

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 22, 2015

A place for faith and fellowship with family and friends.



Dear church family and friends,

“Did you ask a good question today?”, said a mother to her son daily when he came home from school. A good question indicates a searching mind, hungry to learn. Her son, Elie Wiesel, later survived the Nazi death. Later, he became a Nobel Prize-winning author.

Twenty-two questions are raised in fifty-five verses in the Book of Malachi. These are important questions. Paraphrased, some of them ask, “Where is the God of justice?” and “How can we get back to God?” *These are Advent questions.* These questions drive us to search our hearts and the Scriptures. These questions drive us to our knees.

Words for three songs in Handel’s “Messiah” are drawn from the Book of Malachi. God’s answer to these questions is revealed in a later song, based on Isaiah 7:14. “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign; behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son and shall call his name Immanuel.” The “Messiah” triumphantly concludes with “The Hallelujah Chorus”. Every year, the high point of the Wise Baptist Church Christmas cantata is “The Hallelujah Chorus” from Handel’s “Messiah”.

The words of the “Hallelujah Chorus” continue to stir our hearts...“King of kings and Lord of lords, and He shall reign forever and ever!” God’s Answer is the One Who came, comes, and will come.

We cannot make all the pieces of life neatly fit together. We cannot make everything in life add up perfectly. We do not get answers to every question. But, we have what we need. As the Apostle Paul says, “Your grace is sufficient”.

May the overflowing grace of God this Advent season be yours through the amazing, forgiving Person and presence of our Savior, Christ the Lord!

Merry Christmas!

Love, Pastor Mike

IMPORTANT DATES

**Christmas Eve
Communion**

**Office Hours
Closed for Christmas
December 24 & 25**

**Office Hours
Closed for New Years
December 31 &
January 1st**

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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

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Christmas Dinner on Wednesday evening. What a wonderful time of fellowship, delicious food and “Tacky” sweaters. It was such an enjoyable evening with all the tables full and we even had to bring in extra chairs! A very special thanks to Teresa Adkins, Sherlene Hall and Elaine Hylton for their preparation that makes events like this so special for all of us!

Our winners of the Sweater contest:



Mark Collins
“Tackiest”



Erra Sutherland
“Most Spirit”



Rachel Lyall
“Cutest”



Hutchinson family
“Best Group”

CHRISTMAS TRAIN DISPLAY

Everyone is invited to see the Collie’s Christmas Train Display. Please call 328-5133, to make arrangements. The display will be up through mid January.



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).



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!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

We will continue our Bible study on the Book of Exodus beginning January 6. If you missed the first part taught in the Fall, you can still jump right in! “Exodus” means to leave, to exit. They are leaving Egypt and heading for the Promised Land. There were struggles along the way, but they experienced God’s presence and the promise of his future. Today, we are still on that journey. Join us! Books are available in the church foyer.

The fellowship meal begins at 6pm, Bible Study at 6:45pm and choir rehearsal at 7:50pm.

END-OF-YEAR GIVING

As we look back over the year 2015, we can see how God has gifted and 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 our church ministry. Won’t you consider an end-of-year gift to Wise Baptist Church? Thank you!



From Leigh

Mark and I made a mad dash to Memphis and back last week to pick up Anna who had gotten a ride with her room mate. We made it back in time to be a part of the wonderful Christmas dinner and caroling at the church. What an amazing time of fellowship and fun. The sweater contest was great! The food was delicious. And, most of all, the sweet spirit of everyone here was just special. I would especially like to thank Teresa Adkins, Sherlene Hall, and Elaine Hylton for all of their work to make this a special event! Thank you to everyone who went to The Laurels to sing and smile and hug all of the residents there—it was such a blessing!

Our sanctuary choir continues to amaze me with their music and talent and faithfulness. The anthem on Sunday was especially beautiful. Thank you!

And, what a joy to sing with Anna on Sunday—what a special privilege for this mama! And to be accompanied by Susan and Marty was an added blessing!

It has been a meaningful Advent season at WBC. We are privileged to join together as a community of faith to anticipate and worship the Christ Child. I often wonder how those who do not have a church home survive the ups and downs of this world.

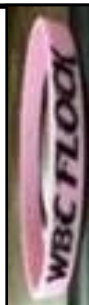
On Thursday evening, we will have another opportunity to worship at 11:00 pm. It is going to be a very special time. I hope and pray that you and your family will be able to join us! It is a little late for some and maybe inconvenient for others, but, if you make the effort to be here, I know that God will have a special blessing in store for you! What better place to be as Christmas Eve turns into Christmas morning?



MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU AND YOURS FROM THE CLARK'S!

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

Blessings, Leigh



LIGHT will lead us in worship on Christmas Eve. We ask for your prayers as we continue to prepare our hearts and our routine.

The FLOCK had a great time on Sunday at Dollywood! We will resume our regular youth meetings in January.



- December 22 Dallas Kennedy
Jon Kennedy
Rick Mullins
- December 23 LeeAnn Adkins
Sherlene Hall
Buster Brown
- December 24 Caroline Strouth
Jim Collie
- December 25 Lilyanna Harden
- December 26 Lindsay Allio
- December 27 Bea Hill

Special Thanks, love and appreciation to Tammie Harding for her service as our church secretary. She will step down at the end of December to assume more grandmother responsibilities.

SUNDAY WORSHIP



Anna and Leigh



Jesse Tree



FLOCK TO DOLLYWOOD!

We had such a wonderful time at Christmas in the Smokies on Sunday evening! Special thanks to Mark, Kathy, Kristen and Anna for going as chaperones!



Also, thank you to the church for supporting our youth ministry.



CHRISTMAS DINNER





DAYS OF CHRISTMAS KINDNESS

IDEAS

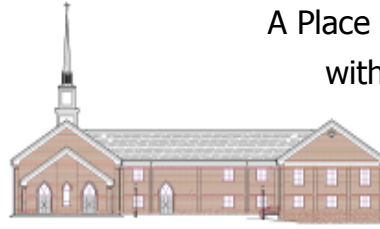
Here are some ways we can change the spiritual climate of our area! You are encouraged to pick up “Connection Cards” in the church foyer. You can hand these out as you do each act of kindness. These cards identify who we are (as a church) and how people can contact us.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ 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 <p style="text-align: center;">Students/kids:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ 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 |
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Volunteers this Week

Deacons On Call:	12/20-12/26	Gil Blackburn, Daniel Ray
	12/27-01/02	Edgar Owens, Ron Helton
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:	12/27	Lewey & Brenda Lee
	01/03	David & Sandy Mullins
Nursery:	12/27	Cari Braddock, Susie Clasby
	01/03	Bonnie Owens, Reagan Elkins
Children's Church:	12/27	Karen & John Ponish
	01/03	Kathy Dotson, Elora Hutchinson
PA:	12/27	Oscar Raile
	01/03	Mike Strouth
Tellers:	December	Jeff Dotson, Teresa Adkins
	January	Martha Blackburn, David Mullins
Ushers:	12/27	Brian Burton*, Jeff Elkins^, Roger Williams^, David Be;cher, Kenneth Bowling, Donnie Bradley, David Sheppard, Daniel Ray
	01/03	Stan Kunigelis*, Roger Viers^, Leton Harding, Harold Witt, Mark Clark, Jerry Baird, Edgar Owens
		(*Offertory Prayer; ^Choir Ushers)
Wed. Serving Team:	01/06	Potluck Team
	01/13	Teresa Adkins, Jean Aker, Bonnie Owens
Wed. Meal:	01/06	Potluck
	01/13	Lasagna, Garlic Bread, Salad

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
Thursday	Office Hours	Closed
	Women on Mission(2nd)	2--4 pm
Friday	Office Hours	Closed

Rev. Mike Winters Contact Information

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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:
Jesus is "King of kings and
Lord of lords and He shall
reign forever and ever"!**