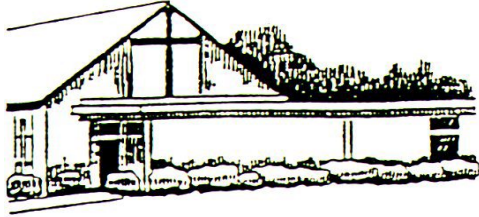


# COVENANT



# NEWS

A Publication of  
**Covenant  
Baptist Church**  
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Olin S. Byrum III, Pastor

Pam Phillips, Minister of Preschool, Children, and Youth

Tom Kiff, Organist

Jannine Dellinger, Assistant Pianist

Sharon Waters, Church Secretary

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**VOL. XXIII Weeks of Dec. 18, Dec. 25 & Jan 1, 2012 No. 43**

## *Schedule of December Activities*

### **Sunday, Dec. 18**

9:15 am

9:45 am

10:00 am

11:00 am

### **Wednesday, Dec. 21**

### **Saturday, Dec. 24**

11:15 pm

### **Sunday, Dec. 25**

10:00 am

### **Wednesday, Dec. 28**

### **Saturday, Dec. 31**

### *Fourth Sunday in Advent*

Pick-Up Breakfast

Sunday School for Youth & Children

Joint Sunday School for Adults

Taught by Rev. Lynwood Lavinder

*A Covenant Christmas* - CBC Adult Choir

No Wednesday Evening Activities

No Choir Rehearsal

### *Christmas Eve*

Christmas Eve Silent Communion Service

### *Merry Christmas*

Worship Service

No Wednesday Evening Activities

No Choir Rehearsal

New Year's Eve



## **FROM PASTOR OLIN . . .**

At the risk of information overload, let me remind you of several things:

This Sunday, we have a pick-up breakfast and combined adult Sunday school beginning at 9:15 and 10:00 am, respectively. During the morning worship the adult choir will lead us in worship as they present *A Covenant Christmas*.

Remember our Christmas Eve Silent Communion Service beginning at 11:15 pm and on Sunday, Christmas Day, there will be no Sunday school and our worship service will begin at 10:00 am. This worship service is a Christmas candlelight drama by Melody Morris. If you have never seen a service like this, let me encourage you to be here as we tell the story of Christmas using candles. I believe it will be very meaningful to all who are here.

Thank you to all of you who have given to the Global Missions Offering to date. Our total to date is \$6,185.00. Our goal is \$8,500.00. There is still time to give and if you use the mission's post office, all those proceeds go to the GMO as well.

Finally, remember to keep our Savior and Lord the focus of all we do this Christmas and in the year to come. The following is by Saint Augustine of Hippo. It was written some fifteen centuries ago and in it Augustine seeks to capture the mystery of the Incarnation. Merry Christmas.

Maker of the sun,  
He is made under the sun.  
In the Father he remains,  
From his mother he goes forth.  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
He was born on earth under heaven.  
Unspeakably wise,  
He is wisely speechless.  
Filling the world,  
He lies in a manger.  
Ruler of the stars,  
He nurses at his mother's bosom.  
He is both great in the nature of God,  
and small in the form of a servant.

See you Sunday,  
Pastor Olin



### *Merry Christmas from . . .*

Jannine Tom Vonne

Olin Pam Sharon

*Our prayer is that you will have a wonderful Christmas celebration with your family and that God's blessings and peace will be with you throughout the coming year. We thank you for your support and encouragement as we serve together our Savior and Lord.*

*As the staff of Covenant Baptist, we express our heartfelt appreciation for the Christmas gift from the church to each of us.*

### **GIFTS HAVE BEEN GIVEN**

*To Global Missions in Honor of the Church Staff  
by Morris and Vonne Hall*

*To Acacia Village in Honor of Olin and Jane Byrum  
To the CBC Youth Special Funds in Honor of Pam Phillips  
To the Organ Repair/Enhancement Fund in Honor of  
Jannine Dellinger, Vonne Hall, and Tom Kiff  
by Sharon Waters*





### Youth News

Sunday, December 18 – 5:00pm – 8:00pm  
Youth Christmas Progressive

#### Dinner

We will meet at the church and take the van to various locations for our dinner, then return to the church. Please bring your donation for the Gaston

County Toy Run.


**There will be no Sunday Evening Youth Activities on December 25 and January 1.**

### New York City Mission Trip

There will be an informational meeting held on Thursday, December 22 at 7:00pm for the New York City Mission Trip. Robert Brunson (son of David and Nealia), who serves at the center we will be working with will be in town and will provide information and answer questions concerning the trip.



### NEW YORK CITY MISSION TRIP

 Anyone interested in participating in a mission trip to New York City from July 7 through 14, 2012 is invited to attend a presentation on Thursday December 22 at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall. Attendance does not mean you will be committed to go. This is an opportunity to see and hear firsthand what the trip will involve. This is for rising 9th graders to age 99. Come and get information about how you can be involved as part of the team or as part of the "home team" as we begin preparations for an exciting opportunity to share God's love with some of the "least of these." Robert Brunson will share how the ministry meets the needs of inner-city children. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact David or Nealia Brunson at 704-813-0310 or 704-813-0715.



### **Christmas Breakfast - December 18**

9:15 am — Pick-up Breakfast  
10:00 am — Joint Sunday School  
to be taught by Lynwood Lavinder

**Global Missions Offering Goal:**  
**\$ 8,500.00**  
**Received-to-Date**  
**\$ 6,185.00**  
**Post Office for Global Missions:**  
**Received-to-Date**  
**\$ 270.75**



### OPPORTUNITIES ~ Week of December 18

**Sunday, December 18** *Fourth Sunday in Advent*  
9:15 a.m. Pick Up Breakfast  
9:45 a.m. Youth & Children SS Class  
10:00 a.m. Adult Joint SS Class  
11:00 a.m. A Covenant Christmas  
CBC Adult Choir  
Youth Progressive Dinner  
5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Youth Progressive Dinner  
**Monday, December 19**  
6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Boy Scouts' Meeting  
**Tuesday, December 20**  
11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting  
**Wednesday, December 21**  
No Wednesday Evening Activities  
No Adult Choir Rehearsal  
**Saturday, December 24**  
11:15 p.m. Christmas Eve Silent Communion

**Secretary Off – December 22, 23, 26, 27**  
**Church Office Closed – December 23, 26, 27**

### OPPORTUNITIES ~ Week of December 25

**Sunday, December 25** *Merry Christmas*  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service  
**Tuesday, December 27**  
8:00 a.m. Speeders – Firestone Grill  
**Wednesday, December 28**  
No Wednesday Evening Activities  
No Adult Choir Rehearsal

### OPPORTUNITIES ~ Week of January 1

**Sunday, January 1**  
9:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Worship Service  
**Tuesday, January 3**  
11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting  
**Wednesday, January 4**  
5:45 p.m. Wednesday Schedule Resumes  
7:15 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

**Church Office Closed – January 2**

### Wednesday Fellowship Meal – January 4, 2011

<b>Adult Menu:</b>		<b>Set Up/Serve/Clean Up:</b>
Salmon Patties		Letha Payseur
Pintos	Cole Slaw	Bill Payseur
Dessert	Beverage	
<b>Children's Menu:</b>		<b>Money Collector:</b>
Mac & Cheese		Anne Tate

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

☞ **December 21 - First Day of Winter**

☞ **The Missions Post Office is open!** Please bring your cards by Christmas Day. The 25¢ cost per card will go to Global Missions.



☞ This issue of **Covenant News** is for Dec. 18, Dec. 25, and Jan. 1.

☞ **Contribution envelopes** are located in the church office hallway. Please take as many boxes as you need for your family.

☞ To receive credit for **2011 contributions**, your contribution must be placed in the offering plate on Sunday, December 25, or brought to the church office by 1:00 pm on Friday, December 30. If you plan to mail your contributions, they must be postmarked by Saturday, December 31.

☞ **Inclement Weather** — In the event of snow or ice, an announcement concerning cancellations and delays will be placed on WBTV, WSOC, WCNC and WHKY as soon as a decision has been made. You may also call your deacon or Pastor Olin.

☞ **Flower Calendar** — If you would like to place flowers in memory or in honor of a family member or church member in 2012, please call Wanda McCraw (704-263-9448) to choose the Sunday morning worship service that you prefer, or, you may sign the flower calendar located in the church office hallway.

☞ **Communion Service — January 1**

## PRAYER CONCERNS

Pam Buckner - Mable Spargo - Robin Spargo  
Lauren Furcht (Roger Adcock) (Charles DuRant)  
(Shirley Battles, Pearline Buckner's sister) (Carrie Bell)  
(Avis Bradley, Sharon Waters' mother) (Leslie Graybeal)  
(Regina Elmore, Linda Bess' sister) (Mary Kerley) (Larry Marshall)



**Stewardship - 2011**      **Stewardship Thought**

*"Generosity has no limits.*

*We live not only for ourselves but also for others."*

## The Record Speaks – December 11, 2011

Sunday School	68
Worship	100
<b>Weekly Needs in Tithes &amp; Offerings</b>	<b>\$ 5,952.77</b>
<b>General Fund – Tithes &amp; Offerings</b>	<b>\$ 5,028.00</b>
<b>Designated Fund – Global Missions</b>	<b>\$ 635.00</b>
<b>Post Office</b>	<b>\$ 270.75</b>



## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:11

## Volunteers for Sunday – December 18, 2011

### **Babies & Toddlers**

Cathy Brooks  
Libby & Tony McCraw

### **Preschoolers**

Lauren & Mark Dixon

### **Greeters**

Dot & Ed Ballenger

### **Building Lock-Up**

Steve McCraw

### **Ushers**

CBC Diaconate

## Volunteers for Sunday – December 25, 2011

### **Babies & Toddlers and Preschoolers**

**December 25 - We are  
asking for volunteers of  
those who will be here.**

### **Greeters**

Dot & Ed Ballenger

### **Building Lock-Up**

Steve McCraw

### **Ushers**

CBC Diaconate

## Volunteers for Sunday – January 1, 2012

### **Babies & Toddlers**

Renee & Tony Phillips  
Hannah Phillips

### **Preschoolers**

Tina & Josh Lineberger

### **Greeters**

Dot & Ed Ballenger

### **Building Lock-Up**

Bill Payseur

### **Ushers**

Koinonia Class

**Deacon for January – Nealia Brunson**