

Encourager

Walker Baptist Church

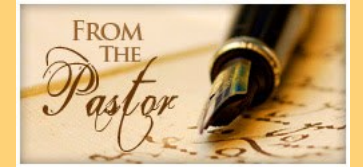
December 2021/January 2022



www.walkerbc.org

Activities described in the Encourager and on the calendar are subject to change. The online calendar is kept up to date when changes occur. You can access the updated version on the website.

“Let us not give up meeting together. . . but let us encourage one another--- and all the more as you see the day approaching.” – Hebrews 10:25



Seasons Greetings! At this time of year, we hear that phrase wherever we go. We see it plastered on TV screens and posterized in window displays. For most Americans, it's a self-contained phrase. It's simply a November-December way of saying, "Hello, there!" It has replaced "Merry Christmas" in some circles because the latter is too exclusive and the former is a reminder to include those who also observe Hanukkah or Kwanzaa. Now there's nothing wrong with saying, "Seasons Greetings." It's polite. It's warm. It's friendly. But it misses the point.

Let's remember that Christmas is more than mistletoe and snow. It's more than a winter wonderland and silver bells. It's more than making merry and bright. It's even more than virgin births and wise men. Christmas is our annual reminder that Jesus brings hope to a world of desperation and darkness. Christmas means God so loved the world that He gave, and oh, what a gift!

Christmas is a gift from God to humanity. A gift of love and peace and hope. This Christmas season we will celebrate together with a sermon series called "A Thrill of Hope." Why hope? Because we can live 40 days without food, 8 days without water, and 4 minutes without oxygen, but we can only live a few seconds without hope.

My prayer is that you'll join us for every message in this series, and invite your family and friends to join you. (I realize the first Sunday in Advent actually falls on November 28 this year, so this newsletter won't arrive until the sermon series has actually begun, but oh well.) Here's the schedule:

November 28	First Sunday in Advent Hope is Found in His Presence (Colossians 1:15-29)
December 5	Second Sunday in Advent Hope Is Found in His Power (Ephesians 3:1-21)
December 12	Third Sunday in Advent Hope Is Found in His Patience (Romans 5:1-11)
December 19	Fourth Sunday in Advent – Christmas Choir Presentation Hope Is Found In His Peace (Luke 1:26-56)
December 24	Christmas Eve [5:00 p.m.] – Lord's Supper Observance Hope Is Found in His Promise (Philippians 1:3-30)

A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices. I can't think of a message more needed right now. Can you? Let's all plant seeds of hope into our lives and the lives of those around us. Then may that hope take root and grow so we can look with promise into a bright and happy new year.

In the meantime, Seasons Greetings. On second thought... Merry Christmas.

Chuck

Back on Solid Ground

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock."
 – Matthew 7:24-25 (NIV)

Welcome to the world of today! Have we ever lived in a time of such craziness, injustice, and the absence of common sense? In a word...Yes. These are some chaotic times – probably the most challenging I have experienced as an adult. But those of you with longer life experience have seen conditions like these many times, haven't you? You lived through the 70's and had to deal with inflation and gas rationing and a dwindling standard of living. You lived through the 60's with its civil unrest and the beginning of our country's decade-long involvement in a war that would not be won. Many of you lived through the 50's, which, despite its growth, saw a population of people trying to ignore the possibility of nuclear Armageddon at any moment. Of course, the 40's saw the chaos and madness of war....

"There is nothing new under the sun" – except perhaps our personal experience of these events. But the events themselves are nothing new and nothing unfamiliar to a God Who knows all things and knows all of history in one effortless act. This is actually good news, because God not only knows... He has the secret to navigating this world, which often fails to reflect His majesty and wisdom. The secret lies in the effective intake and spiritual digestion of His Word, the Bible. That is how we will keep from getting carried away by life's events and once again touch our feet to solid ground.

Jesus said in the verse above that the successful person is the one who first *hears these words of Mine....* **Step One:** Find a consistent method of consuming the Word of God. Pastor Chuck recently preached about this and recommended the "YouVersion" Bible app for your smartphone or tablet. Besides containing dozens of Bible translations, this app offers several reading plans that will take you through a book of the Bible, selected passages, or the entire Bible at a measured pace. It is best to start simple. Read a chapter of Proverbs each day for a month. Read through the Gospel of John a little bit at a time until you reach the end. Set a goal you can easily finish.

But be sure not to stop at reading.... **Step Two:** Jesus also said concerning His words... *and puts them into practice.* This is where being still and listening comes into play. Sometimes we use the word meditation and may be frowned upon, but as Tim Atkinson points out so well in his book, *Unwind*, meditation is at the core of what the Bible teaches us when it comes to communicating with God. We have to *be still* if we are going to hear God's voice. And when we combine stillness of heart and mind with the intake of God's Word, the Holy Spirit applies that Word very specifically to our lives, our hearts, and our situations. We will not only find out what we need to do – we will also be given a desire to do it!

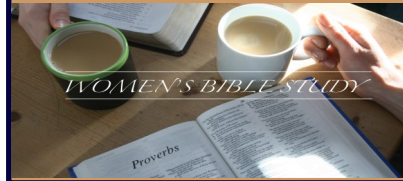
There are no really easy answers when life becomes difficult. Our bravest and wisest words become foolishness – especially to us. We find ourselves fretting and getting carried away. We don't want to act this way, but life takes hold of us, and even our prayers seem to go unheard. All one can do is grab God's Hand and cling to Him for dear life when these things happen. The whirlwind may sweep you up for a time, but if you are grounded in God's Word, regularly practicing stillness and the art of hearing from Him, your feet will eventually touch solid ground once again. Or to use Jesus' example, the house that is your life will not fall down because it has its foundation on the Rock!

Walking with You,

Andy

Ladies Bible Study

Please join us in the She-Shed on Wednesday nights for a time of Bible Study, prayer, fellowship, and laughter. January will kick off a focus on studying God's Word, prayer, and deeper connection. Beginning January 5th, we will walk through Luke 15 and three parables that Jesus uses to teach us about the Kingdom of God and the salvation that He brings. We will spend weeks one and three in Bible Study, week two in prayer, and week four in fellowship each month. We hope that you will join us as we grow closer to God and one another.



Jennifer Leonard

Baby Shower for Katy & Brad Carrier

Ladies, you are invited to join us for a baby shower for Katy (Sanders) & Brad Carrier on Sunday, January 9, immediately following the worship service. Please bring a brunch or lunch item to share. Katy & Brad are registered at Target and Amazon.



December 5	Debra Mangrum, Linda Garnette	January 16	Chris & Kelly Wheeler
December 12	Emily Sanders, Kay LaFever	January 23	E. Guttormson, M. McElhannon
December 19	Jennifer Leonard, Kody Leonard	January 30	Emily Sanders, Daianna Austin
January 2	Pam Johnson, Janice Vaughn		
January 9	Olivia Stelter, Louise Austin		

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS



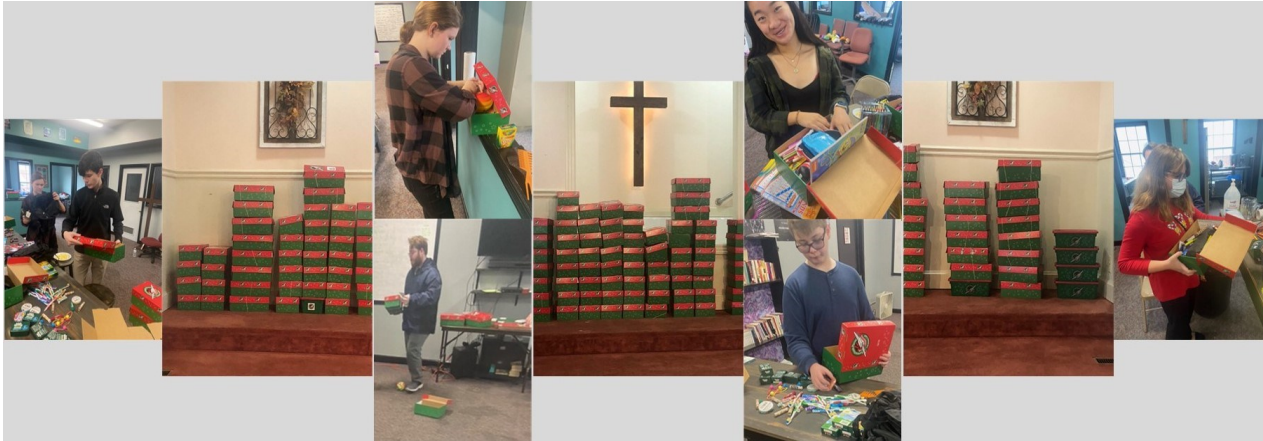
Casey and Nastasha Laws, missionaries to Peru and former Youth Directors at Walker, visited us on November 14 while on furlough. Casey shared some fascinating stories of how God has continued to work through them during the Covid Pandemic. We wish them continued safety and success as they return to the mission field in January.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOE BOX MINISTRY

What an overwhelming response we had to our call for participation in this year's Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child (OCC) Shoe Box Ministry. Wally and the

Youth took on the challenge of shopping and filling boxes for members of the congregation who may have been unable, for whatever reason, to prepare a box themselves but wanted to participate. Many members, especially those with children, chose to prepare their own boxes. Additionally, the Outreach Class paid for 20 boxes to be prepared by Samaritan's Purse. Whatever way you chose, we thank you. After saying a prayer of dedication, 142 boxes were delivered to the Collection Site on November 22. Imagine the joy and blessings the children who receive the gifts will experience.



THANK YOU TO THE WALKER YOUTH FOR THEIR HARD WORK

**GOURMET
FOOD**

SAVE THE DATE

YOUTH FUNDRAISER

Valentines Banquet

FEBRUARY 12, 2022 5:00 PM

**FUN
SERVICE**

Greetings Walker Baptist Family!



Like many of you, I have spent a considerable amount of time recently raking leaves in my yard, and it has caused me to think more about leaves this fall than perhaps at any other point in my life. A few months ago, I took my daughter Helena to the Tennessee Agricultural Museum, where my wife Elaura serves as the Museum Director. They were putting on a program in conjunction with the Tennessee Division of Forestry that took kids out on a leaf hunt led by one of the foresters. At each of the six trees we learned about, the forester would stop and tell us some facts about that particular tree and let us look at its distinctive leaf design.

At one point in the program, the forester began to explain to us that the color a tree turns in the fall is actually its natural color. He talked about how the leaf was filled with chlorophyll that turned it green during the late spring and summer to help it to draw in sunlight for the process of photosynthesis, which helps the tree create its own food. The chlorophyll turns the leaf green, but the green is not its natural color, it's just the color of the leaf while it is working hard to help the rest of the tree grow and survive.

I had known about the basics of chlorophyll and photosynthesis before, but my mind had never framed it in such a way as to say that the tree's fall colors are its natural colors. I had always thought of it as a beautiful and colorful swan song when the leaves were about to die, but it changed my thought process to think of it as a leaf relaxing after a job well done. In Matthew 11:28 (NIV), Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." We oftentimes believe that we are the ones holding our own lives together, but the reality is that everything that we have and are is from the Lord, and all of the power we are given is only through Him. He knows us, and He knows our true colors. When we rest in Him and let Him take control, He can use us for many things that are much bigger than ourselves, so that all of it points back to His glory and honor.

We are quickly approaching our Christmas program on December 19th during the church service. I'm praying it will be a real blessing to the church as we explore the humble beginnings of our Savior in a manger in Bethlehem.

In Christ,

Troy Guttormson



CHRISTMAS THROUGH MUSIC AND WORSHIP DECEMBER 19, 2021 10:15 AM

Adult Choir Children's Choir

Musicians Congregation Solo

Pastor's Message Men's Trio



REMEMBERING OUR MEMBERS WHO PASSED AWAY IN 2021



Ed and Charlotte House
 Billie King
 Katherine Morgan
 Boyd Potts
 Terry Reed
 John Sweeney
 Anna Clara Veach

DEACON OF THE WEEK

December 5 Chris Wheeler

December 12 Ed Madden

December 19 Tom Massey

December 26 Bill Reitmeyer

January 2 Bobby Hargrove

January 9 Doug Leonard

January 16 Wally Whidby

January 23 Chris Wheeler

January 30 Ed Madden

Thank you
 Deacon

What is a deacon? The term "deacon" means to minister or serve. Within each Baptist church is a group of deacons of highest regard, who assist the pastor, respond to the congregation's needs, and reach out to the community. We are blessed to have a group of dedicated men who have served as deacons for many years. Thank you gentlemen and your wives for your service to God and Walker.



STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFTS

The Deacons are collecting donations for the Staff Gifts beginning November 28 and ending December 12. You may designate the donation for "staff" and put it in the offering plate, or give through the designated fund at walkerbc.org/online-giving. The gifts will be given during the worship service December 19,

ANNUAL STAFF/DEACON DINNER

The annual staff/deacon dinner will be held in January (date to be determined). This time of great food and fellowship has been a Walker tradition for many years. Unfortunately Covid derailed our plans for a while, but we look forward to resuming this activity once again. All staff, as well as active and non-active deacons, spouses, or significant others are invited to attend.



Week of Prayer

For International Missions

NOVEMBER 28—DECEMBER 5, 2021

Together, We Transform Lives

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LOTTIE MOON
 CHRISTMAS
 OFFERING™

Let's Reach
 the Nations
 Together

OUR
 CHURCH'S GOAL:

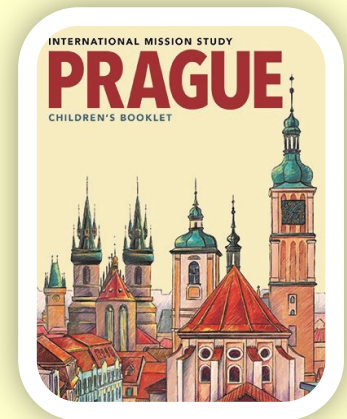
\$3200

100% of your gifts

to IMB through the Lottie Moon Christmas
 Offering™ directly fund ministry overseas.

IMB.ORG/GENEROSITY
 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering™ is a registered trademark of IMB.

INTERNATIONAL MISSION STUDY



JANUARY 26, 2022 6:00 PM

Christmas Eve CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

DECEMBER 24th 5:00 PM





<p><u>Dec 1</u> Grilled Boneless Chicken Breast Parslied Red Potatoes Roasted Veggies Salad, Dessert</p> <p><u>Dec 8</u> Meatloaf Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Salad, Dessert</p> <p><u>Dec 15</u> Sandwich Bar Chips, Dessert</p>	<p>Please make reservations by Tuesday Noon through church office</p>	<p><u>Jan 5</u> PIZZA PIZZA PIZZA Salad, Dessert</p> <p><u>Jan 12</u> Beefy Nacho Bar with all the trimmings Dessert</p> <p><u>Jan 19</u> Grilled Hamburgers & Hot Dogs Chips, Dessert</p> <p><u>Jan 26</u> Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce Green Beans Salad, Dessert</p>
<p>Wednesday Night Meal</p> <p>Food Friends Fellowship Fun</p>		
<p>\$5.00 Adult \$4.00 Ages 3-12 Maximum \$25</p>		



SUNDAY SCHEDULE		STAFF	
Sunday School (Youth meet live and on Zoom)	9:00 AM	Chuck McElhannon	Pastor
Worship (live and on YouTube) (Nursery available)	10:15 AM	Andy Wolverton Wally Whidby Troy Guttormson	Associate Pastor Youth Minister Worship Leader
WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE		CONTACT INFORMATION	
Supper	5:15 PM	Church Telephone	615-794-7000
Ladies, Youth & Children (Youth meet live and on Zoom)	6:00 PM	Emails	
Adult Bible Study	6:15 PM	Church	ask@walkerbc.org
Choir	7:30 PM	Chuck	chuck@walkerbc.org
		Andy	andy@walkerbc.org
		Wally	wally@walkerbc.org
		Troy	troy@walkerbc.org
<p>Social Media Links</p> <p>https://www.walkerbc.org</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/wbcfranklin/</p> <p>https://twitter.com/wbcfranklin</p> <p>https://www.instagram.com/wbcfranklin/</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJVlu3AI5oqidRnJMY03Ssw</p>			

December 2021

SUNDAY

Sunday School Classes

9:00 AM

Worship

10:15 AM

In person and on YouTube. Link on Walkerbc.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>WEDNESDAY Fellowship Supper 5:15 PM Youth in person and on Zoom 6:00 PM Children's Music & Missions 6:00PM She-Shed 6:15 PM Adult Bible Study 6:15 PM Choir 7:30 PM</p>			1	2 Freda Joslin Lynette Richards 	3 Everett Whidby 	4 Pam Maples 
WEEK OF PRAYER FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Natalee Perkins  Last day to donate to staff Christmas gifts	13	14	15	16	17	18 CHOIR REHEARSAL 10 am—12pm
19  CHRISTMAS MUSIC SERVICE	20	21 Louise Austin 	22 NO ACTIVITIES	23 Ann Norwood 	24 5:00 pm CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE	25 
26 Jerry Wolverton  NO SUNDAY SERVICES	27	28	29 NO ACTIVITIES	30 Cindy Irwin 	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE	

January 2022

SUNDAY

Sunday School Classes

9:00 AM

Worship

10:15 AM

In person and on YouTube. Link on Walkerbc.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>WEDNESDAY Fellowship Supper 5:15 PM Youth in person and on Zoom 6:00 PM Children's Music & Missions 6:00 PM She-Shed 6:15 PM Adult Bible Study 6:15 PM Choir 7:30 PM</p>						1 Shirley Newell  HAPPY NEW YEAR
2	3	4 Nick Lunn II 	5	6 Sherry Sanders Debra Mangrum 	7	8
9 BABY SHOWER KATY & BRAD CARRIER	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 Lorri Chunn  	18	19	20	21	22
23 Glenn Gatlin  Deacon's Meeting	24	25	26 	27	28	29
30	31		<p>INTERNATIONAL MISSION STUDY</p> 			