



## Out of My Mind

I love Christmas time. I love the music, the movies, the excitement in the air, the giving and receiving of gifts, the delicious foods, the decorations, and the gatherings with family and friends.

And I especially love the Christmas lights. (I must confess however that I don't enjoy putting up the lights so Lucy takes care of most of that!) I love seeing the Christmas lights on the streets, in the store fronts, and as I drive by people's homes. There's a beauty and sense of hope communicated by the lights shining in the darkness. That's appropriate because Christmas is the story of how God sent his light into our sin darkened world that first Christmas.

The Gospel according to John puts it this way: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it... The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world (John 1:1-9).

John is saying that Jesus, "The Word", is the light who has come to drive away our darkness. While Matthew and Luke give us more details about Jesus' birth, John tells the Christmas story by simply saying the light has come.

These are dark times for many in our world and, truth be told, for many of us too. And at times the darkness of our world seems overwhelming. It's easy to despair that things will always be this way. But Christmas reminds us that there is hope because Jesus has come and 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)

As much as I love all of the trappings that surround Christmas, the truth is that Christmas isn't really about them.

Christmas is all about the light—for Jesus, the light of the world, has come to light our way in the darkness.

So here's my challenge to you. Every time you see Christmas lights this year, whether the displays are big or small, thank God for Jesus, and the light he brings into our lives and into our world.

Your Pastor,  
 Mike



The annual Deacon-Staff Christmas Party will be held on **Sunday, December 8, 6:00 pm** at Linda Hook's home (11 Hamilton Drive, Lexington). **Everyone is asked to bring an appetizer or dessert to share.** Please contact Linda Hooks (540-817-0221) for more information.



The church office will be closed on **Tuesday, December 24, Wednesday, December 25** and **Thursday, December 26** for Christmas.



Item of the month for December is **mashed potatoes or stuffing**. Please bring your donations to the church and leave them in the box out side of the choir room or nursery. Thank you!



### RAT PICK UP

December 1 – Thanksgiving Furlough  
 December 8 – Dale Raymond & Brain Kave  
 December 15 – Brian Kave & Roger Williamson  
 December 22 – Christmas Furlough  
 December 29 – Christmas Furlough

### HALL WATCH

December 1 – Rolf Piranian  
 December 8 – David Moore  
 December 15 – John Wranek  
 December 22 – David Campbell  
 December 29 – Bucky Joyce

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

December 1 – Dale Raymond  
 December 8 – Lee Higgins  
 December 15 – Linda Hooks  
 December 22 – Charlie Reid  
 December 29 – Anita Cruze

### WORSHIP NURSERY SCHEDULE

December 1 – Rosana Clancy  
 December 8 – Linda Bond  
 December 15 – Cathy Wranek  
 December 22 – Deborah Caylor  
 December 29 – Patsy Williamson



3 Scott & Brandee Hartbarger  
 21 Ronnie & Sherry Miller

*Celebrating a birthday or anniversary? Share it with us!*

1 Sandra O'Connell  
 5 Sue Seaman  
 Noah Campbell  
 Gladys Cauley Crist  
 10 Lee Higgins  
 15 David Campbell  
 Janice Oyler  
 17 Brian Kave  
 Jennifer Fuller - Spears  
 22 Don Heckman  
 Nick Oyler  
 23 Roger Williamson  
 24 Maxine Smiley  
 25 Rick Cruze  
 28 Vickie Kave  
 29 Jeannie VanNess  
 30 Beth Lollis  
 Addison Moore  
 31 Ursula Rochelle



Thanks to all who packed shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child! We had **145** boxes (**111** from Manly) and surpassed our goal of 78 boxes!!! We appreciate all who participated and a **SPECIAL THANKS** to Lib Bowyer for wrapping the boxes and heading up this project and to David Campbell for delivering them!

Thanks also to everyone who contributed hygiene kits for Fluvanna Women's Correctional Center! We had a total of **51** kits and **20** bags of cards, stationary and pencils. A big **THANK YOU** to Patsy Williamson and Bobbie Canfield for delivering them!

Thanks to everyone who donated money and food and those that helped serve residents at the Lexington House and Windermere Apartments on Thanksgiving Day!

Your generosity and love shine brightly in our community and throughout our state and world!!!!



Our week of prayer for International Missions is **December 1 thru 8**. Remember, as you give to our goal of **\$2,500** you can choose which Baptist Missionaries and Mission projects you wish to support. You may give to the Alma Hunt Offering of Virginia Baptists which helps fund the International Mission Projects which Virginia Baptists sponsor, the Global Missions Offering of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship or the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering of the Southern Baptist Convention. Your gifts to any of these will be added to help us reach our International Missions Offering goal. Please prayerfully consider what you can give to spread God's word to the lost!



WMU will hold their quarterly meeting on **Monday, December 2, 5:15 pm in room # 120**. Please join us as youth share about Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) activities in our area. We will also pack exam goody bags for our college students as they prepare for exams prior to Christmas break. As a part of our December projects we will sponsor a Honduran child through Friends of Barnabas.



Thank you for your prayers, your participation, and your financial support this year as the deacons worked on several ideas inspired by the book "Scrappy Church". With your help, we were able to focus on an "outward deluge" with activities like giving out paper towels at the food bank and the series of parents' night out evenings. We worked on being a welcoming church by adding room numbers in our building to make it easier to navigate and by holding quarterly welcome classes for newcomers. We built on the idea of "closing the back door" through a series of small group activities including a book group in the summer and a women's group fellowship this fall. Together, we have made a difference this year in showing God's love to others!



There are many ways to contribute to the MMBC Endowment Fund. You may have recently made a donation during our Endowment Fund Month in October. If you did, thank you very much! Other ways to contribute include making memorial gifts designated for the Endowment Fund and making a donation to the MMBC Endowment Fund as a bequest in your will. You might wish to discuss bequests with your financial or legal advisor. For the Endowment Fund, every gift counts, and no gift is too small to help the church show God's love to others!



The Children's Choir will be singing "A Baby in a Manger, Gloria!" and "Christmas Songs of Joy" and ringing "O Come, All Ye Faithful" during the **11:00 am** worship service on **Sunday, December 8**.

**ADULT CHOIR CHRISTMAS CANTATA**



Mark your calendars for **Sunday, December 15 at 11:00 am**. The Adult Choir will share the cantata, "Have You Heard" by Joel Raney. Joel Raney's Celtic version of familiar Christmas texts brings freshness and new meaning to the Christmas story. Soloists will be

Jennifer Fuller-Spears, Steve Higgins and Brian Kave. Noah Campbell is the narrator. Join us for this very special service!



The Meador-Steele Handbell Choir will be ringing during the **11:00 am** worship service on **Sunday, December 22**.

It has been a Manly Memorial tradition to gather with family and friends on Christmas Eve for a service of carols and special music. We hope you will join us on **Tuesday, December 24 at 5:00 pm**. Please let Pastor Mike or the church office (463-4181 or office@manlybaptist.com) know if your family would like to sing a Christmas hymn!



**Thursday, December 5 5:30 pm**  
Youth Group (Dinner at Don T's & Bible Study)

**Wednesday, December 11 6:00 - 7:30 pm**  
Youth Group (Dinner & Bible Study)

**Sunday, December 15 1:00 pm**  
Youth Christmas Party (Please bring a \$5 gift to exchange)

**Wednesday, December 18**  
NO YOUTH GROUP

**Wednesday, December 25**  
NO YOUTH GROUP



**"RHYTHM" BIBLE STUDY**  
When we hear the word "worship," we think about singing songs at church. But could there be more to worship than just music and words on a screen? In this series, we will find out what it looks like to worship God with our whole lives. We will see that when we find the right rhythm to our worship, we will walk in better rhythm with the God we are worshipping!

**Sunday, December 1 9:45 am**  
You can worship God with your rest! with Molly Kay Moore

**Sunday, December 8 9:45 am**  
You can worship God with your talent! with Katlyn Bradley

**"ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS" BIBLE STUDY**  
For most, Christmas is all about one thing: presents! While there may be a sense that the holiday is about more than what's under the tree, the truth is, it's easy for all of us to lose sight of what the holiday is really about. In this series, we want to help youth shift their focus to what's most important: the gift of Jesus and how generous God is toward us!

**Sunday, December 15 9:45 am**  
God sending Jesus is the ultimate example of generosity! with John Wranek

**Sunday, December 22 9:45 am**  
If you want to light the way for others, love them like Jesus! with Molly Kay Moore

**Sunday, December 29 9:45 am**  
Show you care by showing up! with Katlyn Bradley