

# Crowders Creek ARP Church



What a wonderful time of the year—as we enter into the celebration of our dear Savior’s birth! The Advent Season is a special time when we look back at the birth of Jesus Christ and look ahead for His return. Even in all the busyness of parties and purchasing gifts, we, as Christians, are reminded of the heart of the message, which is at the heart of the Bible!

The very central theme of Scripture is God’s love for humanity and the story of His relentless love for His chosen people. God’s desire for all creation was to make a people for Himself. God did this in the beginning and this will come to final fulfillment in the new heavens and earth! Throughout the Old Testament, God sought His people and promised a coming Messiah to deliver them. In the story of Christmas, we see all those promises of the Messiah coming to fulfillment as the Son of God enters the world in human flesh—to meet humanity in their sinfulness, commonness, and neediness.

In the Christmas story, we see the whole story of God’s love for His people tied together in the birth of the most important child who was ever born! In the Christmas story, the meaning of Genesis through Revelation—and everything in between—is clarified completely! In the Christmas story, we see what a wonderful Savior and Lord we really have. Won’t you come and worship Him this Christmas season? Won’t you come and bow down before the One who is the King of Kings, who came to us and still comes to us today?

Won’t you invite someone to come and discover what a wonderful Savior Jesus Christ really is?

Rev. Ben Wingard

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## "Hallelujah! A Son is Given!"

*Advent Sermon Series based on the Old Testament  
Prophecies in the book of Isaiah*





**DECEMBER**

- 12/02 Cavan Hoose
- 12/03 Nicholas Edwards
- 12/03 Jessica Clarke
- 12/05 Morgan Clarke
- 12/05 Sharon Fisher
- 12/05 Jay Jackson
- 12/08 Gene White
- 12/09 Peggy Grigg
- 12/10 Kenneth Meadows
- 12/15 Gladys Parlier
- 12/17 Christy Rhyne
- 12/21 Elizabeth Mills
- 12/21 Laurie Murphy
- 12/22 Amy Duncan
- 12/24 Ava Mauney
- 12/24 Bruce Nelson
- 12/25 Glenn Oates
- 12/28 Buddy Ferguson
- 12/28 Charles Rhyne
- 12/30 Alexis Brooke Jackson
- 12/30 Alex Brooke Jackson
- 12/31 Marilyn Brooks
- 12/31 Carolyn Champion

***The White Cross Offering***

The White Cross Offering will be taken during the month of December. This offering is for World Missions. Everyone will have an opportunity to participate. A gift box will be in the vestibule.



**Have a Blessed Christmas**

**Women's Bible Study  
December 5th (final class)  
6:45-8:00 p.m.**

On December 12th the Women's Bible Study will meet at the church at 5:30 p.m. and will travel to the Billy Graham Library to see the Nativity and Christmas celebration.

**Additional Ministers this Month...**

	Children's Church	Nursery Schedule
12/4	David & Ginny Styers	Felix & Michelle Alpizar, & Ava Mauney
12/11	Martin & Allison Moses	Carolyn Champion, Heather Owenby, & Marilyn Brooks
12/18	Christmas Cantata (NONE)	Rick & Chris Oates
12/25	Christmas Sunday (NONE)	Peggy, Bob, & Josh Grigg

**December Visitor Sheets:**

**Soldiers On Active Duty  
Meredith Millar**

**Leadership Meetings**  
Dec. 14—Deacon's Meeting at 7:00 p.m.  
Session Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

**December Lectionary Texts**

**December 4th—Second Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

**December 11th—Third Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

**December 18th— Fourth Sunday of Advent**

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:47-55; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

**December 25th—Christmas Day**

Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12); John 1:1-14

Jodie Naylor, Church Secretary will be out of the office December 19th-29th due to Christmas holidays. Pastor Ben will work on December 19th-22nd. He will be out of the office for the holidays Dec. 23rd-28th. He will be here for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. Please leave any messages on the answering machine and someone will return your call.

**Anyone interested in helping fold bulletins for the holiday season contact church office.**

**Minnie Alexander Circle will meet Tuesday, December 6th at 2:00 p.m. at Gladys Parliers's home.**

## Thank You!

\*On Sunday, November 13th Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes were dedicated. Thanks to the members of Crowders Creek Church, children will be blessed with gifts they would otherwise not have received this Christmas.

\*Dear Crowders Creek Friends,

Words are inadequate to express the sincere gratitude that Carolyn and I, and all of our family, owe to each of you for the gracious greeting and the fantastic meal that you provided for us. It was a rare treat for all of us to enjoy worship and fellowship with you.

We will pray God's richest blessing on each of you and on Pastor Ben and his family.

Thank you very much,  
Chuck and Carolyn Evans

\*Thank you as well to all those who helped with the Thanksgiving breakfast. Everyone had a wonderful time of fellowship and giving thanks.

\*The Women's Ministry has for many years had committees and/or persons who take care of decorations throughout the year. This includes the Sanctuary flowers each week, the window candles, etc. Individuals often remember loved ones by placing the flowers on the pulpit (if desired this can be mentioned in the bulletin by getting the information to the church office). Cathy Best graciously continues to take care of the sanctuary flowers and, if asked, will purchase flowers and prepare them for you if requested. The flowers you see outside at the front entrances are provided by Nancy Roach.

We appreciate very much the work of these two ladies as well as the others who take care of the Fellowship Hall/Kitchen throughout the year.

The circles remember our shut-ins, college students, and others in our church throughout the year. The three circles prepare the meals for the Men's Fellowship when they meet in the Fellowship Hall. Meals are also served when there is a death.

Ladies! We appreciate each one of you!



Pastor's Office Hours

### Pastor's Ben's Office Hours

Pastor Ben's weekday work hours are **Tuesday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.** Pastor Ben is available **in the office** Tuesday-Thursday from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. He may be contacted as well after these hours through the church office or by his cell phone.

However, it is always suggested that you call to check (704-864-0196) since home and hospital visits are sometimes made during these times.



Christmas Cantata

**Christmas Cantatas**  
**Sunday, December 18th at 11:00 a.m.**  
**"Three Kings—A Christmas Musical"**

Journey to Bethlehem with three wise kings...as the Adult Choir presents this worshipful musical.

### HARPS

*On Wednesday, November 16, 13 HARPS members ventured out on a wet day to enjoy a meal at Mountain view Restaurant in Kings Mountain. The food was delicious! One member commented that the chicken and dumplings were the best she had tasted when eating out!*

*Sarah Boyd*

*HARPS will meet again Wednesday, December 21st at 11:30. Details coming in Bulletin.*

### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**THE CONGREGATION IS REMINDED** of the **congregational meeting** Sunday, December 11th, for the purpose of considering the proposed budget for 2012 and the election of officers. This will take place immediately following the worship service. There will also be an **informational meeting in the Sanctuary** 12:15 p.m. on **Sunday, December 4th** for the purpose of the Diaconate presenting and discussing the proposed budget before its formal consideration the following week.



**CHRISTMAS PARTIES!!!**  
**December 7, 2011**  
*Harry Ferguson Sunday School*  
*Class Party Mountain View*  
*Restaurant, Kings Mtn.*  
**6:00 p.m.**

**December 19**  
*Adult Choir Party—4:30-9:00p.m. They'll be making fruit baskets, going caroling, and fellowshiping at Cathy & Bill Best home.*



**CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

December 24 - 5:30 p.m.

We invite everyone at 5:00 p.m. to visit the Crowders Creek cemetery where graves of our friends and loved ones will have been illuminated with battery-powered candles to indicate that they are not forgotten during this season and as a reminder to us that not even death can snuff out the light of those who die in the Lord.

Finally, join us for a very special Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols on Saturday, December 24th at 5:30 p.m.



Youth & Children's  
**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**  
Sunday, December 11, 2011  
6:00 p.m.

Come and enjoy this special presentation!!!

**Children's Christmas Party**  
Saturday, December 3rd 11:00am-1:00pm  
Downstairs in Sunday School Rooms  
Birth—5th grade are welcome!

Lunch will be provided. We will be playing games, doing crafts, and having fun!!!



**Annual Adult Christmas  
Dinner Party**  
Saturday, December 10th  
6:30 p.m.  
Fellowship Hall  
\$8.00 per person

*Each year the Men's Fellowship Ministry and the Women's Ministry sponsor the annual dinner.*

**Menu:**

- Ham, Turkey**
- Gravy**
- Rice, Stuffing**
- Green Beans, Cole Slaw**
- Rolls**
- Tea, Lemonade, Coffee**
- Desserts**

*The youth of the church and their leaders, Christy and Charlie Rhyne will cook and serve the meal. This project will help them raise funds for their summer mission trip.*

*We are planning on having a nursery which will be supervised by our college students. (Children must have eaten dinner at home. A snack will be provided)*

*The entertainment this year will be provided by Rev. James Lochridge from Kings Mountain. He presented a program for the HARPS earlier this year.*

*Please fill out the insert in the church bulletin or give to Rhett Clarke or Mike Ferguson by Sunday, December 4th.*

**COME AND ENJOY GOOD FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP.**

*Note: A sign-up sheet is in the vestibule for those willing to bring a dessert.*

**2012 Updates**

We are in the process of creating next year's **calendar**. As you are enjoying your monthly fellowship gatherings, women's circles, and committee meetings, please take a moment to discuss your meeting schedule for 2012. Although I understand that changes may occur throughout the year, please contact me ASAP with any regular changes for the 2012 calendar. Thanks "in advance" for your help!!

Also, the **church directory & birthday list** is in the vestibule. Please take the time to make any corrections necessary for your personal information that will be in the 2012 directory.



*Jodie Naylor*  
Church Secretary