

# BETHLEHEM STAR

The newsletter of Bethlehem Original Free Will Baptist Church Joe Ard, Pastor November-December 2010



## Christmas Cantata

Bethlehem's adult choir will present the cantata "O Holy Night" during the 11 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Dec. 19.



## Christmas Cards

The elves who sort our Christmas cards each year will begin their work on the first of December. If you're taking part in the card exchange, have your stack at the church by 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 1.

## Experience God's goodness

### PSALM 103:4-5

There's a Dennis the Menace cartoon in which Dennis and his friend Joey are walking away from the Wilson's house with their hands full of cookies.

Joey asks, "I wonder what we did to deserve this?"

Dennis tells his friend, "Joey, Mrs. Wilson gives us cookies not because we're nice, but because she's nice."

The same can be said of our Heavenly Father.

He gives not because we're good, but because He's good. He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us for our iniquities.

Instead, He is the one...

... who redeems your life from

*the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.* (Psalm 103:4-5)

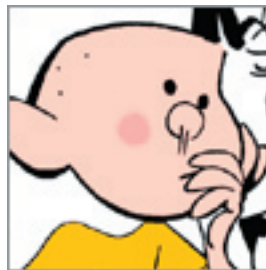
Because God treats us in this way, we too should be a reflection of God's love and compassion in our relationships with others.

There are people all around us who are living in the pits of this life. We should be doing all we can to direct them to God who is good and redeems us from the pits of darkness.

What do you need to change about your life that will cause you to be more of a reflection of the love and compassion of God? How can you better point people to God that they might experience His redemption?

If you are not sure...ask God and when He reveals it to you.... do it! Not because you are good, but because God is!

— Preacher Joe



## Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes collected Nov. 14

Shoebox gifts for Operation Christmas Child will be collected on Sunday, Nov. 14. Samaritan's Purse offers these suggestions:

- Use a standard size shoe box or a plastic shoe box (they're about a dollar at Walmart).
- Determine if your gifts are for a boy or girl and mark the appropriate age group on the label (pick up a brochure in the vestibule).
- Fill with gifts such as crayons, pencils, solar calculator, paper, markers, pencil sharpener, small cars, balls, jump ropes, yo-yos, stuffed animals, toothbrush, toothpaste, bar soap, comb, washcloth, hard candy or gum (in a plastic bag), ball caps, socks, T-shirts, sunglasses, hair accessories.
- Please donate \$7 (or more) for each shoe box. This helps cover shipping and other costs. You can give online through the EZ Give program ([www.samaritanspurse.org/ezgive](http://www.samaritanspurse.org/ezgive)).
- If you wrap your box, be sure the lid is wrapped separately as boxes will be opened at the Charlotte processing center so Bible study materials can be added.
- If you have questions, contact Diane Dail at 910-324-3192 or [memadail@hotmail.com](mailto:memadail@hotmail.com).

— Diane Dail



### Newest member

This handsome, quickly growing fellow is Mason Lee Jones, first-born of Tony and Mallory Albertson Jones. Mason arrived Sept. 2 and weighed in at 8 pounds, 6 ounces. At last report, he was 13 pounds, 11 ounces and had topped the two-foot mark by a half-inch.



## Bethlehem church contacts

### Pastor

Joe Ard, 252-568-4590  
[joe\\_ard@hotmail.com](mailto:joe_ard@hotmail.com)

### Sunday school superintendent

Rita Fountain, 910-324-5016  
[rita.fountain@nmcrs.org](mailto:rita.fountain@nmcrs.org)

### Choir director

Vernie Fountain, 910-324-5817  
[verniefountain@ncfbins.com](mailto:verniefountain@ncfbins.com)

### Deacon chairman

Sherwood Fountain, 910-324-3018 (home)

or 910-358-2046 (cell)

### Deacons

Stanley Craft, 910-324-5915  
Darrell Edwards, 910-324-4280  
Byron Fountain, 910-324-5016  
Vernie Fountain, 910-324-5817  
Freddy Jones, 910-520-8715  
Rick Dempsey, 910-324-1747

### Newsletter

Jeri Fountain, 910-324-5268  
[jerifountain@yahoo.com](mailto:jerifountain@yahoo.com)

# Prayer requests

Bob Adams family  
 Johnnie Albertson  
 Tammi Albertson  
 Josiah Allen  
 Billie Ard  
 Joe Ard  
 Margaret Ard  
 Sam Baker  
 Joe Batts  
 Judy Bevans  
 Shelby Boone  
 Chris Brock  
 Art & Marcia Brown  
 Frances Brown  
 Franklin Brown  
 JoAnne Brown  
 Van Brown  
 Kimberly Bryan  
 Nancy Bryan  
 Cathy Burnette  
 Melissa Chase  
 Frances Edmundson  
 Pauline Edwards  
 Clifton Fountain  
 Doris Fountain  
 Elton Fountain  
 Frances Fountain  
 Jimmy Fountain  
 Reba Fountain  
 Sutton Fountain  
 Scott Fowler  
 Mabel Franklin

Kevin Hart  
 Janet Heaton  
 Colleen Horne  
 Peggy Horne  
 Velma Horne  
 Faye Ives  
 Tim Jarman  
 Jennifer Johnson  
 Geno Jones  
 Leslie Jones  
 Louise Jones  
 Reba Jones  
 Zachary Jones  
 Fallon Lanier  
 Rose Manning  
 Suzie Marshburn  
 C J Mercer  
 Bill Nobles  
 Bobby Patterson  
 Justin Quinn  
 Geraldine Raynor  
 Julie Shay  
 Dee Dee Sloan  
 Ronnie Sumner  
 Justin Taylor  
 Wally Vick  
 Frances Voss  
 Guy Williams  
 Jolly Williams  
 Doris Wood  
 Jo Wood  
 Aleisha Young

## Christmas pointsettia orders

I have ordered the same number of plants that we ordered last year. They will decorate the church during the Christmas season.



There will be 20 small plants (6-1/2 inch pots that will cost \$11.25) and three large plants (8-inch pots that will be \$23.75). Please let me know who wants to purchase them and who they are in honor of or in memory of.

— Mary Jo Brown



### November

- 7 - Amy Jones
- 7 - Waylon Jones
- 8 - Rachel Southerland
- 11 - Lesley Shepard
- 15 - Marcia Jones
- 20 - Sierra Young
- 21 - Sherwood Fountain
- 23 - George Bryan
- 23 - Luke Fountain
- 24 - Casey Bryan
- 25 - Marvin Fountain
- 26 - Rosa Craft

### December

- 1 - Susan Fountain
- 9 - Fallon Lanier
- 10 - Cadence Brown
- 12 - Hilda Southerland
- 13 - Lisa Williams
- 19 - Taylor Bryan
- 20 - Kim McClenny
- 21 - Bettie Bryan
- 22 - Brandon Fountain
- 26 - Janet Heaton
- 29 - Aleisha Young

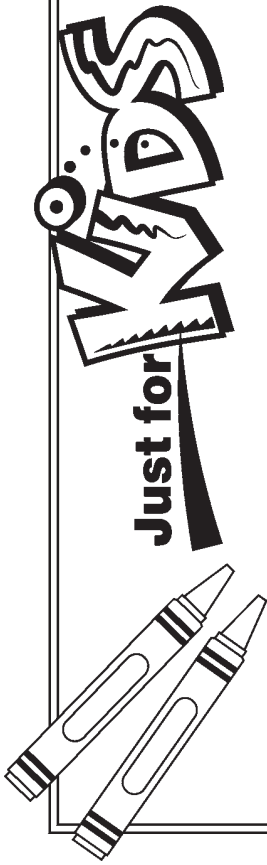
### ANNIVERSARIES

#### November

- 10 - Ronald & Donna Lanier
- 30 - Donnie & Vicky Quinn

#### December

- 19 - Ronnie & Gloria Raynor
- 22 - Britt & Diane Dail
- 24 - Elton & Elvis Fountain
- 25 - Marvin & Reba Fountain
- 28 - Danny & Gail Walton
- 29 - Christopher & Aleisha Young



# Multiply your thanks

We have so many reasons to give thanks to God. When we take time to count our blessings, we realize they just keep multiplying and adding up.

Use your multiplication or addition skills to answer each equation.  
Then use the word key below to write out Psalm 100:4 (NIV).

**WORD KEY**

22= him 16= courts 4=gates 24=name 9=praise 8=and 2=to  
12= his 18= give 6= with 10= Enter 20= thanks 15= thanksgiving

"

$$\frac{5 \times 2 \text{ or } 5 + 5}{\quad} \quad \frac{12 \times 1 \text{ or } 7 + 5}{\quad} \quad \frac{2 \times 2 \text{ or } 3 + 1}{\quad}$$

$$\frac{6 \times 1 \text{ or } 5 + 1}{\quad} \quad \frac{3 \times 5 \text{ or } 5 + 5 + 5}{\quad} \quad \frac{4 \times 2 \text{ or } 6 + 2}{\quad}$$

$$\frac{6 \times 2 \text{ or } 6 + 6}{\quad} \quad \frac{8 \times 2 \text{ or } 8 + 8}{\quad} \quad \frac{3 \times 2 \text{ or } 3 + 3}{\quad}$$

$$\frac{3 \times 3 \text{ or } 3 + 3 + 3}{\quad}; \quad \frac{9 \times 2 \text{ or } 9 + 9}{\quad} \quad \frac{10 \times 2 \text{ or } 10 + 10}{\quad}$$

$$\frac{1 \times 2 \text{ or } 1 + 1}{\quad} \quad \frac{11 \times 2 \text{ or } 16 + 6}{\quad} \quad \frac{8 \times 1 \text{ or } 3 + 5}{\quad}$$

$$\frac{9 \times 1 \text{ or } 5 + 4}{\quad} \quad \frac{3 \times 4 \text{ or } 4 + 4 + 4}{\quad} \quad \frac{8 \times 3 \text{ or } 8 + 8 + 8}{\quad}$$

"

Answer: "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name." (Psalm 100:4, NIV)

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c/o Jeri Fountain  
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