### **Dublin First Baptist Church**

P.O. Box 187 Dublin, NC 28332 910-862-2277 Email: dublinfbc@gmail.com

www.dublinfbc.org
Lead Pastor

Jason Lee

Associate Pastor
Eric Melvin

Worship Leader
Adam Harman

#### **Deacons**

Joe JacksonRoscoe RaynorDwayne JohnsonBen TylerCraig LennonHorace WyattAndrew PaitSteve Yarbrough

Allen Ramsey



### What It Means to Be Born Again

Study these Bible verses for God's Word on the subject:

- 1. For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." (Rom. 3:23) Everyone is a sinner—there are no exceptions.
- For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Rom. 6:23)
   Death means separation forever from God. Eternal life comes by trusting Jesus Christ.
- "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom. 5:8)

God loved us sinners so much that He gave His son to die for our sins.

- 4. If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." (Rom. 10:9)
  To be born again, you must believe that Jesus died for your sins and declare that you accept Him as Lord of your life.
- 5. "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Rom. 10:13) This is God's promise to you that if you receive Jesus as Lord, He will save you.

Confess your decision to the Lord now as you pray this prayer:

Dear God, I know I have sinned by breaking Your laws, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe that Jesus died for my sins. I want to be born again and receive new life in Him. I will follow Jesus as my Lord and obey Him in all that I do. In the name of Jesus I pray. Amen.



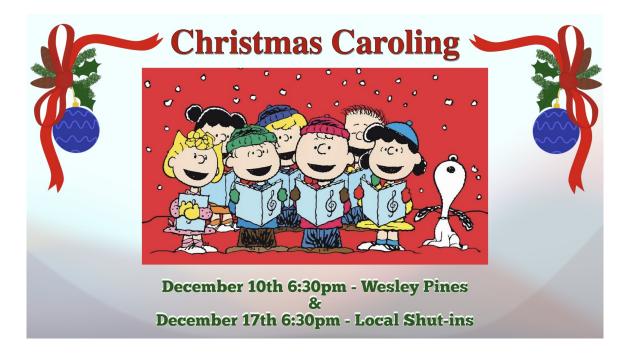




"Mercy and Truth have met together; Righteousness and Peace have kissed."

Psalm 85:10







Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	6:00 PM Family Night Fellowship Meal 7:00 PM Hanging of the Greens	4	5	6
5:00 PM Deacons Meeting AMPED 6:00 PM Evening Worship	8	9	6:30 PM Christmas Caroling Wesley Pines	11	12	13
8:45 & 11:00 AM Christmas Cantata 6:00 PM Coffee House	6:00 PM Lucile Taylor' Circle	16	6:30PM Christmas Caroling Local Shut-Ins	18	19	20
5:00 PM AMPED 6:00 PM Evening Worship		23	6:00 PM Christmas Eve Service	25	26	27
5:00 PM AMPED 6:00 PM Evening Worship	29	30	31	8:45 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 AM 5:00 PM 6:00 PM	Sundays Morning Worship Service Sunday School Morning Worship Service AMPED / Awana Evening Worship Service	

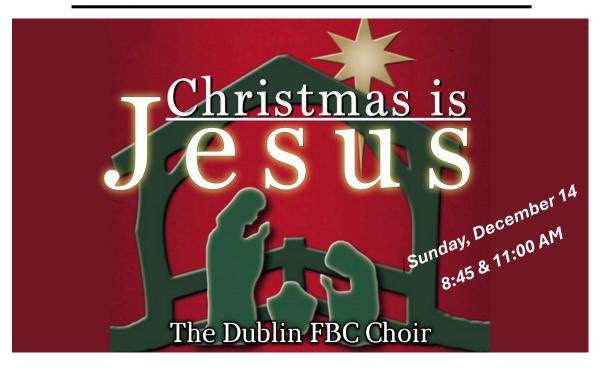
congregation to sing at their Christmas Eve service, wound up in the hands of the organ builder and repair man by the name of Karl Mauracher who was working at the church. He took a copy of the six-verse song to his home village in Tyrol, Austria, an area known for its choirs. There, it was picked up and spread by two families of traveling folk singers, who performed around northern Europe. In 1834, the Strasser sisters performed it for the King of Prussia. Then making its way to the United States in 1839, the Rainer family debuted the carol outside Trinity Church in New York City. The composition evolved and was eventually translated into over 300 languages with many different arrangements for various voices and ensembles. It has been sung in churches, in town squares, even on the battlefield during World War I while holding a temporary truce on Christmas Eve. By 1914, the beloved Christmas carol "Silent Night" was known all around the world.

Blessings, Adam



# December: Postage/Shipping Money

Total Collected to Date: \$11,002.64 Goal: \$10,000.00



## A Meeting in the Messiah

One of my favorite Christmas Carols is "Oh Little Town of Bethlehem." It's the beautiful, serene tune and the lyrics that I enjoy so much, but there was one phrase that always puzzled me a little as I heard or sang it. The end of the first verse goes like this: "The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight." Christmas being a time of hope makes perfect sense, but why this mention of fears? And why does Bethlehem serve as a meeting place for hopes and fears?

It wasn't until I connected that final phrase of the first verse with a prophecy about the One BORN in Bethlehem that these lyrics so often sung without thinking finally made sense. Did you know that there's a "Christmas verse" in the Psalms? God tells us in Psalm 85:10 about Jesus Christ, His Promised Messiah. It says: "Mercy and Truth have met together; Righteousness and Peace have kissed each other." In Jesus Christ, the mercy of God toward us AND His truth--His holiness and justice are satisfied. In Jesus, God's righteousness and peace embrace, even kiss! That's because this Messiah Jesus was born to die (not for His sins--He was perfect and never sinned), but as an atoning sacrifice for ours. The holiness and justice (the truth and righteousness) of God were satisfied because Jesus bore our record of sin on the cross and took our punishment, in our place. Mercy met Truth. Righteousness met Peace in our Savior Jesus Christ!

As the words of this beautiful Christmas carol remind us--our HOPES (to be forgiven, to be restored to relationship with God), our hopes meet and overcome our fears (our fears of sin and death and life apart from God) in this Baby born in the little town of Bethlehem! Christmas can be such a busy time... make sure you pause this season frequently to praise God for the hope we have in Christ! Take time to worship Him and celebrate that our hopes met and overcame any and all of our fears because of Jesus!

~Pastor Jason

## The Most Amazing Gift

If you read my last article, then you know just how much I look forward to Thanksgiving and how we should be careful not to overlook it in anticipation of Christmas. Now that we have enjoyed a time of fellowship, food, and thankfulness for all that God has provided for us, bring on Christmas!

Ever since that Wednesday night on November 30, 2011, when I trusted in Jesus as my Lord and Savior, I have grown to see everything in a much different way. Christmas was once just another Holiday that gave me time off school or work along with the joy of receiving and giving gifts. Now it means so much more. It is a Holy Day that reminds me of something far more amazing and spectacular than all the glitz and glamour that this season affords. We need to be careful not to get caught up in the worldly aspects but should consider the supernatural significance of what Christmas represents.

Most of us think of the Gospel accounts of the birth of Jesus during this time, but I would also recommend reading Philippians 2:1-11. This is a time to be reminded of what true humility, selflessness, and unity looks like. Paul points us to Christ as the ultimate example for us to follow. While we seek to get the perfect gift for those we love, hoping they will be overjoyed, God the Father sent His Son into His own creation as the greatest gift anyone could ever receive. It always amazes me to think of God the Son who John describes in chapter one of his gospel adding on to His deity the humanity that He created. Fully God, yet fully human. From a babe in a manger to the perfect sacrifice on the cross for our sins, ultimately defeating death through His resurrection.

While the world celebrates Santa Claus and consumerism at Christmas, let us Christians seek to magnify Christ through our example of humility, self-sacrifice, and seeking the good of others above ourselves as we celebrate Immanuel, God with us. Let us honor and cherish the greatest gift this world has ever received. Even Amazon can't compete with the free gift of salvation that only Christ Jesus offers those who would but only believe and receive it. Even the shipping is instantaneous, and no membership fee is needed.

### THERE'S A SONG IN THE AIR

Ephesians 5:19 "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;"

It was the winter of 1818, in the small Austrian village of Oberndorf, Austria, just outside Salzburg when this carol was born. The young priest Joseph Mohr was preparing for their Christmas Eve service and faced a problem. The church organ was broken, likely damaged by rust or flooding from the nearby Salzach River. Without music, the midnight service would feel incomplete. Mohr didn't want the night's celebration to pass without something special. He remembered a poem he had written two years prior beginning with the words "Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright.". At the time Mohr wrote the poem in 1816, Europe was reeling in the aftermath of the Napoleonic Wars. Financial scarcity and insecurity abounded and further stoked by fires, floods and famine. It is said that instead of Mohr walking straight home that night, he took a longer way to his house. The longer path took him up on a hill overlooking the village. From that hilltop, Mohr looked down on the peaceful snow-covered village. Reveling in the majestic silence of a wintry night, the inspiration came as he looked out over a very quiet, winter-laden town and saw that the town was now at peace. Mohr decided that the words from that poem might make a good carol for his congregation at the Christmas Eve service. However, he didn't have any music to which that poem could be sung. So, Mohr rushed through the snow to the home of his friend, Franz Gruber, the local schoolteacher and church organist. Mohr handed Gruber the poem and asked if he could compose a simple melody, one that could be played on guitar, since the organ was unusable. Gruber only had a few hours to compose a melody that could be played on a guitar. By that evening, Gruber had composed a musical setting for the poem. The fact that the church organ was inoperable no longer mattered. They now had a Christmas carol that could be sung without an organ. On Christmas Eve, the small Oberndorf congregation heard Gruber and Mohr sing their new composition to the accompaniment of Gruber's guitar. Because guitar was not an instrument approved by the Church yet, the duo waited until the conclusion of Christmas Eve service before debuting the song. Mohr sang tenor and strummed the guitar while Gruber sang bass, with the congregation coming in on the chorus. This simple carol, used for a small church