

Fair Grove Church

The Messenger Monthly Newsletter

December 2024

Growing our church from inside out and outside in; creating a Christian family of God.

A Moment From Mark

One of my biggest issues at this time of the year is the combining of Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas all into one and making the last three months of the year an advertising and shopping frenzy. And we even give it its own name; Hallowthanksmas or some such weirdness. So lets look at this “season” which used to be three distinct and very different “holidays.”

There was Halloween, first advertisements show up around October 1st. Then, AFTER Halloween, we began shopping for the best deals on turkeys for Thanksgiving, turning the jack-o-lanterns into pumpkin pies or to put it into perspective, we eat the very thing that we were using to ward off the evil spirits. Then of course, “Black Friday” which ushered in the “Christmas” season.

Not so much anymore. It is all one big marketing campaign that runs the gambit from candy to turkey to gifts. And here is what I would like to see happen.

We use the month of October to rid ourselves of fear. How is that possible, you ask? 1 John 4:18 reads, “There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.” So, we work on ridding ourselves of fear in October, then celebrate a thankful heart during November. 1 Thessalonians 5:18, the Bible says, “In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

Ridding ourselves of fear, having a thankful heart and spirit, then we are ready to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas which is the birth of the Salvation which has come to all people. We can truly celebrate the meaning of Advent. Replacing fear with a thankful heart, we can look forward to celebrating the Peace in our heart, the Joy in our soul, and the spirit of the Love that Christ brought to this world. And we celebrate with Hope the imminent return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Pastor Mark



- ◆ Dec 10 @6pm - UWF Christmas Dinner in the FLC
- ◆ Dec 15 @5pm - Christmas Cantata - refreshments to follow in FLC
- ◆ Dec 24 - 25 - Church Office Closed
- ◆ Dec 29 - Children's Sabbath with the Youth
- ◆ Dec 29 @6pm - Choir 5th Sunday Singing - refreshments to follow in FLC
- ◆ Jan 1-2, 2025 - Church Office Closed
- ◆ Jan 2 @10am - Prayer Shawl in the Parlor
- ◆ Jan 7 @8am - Senior Breakfast at Sunrise - all are welcome!
- ◆ Jan 21 @11am - Susanna Wesley Circle Meeting in the FLC



Christmas Blessings through Missions at Fair Grove



*So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity;
for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7*



2024 "Gifts from the Heart"



Through your donations and Fairgrove Family Resource Center, we can give children in need a wonderful Christmas morning. If you'd like to shop yourself, a form with the child's clothing and shoe sizes, as well as a few "wish list items" will be provided. Your bags of gifts will be delivered by missions or by you (due Dec. 5) to the resource center to be given to the parents who will wrap the gifts. You may choose to shop for a child on your own and spend the \$125. **If you prefer, monetary donations in any amount are appreciated and needed as soon as possible.** Designate "Gifts from the Heart" on the memo line of a check or on your envelope. The mission team hopes Fair Grove will be able to "adopt" 50 children. Donations will be used for purchasing so we need to send those in immediately. See or contact Janice Griffin (336-242-4547) with questions or if you would like a shopping list. Only a few children's gifts are promised at this time.

_____ I would like to sponsor _____ child/children at a cost of \$125 per child.

_____ I would like to give a donation of _____ toward the purchase of a child's gifts.

If this gift is given in honor or memory of someone, please indicate:

In honor/memory of _____

Your name: _____

Make check payable to Fair Grove Church ("Gifts from the Heart" on the memo line)



Nutrition on Weekends Update:

We have provided enough to feed 35 of the 50 targeted children. Please prayerfully consider giving any amount toward the \$250 total yearly cost per child. **Make check payable to Fair Grove Church with N.O.W. on the memo line.**

Thank you for your donations to the WNC Disaster Relief. Your continuous gifts to those who suffered due to Hurricane Helene are truly heartfelt, as well as the donations given at the November Hot Dog Lunch. Let's continue to pray for our neighbors in the mountains and donate in 2025.

On December 22nd, let's bring an outpouring of love with food for those in need with a special Christmas glean! Thank you for bringing canned goods and non-perishables each week all year, and for November's Bobby Owen Food Drive.

Thank you, cheerful Fair Grove givers!

Coming in the new year:

- * **Join the InAsMuch Club.** For \$1 per month or \$12 a year, you can help people who need help paying for urgent needs, like power, water or shelter. "And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."
- * **Purchase a \$5 or \$10 gift card to a close-by, local fast food restaurant, or a grocery/gas card.** These will be given by Pastor Mark when someone needs our immediate help in our own community.



FGC 2024 - N.O.W. - Mission Opportunity

Fairgrove Family Resource Center provides nutritious food for children to take home over the weekends to four area schools, including Fair Grove Elementary. Our own church has sought to alleviate hunger through this program, by providing weekend food for years, meeting the need of every single targeted child at Fair Grove School. We prayerfully hope to meet and exceed that goal.

\$250 will feed a child every weekend for the entire school year. **Any dollar amount** is appreciated!

- o I would like to sponsor a child and donate **\$250** at this time.
- o I would like to sponsor a child with a pledge to give the **\$250** total by Dec. 2024.
- o I would like to give a general donation in the following amount to help: _____

Is this given in honor or memory of someone? _____

Your Name, S.S. Class, or Group _____

**Make check payable to Fair Grove Church. On the memo line, write N.O.W.
Please include this form with your gift or pledge.**



Our staff at Fair Grove has led us through a wonderful year of worship and service. We would like to show our appreciation by giving them a Christmas Love Offering.

If you would like to donate, write checks to **Fair Grove Church and on the memo line write "Christmas Love Offering"**. You may either mail your donations to the church or place in the offering plate on a Sunday.

Deadline for all donations is Sunday, December 8.

The total love offering will be divided evenly among our staff: Mark Helms, Pastor; Susan McCurry, Choir Director/Organist; Carolyn Lane, Pianist; Sharon Sink, Custodian; Jane Evans, Administrative Assistant. Thank you.

Staff Parish Relations Committee



The TRUE SPIRIT of CHRISTMAS and the CHRIST CHILD
Presented on Sunday, December 15, 2024 @ 5:00 pm
Fair Grove Church Sanctuary



Imagine it's Sunday, December 15, 2024, and starting around 4:30 pm, many believers and church families arrive for the 5:00 program. They come wondering what to expect for this year's Christmas Cantata. They walk into the sanctuary, pleased to see it decorated with beautifully thick garland wrapped in peaceful white Christmas lights and colored bows reflecting the shades of the stained-glass windows. In each window, they observe a Christmas wreath with the same bows as the garland, yet they notice there is a flameless battery tapered candle mounted in the center of each wreath. The overhead chandeliers and wall sconces are dimly lit adding to the cozy

ambience that is reflected in the gorgeous Chrismon Tree filled with symbols of our Lord Jesus Christ.

What else do they notice? There is a hand bell table set up and adorned with 17 hand bells. Over by the baby grand piano, they spot a clarinet, set up and ready for someone to play. They whisper to each other that they have heard rumors that kings, shepherds, angels and even Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus will be present.

As everyone is seated, they realize their own stress of the busy holiday season begins to melt away in this peaceful setting. They wonder if when they leave this sanctuary, will they be more in the Christmas Spirit? But wait, which Christmas Spirit will that be? The one of vague goodwill and tame niceness that most people have this time of year or will it be the untamed Spirit of Christmas ... the Holy Spirit ... the true Spirit? The Spirit without which there would be no reason for the season.

The Fair Grove Chancel Choir, Narrators Jane Baity and Jane Gibbs, Kids Own Worship and Youth, all invite you to join us as we present our cantata: The TRUE SPIRIT of CHRISTMAS and the CHRIST CHILD. At the end of the program, please join us in the beautifully decorated Family Life Center for refreshments and fellowship. It is also rumored that Santa Claus will be there for children of all ages!



For quite some time, Bethel Global Methodist Church and Central Wesleyan have been taking turns hosting fifth Sunday singings. We were invited to sing several times and finally schedules permitted us to join this past September 29. We were then asked if we would host the next one. Fair Grove Church will be hosting the 5th Sunday Singing on Sunday, December 29 at 6 PM in our sanctuary. We are inviting area churches to participate in addition to Bethel and Central Wesleyan. Refreshments will be served following the singing in our FLC. This will be a good time to still sing some Christmas carols and fellowship AMONGST THE Christmas Decorations. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend and support our church as we welcome others from the community. Thank you, Susan, Carolyn and the Chancel Choir.



It is with great excitement that SPRC welcomes LEA AUSTIN COOPER as our new Children & Youth Director beginning in January, 2025! Lea has grown up in our church and is now answering God's call to serve. She will be meeting with parents and guardians after the first of the year. Please offer her your prayers and support as she discerns God's will for this important ministry. WELCOME, LEA!!!!!!!

Our youth will once again be leading our Fifth Sunday Worship on December 29. Don't miss this time as their enthusiasm and love of Christ is contagious! Thank you, Youth!



Kids Own Worship

For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust,
O LORD, from my youth.
Psalm 71:5 ESV

Don't forget to spread the word that FG Church is offering Kids Own Worship time!



All children, Pre-K through 5th grade are invited to participate in a special KIDS OWN WORSHIP just for them during the 11am hour. This will include a lesson with hands-on activities. Please note that KOW does not meet on Communion Sundays. The children will remain in the worship service to participate in the Lord's Supper. There are worship packets located under the pew at the piano and in the balcony that children may use during the service. Please return the packets at the end of the service.

Kids Own Worship will now meet in the youth room permanently. The room has been updated to accommodate both children and youth. Meeting there will allow easier access to the outside area and playground plus use of the smart TV to incorporate into lessons. There is a full kitchen plus bathrooms available as well.



Our Nursery is located across from the old Kids Own Worship classroom and is staffed each Sunday by 10:30am. Babies and toddlers are well cared for while parents enjoy the worship service. Toddlers are chaperoned to Kids Own Worship and participate in the lesson.





“The Christmas Story...Are You in It? “

By Christine Carter
Women of Fair Grove Church!

Join the United Women in Faith for their annual Christmas covered dish dinner.

It is on **December 10 at 6:00 pm** in the Family Life Center.

The program is about finding yourself in the beautiful Christmas Story.

You do not need to be a member of our UWF to come! We always have delicious food, wonderful fellowship and a reflective time during this busy holiday season.

Invite a friend and come!!

We would like to thank everyone that supported our Bake sale and Vegetable Soup sale. It was a great success. Thank you for always supporting our women!

“Behold the lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.” John 1:29



Justin Kennedy family	Shirley Fuller
Sam Lilly family	Juanita Welborn
Aurelia Hampton	Roger Ferguson
Grace Shoemaker	Coach Howard Hayes
Joan Everhart	Wendy Smith
Tasha Edwardh	Brenda Smith Ward
John Everhart	Steve Avre
Timmy Bailey	Caleb Dunlin
Mark Workman	Jimmy Holliday
Mark Duncan	Beverly
Curtis Ingram	Hill family
Lynette Jones Scott	Betty Richey
Scott Reese	Carolyn & Wade Lane
Margaret McCaskill	Carol Sena
Ricky Wray	Terri Carpenter
Cindy Medlin	Kathryn Swaim
Cristall McCaskill	Drew Newby
Joel Craddock	Mary
Michelle Miller Harris	Clyde Bailey
Ty Parker	Connie Yarborough
Benny Clodfelter	Kathy Shoe & Rick Wilson
Len Beusse	Ira Buckalew
Jenny Mize	Billy Warren

Aubrey Lawson
Jennifer Kinley
Joy Wray Tucker
Candi Williams
Sandra Workman
Roy McMahan
Heather Hardister
David & Linda Lambeth
Dot Russell
Bobby Swaim
Evelyn Parks
Riley Honeycutt
Kendall Conner
Kasey Redfern & family
Anne Jones
Kim Edgerton
Jamie Wray Heupel
Juan Gome Voglino
Roger Burkhardt
Katie Coment's husband
Lillie Lim
Cindy Sprague

Meridith Bame
Tommy Vernon
Judy Harrington
Lanley Suttle
Mary Wallace
Vince Mounts
Ophelia Timmons
Bobbi
Deb Lawson Brooks
Alice Workman
Rob Nelson
Denise Barker
Dennis Harrison
Johnny
Chad Blevins
Teresa Rhodes
Leslie Rierson
Lucy Hayes
Jimmy Robbins
Brittany East
Bryce Hunt
Victims of hurricanes Milton and Helene

Prayer List



"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us."

1 John 5:14

EVERYONE
IS
WELCOME!

Please note that there is an open invitation to any and all who would like to meet to pray over the Sunday service at 10:40am in the Prayer Room. If you have any questions, please speak with Pastor Mark.

Happy Birthday



- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 2 Jodi Perry | 24 Christopher Craver |
| 3 Joan Everhart | 24 Jane G. Osborne |
| 3 Eddie Jones | 24 David Workman |
| 3 Sydney Jones | 24 Roxanna Worley |
| 7 Sallie Hepler | 26 Cynthia McCorquodale |
| 8 Kim Johnson | 26 Phillip Wood |
| 8 Patricia Baker | 28 Christian Key |
| 12 Rie Taylor | 28 Kyle Workman |
| 14 David Smith | 29 Noah Fritts |
| 15 Betty Easley | 29 Darren Workman |
| 16 Kelby Lomax | 29 Michael Inscoe, Jr. |
| 17 Ethan Fry | 30 Craig Gallimore |
| 17 Keith Overcash | 30 Eric Callicutt |
| 19 Natalie Nameth | 31 Holly Thomas |
| 21 Jo Swaim | 31 Jeffery Blair |
| 21 Amanda Johnson | |

let's
CELEBRATE



Happy Anniversary

- | |
|-------------------------------|
| 1 Mark & Marian Workman |
| 10 Darrell & Patricia Kennedy |
| 14 Jared & Carolyn Fritts |
| 27 Richard & Janice Griffin |



Do you have a heart for foster children?



At this time, there are 185 children in Davidson County foster care, and the Davidson County Foster Elves need help in fulfilling their CHRISTmas wishes. Of course we can't give them what their hearts really want, but we can provide some of the material gifts for Santa to bring.

Foster parents receive a modest monthly stipend to help pay for food and clothing, but nothing extra for back-to-school, birthdays, holidays, etc. That's where the foster elves come in.

Foster elves are all volunteers. Some are individuals, some are families, others are coworkers or Sunday school classes. Some companies join us and take several lists, as do some churches and ball teams. All share a goal- to make CHRISTmas meaningful by bringing joy to area foster children and support those who provide a safe and loving home for them.

Elves from across the county are sent a child's wish list and purchase and wrap exactly what the child listed. The list will be detailed-- so there's no guesswork involved. We spend about \$50-75 on younger children, and up to \$150 for teens, since their clothes, shoes, "toys" are more expensive.

The wrapped and tagged gifts need to be delivered on or before December 4 to Meadowview Presbyterian Church in Lexington, where I'll check everything off. Then some friends and I will deliver all those gifts to DSS in early December, in time for the social workers to surreptitiously deliver them to each child's foster home before the big day.

If you'd like to help, but not shop, that's okay! You can send a donation to Meadowview Presbyterian Church (1 Grace Way, Lexington, NC 27295) and my Super Shopper Elf will shop and wrap for you. Donations can be large or small - it's up to you.

Please share this with your family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, FB group, church group and leaders-- anyone you know with a heart for children! I am amazed each year by the response from our community, and beyond.

If you are interested in providing CHRISTmas gifts for a foster child, please contact Mara Lovejoy at maralovejoy@gmail.com. If you'd like to vet me first, feel free to contact Meadowview Church or Jaime Ledbetter at Davidson County Department of Social Services.

Blessings to you and yours,
Mara Lovejoy
Foster Elf Coordinator
Former Foster Parent
Lexington, NC



PRESENTING SPONSOR



JOURNEY TO ✨ BETHLEHEM

DRIVE-THRU LIVE NATIVITY!



DEC 4 - DEC 8

6:00-9:30PM WED. THUR. FRI. SAT. SUN.



FREE
HOT COCOA!



LIVE
ANIMALS!



FREE TROLLEY & HAY RIDES!

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED ONLINE AT

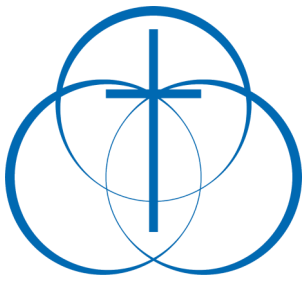


www.thomasvillenativity.com

Nativity Hotline: (336) 313-9393 EMAIL: info@thomasvillenativity.com

345 Faith Chapel Rd. | Thomasville, NC 27360

A MINISTRY OF  **FAITH COMMUNITY CHAPEL**



Fair Grove Church

138 Fairgrove Church Road, Thomasville, NC 27360
www.fairgrovechurch.org Phone: (336) 475-2598
Email: fgcthamasville@gmail.com
Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9:00am—1:00pm

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**RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED**

We Thank God For You



STEWARDSHIP *A way of Life*

FOR PERIOD JANUARY - NOVEMBER 10

YTD SS Attendance AVG	20
YTD Worship Attendance AVG	97
YTD Budget Offering	\$ 223,562.45
YTD AVG Weekly Offering	\$ 4,668.05
Needed each week to make budget	\$ 4,624.65

GLEANING

November: 166 Year-to-date: 3458
Non-perishable food items donated to Fairgrove Family
Resource Center

If your contact information has changed,
don't forget to let us know!



Have you...
...moved? ...changed your email address?
...changed your phone number?

Or, would you like to be added to our email list to receive the weekly announcement email?

If so, please call us or send us an email with your updated information!

Make sure to check out our website: www.fairgrovechurch.org
and Facebook page: www.facebook.com/fairgrovechurch/
Office Email: fgcthamasville@gmail.com
Phone: (336) 475-2598
Pastor: Mark Helms Email: helmsmark39@yahoo.com
Minister's Office Phone: (336) 475-3191