

THE

MESSENGER

201 SOUTH BROADWAY
FOREST CITY, NC 28043
828-245-5411

Worship

Sunday, December 6!

8:45 (Gym) 10:00 (Gym) 11:00 (Sanctuary)
10:00 Sunday School

Lottie Moon Christmas offering Goal!

\$10,000.00

Received to Date - \$2274.50



Finding Advent!

- December 6** "Finding Joy (When It Seems to Have Disappeared)"-David Cox
- December 13** "Finding Love (By Fueling Your Heart With Thanks)"-Bobby Gantt
Christmas Cantata-Glory Touching Earth
(8:45 and 10:00 Gym; 11:00 Sanctuary)
"A G.L.O.W. Christmas with Children's Choir"
6:00 p.m.- LEC Gym
- December 20** "Finding Peace (By Turning Off Your Phone)"-Scott Haynes
Monologue-The Shepherd's Story
(8:45 and 10:00 Gym; 11:00 Sanctuary)
- December 24** **Christmas Eve Drop In Communion**
4:00-5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Live Stream / 11:00 a.m. Service
www.florencechurch.net
[Facebook.com/FlorenceForestCity](https://www.facebook.com/FlorenceForestCity)

Church Staff

- Dr. Bobby Gantt** Pastor
Home Phone: 828-429-3893
pastor@florencechurch.net
- Rev. Scott Haynes** Minister of Music
Home Phone: 828-289-8362
music@florencechurch.net
- Rev. Tonya Garrison** Minister of Children & Christian Education
Home Phone: 828-380-9761
children@florencechurch.net
- Rev. David Cox** Minister of Youth & Instructional Technology
Home Phone: 828-748-2905
youth@florencechurch.net
- Teresa Skinner** Office Manager
Church Office: 828-245-5411
secretary@florencechurch.net
- Tommy Wilson** Custodian
Home Phone: 828-429-2639
- Carrol Calhoun** Custodial Assistant

HOMEBOUND MEMBER OF THE WEEK

Jan Songster
Delmar Gardens
404 Kings Springs Village Parkway
Room 107-B
Smyrna, GA 30082

IN SYMPATHY

The Larry McEntire Family,
Father of Lori Cudd

The Timothy Wayne Murray Family,
Brother of Mark Murray

WELCOME *New Members*

- Emory Barrick-Profession of Faith
- Tonya Huntley-Statement of Faith
- Savannah Finucan -Profession of Faith
- Sheldon Sisk - Statement of Faith
- Ericka Sisk - Profession of Faith

PREACHER B'S BE-ATTITUDES

Florence Baptist Church is blessed in many ways as you well know, and we have spent the last month counting our blessings both as a church and on a personal level. Among our blessings are Tommy Wilson and Carrol Calhoun, Custodian and Custodial Assistant respectively. Tommy and Carrol do a great job for us week in and week out, but with Covid 19 and our trying to hold in-person worship and Sunday School, we have gained an even greater appreciation for them. Tommy and Carrol work hard every week to make sure our buildings are sanitized. They wipe down and disinfect all surfaces prior to Sunday, and then on Sunday, between the 8:45 and 10:00 services in the gym, it is done once again. Tommy and Paula (and on occasion others have helped) wipe down all the chairs and disinfect the restrooms. They use the "fogger" that sprays disinfectant up to 35 feet. We are grateful to Tommy and Paula as well as to Carrol Calhoun. Through their efforts, we can feel safe about entering our buildings. With this in mind, it is important that you and I do our part. Please practice the three "W's"-Wear a mask; Wash your hands, and Wait six or more feet apart. Let's all do our part and work together to keep each other safe, healthy and well.

Why are we writing all of this today? We are in the middle of Advent, and we want to be able to come together and celebrate the birth of our Lord. Jesus was born into chaos, so chaos is nothing new to Him, but you and I have had a most unusual year, and we yearn for the normalcy of celebrating Christmas with family and friends, but we want to do it safely. Our theme is "Finding Advent." Tonya got us started this past Sunday with "Finding Hope (When Everything Seems Shut Down and Cancelled)," and David will continue this Sunday with "Finding Joy (When It Seems to Have Disappeared)."

On Advent, a great big thank you to Martha Robinson and her team for your hard work in decorating the church for Advent. God has blessed us with beautiful facilities, but they are even more beautiful during Advent thanks to the efforts of Martha and all of you who came and worked so hard last Monday and Tuesday.

Let me mention two specific ways we can help others find Advent. First, sending cards to our homebound members! Lists of names and collection boxes can be found in the LEC Lobby and in the Connector. Please take a list, prepare a card for each name on the list, and bring your cards back to the collection boxes by December 13.

Second, let's all give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. Our Church Goal is \$10,000.00. If you receive offering envelopes to give your tithes and offerings, you should have a Lottie Moon Envelope for this purpose. If not, please mark an envelope "Lottie Moon." As we work together, we can surpass this goal and help spread the name of Jesus Christ all around the world.

And a note in closing! Please read Butch Moore's comments in the new "Deacons' Corner." We will use this space going forward to answer questions and keep the church up-to-date during this time of transition.

Preacher B

<u>SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2020</u>	
General Fund	\$15,029.45
Lightshine/Bldg Fund	\$3,659.00
Back Pack	\$2,858.00
Samaritan's Purse	\$202.00
Annie Armstrong	\$2.00
Baptist Childrens Homes	\$52.00
Baptist Retirement Homes	\$50.00

<u>SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2020</u>	
General Fund	\$11,391.40
Lightshine/Bldg Fund	\$3,089.50
Back Pack	\$228.00
Samaritan's Purse	\$50.00
Lottie Moon	\$2,074.50
Campus Crusade	\$35.00

GIFTS TO THE BUILDING FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Earleen Douglas

Joyce Buckaloo, Carolyn Smart, Mary-Martha SS Class, Patsy Champion, Marjorie Fuller

Vada White Haynes

Patrick & Lori Haynes

Juanita Hoy

Carolyn Smart

Mary Quinn Kiser

Carolyn Smart

Larry McEntire - (Father of Lori Cudd)

Adult Handbell Choir, Chester & Glenda Melton, Phillip & Alpha White

Will McFarland - (Date of Birth December 7th)

Martha Jean McFarland

Jean Sanders - (Mother of Tina Tarlton)

Phillip & Alpha White, Adult Handbell Choir, Shirley Hudson

Dalton Smart - (Brother of Mary Lib Henson)

Joyce Buckaloo, Carolyn Smart, Patsy Champion, William & Ann Smart



Can you unscramble the letters below to name the 12 disciples?

- | | | | |
|----------------|-------|--------------------|-------|
| 1. petre | _____ | 7. atemwth | _____ |
| 2. warnde | _____ | 8. tosham | _____ |
| 3. aejms | _____ | 9. djsau | _____ |
| 4. honj | _____ | 10. jasme | _____ |
| 5. iphpil | _____ | 11. msoin | _____ |
| 6. abmwotelhor | _____ | 12. ajsud scoiirta | _____ |

If you have trouble visit Matthew 10, Mark 3 and Luke 6 to find the answers!



- 12/06 Christina Greene, Joan Robbins
- 12/07 Marty Beam, Darrin Holland, Andy McDonald, Meredith Street, Levi Williams
- 12/10 Samantha Emory, Jessica Robbins, Jennifer Shelton
- 12/11 Michael Buckner, Dale Mayse
- 12/12 Dot Culbertson, Richard Hodge, Marsha Means, Martha Robinson

In the last couple of weeks, the words “even in the valley, God is good” has rolled through my head and off my lips. If I have sung them once, I have sung them a hundred times.

This past week was extremely challenging. Emily was sick and tested positive for the flu. I was in a blah state of mind and just didn’t have my cheerful spirit. On Saturday, we received a call from Steve’s dad, Joe. He was told he has liver cancer. My world stopped for a few moments. “Even in the valley, God is good.” While I was crying and trying to catch my breath without upsetting Joe, he was calm and convinced everything was going to be ok. Joe has faith in my God. Joe has witnessed many miracles by the hand of God and together we can expect another.

While life throws us curve balls daily, we are equipped to handle them with God’s hands.

Tonya

Hey Florence family,

I hope you are well. As Advent has begun, I wanted to share with you what will be happening over the next few weeks until Christmas.

Each week we will hear stories that are pertinent to each one of us. We will light the Advent Candle and reflect on how these situations can challenge us and remind us of the Savior’s birth.

On Sunday, December 13, we will have the cantata titled, *Glory Touching Earth*. **This year there will not be a choir.** However, through inspiring narration and uplifting solos, the Christmas story will be told in a way that we all can experience. That night, the G.L.O.W. team and a small ensemble of children will present a program in the LEC gym that will surely excite us all.

On Sunday, December 20, Bobby will share his final monologue, *The Shepherd’s Story*. He has inspired all of us over the years with his story telling through many characters of the Bible.

On Thursday, December 24, there will be drop-in Communion where you can come to the Sanctuary with your family and take Communion.

I hope you and your family will be able to attend these Advent services. The church is beautifully decorated, and please come and help us celebrate Advent 2020.

Scott

Youth Families,



I know that the holidays are fast approaching which means we are going to cancel some nights and have special events other nights. If the date is not mentioned below then we WILL have youth as scheduled. Below is the calendar of special events and cancellations through the rest of the year:

- 7th-9th Graders - Sunday Nights 6:30-7:30
- 10th-12th Graders - Wednesday Nights 6:30-7:30

- Wednesday, November 25th - No Youth for 10th-12th Graders
- Sunday, December 6th - 7th-9th Grader Christmas Party
- Sunday, December 13th - G.L.O.W Performance (All Youth Invited to Watch in LEC)
- Wednesday, December 16th - 10th-12th Grader Christmas Party
- Sunday, December 20th through Wednesday, December 30th - No Youth

Thanks for your cooperation and if you have any questions about the schedule please let me know!

David

Deacons' Corner

November 30, 2020

Communication is key as we move forward with Pastor Bobby’s retirement, and we will start this column called the “Deacons’ Corner”.

We realize this is a transitional time for our church, and we want to be sensitive to your questions and concerns. Our deacons are dedicated to keeping our church strong and focused on the purpose of the church.

What’s the process for an Interim Pastor?

According to our church constitution the Staff Committee is responsible for assigning an Interim Pastor. The Staff Committee is composed of the chairman of deacons, (Butch Moore) 2 deacons (Tony Fowler, Russell Cudd) and 3 at large members (Kim Bridges, Patti Hardin, Keith Hunt). The committee is currently working and will have an Interim Pastor in place on February 7, 2021. If you have questions about this process, please contact any of these committee members.

When and how will a search Pastoral committee start to work?

The Pastoral Search Committee will be formed after January 31, 2021.

Our church constitution states that the committee will be formed by the church membership nominating 9 men and 9 women. From that group, 3 men and 3 women will be selected to serve as the Pastoral Search Committee.

At anytime you have questions about the church contact one of our deacons or myself at:

Cell: 828-429-9352

Email: LCFARMS@GMAIL.COM



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Church Office Hours:
Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
www.florencechurch.net

Or Current Resident

Bible Studies for Life: Senior Adult

Committed to His Mission

Romans 10:9-17

We help those who are physically lost these days as hikers and campers get lost in our national parks. It is reported that in 2017 over 4000 people were searched for and rescued with a cost at over 3 million dollars. God has a greater desire for us to save those who are spiritually lost. It is estimated that two-thirds of the population are without Christ. Today we reflect on our commitment to Christ. We are to confess Jesus is Lord and believe in who Jesus is and what He has done for us. Verses 9 and 10 lists these two steps in reverse: Believe first, confess second. Confessing isn't just something we do to obtain salvation, but something we do to help others to seek salvation for themselves.

Live it out:

1. Take a few minutes and write out your testimony.
2. Share your testimony and the gospel with someone in need.
3. Ask God to use you. Support a mission with your time, prayers, and support.

Bible Drill Schedule Update

Sunday Dec 6th 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Sunday December 13th - no Bible Drill; all invited to watch GLOW/Children's performance in LEC at 6:30 p.m.
No Bible Drill activities December 20 & Dec 27th to observe Christmas holidays
Bible Drill will resume on Sunday January 3rd, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Explore the Bible

God Restores

Isaiah 65:17-25

In chapter 61, Isaiah tells of the Messiah who would save His people. In this lesson we are told the Messiah will come a second time to vindicate His people. Shame is replaced with honor and blessing. In Luke 4:21, Jesus quotes Isaiah 61:1-2 in the synagogue and proclaimed He is the fulfillment of that prophecy. Sin separates us from God, but Jesus restores the relationship. As believers we can believe the promises made by God. The promise of eternal life full of joy and delight!

Apply the text:

- ◆ We can live with hope, knowing God will one day create a new heaven and a new earth.
- ◆ We can live with confidence, knowing that we will experience God's blessing for eternity.
- ◆ We can live with expectancy, knowing that God's peace will reign in eternity.



We are happy to report Florence packed 131 shoeboxes this season! If you tracked your box, please keep us posted on where it ends up.

Food Boxes

They are coming back this week! Wednesday is the day! 10:00 a.m. is the time! Distribution will be under the Broadway Street Canopy. The dates are Wednesdays, December 2, 9, 16 and 30. We will have 64 boxes this time to give out on a first come, first serve basis. The boxes contain produce, milk, meat, cheese and butter.