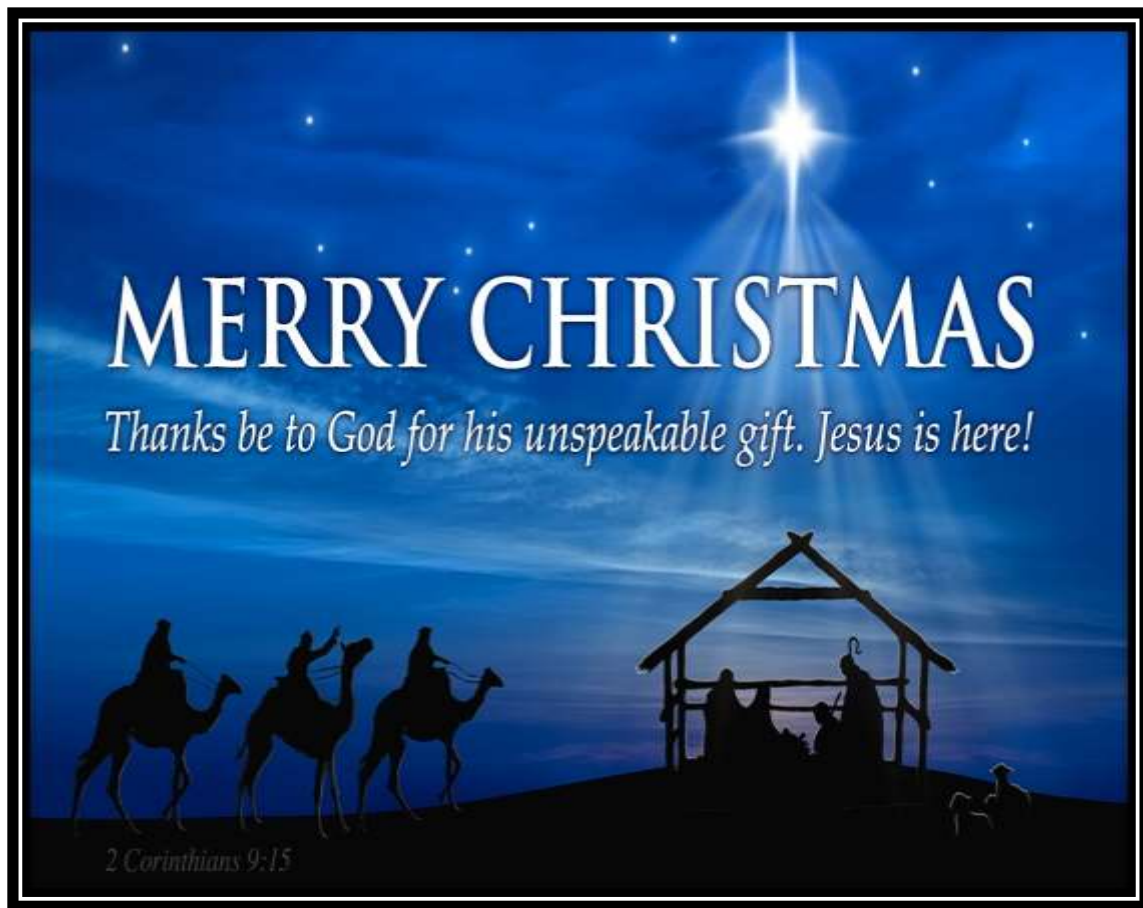


# *Shore Lines*

*December 2024*



Dear Calabash Covenant Presbyterian Church Family and Friends,

Merry Christmas! Or maybe I should say, Happy Advent! Advent is the season of the church calendar that leads up to our celebration of Christmas. It includes learning the Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah, remembering the birth of Jesus, anticipating his return, and intentionally drawing our attention to God during this time. Churches and denominations include a wide range of celebrations for Advent. We are in the middle of the road. Some denominations have very strict prescriptions for Advent. Others will not mention much about Advent at all. My hope is to draw your attention to Advent to encourage your life in Christ.

You can observe Advent in many ways, but I would suggest two categories to consider, gathered worship and personal devotion. First, you can participate in Advent by gathering for our Sunday morning worship and Sunday School. Advent worship includes some special elements like lighting the Advent candles. We also have a special Advent Sunday School class where all the adults and teens attend together. Second, you can take some intentional measures to remember Advent in your personal devotion. You can choose an Advent devotional to use for the season, like a book or a study of Scripture, or you can spend extra time in a healthy spiritual habit like prayer, meaningful rest, or serving others, especially those in need.

Give God the space for his grace to work in you this Advent season, and still, Merry Christmas!

In the love of Christ who has come and will return,

Pastor Dane

**Christmas Eve Service  
With Communion and Candle Lighting  
December 24 at 4:00 p.m.**

## INVITATION TO PRAYER

### ***The Impact of Prayer***

*The Lord has given us talents and abilities so we can serve Him and make a difference in our circle of influence in the world, no matter its size. He has blessed us richly that we might become a blessing to others.*

*To make the most of our impact, we need to develop a lifestyle of prayer, because talking to God is essential for our ministry to be effective. Talking to God prepares us for communicating with others, as well as discerning His will and purposes.*

*God wants us to use our spiritual gifts to bless others. Acts of service speak clearly of His love and compassion. As we grow closer to the Lord through prayer and Bible study, God will expand our sphere of influence beyond what we might ever imagine—we become salt and light to the world.*

*Don't we all want our prayers to be powerful and effective?*

*"Father, I give you control over my life so You can affect others through my words and actions. Help me be attentive to Your Word and to apply it to my life. Show me how to soak in what You have written to instruct and encourage me. Help me remember that prayer is a powerful weapon! Make my days count for eternity however You choose—don't let me waste them. Please live Your life through me in such a way that many will recognize their need for You. In Jesus' name, amen." \**

**Please join us for group prayer gatherings (everyone is invited!):**

- First Saturday prayer gathering: **Dec. 7th at 10 AM.** (Jesus is the reason)
- CCPC Prayer List prayer time **Thursday Dec. 19th at 10:30 AM.**
- Drive Thru Prayer at CCPC: **Friday Dec. 20th, 10:30-Noon.**
- **New Year's Eve Dec. 31st drop-in between 4:30 and 6:30:** prayer, meditation and communion.

**If you are in need of prayer or pastoral care, please call the church office at 910 579-7356 or email [prayer@calabash.church](mailto:prayer@calabash.church).**

### **MERRY CHRISTMAS Y'ALL**

Suellen Bennett, Sue Brown, Diane Chen, Joani Hertzog, Gloria Wimmer

\* adapted from several sources

### **ART IN WORSHIP**

**Pax**--This Latin word for peace is frequently seen in Christmas art and decorations, reminding us that Jesus came as the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6). After announcing the Savior's birth to the shepherds, the angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace ..." (Luke 2:14, NKJV).

**Our next Art in Worship will be held January 16, 10:00 am., classroom #3.** We will not meet in December. We wish all a blessed Christmas. See you in January!

This month we recognize past and present **VOLUNTEERS of the DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY TEAM**

Led by Elder George Brandon, the purpose of this team is "To provide discipleship pathways for Covenant Partners and new believers in Christ to increase their spiritual growth". The Discipleship Team offers many opportunities to discover and learn from God's teachings and reflect His true nature. Their responsibilities include; work with Bible Study, Sunday School leaders and CLPs in the development of spiritual growth of our covenant partners; work with the Ministry teams; provide teaching material and supplies; The Technology Ministry team; support the Library and Librarian; The Community Outreach Programs; The Prayer Ministry Team and The Beach Service Team. If you would like to be a part of the DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY TEAM, please contact Elder George Brandon.

**FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY TEAM NEWS YOU CAN USE**

Can you believe that 2024 is almost over? Well, your Fellowship Team is not done yet!

This month we have a great way to share the news of the birth of Jesus Christ with our community. We are once again participating in the Calabash Christmas Parade & Tree Lighting. We will have a pick-up truck pulling a trailer, upon which Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, and an Angel will be seen by hundreds of area residents. We'll pass out candy canes to the children and CCPC info cards to the adults. You don't want to miss your chance to help with this! We need YOU. Please email me if you'd like to walk alongside so I have an idea of how many people we'll have. Last minute walkers will be welcomed.

The next item on our calendar is the Christmas Potluck Dinner and Business meeting. Circle **Saturday, December 14th at 4:30 p.m.** on your calendar! Sign-ups start on Sunday, December 1st. There will be a table right outside the front door and a sheet on the bulletin board outside the kitchen for you to sign-up. We look forward to seeing everyone for a time of fellowship and fun. Christmas attire is entirely up to you, but helps create a festive atmosphere!

Respectfully submitted,  
Beth Decima, Fellowship Ministry Team Chairperson

**MEMORIAL GARDEN MINISTRY** needs volunteers to assist with weekly inspection and cleaning the Memorial Garden. We would like volunteers to sign up for specific dates so we can share the work. No special experience or training is necessary. We have a simple log with the tasks to be performed. For additional information or to sign up see or contact Richard Burkett at 913-219-8736 or [rfburk@atmc.net](mailto:rfburk@atmc.net).  
**910-617-0282**

## THE PRAYER COURSE

Do you wish to deepen your relationship with God? One way to do that is through consistent and sincere prayer. This course addresses why we pray (Jesus modeled it), different methods of prayer, the power of prayer to change us and to change things, the necessity of prayer (especially when dealing with spiritual warfare), and building our relationships with others as we pray for one another and with one another.

**This Sunday School offering will begin on Sunday, Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> and end on Sunday, Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

Dick and Sue Brown will facilitate the class. Bring your Bibles and a notepad!

If you are interested in taking this course, please call Janine on 910 579-7356, so we can prepare appropriately. The ideal class size is 8-10, so let us know, please.

The Prayer Ministry Team

## THE JUBILATION CHOIR

The Jubilation Choir and instrumentalists are excited to present this year's Christmas Cantata, "Love is Born" by Lloyd Larsen. Bringing together Old Testament prophecies of anticipation and preparation for the promised Messiah and the New Testament fulfillment, this musical journey blends original and familiar melodies that underscores the timeless message of Emmanuel coming from the heart of God and entering our world with His message of hope, peace, joy and love.

**Join us on Sunday morning, December 15, at 9:30 in the sanctuary, for a service filled with joy! We look forward to your presence!**

Janette, Kathryn, and Peg

**Sunday, December 15 @ 6:00 pm Camp United Methodist Church, 4807 Main Street, Shallotte. Caroling @ Camp with Phil Giallombardo. Free performance with a love offering for local missions including The Lord's Food Pantry.**

## My Prayer Flowers - by Joyce Baughman

I grew up going to church, but it was a separate Sunday activity for us and was not incorporated into our daily lives at home. So, I did not grow up with a personal prayer habit. For me, that began in my first year of teaching school about 50 years ago. I would like to share a prayer technique that guided me through 40 years of teaching special education, and that I still use to this day.

I had a wonderful Christian mentor teacher in my first year of teaching. I was overwhelmed with the needs of my special ed students, and I felt woefully unqualified to help them. I quickly turned to an experienced teacher and asked for her help and advice. She showed me her prayer garden: paper flowers, one for each student, with their names in the center. The surrounding petals named specific needs and 1 Bible verse that the teacher used to pray for those special kids. She reminded me of the gospel and assured me that a focus on Jesus would help me help others. So I made flowers for my little class of eight self-contained special education students and placed them on a small easel beside my desk that I could refer to throughout the day. This simple technique became a lifeline to me. What a sense of calm I felt (and I still do) as I faced each day with specific prayers! What a blessing when my principal supported our little special-ed department of two praying teachers! What an honor it was when parents started noticing improvements and asked about the prayer flowers! God was truly in that classroom with me, and for the next 39 years of teaching after that. I never had one principal that questioned the prayer flowers, or the Bible on my desk. Praise the Lord! My only regret is that I did not save the flowers. I wish I had drawn them in notebooks each year to keep.

Is there anything more beautiful than a flower? Combined with prayers, they truly symbolize God's goodness. I still draw a flower shape in my prayer journal when a person or a situation is on my mind, so I know how to specifically pray for those needs. There are some that I have prayed over for years, and some for a season. I drew pages of flowers when I was in the hospital earlier this year: for myself, my son, and my caregivers. I have drawn them recently for people on our prayer list and for our church and our nation. Wherever I go, seeing a flower reminds me to pray. I give all the glory to our good and gracious God for the blessing of being able to talk to him about every area of my life. Paul wrote this in 1 Corinthians 3:7:

So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything,  
but only God, who makes things grow.

Amen!



## **SBIC: THEN & NOW**

Over forty years ago the South Brunswick Interchurch Council (SBIC) was formed after the members of four churches along Main Street in Shallotte realized they were being overwhelmed by the number of transients, drifters, and others in need of support showing up at their doors. They started small in the back room of the old courthouse in Bolivia. Since then, they have grown to include support from twelve churches, including ours! After several changes in location over the years, we are blessed to be able to serve our clients in a larger building where all our supplies and food can be managed in the same space.

Several programs are overseen out of our building. These include The Lord's Food Pantry, PORCH neighborhood food collections and the distribution of Healthy Options Pilot (HOP) food boxes to eligible Medicaid recipients. The Lord's Food Pantry operates every Saturday morning, providing healthy food and toiletries to our neighbors in need. Last year we helped to put food on the table for over 17,100 of our neighbors, and this year we're on track to surpass that number by over 28%. Ours is one of the few food pantries in Brunswick County that allows families in need to receive food every week when necessary.

In addition, neighborhood PORCH donations are collected at our pantry, and volunteers organize the non-perishable foods that are received and share them with neighboring food pantries. These donations are critical for food pantries to keep costs down. Our volunteers also deliver HOP food boxes on a weekly basis to neighbors in the southern end of our county who have been referred by their medical providers.

All this work is made possible with the support of our member churches, community supporters, grants and, most importantly, volunteer support. We have no paid employees! If you're interested in learning more you can visit our website at <https://www.thelordsfoodpantry.org/>. If you'd like to support the work or arrange a tour, contact Cyndi Shaw at [cyndishaw1022@gmail.com](mailto:cyndishaw1022@gmail.com). There's lots to do almost every day of the week!



HAPPY  
ANNIVERSARY

**DECEMBER**

Wayne Krieger	4
Suellen Bennett	4
Tom Pressel	5
Bob Rolison	6
Mike December	8
Barbara Poe	8
Joyce Baughman	8
Vera Manning	9
Bob Korlesky	9
Yupayong Thirakomen	13
Lois DiFrango	14
Denise Reiner	15
Pat Huie	15
Linda Schafer	15
Tom Thomas	15
Franklyn Lee	17
John Cox	17
Donna Lee	18
Elsa Bonstein	19
Inge Hickson	19
Brian Johnson	20
Ray Beland	22
Loretta Burkett	25
Abe Glover	26
Tom Gray	27
Scott Goodwin	30
Carl Graves	31

**DECEMBER**

Roy & Chris Lewis	1
Rob & Annelle Waldron	1
Scott & BJ Goodwin	6
Frank & Karen Grohsman	17
Keith & Deborah Rosdahl	27

**Long Term Prayer Requests**

Julie Adams, Linda Batts, Betty Bond, Sally Bond, Sandy Brinegar, Rick Ellwanger, Phyllis Foley, Sue Greiner, Karen Grohsman, Diane Hahn, George Habel, Al Hertzog, Inge Hickson, Pat Huie, Maryann Krieger, Rosemarie Lacroix, Chris Lewis, Peggy Little, Vera Manning, Frank Mayberry, Gene McKelvey, Keith Rosdahl, Betty Schillinger, Dan Stinnett, Rob Waldron, Barbara Weber, Wendy Weber





# DECEMBER

## “THE BIRTH OF CHRIST”

Day 1: <a href="#">Isaiah 7:14-15</a>	Day 17: <a href="#">Luke 1:26-29</a>
Day 2: <a href="#">Isaiah 9:6-7</a>	Day 18: <a href="#">Luke 1:30-34</a>
Day 3: <a href="#">Isaiah 11:1-5</a>	Day 19: <a href="#">Luke 1:35-38</a>
Day 4: <a href="#">Isaiah 11:6-10</a>	Day 20: <a href="#">Luke 1:46-50</a>
Day 5: <a href="#">Isaiah 40:1-5</a>	Day 21: <a href="#">Luke 1:51-56</a>
Day 6: <a href="#">Isaiah 52:7-10</a>	Day 22: <a href="#">Luke 2:1-3</a>
Day 7: <a href="#">Jeremiah 33:14-16</a>	Day 23: <a href="#">Luke 2:4-7</a>
Day 8: <a href="#">Psalm 72:1-7</a>	Day 24: <a href="#">Luke 2:8-12</a>
Day 9: <a href="#">Psalm 72:8-14</a>	Day 25: <a href="#">Luke 2:13-16</a>
Day 10: <a href="#">Psalm 72:15-20</a>	Day 26: <a href="#">Luke 2:17-20</a>
Day 11: <a href="#">Psalm 95:1-7</a>	Day 27: <a href="#">Galatians 4:4-7</a>
Day 12: <a href="#">Malachi 3:1-3</a>	Day 28: <a href="#">Philippians 2:5-8</a>
Day 13: <a href="#">Matthew 1:18-20</a>	Day 29: <a href="#">Philippians 2:9-11</a>
Day 14: <a href="#">Matthew 1:21-25</a>	Day 30: <a href="#">Psalm 98:1</a>
Day 15: <a href="#">Matthew 2:1-6</a>	Day 31: <a href="#">Titus 3:3-7</a>
Day 16: <a href="#">Matthew 2:7-12</a>	

# December

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:30 am – Worship 10:30 am – Bible study	<b>2</b> 9:30 am – Fellowship meeting 11:00 am – Woman’s Bible Study	<b>3</b> 7:30 am – Men’s breakfast 9:00 am – Men’s Bible Study 7:00 pm – Men’s WebX	<b>4</b> 12:00 pm – Assimilation 5:15 pm – Handbell Choir 6:15 pm – Jubilation Choir	<b>5</b> 10:00 am – Card Ministry	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 10:00 am – prayer gathering
<b>8</b> 9:30 am – Worship 10:30 am – Bible study 3:00 pm – Lydia circle	<b>9</b> 11:00 am – Woman’s Bible Study 7:00 pm – Mary Martha Circle	<b>10</b> 7:30 am – Men’s breakfast 9:00 am – Men’s Bible Study 7:00 pm – Men’s WebX	<b>11</b> 1:00 pm – Deacon	<b>12</b> 5:30 pm – Handbell Choir practice 6:30 pm – Jubilation Choir	<b>13</b> 10:30 am – Prayer Ministry	<b>14</b> 4:00 pm – Christmas party & Congregational meeting
<b>15</b> <b>Food Pantry Collection</b> 9:30 am – Worship 10:30 am – Bible study	<b>16</b> 11:00 am – Woman’s Bible Study 12:00 pm – Chatters 3:00 pm - Session	<b>17</b> 7:30 am – Men’s breakfast 9:00 am – Men’s Bible Study 7:00 pm – Men’s WebX	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 9:30 am – Dorcas circle	<b>20</b> 10:30 am – Drive Through Prayer	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:30 am – Worship 10:30 am – Bible Study	<b>23</b> 11:00 am – Woman’s Bible Study	<b>24 Communion</b> 4:00 pm Candlelight service	<b>25</b> <b>Merry Christmas</b> 	<b>26</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>27</b> 10:00 am – Random readers	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:30 am – Worship 10:30 am – Bible Study	<b>30</b> 11:00 am – Woman’s Bible Study	<b>31 Communion</b> New Years Eve drop in service 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm	<b>Jan 1</b> Happy New Year!	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>