



the Connection

MEADOWLANDS BAPTIST CHURCH

03 DECEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER



Anticipating Christ's Coming

by Jerry Ascher

The word anticipation is used often during the Christmas season, and for good reason. We look forward to experiencing again those traditions that make the holidays such a happy time. We look forward to the great food we'll enjoy with our family and friends. We look forward to seeing the expressions of gratitude on the faces of loved ones as they open their presents. But on that first Christmas, the anticipation for a coming Messiah had all but faded completely from the hearts and minds of God's chosen people.

Isaiah had dutifully proclaimed the coming of Christ when he told of a virgin conceiving and bearing a Son whose name was to be Immanuel (Is. 7:14). Jeremiah prophesied that the LORD would raise a Branch from the house of David, a King Who would reign in righteousness on the earth (Jer. 23:5). Micah had even identified His exact birthplace - Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). But then came the silence. It was a silence that lasted 400 years. It was a silence that seemed to remove any hope from the minds of those who had received these prophecies that Jesus would even come. There was at least one notable exception.

We read in Luke 2 of a man named Simeon who had been told by God that he would not die until he had seen with his own eyes the promised Messiah. With each passing day, Simeon no doubt awoke from his sleep with this thought, "Will today be the day I see Him?" Whenever he saw a new father and mother come to the temple to dedicate their firstborn child, the thought certainly came to his mind, "Could this be the Christ-child?" As each sacrifice finished and the little family left the temple, any disappointment Simeon may have felt was soon replaced by anticipation of God's sure promise. And when he finally saw Jesus, he praised God who did all of this "according to (His) word." During this season of anticipating all that Christmas means, may that anticipation remind us of what we should be looking forward to more than anything, the coming of our Savior. We shouldn't let the disappointment that He tarries long keep us from believing His promise that He Who is coming, will come (Heb. 10:37), just like Simeon did. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

SUNDAY, 05 DECEMBER 9:30 OR 11 AM

In-person services take place in the auditorium. Services are simultaneously livestreamed in the gym or available to you at home.

- "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne"
- "Good Christian Men, Rejoice"
- "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"
- Prayer
- Instrumental Special
- Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7
- "Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery"
- "What Child Is This?"
- "Joy to the World"
- Message: "Calling for Help" James 5:13-18
Pastor Kevin Williams
- "I Need Thee Every Hour"

ADULT FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

9:30

Forerunners of the Faith (Church History)
Pastor Jerry | Room 207

11:00

College & Career

Jeff McConnell | Room 221

Young Couples: 20s & 30s

Will Breckenridge | Room 207

Epistle to the Philippians

Manuele Russo | **Gym Foyer**

CHILDREN'S/TEEN MINISTRIES

9:30

Nursery (0-1)

Nursery (2-3)

11:00

Nursery (0-1)

Nursery (2-3)

Ages 4-5 Room 209

Grades 1-2 Room 212

Grades 3-4 Room 211

Grades 5-6 Room 309

Teens Room 308

Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery

FAMILY CHRISTMAS WORSHIP & PRAISE
SERVICE



Sunday, 19 December

9:30 or 11 am

Nursery available for ages 0-3



CHRISTMAS EVE *Service*

- Two Candlelight Services: 4:30 or 6:00 pm
- Services held only in the auditorium
- No nursery available
- One hour of Christmas carols & Scripture reading

Prayers Appreciated for MBC Missionaries Larry & Pam Noland

Isaiah 12:2-3 Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation. Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation. On Wednesday morning Pam sent these verses to our family text group before her appointments for that day, little did we know how much we would need to draw from His well that day.

On Friday the 19th they did the first PET scan following her treatments in preparation for the surgery on Nov 30. Monday afternoon we received a call that the surgeon had ordered a MRI for Wednesday morning before the appointment with him. The PET scan had shown 2 lesions on her liver and he wanted a closer look. When the surgeon came into the room later that morning his news was not good. The MRI found a total of 4 lesions on her liver that he is confident are where the cancer in her esophagus has spread. He has personally never seen this happen with her type of cancer and his research found that it is a very rare thing to happen. Her surgery has been canceled and a biopsy of her liver is scheduled for Thursday December 2. If the biopsy confirms what all of the imaging is showing, it is stage four cancer that medically is not curable and she will not be a candidate for any cancer surgery. Her medical oncologist will be taking the lead in her case now and will be meeting with us soon to give us more information and discuss treatment options.

Though receiving this news has shaken our lives once again, we continue to go to the well of the Lord and ask for healing, strength, faith, wisdom, peace, and grace. We know you all have been praying for Pam and our family over the last few months. We have been so encouraged with all of the cards, texts, e-mails, phone calls and visits from many of you as well. We are asking that you would continue to pray for the Lord to work in a way that He alone is glorified by it all.

2 Peter 3:18b To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

GIVING

E-transfer is available. From your bank's website, select the e-transfer feature. The email address to transfer to is donations@meadowlandsbaptist.com. Your donation will be automatically accepted, and you will receive a confirmation of the transfer.

MISSIONARY CHRISTMAS OFFERING

It has been our tradition to collect a special Christmas offering for our missionary families. We will be collecting funds from now until Sunday, December 12th. On your offering envelope or electronic transfer, you can designate a special donation to "Missionary Christmas."

VIRTUAL SHOWER FOR KAITLYN NEUMANN

Gifts may be dropped off in the church office anytime between now and **Sunday, December 5th**. Find Shea and Kaitlyn's story and gift ideas at <http://theknot.com/kaitlynandshea>

WEDNESDAY PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY/TEENS/KIDS 4 TRUTH 7 PM

CONTACT US:

Church Office
780-440-1195
Pastor Kevin Williams
587-635-2758
Pastor Jerry Ascher
587-635-2751
Pastor Mark Richmond
587-635-2752
David Treau
587-635-2753