## Joy Part 1: The Church

## Ezra 7-8

The good hand of the Lord my God.

God uniquely provides. (7:6)

God delivers. (7:9)

God disciples. (7:10)

God encourages forward. (7:28)

God provides leaders. (8:18)

God honors prayers. (8:21)

God delivers us from the hand of the enemy. (8:31)

#### Notes on State of the Church

# **Financial Stewardship/ Previous Week**

Tithes	\$ 14,234.65
Offerings	\$ 34.00
Missions	\$ 355.00
Total	\$ 14,623.65





I am starting a series on JOY this morning that will go through Christmas Eve. As I began to prepare for the State of the Church message today, I realized that the word JOY is a perfect summation of what the world needs and what we have in Christ as the church.

The question then becomes pretty focused: "How, where, when do we share the **JOY** given freely to us?"

This morning, you will receive a prayer guide for the Lottie Moon Christmas offering. I will be sharing about the missionaries in Belgium (Day 1 in the Prayer Guide) this morning.

Don't forget about our Annual Business Meeting tonight at 6:00 pm. I will share more about 2024 tonight and have an opportunity for questions. Love you church family.

Pasto, Mark

## **CHRISTMAS AT ARDELLA**

As we enter the beauty of the Christmas season, we have several events to share. We hope you and your family, along with friends and neighbors you invite, will join us as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior. Jesus Christ:

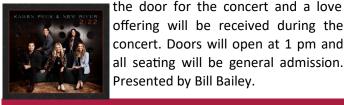
- \* The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is a time when we remember our international missionaries and give them a generous offering. In this season, Southern Baptists are encouraged to consider the power of "Impacting Lostness Together." Envelopes are included for your convenience.
- \* Sunday, December 24th No Life Groups will meet. Worship and Communion at 10:30 am.

\* Christmas Eve Candlelight Service-Sunday, the 24th at 6 pm. Join us beginning at 5 pm for hot apple cider and hot cocoa in the Coffee Shop. The service will include worship, scripture readings and special music. There will be no childcare provided.

# THE NEW YEAR'S GOSPEL MUSIC SPECTACULAR

We will be hosting The New Year's Gospel Music Spectacular on Saturday, January 6th at 2pm. Featuring Triumphant Quartet, The Hoppers, and Karen Peck & New River. A \$15 donation will be requested at





offering will be received during the concert. Doors will open at 1 pm and all seating will be general admission. Presented by Bill Bailey.



### **EXPERIENCING GOD BIBLE STUDY**

*Experiencing God* is a time-tested Bible study that guides you to experience the kind of relationship with God through which you come to know and do His will. Through examination of biblical and contemporary illustrations, you will understand and apply seven realities of experiencing God. You will be helped to better understand how to experience God dally in an intimate way. Experiencing God is a 13-week Bible study



that **begins on Wednesday**, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. The cost of the course study guide is \$15. Please sign up in the Foyer this morning. If you have never experienced this Bible study as part of your spiritual journey, I encourage you to do so. ~ Pastor Max

## "We strive to be a healthy family where all generations grow as disciples of Jesus Christ"

### Wednesday Night Meal

Christmas Dinner ~ Turkey, Dressing, Sides and Dessert

5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall /Sign up in the Foyer \$5 per adult, \$3 per child, or \$15 Family (2 adults + kids)



calendar

your

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

STUDENT MINISTRY Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY Wednesdays at 6:30 pm in Room 108

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY Wednesdays at 6:30 pm in Room 110

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY Wednesdays at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

ANNUAL CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING AND DESSERT FELLOWSHIP **Tonight** at 6 pm - Please bring a dessert and/or pre-packaged home-made cookies. (If sugar free, please label.)

CHRISTMAS CAROLING TO OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS **Tomorrow** at 2 pm and 5:30 pm-Families welcome! Sign up in Fover!

EMBRACE MINISTRY ORNAMENT EXCHANGE LUNCHEON (Widows & Single ladies) Tuesday, December 12th at 11 am in the Fellowship Hall Sign up in the Foyer!

NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICES /ACTIVITIES ON DEC. 20TH & 27TH.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES** 

Sunday, December 24th, 10:30 am and 6 pm. (Coffee Shop opens at 5 pm.)

### AWANA GRAND PRIX IS COMING!

Mark your calendars for this racing event with a track record of **fun** and **excitement!** Bring 3 pairs of socks to donate (to One More Child & a local homeless center) or \$5 to exchange for your car kit. We invite you to join us for our Pit Party to get your cars Race Day ready!



•Pit Party | Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am Come with your child and work on your car!

•Grand Prix | Saturday. January 20<sup>th</sup> 9 am – 11:30 am Meeting In the Worship Center