

### FROM THE PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE...

What a joy it is to be a part of the Murfreesboro Baptist Church and to see how God is working among us! JoAnn and I have been with you for a year and four months now, and we're grateful to be sharing this journey with you as a family of faith.

One of the ways God is working is among our youth. Though our youth group is not large, it is strong.

Early on in our time with you, Debbie Hill shared her burden about trying to offer something for our youth. JoAnn agreed to work with her to start a youth meeting on Sunday evenings.

Our youth responded well. Most at that point were older youth who would often bring their friends. Along with some Bible studies and recreation, they also had some fellowship events and trips, and went to the NC Baptist Children's Homes Kennedy Home in Kinston for a workday.

Two of these older youth, along with their friends, graduated last year and went off to school. But we also had several younger youth to move up from the children's ministry. Our current group has also had some friends attend with them, and we have added some new youth as well.

Because of Debbie's husband T.W.'s illness and recent death, she had to step aside during the fall. So JoAnn and I have been leading our youth group.

When we began meeting again in the fall, I led a study with the youth about what it means to follow Jesus and to be a member of Murfreesboro Baptist Church. In addition to our regular activities (Bible study, fellowship, and recreation), our youth have also been involved in several mission and ministry projects. They made at least five prayer blankets and given them to elderly or sick members of our congregation. They made Christmas cards that our Administrative Assistant, Teresa Martin, duplicated, and gave them to the residents and staff of the Rich Square Villa & Manor assisted living and memory care facility. Our youth also invited the congregation to go Christmas caroling with them and went to the homes of a number of our homebound or elderly members to sing Christmas songs to them. And on the

first Sunday of this month, our youth invite the congregation to join them for a time of fellowship as we play board games and enjoy light refreshments.

A Newsletter of the Murfreesboro Baptist Church

February 2025

I am very proud of our youth! In our studies and discussions, they offer thoughtful comments and questions. They are learning to serve as well as have fun.

Pray for our youth, that wherever they are in their faith journey, they will follow Christ!

Grace and peace, Mark t. Sasking

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Please bring cans of soup to the box in the connector from now until Sunday, Feb 9. This year's goal is 350 cans. The cans of soup will go in our church food pantry. We have collected 135 cans as of Jan 30. *Thank you.* 



#### BAPTIST CHURCH MAY 2025 QUARTERLY CONFERENCE PROPOSED BY-LAW REVISION

Please let this serve as notice to the members of Murfreesboro Baptist Church that during the May 2025 Quarterly Conference that the deacons will propose to change the Murfreesboro Baptist Church By-Laws of Article 2, Section 2, Paragraph A to read as follows:

Deacons shall be elected for a term of 3 years with one-third of the number being elected each year. After the completion of a full threeyear term, no deacon shall be eligible for re-election until after the lapse of one year.



As we are entering February 2025, one thing we can probably all agree on is that time flies. Life keeps happening and changes come that we feel are either good or bad. One change that has happened that I consider both good and bad is that Calvin Carter, our fine soloist, has taken a Minister of Music position at a church in Boykins, VA. He will not be available for Sunday morning worship with us but is still available any other time we may have a special service.

Thank you to our choir for leading us in our musical worship each Sunday. We are truly blessed to have each one, and as always, we welcome any newcomers! Singing in a choir is so uplifting as we are all singing praises to God. I was in my college's choral ensemble all four years and absolutely loved it, and I enjoyed playing for the Chowan Singers, Community Choir and a smaller choir while I was at Chowan. It is a unifying and joyful experience. Paula Pressnell

### IF YOU ARE SEEKING WAYS TO SERVE OUR CHURCH... VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

If you would like to get more involved in volunteering for monthly or weekly assignments for Murfreesboro Baptist Church, we need you!

#### WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO OPEN AND CLOSE THE CHURCH EACH SUNDAY

This would consist of opening up the church on Sunday for Sunday School and Worship Service and locking church once congregation has left.

#### WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO READ SCRIPTURE EACH SUNDAY DURING WORSHIP SERVICE

If you would like to volunteer, please contact the church administrative office (398-3613) to schedule dates that you will be available to be of service to Murfreesboro Baptist Church.

# UPCOMING DATES IN FEBRUARY

February 5 Big Wednesday Kids' Club Bible Study

February 9 Souper Bowl of Caring Deadline

> February 11 Deacons' Meeting

February 14 Valentine's Day

# **February 18** Food Bank of the Albemarle

# Using Their Gifts To Serve IN FEBRUARY

**Deacon of the Month** Frances Cole

**Radio Ministry Sponsor** Wayne and Shirley Brown

**Opening the Church** Sarah Davis

**Ushers** Colon Ballance, Armando Torres, Charlie Cole, and Dr. Garth Faile

Caregivers Jan. 26-Feb. 8 Garth and Erin Faile Feb. 9 – Feb. 22 T.K. Warren, III Feb. 23-Mar. 8 Diane Dixon and Alice Hassell

> Sanctuary Flowers Feb. 2 Available Feb. 9 Diane Dixon Feb. 16 Judy Clark Feb. 23 Available

# **BLESSING MINISTRIES**



Volunteers are needed on February 19 by 1:30 p.m. in the church parking lot to distribute food.

#### **FOOD PANTRY**

As a reminder, if you have committed to help us keep our pantry filled, please remember to bring twelve of your selected items to the church by the 15th of each month. As always, any donations are greatly appreciated.



February 5	Garth Faile
February 6	Mike Alston
February 8	Brooke Reich
February 9	Ned Snyder
February 10	Michael Bunch, II
February 11	Tracey Piper
February 12	Genivieve Broadhead
February 13	Tommy Forbes
February 17	Catherine Jenkins
February 17	Jon Royce
February 21	Mary Dilday
February 21	Mary Elizabeth Torres
February 24	J. E. Dilday

Don't see your birthday? Please call the church office and let us know when your special day is.

#### CHURCH STAFF Dr. Mark E. Gaskins

PASTOR

PAULA PRESSNELL	ORGANIST & CHOIR DIRECOR
TOM CAULKINS	PASTOR EMERITUS
TERESA MARTIN	ADMINISTRATIVE ASST.

Church Office Hours Monday – Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. 252-398-3613 www.murfbc.org



Murfreesboro Baptist Church 200 W. Main Street Murfreesboro, N.C. 27855

**Return Service Requested**