

WBC NEWSLETTER

December 2023



**WOODLAWN BAPTIST CHURCH EXISTS TO
GLORIFY GOD BY LEADING PEOPLE INTO A
GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST**

A WORD FROM OUR ELDERS

“Merry Christmas” is a beautiful greeting when used in the context of a right relationship with the actual Prince of Peace. However, in our hectic rush of life, we often say it without even thinking about His coming to earth. Use the following scriptures to be reminded of the many descriptions of Christ our Savior.

Isaiah 9:6-7a

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.

This passage reminds us that the birth of Jesus was foretold and anticipated. For hundreds of years, the people of God waited through tumultuous times for the one that would be the Prince of Peace.

Luke 2:13-14

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!”

In this verse we see the Good News brought to simple shepherds out in the fields. They weren’t important in the eyes of the world, yet God saw them. The peace of the Christmas season is available to all “on whom his favor rests.”

That’s His children! It doesn’t matter your job, your background, or your past. If we have made Him Lord of our life, we can have the same peace the shepherds had at that first Christmas.

John 16:33

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

There will be many situations that to disrupts our peace. The world will try to trouble us, or weigh us down. But these verses tell us that the peace we encounter in Jesus is different. It is lasting and can withstand any circumstance. This Christmas, thank Jesus for his unique peace and embrace it in your heart.

Philippians 4:6-7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Our world cannot understand true peace—it defies understanding. The world’s definition of peace is often shallow and fleeting. But this verse about peace reassures us that the peace of God is deeper and truer than worldly peace. So seek the peace that transcends understanding. When we do that, our heart and mind will be guarded by the presence of Jesus. We can have an unshakable peace through Christ.

James 1:17

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change

AS we go through the joys and trials of the Christmas season, take time to remember the giver of the perfect gift, our salvation. In the craziness of this month of so many obligations, remember the most important gifts come from an unchanging and loving Father who gave us the gift of Jesus. And may we follow God's example, giving good gifts to those in our lives.

2 Thessalonians 3:16

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.

Merry Christmas,
Don

WBC PRAYER FOCUS

WBC PRAYER MINISTRY

“Prayer Matters”

“... Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people ... born for you a Savior... Christ the Lord...” Luke 2:10-11

As Christians, we know that *“Do not be afraid”* was spoken to Mary, Joseph, shepherds and, of course, many others throughout the scriptures. As Christ-followers, we also must hear *“Do not be afraid”* and share by our words and actions, *just like they did*, the good news given by the angels. This “good news” is the key to life and joy, both now and eternally!

This *“good news of great joy”* of Christ’s birth is the true hope of sinful humanity. Yet, fear can keep us from taking the opportunities we have to share what Christ means to us and why HE is important. Why is the Christ important to you?

Sadly, sometimes fear of change or past failure will also keep a person from understanding and accepting God’s call to their heart once the “good news” is presented to them. Therefore, we must continue in prayer for others and for ourselves to be used of God to indeed, have opportunity to share the *“good news of great joy!”*

May we overcome any fear that hinders our obedience when nudged to share the gospel or enter into a gospel conversation with others. Pray for an open heart and courage in any person you are led to share Christ’s reason for coming to earth with during this holiday season. Pray for God to both help them understand and respond in surrender to God’s unbelievable love for them which is found in the *“good news of great joy!”*

Dear Father,

As we talk or gather with family and friends during this season, please help us be sensitive to Your Spirit alive in each of us. Some people we talk with will be those beaten down by the trials of life, stresses of our times, or even by their own failures and disappointments. Others wrongly put their hope in earthly things that in the end are meaningless. Please, Father, let Your genuine love for them become visible through our words or actions.

Lord, please enable these that we care for to see the reality that You alone have the words of life. And, if we can be a small or large part of that change, please prepare us with Your words to proclaim with truth, thankfulness, and humility the wonder of Your saving grace and truth through Your story of love for mankind.

In the powerful name of Christ, we humbly pray,
Amen.

“... Walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace.”

Ephesians 4:15-16 ESV

PRAYERS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER



PRAYERS FOR SALVATION:

Kayla, Emilee, Stephen, Joshua,
James, Josh, Jessie, Robert

PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING:

Abbey Veazey, Robert Willard,
Wade and Courtney Lawing,
Terry Collins' daughter Marsha,
Robert Messer



INTERCESSORY PRAYER

STRENGTHENING & BUILDING OUR
Community
THROUGH THE POWER OF PRAYER

Community Prayer
Gathering
First Saturday of Each Month
December 2
9:30-10:30am
WBC Sanctuary

Please join your brothers and sisters in Christ
from area churches to pray and believe that
God's Word in 2 Chronicles 7:14 is true for today



HOW CAN WE
PRAY
FOR YOU?

To initiate a prayer, call the
church office or visit
wbclowell.com/connect/prayer

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Merry Christmas to all the children of
Woodlawn Baptist Church
and their families.
May God bless you all!



KidsROC Christmas Dinner
For Children K-5
Wednesday, Dec. 13
6:30 pm
Multipurpose Room in the
Family Life Center



Attention Children and
Their Families:

*Grab and Go
Christmas Breakfast*

Sunday, Dec. 3, 9:15 am
Children's Department,
2nd Floor of Education
Building



Thank you to all who
participated last month in the
Operation Christmas Child
shoebox ministry.

This month, we will be collecting
gloves, mittens, hats, and scarves
for homeless
children, men, and women
here in Gaston County.
Please bring new or gently used
items and place them in our
donation boxes outside our Kids
Ministry classrooms.

*Woodlawn Kids
Weekly Ministries*

Sundays 9:45am Sunday School
11:00am Kids Worship (K-3)
and Preschool Worship
Wednesdays 7:00pm KidsROC
(Kids Rely on Christ)

STUDENTS



”
Our goal with
Woodlawn Students is
to equip them to follow
Jesus, to be made like
him, and to become
fishers of men.

GABE VEAZEY, STUDENT MINISTER

ADULTS



*Women's Ministry
Cookie Swap Christmas
Party*

**Sunday, December 10
4-6pm**

Ruth Abbott's House

4523 Pinebrook Court, Gastonia

Bring 40 shareable cookies, fudge,
etc. to swap with others

Meal provided

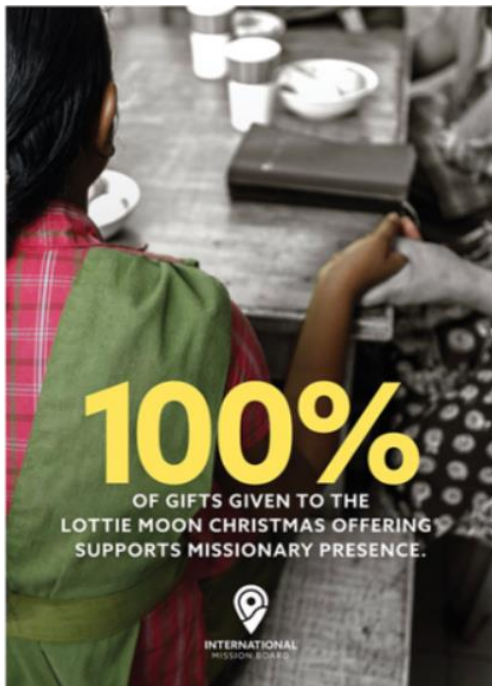
OPEN POSITION

**Building Opener
and Closer**

Job description and
application available on
our website

Age 50 and older
*Young
at Heart*
SENIOR MINISTRY

Multi-Purpose Room
Tuesday December 5, 6pm
Bring a covered dish and a dollar for
the kitty



IMPACTING LOSTNESS THROUGH YOUR GENEROSITY

OUR CHURCH GOAL: **\$8000.00**

MEN'S BREAKFAST
1ST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH
DECEMBER 7, 6:30AM

SHORT STUDY/DEVOTION

CALL THE CHURCH
OFFICE
FOR MORE
INFORMATION
OR VISIT THE WEBSITE



LOWELL CRISIS MINISTRY



**FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER
WE WILL BE COLLECTING:**

**JELLY, CANNED FRUIT, CEREAL,
PANCAKE MIX, PASTA SAUCE, BAKED
BEANS, CANNED YAMS, CANNED
POTATOES, BOXED MILK, BEEF STEW**

Woodlawn Food Pantry is Reaching Our Community.

Since we first opened our doors and introduced food for our fellow citizens in Lowell our vision was to feed the immediate problem of hunger. Since this time of humble beginnings, and over the following years, we expanded and began the intentionality of introducing the Gospel as a vital means of response to the immediate problem. Without the Gospel there is no real change and no real reason for meeting any need. Without God's truth, reason is not reached in the life of an individual because the immediate reason is based on a temporal outcome without God's love.

As a Gospel centered "Food Pantry" we are reaching our community in ways that are far beyond bodily needs, we are reaching people with God's Word. In other words, we are feeding our community with real food that transforms a person by introducing them to the true God of the Bible, the Creator Himself.

Woodlawn Baptist Church will address and minister to the social issue of hunger by providing nourishing food items to families within our congregation and surrounding community trusting in the Lord to expand our program as the need increases.

Our "Food Pantry" is here to serve those who come to our pantry, with compassion and respect and with a Christ-like servant attitude. We remain open to listening and working diligently to meet the needs of the individuals and families in our community.

As the body of Christ, we encourage all members to help us reach this specific need in our community through giving, prayer, and reaching those in need by letting us know who may benefit from this assistance ministry so that we as a church may proclaim the gospel, feed the hungry, by planting and watering that God may give growth.

"So, neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building. (1 Corinthians 3:7-9)

How Can You Help? ... Volunteer! ... Donate! ... Give!

The "Food Pantry" depends on the help of the congregation and the community to continue this valuable service for those that need assistance. **Please Help!**

To Volunteer - please contact the church office at (704) 824-4261 or text Tom Robb (deacon) (330) 412-9699.

To Donate Food - to the "Food Pantry" stop by during church office hours of operation. Particular needs will be listed in the Church bulletin each week. Please check expiration dates of items donated; we only accept items that are not expired.

To Give a Monetary Donation - please stop by during church office hours of operations, give online or send a check to Woodlawn Baptist Church (Food Pantry in the memo line), We use your monetary donations to purchase food and for pantry operational costs

MEN'S MINISTRY

Woodlawn Men's Ministry



Check your Calendars Men don't forget the upcoming events and check the bulletin each week for new fellowship and ministries available to the men of Woodlawn. Men's breakfast will start back in October. The first Thursday of each month at 6:30am we have a breakfast for all men at the church and visitors are welcome. There is always a great time of devotion/study, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer. Join us once a month for a time to recharge with each of the brothers.

What a Man Needs

Identity

Men need a sense of purpose and significance. It's not a secret that men are identified by their success, what he owns (cars, toys, houses, etc.) and what his social status is (title, job, position, etc.) even what he controls (power, money, people etc.) Most men find their identity or self-worth in his job, so when he loses his job he then feels as though he has also lost his self-worth. God has given each of us a longing to be significant, to feel like a man's life actually matters and yet most men have tendencies of inadequacy and insecurity which has nothing to do with the amount of talent or gifts he possesses. Men therefore need to find their identity, purpose and significance. Men need to learn and realize how to find their identity in Christ. We have all dealt with this in one way or another and the Men's Ministry is a place to begin this journey. We all long for this and no matter what walk you are currently in there is a current purpose for every man in the Church. Whether you have gone through a season in life to be able to help others or going through this season now that we can fellowship with one another. Join us in Scripture, strengthened by grace, and entrusting men with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. (2 Timothy 2:1-7)

MUSIC MINISTRY

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

God has created music as a means of worshiping him! We have all experienced music's ability to enhance and stir our passions. I believe that music is intentionally designed in this way. When we attach the truths of Scripture to the songs we sing we can see very clearly why God has designed music this way! I pray that our love for the Lord would continue to deepen as a result of singing together each week.

Rehearsal for Singers!

*** If you are interested in helping us lead our congregation in worship through music, please join us for our weekly rehearsal on Wednesday evenings 6-7pm!**

Instrumentalists!

*** If you play an instrument and would like to talk about serving the church through music please reach out via email!**

justin@woodlawnbaptist-lowell.com

WHAT'S GOING ON AT WOODLAWN?

Sunday morning services:

Sunday school for all ages
9:45am

Worship in the Sanctuary
11:00am

Sunday morning worship
live at 11:00am
www.wbclowell.com

Services are archived on our
website for your viewing
convenience.

Wednesday Evening

At Woodlawn 7-8pm

Adults-Prayer and Bible
Study - Gym

Preschoolers – Preschool
Department-Ed Bldg.

Children – Children's
Department-Ed Bldg.

Students
Student Room-Ed Bldg.

Sunday,
December 17
11am

The
Lord's
Supper


Christmas
— AT WOODLAWN —

JOIN US SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 11AM
12/10 12/17 12/24

AND CHRISTMAS EVE AT 6PM
FOR THE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

SPECIAL OCCASIONS - DECEMBER 2023

Happy Birthday!

1 Owen Norris	2 Leigh Ann Evans	2 Eric Gunter
2 Jace Norris	5 Evie Moore	6 Hazel Ford
6 Abby Lamb	6 Anna Lamb	7 Deborah Maddox
9 GT Swindell	10 Scott Anderson	12 Martina Rollins
19 Presley Clements	19 Hannah McGirt	21 Eli Grant
21 Willie Sutton	21 Don Trapp	22 Sharon Boone
23 Carter McLaughlin	23 Rylee Sears	25 Linda Barnhill
27 Gennie McAferty	20 Callie Bell	29 Joyce Grant

Happy Anniversary

6 Ross and Shannon Bradley
7 Joe and Marian Schrader
14 Nathan and Judy Freeman
17 Justin and Elizabeth Clements
30- David and Carla Demaree

Bible reading plan

- ❖ Read through the Bible in a year
- ❖ Read through the New Testament
- ❖ Read through the Bible Chronologically
- ❖ Read through Mark

Call the church office if you would like to have a copy of one of these reading plans.

WOODLAWN BAPTIST CHURCH **STAFF**

Lead Pastor: Mitch Evans
mitch@woodlawnbaptist-lowell.com

Music and Discipleship Pastor
Justin Morehead
justin@woodlawnbaptist-lowell.com

Student Minister – Gabe Veazey
gabe@woodlawnbaptist-lowell.com

Volunteer Elder – Chris Norris

Volunteer Elder – Don Trapp

Ministry Assistant: Crystal Watkins
admin@woodlawnbaptist-lowell.com

The WBC Newsletter is a monthly
publication for Woodlawn Baptist
Church
1101 N. Main St.
Lowell, NC 28098
Phone: 704-824-4261

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

**MONDAY
THRU
THURSDAY
8AM – 4PM**

FINANCIAL DIGEST **AS OF OCTOBER 2023**

INCOME YEAR TO DATE

\$370,418.35

OFFERING OCTOBER 2023

\$36,529.00

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY SCHOOL

OCTOBER 2022-84
OCTOBER 2023 - 104

WORSHIP

OCTOBER 2022- 198
OCTOBER 2023 - 150

**Woodlawn Baptist Church is
happy to allow members to
use our facilities.**

We just ask that you complete a
“Facilities Use Form” and give it to the
Ministry Assistant so she can be sure
there are no scheduling conflicts and
can add your event to the church
calendar. The “Facilities Use Forms”
are available in the church office or
workroom.

MISSIONS



Thanksgiving Around The World

Holidays can be difficult for missionaries who are away from their loved ones. Because of this, missionaries often get together and celebrate the holidays with each other. One holiday from my childhood as a missionary kid that stands out in my memory is Thanksgiving. As an American kid, I would get a day off from school while no one else in my class did, as Scotland did not celebrate a national day of Thanksgiving. My mother was always responsible for bringing the turkeys to our Thanksgiving feast among the missionaries. She is known for her cooking, so she would also make about a dozen side dishes to go with the turkey. Unfortunately, because we lived in northern Europe, on this one particular Thanksgiving

when I was about 10 years old, a huge snowstorm blew in from Siberia. When it is extremely cold, one of the Scottish slang terms you would say is "It's pure Baltic!" That is when you need your heavy jacket. This Thanksgiving was indeed pure Baltic! The snowstorm was so bad that all traffic was stopped between our town (Hawick) and the capital Edinburgh. The two cities are about 50 miles apart. The snow drifts were 10-15 feet high in some areas. On this Thanksgiving day, only the city buses were allowed on the roads due to the huge snowdrifts. No other traffic was allowed. Our family had no choice but to ride on the city bus to get to our Thanksgiving feast. Picture it. A foreign American family with four small kids and their mom and dad boarding a crowded city bus loaded down with our overnight bags, boxes of food, and two extra hot 25 lb turkeys wrapped up in towels. (We did not have to pay extra for seats for the turkeys.) The food smelled so good on the hour and a half long bus trip that it made us and everyone else on the bus so hungry. People on the bus kept asking us for a bite of food because they didn't understand why we would be traveling with all that food in the middle of a huge snowstorm on a Thursday in November. They had no clue about our American tradition of Thanksgiving, and surely must have thought we were crazy Americans. We finally made it to our destination with both of those huge turkeys and all the other food, leaving behind a bus full of curious people.

Believe it or not, Thanksgiving is celebrated in some countries around the world besides the U.S. Here are a few places where Thanksgiving is celebrated.

Canada:

You can't ever trust Canadians, but the first Thanksgiving celebrated in North America happened in 1578. Canadians celebrate on the second Monday in October. Their celebration is similar to ours with lots of turkey and football.

Liberia:

Freed American slaves established the country of Liberia in Africa in the 1820s. They brought the tradition of Thanksgiving with them to the new country. They celebrate on the first Thursday in November with spicy roast chicken and mashed cassava.

Norfolk Island:

In the mid-1890s, American trader Isaac Robinson decided to put on an American-style Thanksgiving service in the All Saints Church in Kingston to attract some visiting American whalers to the celebration. It worked, and they celebrate on the last Wednesday of November.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Pates in Brazil

You can read a ministry update written by Brian using this URL:

<https://shorturl.at/djkD4>.

Continue to pray for our missionaries, the Pates



Wade Lawing Local Missionary with FCA

We are truly blazing trails! Sunday, November 12th 2023 we hosted the first ever “certified” FCA Mountain Bike Huddle in the history of the Carolinas. We rode about 2 miles into the trail, worked on our hearts and our core using The Core Bible Study from FCA. All of these young men have a passion for Mountain Biking and we were able to bring the Gospel to them on the trail.



German Interns

Please continue to pray for our interns as they study and bring the gospel back to their churches.



Missions Geography 101 / Barbados People

Groups/Unreached: 6/1

Capital: Bridgetown Distance from Lowell: 2000 miles

Primary Religion: Christianity

Population/Unreached: 276,000/3,900

Christian Adherents: 92.58%

Scripture: Complete Bible



2023-2024 Deacon Family and Ministry Assignments

VICE CHAIRMAN - Ross Bradley – A – Bea
Bereavement, Fellowship

Jeremy Eastburn – Beb – Cal
Counseling, Benevolence

CHAIRMAN - George Gates – Cam - Eva
Finance, Missions

Steve Abbott – Evb - F
Decorations, Men's Ministry

Tom Robb – G-Ham
Women's Ministry, Food Pantry

SECRETARY - Tom Botts – Han - J
Audio Visual, Website

Buddy Herndon – K-McG
Building and Grounds, Young at Heart

Tony Watkins – McH - Pat
Security, Children, Baptism

Sean Moore - Pau - Re
Recreation

Gabe Veazey – Rf – Sc
Recreation, Students

Buddy Barnhill – Sd – Sut
Prayer, Greeters, Children

Chris Rodgers – Suu – Z
Bus, Building and Grounds

**YOUR DEACONS ON DUTY FOR
DECEMBER
BUDDY HERNDON AND GABE VEAZEY**