

The Testament

December 2021

Lincoln Memorial Baptist Church

Durham, NC

A timeless message from the archives...

Awakening The Sleeping Giant

- by Bro. Dean Jernigan

The surprise attack on Pearl Harbor by Japanese military forces on December 7, 1941, stands as one of the deadliest attacks against our country. Over 2400 men died on that fateful day. Most of them were aboard the USS Arizona, which sank to the ocean floor after being hit by a modified bomb. To this day, the area above the sunken ship has been preserved as a burial ground for the men who lost their lives during the attack.

Following the attack, Japanese Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, credited with planning the attack, worried about the consequences of attacking our powerful country. While those around him in Japan celebrated the success of the attack, he is quoted as saying "I fear all we have done is to awaken a sleeping giant and fill him with a terrible resolve."

He was correct. Provoked by the attack, the sleeping giant was awakened and America's resolve was unleashed in a powerful display of military might that crippled Japanese forces and contributed greatly to ending World War II.

Much like the power harnessed by our country, each of us has been blessed by our Heavenly Father with an array of gifts and talents. Some share these gifts openly, but others hold back and deprive others of the blessings received when we share these gifts. Sleeping among us are teachers, singers, craftsmen, musicians, painters, authors, leaders and countless others who have yet to display their awesome talent.

What will it take for you to

reveal your gifts and talents? What needs to happen that will awaken the giant that sleeps in you? Whatever the stumbling block, I encourage you to step out on faith and show yourself mighty in Christ. Don't worry about what others will say, focus instead on the gift that you have and how special you are to have it.



Faith is the key. Have faith that God will be with you with every step of the way, for in Hebrews it is revealed that our Heavenly Father will never leave or forsake us. Faith strengthens us and it instructs us in using our gifts. Reading Romans 12:6-8, we learn - *"Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; or ministry, let us wait on our ministering; or he that teacheth, on teaching; or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness."*

Faith serves as the catalyst for exercising your gift, and love is the anchor that grounds us to everything that we believe as Christians. As you evaluate your skills and talents, ask yourself – am I truly using the gifts that God has measured unto me? What ministry at Lincoln can benefit from what I have to offer? Am I contributing to the growth of God's Kingdom, or is there a giant lying dormant in me that once awakened can be a blessing to others. Only you know the answer. Wake up!

Are You Ready for Christmas?

The closer we get to Christmas Day, the more you'll hear this question: "Are you ready for Christmas?"

What exactly does this question mean to you?

"Have you finished your shopping?" "Have you wrapped all your presents?" "Have you bought all the food you'll need for that perfect Christmas dinner?" "Have you finished buying those last-minute stocking stuffers?"

I think these are the thoughts that pop into our head when people ask, "Are you ready for Christmas?"

But deep down in my heart, I'm never comfortable answering this question. If Christmas is truly about the coming of Jesus to save us from our sins, then perhaps the question we should really be asking is this: **Are we ready for Christ?**

Are we ready to humbly admit our need for a savior? Are we ready for Jesus to continue refining the rough places of our ugly flesh?

On Christmas Day, the gifts will be unwrapped, the stockings will be emptied, and the food will be gobbled up. But each and every day after Christmas, we must answer this question: **Are you ready for Christ?**

Ready for Him to lead you out of your comfort zone? Ready for Him to take you to the next step of His purpose for you?

I pray God's richest blessings upon you and your families. May you have a Merry Christmas! But most importantly, I pray you will embrace Jesus Christ every day of the year.

- submitted by Sis. Pamela Jernigan
<https://reststopforthesoul.com/2014/12/24/are-you-ready-for-christmas/>



Around Lincoln...



Forever a member of the Lincoln family, Sis. Kimberly Alexander sends warm thoughts and well wishes from her new church home.



Congratulations to Bro. DeAndre Evans for receiving the Defensive Player of the Year award for the Rogers-Herr Football Team! The team also won the conference Championship this year! DeAndre is the son of Sis. Janelle Corley and grandson of Deacon Eugene and Deaconess Joan Lofton.



Deacon on Duty for the month of December:

**Deacon Eugene Lofton
(919) 638-5348**

Why Are More Black Kids Suicidal? A Search for Answers

- submitted by Sis. Kathy Williams

Note: Along with Mental Health Professionals from across the country, Sis. Kathy Williams participated in this illuminating article on youth suicide by Christina Caron, a reporter for the New York Times. Following is an excerpt from the article that includes Sis. Williams' contribution. The full article can be found at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/18/well/mind/suicide-black-kids.html>

Suicide and mental illness are often thought of as a “white phenomenon,” said Michael A. Lindsey, the executive director of the McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research at New York University, who studies the mental health of Black adolescents.

Looking at the raw numbers, it's easy to understand why. White deaths by suicide far outnumber those of Black people. But when taking into account youth suicide rates — the number of suicides per 100,000 individuals under age 25 — a different picture emerges.

“I think the statistics are shocking,” said Dr. Lindsey, who was the first to document trends in rising suicide attempts among Black adolescents.

Among teenagers and young adults, suicide rates remain highest among whites, Native Americans and Alaska Natives. But while the suicide rate has recently declined among those groups, it has continued to rise among Black youths. From 2013 to 2019 the suicide rate of Black boys and men 15 to 24 years old rose by 47 percent, and by 59 percent for Black girls and women of the same age.

Ever since Kathy Williams's teenage son Torian Graves took his life in 1996, she has been teaching the people in her hometown, Durham, N.C., about the symptoms she missed and the importance of mental health treatment. But the stigma is still strong, she said. Some parents are afraid of being judged and don't trust therapists. Sometimes they say: “Just pray about it. It will go away.”

Yes, she said, prayer is good. But treating mental illness requires more than that.

After her son died, she found a poem in his room that he had written as a class assignment.

It reads:

***Part of me is Carolina Blue,
Full of Flavor and Excitement,
Like a Wild Rollercoaster
On the Loose.***

***But, At times,
I'm mean, dark, lonely,
Black, mad at the world,
Like a lost dog in the desert,***

***Yet, they are both true,
And they are both me.***

“Wow, this is the way my child was feeling,” she recalled thinking at the time.

“I saw him angry at times and couldn't figure out why,” she said of her son, who was 15 when he died. “I believe Torian was depressed and we didn't know it.”

Black History Spotlight

Historically Black Colleges and Universities Series



Alabama A&M University

Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University (AAMU) is a historic, student-friendly and community-focused institution of higher learning. Reflecting on its heritage as a historical Black College and University (HBCU) and a traditional 1890 land-grant institution, AAMU functions as a teaching, research and public service institution, including extension. Founded in 1875 by a former slave, Dr. William Hooper Councill, AAMU is a dynamic and progressive institution with a strong commitment to academic excellence. The serene, intimate campus is situated on "The Hill," only a short distance from downtown Huntsville, the site of the school's founding.

AAMU provides more than 60 undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs and concentrations, a diverse international faculty, 50 plus student organizations, and an extensive alumni network comprised of politicians, educators, entrepreneurs, doctors, lawyers, engineers, scientists, authors, artist, and more, many of whom are change agents on the local, national and international stage.

AAMU is the largest HBCU in the state of Alabama (and enrolling the largest number of minority STEM majors in the state) to being the only university in the country to bring a Nobel Laureate to campus - every year - for almost 20 years running. Our institution has its eye on the future for the purpose of supporting your future. That's why our credo is Service is Sovereignty and why we say with all confidence -- Start here. Go anywhere.

We are committed to access and opportunity, and dedicated to intellectual inquiry. The application of knowledge and excellence in teaching, research and service is responsive to the needs of a diverse student population and the social and economic needs of the state and region. The University offers contemporary baccalaureate, master's, educational specialist and doctoral level degrees to prepare students for careers in the arts, sciences, business, engineering, education, agriculture and technology. As a center of excellence, the University is dedicated to providing a student-centered educational environment for the emergence of scholars, scientists, leaders and critical thinkers, who are equipped to excel through their contributions and leadership in a 21st century national and global society.

<https://www.aamu.edu/about/index.html>

The Testament is produced monthly by our Newsletter Committee. Please send articles, photos or other items for publication to newsletter@mylmbc.org by the 3rd Sunday of each month.

Newsletter Committee

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The Real Reason For The Season

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:;) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. 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, good will toward men.

Luke 2:1-14

Happy Birthday to our December Birthday Celebrities!

*William Mayfield (1st) • Lisa Eley (3rd)
Jennifer Crawford (4th) • Bailee Davenport (7th)
Marsha Nazzare (9th) • La'Tonya Brodie (10th)
Gianna Jackson (12th) • Marva Atkins (13th)
Cherelle Lee (13th) • Maggie Harrell (14th)
Belinda Owens (14th) • Karl Brodie (16th)
Thurman Prescott (22nd) • Eugene Lofton (28th)
Trudy Owens (29th) • Marcus Lofton (31st)*

Happy Anniversary!
Deacon Joseph and Mrs. Hilliard (18th)
Best Wishes For Many More!!

Women's Day Weekend!



A spirit of unity and fellowship enveloped the women in the Lincoln family during Women's Day weekend. The activities began on Saturday with a well planned Virtual "Tea" Party. During the event, the following women spoke on various spiritual teas: Sis. Deborah Murphy, *Uni-TEA (Psalm 133:1)*; Sis. Barbara Leathers, *Humili-TEA (Acts 20:19)*; Sis. Hazel Parker, *Adversi-TEA (II Corinthians 12:9-10)*; Sis. Vera Hodge, *Liber-TEA (Galatians 5:1, II Corinthians 3:17)*; Sis. Joan Lofton, *Accessibili-TEA (Ephesians 2:18, Hebrews 4:16)*; Min. Antoinette Daye, *Accountabili-TEA (Romans 14:12)* and Sis. Janetta Waddlington, *Availabili-TEA (Isaiah 6:8)*. Sis. Kathy Williams presented "The Tea Cup Story" at the beginning of the event and Sis. Pamela Jernigan led a fun-filled Tea Trivia game during the activity as well.

The warmth of Saturday's tea flowed over into our Sunday service as Sis. Willa Clark delivered words of unification during an encouraging Women's Day message. Hats off to Sis. Jackie Brown for organizing the activities and to Sis. Joan Lofton and the Women of Faith Ministry for their unified support.



Uni-TEA (Psalm 133:1)

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

Humili-TEA (Acts 20:19)

Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews:

Adversi-TEA (II Corinthians 12:9-10)

And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

Liber-TEA (Galatians 5:1, II Corinthians 3:17)

Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

Accessibili-TEA (Ephesians 2:18, Hebrews 4:16)

For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Accountabili-TEA (Romans 14:12)

So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Availabili-TEA (Isaiah 6:8)

Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.

God's Got You; Just Put One Foot In Front of the Other

I have at times talked a little about "Faith Walk" and it dawned on me that I have also questioned just what that meant. Maybe you can explain it better than me and know that I'm not trying to be funny. I'm being real and just want to gain and give more perspective on what many have told me, I went through. Some claimed to see a transformation in me as I have come to Christ. Others have said, "As you go through this walk."

Obviously, I've used the term myself when trying to explain my different view of the world as seen through a new pair of spiritualized eyes. The whole experience has been and continues to be extremely dynamic. I'm just curious about the 'walk' reference. I suppose when you think about it, many in the bible had truth revealed to them on a walk or, on a journey. God has seen fit to communicate to many a saint while they were going from one place to another, or, even through the spiritual travel of a dream. It's a simple enough analogy.

What is more meaningful than a walk or a trip with someone whom you respect, admire, love or can learn something from? I can go anywhere with my wife. It really is the journey and not the destination for me. Have you ever experienced this? Have you ever gone somewhere walking and talking with someone you were totally in sync with? That might be why people refer to discovering God as "walking in faith." Some people refer to it as being led.

Factually stated, the effort to get closer to God requires movement. I think the walking analogy is merely a human endeavor trying to speak to going in a spiritual direction. The best example is of course Enoch. "Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away." Genesis 5:24. What a blessed way to go.

The bible talks of walking humbly, walking in the light, walking with the wise, walking in counsel, walking together and walking on water. The point seems to be that the Christian life is a journey; one in which we want to share with God, one in which we talk and if we're truly blessed, He will listen.

The search for salvation is a spiritual journey; one which can best be described as taking the first step towards truth. Once taken, your life changes forever. You change. I know I did. So I guess this faith walk thing is merely a public or in some cases a private acknowledgement that one is letting God order your steps in this, His world. If you do this, God will lead you right to Him.

"When Jesus spoke again to the people, He said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'" John 8:12. So when you get up in the morning, think about this and let God order your steps.

Make a deliberate effort to listen and hear where God is telling you to go, or not to go. They say faith comes by hearing. What better way to hear than by taking a stroll with the Lord on tomorrow. Make a concerted attempt and see where God leads you. He has been known to show up in the oddest places and you will see Him in the strangest faces. Give it a try and know this. If you are seeking Him, He is very easy to find. All it takes is that first baby step.

- by James Washington
www.blackpressusa.com

Name Your Values, Then Live by Them

[Moses] regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.

Hebrews 11:26 (NIV)

What matters most to you? What are the top three or four values in your life?

Here's a firm decision you need to make: Choose God's values, not the world's. Moses made this life-shaping resolution. And that's why God used him!

Hebrews 11:26 says, "He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward" (NIV).

Moses made a value judgment. He clarified what mattered most to him. He knew what his top values were.

I can easily name my top values: integrity, humility, and generosity. I decided long ago that I wanted to build my life on those three things — because they're the antidotes to the three traps of leadership.

Can you name the three most important values in your life? If you can't, then you certainly can't live by them.

Before you let another day go by, sit down and ask yourself, "What's most important to me? What are the top values in my life?" Write them down, because until you clarify your values, you can't live by them.

Why is this so important? If you don't decide what's important in your life, other people will decide for you. They'll push you into their mold, and you'll live your life by their values, not your own.

When you know what's most important to you and live by your values, God will use you and bless your life too.

Pastor Rick Warren
www.pastorrick.com

KIDZ ZONE

-submitted by Sis. Earleen Sharrock

HOW THE GRINCH ALMOST STOLE CHRISTMAS

Scripture: *When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him." Matthew 2:13 (NIV)*

I'm sure that most of you have read the story of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." If you haven't read the story, perhaps you have seen the movie. If so, you will remember how everyone in Who-ville loved Christmas. Everyone, that is, except the Grinch. The Grinch hated Christmas and made up a plan to spoil the joy of Christmas in Who-ville. His plan was to dress up as Santa Claus and go into Who-ville and steal all of their Christmas presents, all of their Christmas trees, and even the food for their Christmas dinner.

What a terrible thing to do! Do you know why the Grinch hated Christmas so much? Well, according to the story, it was because his heart was too small! He was so selfish that he hated to see anyone else who was happy and enjoying themselves. But, as you know, the Grinch's plan did not work. Why? Because the people in Who-ville knew that the real joy of Christmas does not come from the presents, decorations, and food -- it comes from a heart filled with love.

The story of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" is not a true story, but let me tell you a true story of another "Grinch" who tried to steal Christmas. In fact, he tried to steal the very first Christmas. This "Grinch" was a king by the name of Herod.

After Jesus was born, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem and asked where they could find the child who had been born to be the king of the Jews. "We have seen his star in the sky and want to worship him" they said. When Herod heard about this, he told the men that when they found the child, they should come back and tell him where the child was so that he could worship him too. The truth is, Herod didn't really want to worship Jesus, he wanted to kill him. Why? Perhaps his heart was too small! Herod was so selfish that he was afraid Jesus would become more popular than he was and perhaps even take over his kingdom.

Well, Herod's plan to kill Jesus didn't work. After the wise men found Jesus and gave him gifts, an angel told them about Herod's plan and they went back home without telling Herod where they had found Jesus. An angel also appeared to Joseph and warned him of Herod's plan and told him to take Mary and the baby Jesus to Egypt where they would be safe.

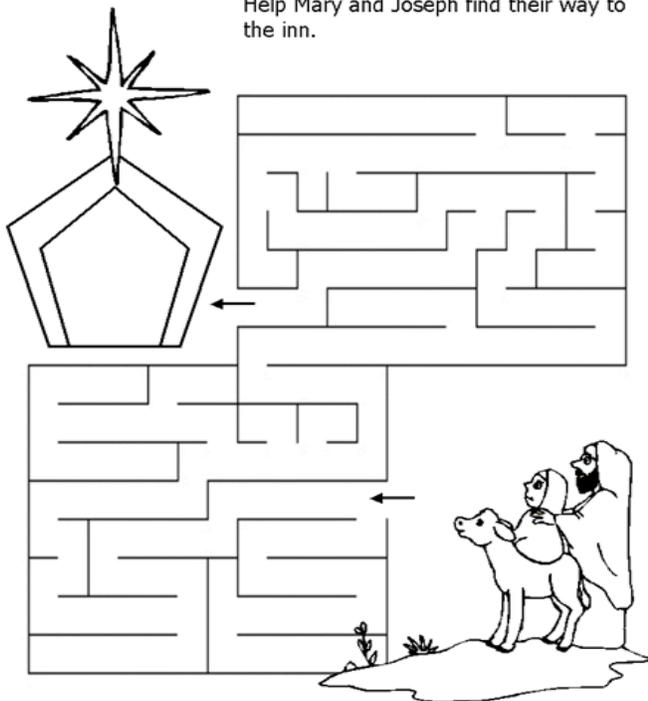
And so, we see that since the very first Christmas, Grinches have been trying to steal the joy of Christmas. There may be some "Grinches" that are trying to steal your Christmas joy. It will never work -- unless your heart is too small. Make sure that your heart is big enough to share the love and joy of Christmas with everyone you meet -- not just at Christmas -- but all year long.

Dear Father, We thank you for the joy that Jesus brings. Help us to share that joy with everyone we meet. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

KIDZ ZONE

Christmas Maze

Help Mary and Joseph find their way to the inn.



-submitted by Sis. Earleen Sharrock

Nativity Word Scramble



All these words come from the Christmas story. Can you unscramble them?

1. ASRT _ _ _ _
2. HSERHSEDP _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
3. YKENDO _ _ _ _ _
4. MAYR _ _ _ _
5. GLEAN _ _ _ _ _
6. SGKIN _ _ _ _ _
7. SJESU _ _ _ _ _
8. ERANMG _ _ _ _ _
9. HJSEPO _ _ _ _ _
10. TEBLAS _ _ _ _ _



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CHRISTMAS NATIVITY WORDSEARCH PRINTABLE

CHRISTMAS NATIVITY WORDSEARCH

marylohwthginmoj
 edecreefieknrygro
 hsybfragnamrats
 eabangelsvnlorde
 lvaknhpdheekeogp
 hiboyeryenmpdmyh
 losraekfehegoasb
 erochjldpesimnua
 bleproomkfieldsb
 gkesrnrneswenrey
 ehpkednagloryoja
 sjshkingbyeknodm

mary
joseph
donkey
shepherds
wisemen
angels
right
inn

inn keeper
sheep
flocks
peace
jesus
decree
bethlehem
manger

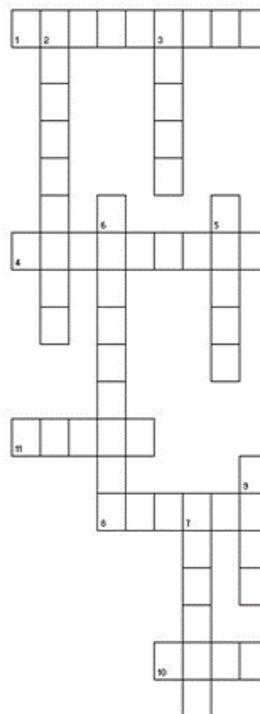
baby
savior
glory
son
herod
holy
room
heaven
baby

lord
news
joy
roman
fields
glory
heaven
baby

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Ministry Ark

The Christmas Story Crossword Puzzle



Across

1. The father who did not believe Gabriel. (Luke 1:18-20)
4. The town Joseph and Mary went to for registering. (Luke 2:4)
8. The name of the man who found Jesus in the temple courts and praised God. (Luke 2:25-28)
10. What the wise men saw to let them know the Savior had been born. (Matthew 2:2)
11. The wise men brought gifts of gold, incense and _____. (Matthew 2:11)

Down

2. Mary's relative that had a baby in her old age. (Luke 1:36)
3. Caesar Augustus ordered a census of this empire. (Luke 2:1)
5. What Mary and Joseph named their son. (Matthew 1:25)
6. An angel appeared to some _____ who were nearby. (Luke 2:8-9)
7. Joseph and Mary presented Jesus in the temple on the _____ day. (Luke 2:21)
9. The name of the prophetess who was also at the temple and thanked God. (Luke 2:36-38)

December 2021

“Building the Church in the Community and the Community in the Church”

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>*Conference Call Prayer Line: Dial (605) 475-3235 and enter the pin - 20396# after the prompt.</i></p> <p><i>To add an event to the church calendar, please contact Sis. Janice Campbell by calling the church at 919-688-1886. You may also reach her at churchcalendar@mylmbc.org.</i></p> <p><i>Please send articles, photos or information for The Testament to newsletter@mylmbc.org by the 3rd Sunday of each month.</i></p>			1 6:00am 12 Noon 6:00pm *Conference Call Prayer Line 7:00pm Bible Study	2 6:30pm Mass Choir	3	4 10:00am Trustees 12:00Noon Women of Faith 1:00pm Missionary Ministry
5	6 7:00pm Music Committee	7 6:30pm Sounds of Joy	8 6:00am 12 Noon 6:00pm *Conference Call Prayer Line 7:00pm Bible Study	9 6:00pm Christian Education 6:30pm Sounds of Joy	10	11 10:00am Deaconess
12 8:00am Deacons	13	14 6:30pm Voices of Praise	15 6:00am 12 Noon 6:00pm *Conference Call Prayer Line 7:00pm Bible Study	16 6:30pm Voices of Praise	17	18 TBA Layman’s League
19 11:00am Christmas Service	20	21 6:30pm Male Chorus	22 6:00am 12 Noon 6:00pm *Conference Call Prayer Line 7:00pm Bible Study	23 6:30pm Male Chorus	24	25 Christmas
26	27	28 6:30pm Computing & Technology 6:30pm Mass Choir	29 6:00am 12 Noon 6:00pm *Conference Call Prayer Line 7:00pm Bible Study	30 6:30pm Mass Choir	31 TBA Watch Night Service	