

Ringgold Baptist Church

4620 Ringgold Church Road  
PO Box 100  
Ringgold, VA 24586  
Phone: (434) 822-5959  
E-mail: office@ringgoldbaptist.org

Return Service Requested



STAFF / SERVICE TIMES / MONTHLY SERVANTS

STAFF

Pastor.....Rev. Duane Caldwell  
Administrative Secretary.....Cheryl Hogg  
Minister of Music.....Daniel Wolfe  
Minister to Children.....Stephanie Barts  
Minister to Youth.....Brandon Barts  
Organist.....Ginger Collie  
Pianist.....Leslie Blair  
Groundskeeper.....Doug Motley  
Maintenance.....Kevin Barker

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS  
Monday - Friday  
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday School - 9:15 am  
Sunday Morning - 10:30 am  
Sunday Evening - 5:00 pm  
Wednesday Evening - 6:30 pm

Audio - Isaac Blair—Larry Collie

Nursery Schedule

12/07 - Sherry Shively and Frankie Gilbert  
12/14 - Nancy Adams and Mary Mills  
12/21 - Dianne Donahoe and Gayle Barts  
12/28 - Bonnie McDarmont and Katie Williams

Backpack Buddies

Week of December 01— Sandra and Mike Gauldin  
Week of December 08— Terri and Doug Motley  
Week of December 15— Stephanie and Brandon Barts

Ushers - Lawrence Gilbert, Todd Fitts, Tommy Rowland

Bereavement Team

December - Ray and Sara McDowell  
January - Sammy and Phyllis McCormick

THE RINGGOLD REFLECTOR

A WORD FROM PASTOR DUANE

As most of you know, my mom went back home to North Carolina this past week after living here in Ringgold for the past 9 months as she recovered from the stroke she suffered last Christmas Eve. I would like to thank everyone for the love they lavished on her while she was here. You made it hard for her to go back home because you treated her with such genuine care. But that’s who you are as a church. I praise God for strengthening her to the point where she has regained a lot of her independence and was able to go back home for Thanksgiving and Christmas. As we celebrate Christmas and I think about my mom, I am reminded of a story I read recently.

Once there was a little boy who was really mean. No matter what his parents tried, he continued to be self-centered, selfish, and well-mean. Christmas was coming soon, so the little boy, in his usual selfish way, made his “Dear Santa” letter-twelve pages of gadgets and toys! When his parents saw the monstrous letter, they were outraged. Father picked up the little boy and carried him to the living room, setting him firmly on the floor in front of the family’s nativity scene. “I want you to sit right here and look at this scene until you remember what Christmas is all about. Then you must write a letter to Jesus.” So the little boy sits there a while and then returns to his bedroom. Finding paper and pencil, he begins to write: “Dear Jesus, if you will bring me all the presents I want, I will be good for a whole year.” Then he thinks for a moment and tears up the paper. He writes again: “Dear Jesus, if you will bring me all the presents I want, I will be good for a whole week,” but once again he tears up the paper. The little boy quietly leaves his room and returns to the living room, looking intently at the nativity scene. He gently reaches down and picks up the figure of Mary. Returning to his room, he places the figure in a shoe box and sets the box in the back of his closet. Then he writes another letter: “Dear Jesus, if you ever want to see your mother again...”

Just like us, Jesus had a mom too. Christmas is about the gift that God sent to us in His Son Jesus Christ. We give gifts to those we love. God gave us Jesus because He loves us. What an awesome gift! For Jesus to come, His mother Mary, had to submit to the will of God. God would not have forced Mary to give birth to Jesus, but gave her the opportunity to be the mother of the Son of God. She said, “Let it be according to Your Word.” Mary loved her Son, but she had no idea what being His mother would entail, as she had to watch Him suffer, bleed, and die for the sins of all of us. Jesus died for us all that we might have eternal life. Jesus came that we may have life and have life abundantly. Too many of us, like this little boy are not satisfied with what God gives us, so we have a tendency to try to bargain with God to get what we want. We scheme and we bargain, but that is not how God operates. He doesn’t deal with threats or kidnapping demands. He simply wants us to love Him and He takes care of our needs. I am afraid too many people in our society have forgotten or just don’t care what Christmas is about. There is too much selfishness and self-centeredness. People in our world today believe Christmas is about the gifts, food, and parties. Too many are like this mean little boy, and they try to scheme their way into getting what they want. It’s not about what we want, it’s about what we need. People don’t care about the sacrifice given in order for them to have the best gift. As we celebrate Christmas, remember Jesus was born to be the Savior of the World. That is the gift God gave us. The gift He wants from us - is us. Let’s honor Him, love Him, and remember Him this Christmas season. Let’s be like Jesus’ mother and allow God to use us for His glory and His purpose. Merry Christmas.

Pastor Duane

# Deacon Moment

## CHRISTMAS....WHAT DOES IT REALLY MEAN TO YOU?

My sister recently found a picture of me as a toddler, standing next to a birthday cake complete with candles, on Christmas Eve. The cake was my idea. As a toddler, I had asked my mother, "Why do we have Christmas?" Mom patiently explained that Christmas was a birthday celebration of Jesus's birth, just like we celebrate our own births. In a preschooler's inspirational excitement, I concluded with my childlike logic that Jesus should and needed a birthday party too! "We could have Kool-Aid and cake with ice cream and sing Happy Birthday to Jesus was my excited childish, joyous response and thus our annual tradition of a birthday celebration for Jesus was born, with the youngest member of the family given the honor of blowing out the candles. Besides cake and Kool-Aid we sing Christmas carols and read the Bible Christmas story from Luke. The final part of the tradition is that each family member takes a turn sharing his or her answers to two personal questions: What, from this past year, are you thankful to God for, and since it's Jesus's birthday, what gift will you give to him for the coming year? Three generations have now kept this tradition going and instilling in future generations the importance of what the season really means.

Because of today's fast pace, we quickly forget all the good things God and Jesus give to us daily and move on quickly to the next new thing! That's why I suggest making it a priority to put aside time this Christmas season, to celebrate Jesus and all He is for us year-round!

*"For unto us a child is born, in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11*

Submitted by Ronnie Farthing



### UPCOMING EVENT:

**\*Children will perform on Sunday, December 14 in the evening at 5pm.**

I want to say a HUGE thank you to everyone who helped prepare food and volunteered for our Annual Fall Festival. It was a great success! We had 120 to 150 people attend from all ages. I love having events for the community where we can all have fellowship with each other.

We have really been having a great time during Children's Church! We would love to have you attend with us on Sunday mornings during the church service at 10:30. Just as a reminder, we also meet on Sunday evenings at 7:00 and Wednesday evenings at 6:00. This has been a wonderful time of learning and fellowship with the children.

If you need to reach out to me, please feel free to call or text me at 434-709-4709 with any questions you may have.  
~Stephanie Barts

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**\*Youth will go to pack boxes for OCC on Saturday, December 13th.**

**\*We will attend MFuge Camp in Virginia Beach from June 8-12, 2026. Youth trip money can be turned in via 2 payments if people would like to use that option. The first \$50 is due by December 15th or you can pay the full \$100 by then as well. The second payment will be due by January 30th.**

The Youth Group are enjoying learning the Bible from beginning to end every Sunday evening from 7pm-8pm and Wednesday evening from 6pm-7pm. We also participate in mission outreach opportunities and will be heading to Charlotte, NC on December 13th to help at the Samaritan Purse Processing Center. We look forward to seeing more youth. Youth Sunday School is 9:15-10:10 every Sunday Morning.

If you need to reach out to me, please feel free to call or text me at 434-251-8512 with any questions you may have.  
~Brandon Barts







*With Sympathy*

**Our deepest Christian sympathy to:**

*The family and friends of Maxine Craig Whitt in her passing.*

*The family and friends of Angie Willis in her passing.*

*The family and friends of Tyler Coleman in his passing.*

*The family and friends of Elizabeth Sparks in her passing.*

*The family and friends of Steve Wilkinson in his passing.*

*The family and friends of Wayne Gusler in his passing.*

*The family and friends of Annie Hanks in her passing.*

LUNCH BUNCH

**DECEMBER 11 at 11:00 am**

Please call the church office by Monday, December 8 to let us know if you will join us or not

**UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER**

Sunday, January 4	6:00 pm	Deacons
Tuesday, January 6	7:00 pm	Eva Walton Circle
Thursday, January 8	11:00 am	Lunch Bunch
Sunday, January 11	5:00 pm	Committee Organizational Mtg
Wednesday, January 14	6:30 pm	Family Night Dinner & Devotions Hosts: Agape SS Class
Sunday, January 25	6:00 pm	Church Council

*During the month of December, please join the J.O.Y. Club in remembering each of our Homebound Shut-ins & Nursing Home Residents with cards, visits and phone calls.*

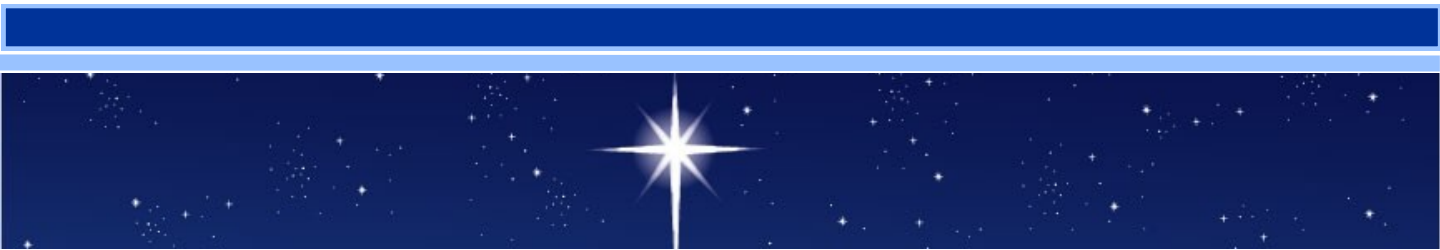
**CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**Wednesday, December 17 at Noon**

*Join us for fun, fellowship and a delicious meal!*

*Bring a \$5.00 gift for the exchange.*

*Don't forget to bring canned food for God's Storehouse*



**ALL CHURCH MISSION PROJECT FOR GOD'S STOREHOUSE IN NOVEMBER**

**91 JARS OF PEANUT BUTTER**

**84 BOXES OF CEREAL**

*Thanks to all who supported this emergency outreach project.*

**HEAR YE, HEAR YE!**

**New RBC Record**

**530**

Thank you Bobra, for your dedication and leadership!

Thank you Larry, for transporting 62 heavy boxes to the PBA office.



## Announcements, Events & Reminders

### December Business Meeting

Wednesday, December 10 at 6:30 p.m.

### CHURCH-WIDE CAROLING

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21  
AT 3:00 PM**

**HELP SPREAD CHEER TO  
OUR COMMUNITY!**



**SUNDAY, DEC. 7  
5:00 PM**

### CHRISTMAS CANTATA

**SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 14**

**10:30 AM**



### LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS MAILBOX

The Ruth Sunday School Class will again sponsor the "Lottie Moon" Christmas Mailbox for cards to your church family this year.

The LAST DATE to bring your cards is Wednesday, December 17 to the mailbox located behind the organ. The cards will then be sorted and available to Sunday School Classes and other church members on Sunday, December 21.

As always, we ask that money not used for Christmas card postage be donated to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. You may put your donations in a separate envelope in the box with the cards.

### CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE

**Wednesday, December 24th  
5:00 pm**

### 2026 Offering Envelopes

Envelopes will be available in late December in the hallway of the Family Life Center.

The envelopes will be arranged alphabetically by family for your convenience.

If you are participating in Online Giving and do not want to continue to receive envelopes **OR** If you did not receive envelopes last year and would like to have them for this coming year, please notify the church office at 822-5959 or

e-mail: [office@ringgoldbaptist.org](mailto:office@ringgoldbaptist.org)



### THANK YOU:

- For **EVERY OCC box** that was donated. A full report will be given in the January Highlights.
- To all who prepared meals and delivered them to homes on November 10<sup>th</sup> for the "Friends@Home" Ministry. **Twenty-nine (29) meals** were delivered to **fifteen (15) homes**.
- For preparing and serving for "Lunch Bunch" on Thursday, November 13.
- For packing "Backpack Meals" for identified Kentuck Elementary students for weekends.

### LUNCH BUNCH:

- **Thursday –December 11<sup>th</sup>** at 11:00 AM.
- Wear your **Christmas attire** as we gather for food and fellowship.
- Please call the church office by **Monday, December 8th** to say **yes** or **no** as to whether you will attend.

### FRIENDS @ HOME MINISTRY:

- The next meal will be **delivered on Monday, December 15th**.

**SIT Ministry** – the **nurse at DRHS** has a need for deodorant for men & women. There will be a tote in the FLC hallway.

### LOTTIE MOON INTERNATIONAL MISSION OFFERING:

- **Ongoing for the month of December.**
- **RBC's goal will be \$4,000. Our international missionaries depend on this offering to help meet their living expenses wherever they are serving in the world.**
- **This year we can especially remember James and Tracey Walson.**

### MISSION GROUP OPPORTUNITIES at RBC:

- First Tuesday at 7:00 PM at RBC
- Second Tuesday at 10:00 AM at RBC

As always, **THANK YOU** for your continuous support of mission projects and mission offerings at RBC.

*Suzanne Emerson, WMU Director*



To the Ringgold Baptist Family,

"Where there is devotional music, God is always at hand with His gracious presence."  
– J.S. Bach

I feel like a broken record because year after year I keep asking this congregation the same thing. We really need more participation in the choir or any other musical talent you have to share. Younger folks especially...

If anyone wants to join the choir it's real easy. Just show up on Wednesday evenings at 7:15. Bring your voice. I don't care if you only sing in the shower or the car. God will forgive all your iniquities as long as you bring your voice and accept Jesus as your Savior.

For your calendar –  
December 21 – Christmas Caroling – 3 pm  
Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> – Cantata – One Small Child during regular morning service.

Blessings, Dan

