

The Messenger

The Monthly Newsletter of
Morningside Baptist Church
Spartanburg, SC

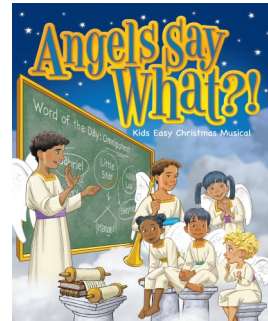
We **Seek** a personal, life-changing relationship with God through prayer, engaging worship, and Bible teaching.
We **Serve** others by modeling the love of Christ through missions and ministry involvement.
We **Share** God's grace through genuine, loving fellowship and discipleship.

Morningside Baptist Church

December 2022

Volume 65

Number 12



Angels Say What?! A Christmas Musical Presented by Kingdom Kids Sunday, December 4 9:30 A.M.

You do not want to miss this up-beat musical! Follow the angels—Hallie, Lou, Joy, Gabriel, and Little Star—as they deliver the Good News to Mary,

Joseph, and the shepherds. You, too, can reflect on what it means to be a part of the greatest story ever told! Be sure to invite your family and friends!

SING GLORIA!!

Sunday,
December 18
9:30 A.M.



The day seemed like any other. People were going about their business as usual, but something wonderful was about to happen. Worship with us as Morningside's Sanctuary Choir, Orchestra, Kingdom Kids, and Infinite Mercy present *Sing Gloria!*, a compilation of songs of the season that proclaim the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

Afterwards, join us in the Fellowship Hall where we will enjoy home-baked muffins and cookies. We ask our members to bring a dozen of either to share with others.

Invite your friends and neighbors!



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5:00 P.M.

Join us on this final day of Advent for a devotion by Pastor Steven, congregational singing of favorite Christmas

carols and hymns, and other special music. On this evening, we will light the final candle, the Christ Candle, on our Advent wreath.

Weekly Events

Sundays

Worship - 9:30 A.M.
Bible Study - 10:45 A.M.
Clarion Sounds - 5:00 P.M.

Mondays

Orchestra - 6:30 P.M.

Tuesdays

Bike Ministry - 8:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.
Staff Meetings - 10:30 A.M.

Wednesdays

Children's Music and Missions - 6:00-7:30 P.M.
Youth Thrive - 6:15-7:30 P.M.
Sanctuary Choir - 7:05 P.M.

Fridays

Prayer Warriors - 9:30 AM

Additional Activities

- 4-11 Week of Prayer for International Missions
- 4 Children's Musical: *Angels Say What?!* - 9:30 A.M.
- 5 Beautiful Hat Bible Study Group - 11:00 A.M.
Golden Tones to Restoration at Westgate - 1:15 P.M.
- 11 Community Movie: *Why the Nativity?* - 3:00 P.M.
Youth Christmas Party - 5:00 P.M.
- 12 Golden Tones to White Oak Wellness Center - 1:15 P.M.
Deacon/Staff/Spouse Christmas Dinner - 6:30 P.M.
- 13 Joy of Missions - 12:00 P.M.
- 14 Last Regular Wednesday Evening Activities
- 17 Children's Christmas Party - 10:00 A.M.
Cantata Dress Rehearsal - 10:00 A.M.
- 18 Cantata: *Sing Gloria!!* - 9:30 A.M.
Family Christmas Caroling - 4:00 P.M.
- 19 Golden Tones to Eden Terrace - 1:30 P.M.
- 20 *Stampin' Up* Card Group - 10:00 A.M.
- 24 Christmas Eve Service - 5:00 P.M.
- 25 Christmas Day
Worship Service Only - 10:00 A.M.
- 26-28 Church Office Closed

Letting the Shepherd Lead...

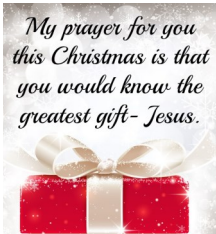
The sights, sounds, and celebrations of the Christmas season are fast upon us. At my house that means that our children are filling our calendars with "Secret Santa Swaps" and "White Elephant Exchanges" they will enjoy with their friends. Since discovering the new store at the Hillcrest Mall called "5 BELOW," we have to stop there at least once a week. If we as parents protest, the immediate response is, "It's only five dollars or LESS!" Such bargains are good for inexpensive gifts, white elephant exchanges, and even stocking stuffers.

Let's not forget that all of the gifts we might give at Christmas pale in comparison to God's thought-filled, loving gift to us in Jesus Christ. God did not go bargain hunting for a Savior, and He does not want us to trade away this gift for something far less valuable. Romans 6:23 tells us that the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. God's gift is significant, one that is unchanging through time!

As we remember the coming of Christ at Christmas, do not miss the fact that Romans 6:23 tells us that God's gift is eternal life IN Christ Jesus our Lord. If we want eternal life, we must be IN Jesus Christ. To be IN Christ means that we cannot skimp on our gift to Him. We have to give Jesus all of us. When we give Jesus our life, our hope, and our future, we will experience the abundant, eternal, Spirit-filled life in Him.

My prayer for us this Christmas is that we will not settle for bargain spirituality. Instead, my prayer is that we will develop a vibrant relationship with Jesus. Come discover this relationship with Christ. In all of our services and activities this month, we will discover many opportunities to seek Jesus as Savior, serve Christ as Lord, and share Christian love with all that we meet.

Pastor Steven



Winter Kick-off: Chili Cook-off and Game Night
Wednesday, January 12

Bring your best recipe for chili to our Chili Cook-off Contest. Those who would like to enter our cook-off, as well as those who would like to attend, should sign up in the Fellowship Hall Lobby. Two separate sign-up sheets are located on the table. We will enjoy a good competitive game after dinner. No cost. The Sanctuary Choir will meet at 7:05 P.M. as usual. All other activities will resume Wednesday, January 19.

inside kids

**Cookies, Cocoa,
and Crafts**
Saturday, December 17
10:00 A.M. - Noon

Join us for a fun-filled morning with cookies, cocoa, crafts, and the Christmas Story. Please let Laura know if your child plans to attend no later than Sunday, December 11.



inside youth



**Sunday,
December 11**
5:00 - 7:00 P.M.

Youth, meet at the home of Kingsley, Christy, Caroline, Will, and John Emerson (186 Morninglake Drive, Moore) for our annual Christmas Party. Bring a gift item (\$10 or less) for our White Elephant Exchange. Also bring chips, soda, or dessert for our meal.



January 14-16

We are headed to Pigeon Forge for a weekend filled with phenomenal speakers and worship leaders who focus on evangelism and discipleship as they share the gospel and challenge youth to live for Christ. The total cost for the retreat is \$110, which covers food, lodging, and conference fee. The final payment of \$60 is due Sunday, January 8. Scholarships are available.



inside family



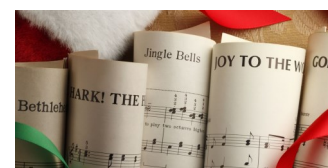
Week of Prayer December 4-11

The 4.6 billion people in the world who are considered “unreached” have never heard of Jesus Christ or how He can offer eternal life. Your financial contribution to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering during the month of December gives missionaries the opportunity to GO and TELL them of the Good News available in Jesus Christ. Will you commit to praying for these lost groups and for the missionaries who witness to them? Will you also commit to making a financial contribution that can help further God’s Kingdom across the world? Please read the Prayer Guide, available in the December 4 Worship Guide and at doors to the Sanctuary. This guide provides a week of stories and specific prayer requests. Give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering this month as you feel led.

Clarion Sounds Will Ring at *Dickens of a Christmas* Tuesday, December 6 6:00 - 8:30 P.M.



Step back in time to the Victorian era as the Spartanburg community celebrates the beginning of the Christmas season. The Morningside Clarion Sounds (Handbells) will add to the festivities by playing Christmas carols. The location will be determined at a later date. *Dickens of a Christmas* is free to the public. Invite your friends and neighbors.



Sermon Series

Many holiday hymns and carols have been inspired by spiritual matters. Pastor Steven has explored the stories and Scriptures that have formed the basis of some of our favorite hymns and looks forward to sharing these findings in the upcoming messages, *Hymns of the Holidays*.

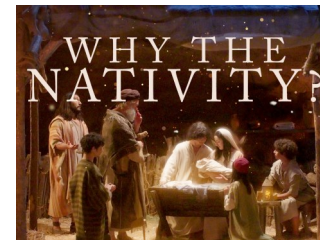
December 4	<i>Emmanuel</i>
December 11	<i>Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus</i>
December 24	<i>Hark, the Herald Angels Sing</i>
December 25	<i>Joy Has Dawned</i>
January 1	<i>We Three Kings</i>

Golden Tones Ministry Tour

The Golden Tones, our Senior Adult Choir, will sing Christmas favorites at various facilities this month, beginning at 2:00 P.M.

December 5	Restoration at Westgate
December 12	White Oak Wellness Center
December 19	Eden Terrace

Reminder: Members, wear blue shirts with black slacks or skirts.



Community Movie Night *Why the Nativity?* Sunday, December 11 3:00 - 5:00 P.M.

Join us on a thought-provoking journey surrounding the most pivotal moment in human history—the birth of Jesus Christ. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall for this free holiday movie, snacks, and drinks. This event is open to the public, so welcome anyone who visits. Be sure to invite family, friends, and neighbors!

Family Christmas Caroling and Pizza Supper Sunday, December 18 4:00 P.M.



Everyone of all ages—children, youth, and adults—are invited to go Christmas caroling. We will meet at the church and divide into groups before going out to sing traditional carols of Christmas for members who are unable to attend services. We will then return to the church at 6:00 P.M. to enjoy pizza. Be sure to sign up in the Fellowship Hall Lobby.



Operation Warmth

Be sure to give to them without any hesitation. When you do this, the LORD your God will bless you in everything you work for and set out to do.

Deuteronomy 15:10

Many in our community suffer during the winter months because they cannot afford a coat or other cold-weather clothes to keep them warm. During December and January, you can help those in need by donating gently-used blankets, coats, sweaters, hats, and gloves for the wintry days ahead. These items will be a blessing to the homeless and to those who are low-income in our community. Collection boxes have been placed throughout the church for your donations.

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The Morningside Messenger
897 South Pine Street
Spartanburg, SC 29302

**Church Office Closed for the
Observance of Christmas
and the New Year**

**Monday-Wednesday,
December 26-28
and
Monday, January 2**

Sympathy Extended to

... Kingsley and Christy Emerson and family in the death of Christy's uncle, James H. Cantrell, on October 28 in Boiling Springs, South Carolina.
... Michael and Katherine Jones and family in the death of Katherine's brother, Jackie DeYoung, on November 6 in Woodruff, South Carolina.
... John and Jean Donald and family in the death of John's sister, Betty Donald Poole, on November 13 in Spartanburg, South Carolina.
... Roger and Phyllis Britt and family in the death of Roger's sister, Marjorie Lambert, on November 20 in Charleston, South Carolina.
... Nancy Cleland and family in the death of her brother, Jack Burnett, Jr., on November 21 in Athens, Georgia.
... Family and friends in the death of Mollie Ferguson on November 28 in Boiling Springs, South Carolina.

**Thank You Notes for Prayers
and Support Received from**

Spartanburg High School Viking
Grid Iron Club
Jan Roberts
Rita Wood



Ministers on Call

December 3-4 Robert Mitchell 597-3966	December 17-18 Connor Bastin 804-3528
December 10-11 Steven Owensby 590-7985	December 24-25 Laura White 828-447-2175

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**Ashley Searcy
Director**

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