!**



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, December 17

Please plan to join us on

Saturday, December 17

at 3:00 pm

as we honor Leigh & Mark Clark

and express appreciation

for her 19 years

of Music and Youth Ministry

at Wise Baptist Church!



Dear Leigh **CLARK**,

We'd just like to **TAKE 5** to tell you how **EXTRA** special you are! Wow! 19 years of ministry at Wise Baptist Church!! So many memories...

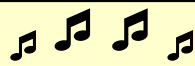
- * **100 GRAND** choir rehearsal
- * **HOT TAMALES** at El Castillo and Mi Finca
- * Shopping **SPREES** on **5TH AVENUE** in New **YORK** (or was that shopping at Walmart in Norton for Operation Christmas Child?)
- * Watching all of those **SUGAR BABIES** grow up into **SMARTIES** & head off to college or jobs
- * Attending countless sports events to support our youth when they **SKOR** & to encourage them when they have **BUTTERFINGERS**
- * **GOOD & PLENTY** fun & worshipful times on youth retreats & mission trips
- * Telling lots of **WHOPPERS** after those senior adult bus trips - (but what happens on those trips, stays on those trips...!)
- * Directing amazing Christmas cantatas—20 in all! Why, with all of those **WHATCHAMACALLIT** musical instruments each year, it's just like listening to a **SYMPHONY**!

We've shared many **SNICKERS** and sometimes tear, but we thank God that we could minister together these many years!

HUGS & KISSES & MOUNDS of love—

both **NOW & LATER!**





From Leigh

Thank you, sanctuary choir and Misty Belcher for the beautiful music yesterday in worship. I am also so very thankful for Bruce Cahoon and Marty Kennedy who are always willing to do whatever they can for our worship. I look forward to Casey Mullins, Kristen Osborne and Anna Clark being home for next Sunday!

Last night the FLOCK gathered at the home of Jeff and Cindy Elkins for our Christmas party. What a lovely home—filled with love and joy; so warm and inviting. The parents provided so much food! We played some games, exchanged gag gifts, read the Christmas story from the Gospel of Luke and I cried. The FLOCK presented me with a beautiful gift of love that I will cherish.



My ministry at WBC has involved lots of “titles” - music director for choir, children and handbells, college class teacher, Outreach ministry, Minister of Music and Minister of Youth. Each phase of my ministry has been a blessing. I enjoy music and believe the music ministry has come a long way during my tenure.

However, I truly feel my ministry with youth has had the greatest impact—on me and on the church. God has allowed me see the Holy Spirit work in the lives and hearts of young people through professions of faith, spiritual growth and personal relationships. We have had lots of fun, fellowship, mission trips, service projects, Bible studies, competitions, etc. over the years!

My final message to them last night was this:

- † Know you are loved—never doubt God’s love
- † Know you are valuable—don’t ever let the world determine your worth
- † Everyone needs grace—receive it and give it
- † Kindness matters
- † You are here for a purpose; choose to make a difference

I think this is a message that we all need to hear regularly—I know that I do!

I am excited about the reception on Saturday. Thank you in advance to all of those who have had a part in the planning and for all who are able to attend.

I am praying for you this week; pray for each other, too.

Blessings, Leigh

PS: I will have my FLOCK tree picture at the reception on Saturday. I would love to get more FLOCK signatures—current and former—on the picture!



December 14	Jim Sturgill
December 16	Irene Black
	Taylor Gardner
December 20	Bryan Crutchfield
	Marsha Tolbert
December 22	Dallas Kennedy
	Jon Kennedy
	Rick Mullins

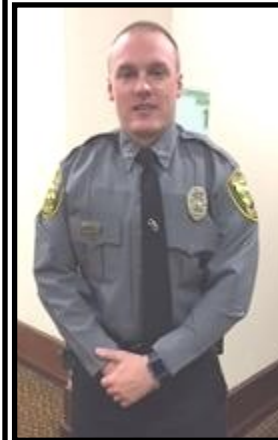


December 19 Shane & Susan Mullins

“Let There Be Christmas”

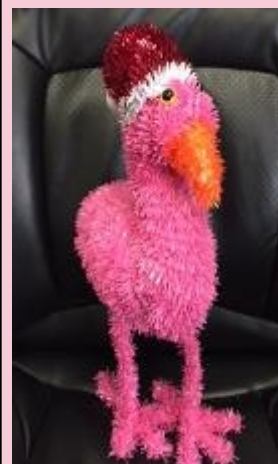
ARC-TV made a video recording of the Christmas Cantata. It will be airing this month. DVD’s are available for purchase (\$20).

Call 276.679.4000 to place your order.



Congratulations to Mark Collins on his graduation from the Police Academy on December 8.

Officer Collins is a member of the Town of Wise Police Department.



Thank you, Elkins family, for hosting our FLOCK Christmas party! It was so much fun. The Saran wrap ball was incredible! **LIGHT will participate in the Christmas Eve service. Emma Snodgrass will give you the details.**



FLOCK Christmas Party—2016!

We enjoyed the food, games, fellowship and devotional time. Thank you to the parents for providing the food and to the Elkins' family for hosting us!

Our children have been busy!

Parents' Night Out
December 3...



Singing Sunbeams presented
"God's Christmas Rainbow"
December 11...



Volunteers this Week

Deacons On Call:	12/11-12/17	Ron Helton, Jerry Baird
	12/18-12/24	Matt Meade, Jeff Dotson
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:	12/18	Bob & Teresa Adkins
	12/25	Mike & Rebecca Osborne
Nursery:	12/18	Stephen & Julie Large
	12/25	No Nursery
Children's Church:	12/18	TBA
	12/25	No Children's Church
PA:	12/18	Mike Osborne
	12/25	Oscar Raile
Tellers:	December	Cliff Carson, Mike Strouth
	January	Martha Blackburn, David Mullins
Ushers:	12/18	Kenny Bowling*, Steve Horton^, Matt Meade^, Daniel Ray, Johnny Robinson, Jim Sturgill, Bob Adkins
	12/25	Edgar Owens*, Gary Smith^, John Thacker^, Roger Viers, Harold Witt, Jerry Baird, Stan Kunigelis *Offertory Prayer; ^Choir Ushers)
Wed. Serving Teams:	12/14	Martha Blackburn, Linda Burgess, Kathy Helton, Brenda Lee, Susie Powers, Susan Smith, Ann Wade, Vickie Wells
	12/21	Linda Bailey, Karen Ponish, Ruby Salyers
Wed. Meals:	12/14	Christmas Dinner (meat, drinks, bread provided; Please bring side dishes & desserts
	12/21	Soups & Sandwiches
Children-in-Action:	12/14	Will not meet (Church Christmas Dinner)
	12/21	Will not meet (Church-Wide Christmas Caroling)

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	Piecemakers (will recess in December)	9:30 am
	Caring Friends (will recess in December)	
	Singing Sunbeams (starts again 1-16-17)	4-5 pm
Wednesday	Mission Ministry Team (1st)	5:00 pm
	Fellowship Meal	6:00 pm
	Adult Bible Study	6:45 pm
	Youth Bible Study	
	Children-in-Action (Grades K-6)	
	Nursery (Birth-Preschool)	
	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	7:50 pm
Thursday	Women on Mission (2nd)	2-4 pm

Rev. Mike Winters Contact Information

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

E-mail: MikeWinters@wisebaptist.com

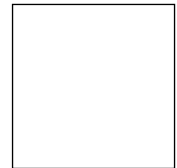
Phone: 276.328.6247 **Cell:** 540.280.5598

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:
Reflect on the mystery of
the Incarnation!**