

# mars hill matters

## December 2006

### In This Issue:

Pastor's Column .....	2
Youth Ministry .....	3
Worship Ministry .....	4
Children's Ministry .....	5
Event Calendar .....	6
Church News .....	7 & 8



"The Fellowship That Cares"

### OUR STAFF:

Senior Pastor	Charles G. Jones
Min. of Worship/Assoc. Pastor	Mike A. Sarratt
Minister to Youth and Children	Todd E. London
Recreation Intern	Steven Carter
Pianist	Rebekah J.
Financial Secretary	Jeanne T.
Secretary	Lynn M.
Custodian	Jorge P.

## Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

"Why should we not... instead of the paltry offerings we make, do something that will prove that we are really in earnest in claiming to be followers of him who, though he was rich, for our sake became poor?"  
— Lottie Moon, Tungchow, China, Sept. 15, 1887

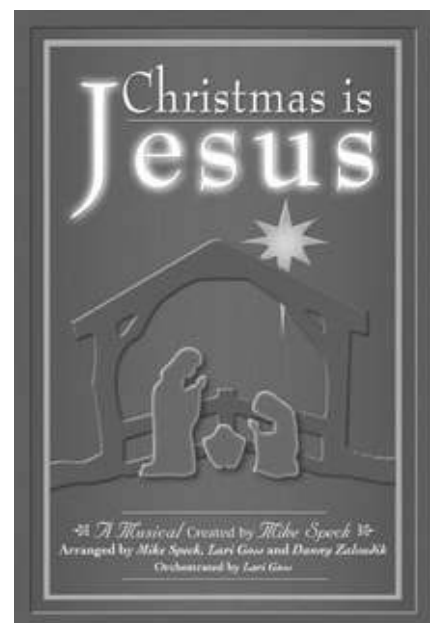
**National Goal: \$150 million**  
**MHBC Challenge Goal: \$25,000**

**Believe**  
An Instrumental Concert by Our Accompanists  
Rebekah, Bea, and Kim  
Sunday, December 3rd - 6:30 p.m.  
Come early for this unique worship experience  
full of joy, wonder, and our gift ... don't miss it!

## A Special Christmas Musical Presented by Our Adult Choir

Sunday December 17, 2006  
6:30 p.m.

The message of the Gospel rings out loud and clear in Christmas Is Jesus, a musical that echoes the true reason for our seasonal celebration -- it's all about Jesus! This is a unique approach to the timeless story of Christmas. Filled with treasured Christmas carols and a clear evangelistic presentation, the music and message of Christmas Is Jesus will make your season bright!



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service December 24th at 6:00 p.

## A Gift

I don't remember opening up the box, but I do remember wearing them. I was probably six or seven years old the year I got cowboy boots for Christmas. I am sure I got the hat, holster and pistols to accompany the boots, but what I remember most was the boots. My mom didn't like the fact that they left black scuff marks on her wood floors, but I was proud to wear those boots.

This is the season of gifts. When we were children we could not wait to get the gifts on Christmas morning. As adults we look forward to giving gifts to our children, family and friends. A true gift is an extension of yourself wrapped with love and goodwill to the one who receives it.

Some say the "tradition" of giving gifts came from the giving of gifts by the magi to Jesus. Yet the reason this is the season for gifts is because of God's gift to us, His son, our Savior and Lord. God gave that which was most precious to Him to redeem us from the consequences of our wrong choices. Sin is the result of our wrong choices and sin separates us from a perfect God. Since our sin debt is owed to God, only God can determine the cost of the payment. We may offer God many things in exchange for our salvation, but only one will satisfy the demands of a just and holy God. The demand is for a perfect sacrifice, freely given on behalf of our sin. God is the one who gives and Jesus is the answer to our need to satisfy our sin debt to God.

This is what Christmas is about, God giving us a gift of a Savior and Lord. . . "for unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior who is Christ the Lord." This is what we celebrate at Christmas and to miss the Savior is to miss the true meaning of Christmas. Christmas is about a gift from God, to us. I hope you will treasure God's gift afresh and anew this Christmas.

## Your Gift

I would encourage you to consider a gift to Jesus this Christmas. Our church supports over 5,000 International Missionaries around the world. Half of their support comes through our gifts to the Lottie Moon Offering for International Missions. This year our church challenge goal is \$25,000. Between this amount and our budgeted support of International Missions in next year's Cooperative Program, we will be within one thousand dollars of providing the average support of one missionary couple for a year. This offering will help share the Good News of God's love around the world, 365 days a year. I can think of few ways that you can honor Jesus any better than to give generously to this mission offering.

Look forward to seeing you in worship and witness this Christmas.

In His Love,

*Charles*

## New Staff Member

We welcome our new custodian, Jorge. He is from Mexico City, Mexico. He and his wife, Leticia, have been married for 13 years. They have three boys: Jorge Eduardo is 11, Brandon is 5, and Leonardo is 1&1/2. We are very happy to have Jorge on staff.





# student news

## headlines...

### bob's Christmas bash



It's the most wonderful time of the year! And to celebrate the season, we are throwing a party on December 20th at 6pm. We'll celebrate the holidays together and serve our community with our annual CANNED FOOD SCAVENGER HUNT. But don't miss out. During this season there are many great gatherings to help you celebrate Christ, from our great musical concerts each Sunday night to our candlelight Christmas Eve service. Make sure you check out the calendar and celebrate the reason for the season, Jesus Christ!

### Caution: Ski Retreat Ahead

Time is getting close for our 2007 ski retreat in Winterplace, West Virginia, January 2-5th. Our theme this year (get your hand to your forehead) is LOSER, based on Mark 8:35. So start packing up and don't forget, our Ski Retreat meeting for all participants and their parents is Wednesday, December 27th at 6pm. All payments and forms are due at this time.

# loser



## it's coming 02.23.07

## December 2006

- 3 Christmas Season Begins**  
 Sunday school 9:55am  
 mpact meeting 4:30pm  
 snack supper 5pm  
 deeper study groups 5:21pm  
 special Christmas worship 6:30pm
- 4 youth visitation** 7pm
- 6 bob's café** 6:30pm
- 10 Celebrate Christmas**  
 final snack supper 5pm  
 final deeper for 06 5:21pm  
 Christmas Night @ MHBC 6:30pm
- 13 bob's café** 6:30pm
- 17 Celebrate Christmas**  
 Sunday school 9:55am  
 no mpact or deeper  
 Christmas Choir Musical 6:30pm
- 20 bob's Christmas Party**  
 In the café! 6pm
- 24 Christmas Eve!**  
 Sunday school 9:55am  
 Candlelight Service 6pm
- 25 Christmas Day**  
 celebrate God's gift
- 27 Ski Retreat Meeting** 6pm

### for parents only...



Now it can officially begin! While we've been seeing the signs of Christmas for MONTHS now, we can finally enjoy celebrating this wonderful season of love.

As you begin this month to celebrate as a family, I pray you and I will make an extra effort this year to keep our focus on the real reason for the season, Jesus Christ. To help each of our families do this, our church wants to give you a gift.

This week, we'll be giving out a great **Christmas Family Devotional** for every family. It is a well written brief devotional to help your family take five from the rat race this month and focus us on God's greatest gift to us. From great short devotional stories and scripture, to great little activities for you and your family, I pray it will be just the help we need to make this truly the most wonderful time of the year! Merry Christmas!



Our student ministry exists to **GO** to students with the gospel of Jesus Christ, **GATHER** them with other believers to help them **GROW** in their faith, challenge them to **GIVE** their talents in service to God, and to **GLORIFY** Him with their life

# worship ministry



## “MERRY CHRISTMAS”

It has been a quick year since we celebrated Christmas in 2005. It seems like it was yesterday. As you remember, one of the biggest news items of the 2005 Christmas celebration was the exclusion of the term “Christmas” from our “Holiday Celebrations.” Several of the retailers chose not to use the expression “Merry Christmas” to keep from offending those of various faiths who do not celebrate “Christmas.” After the outcry of many, some of the retailers have decided to include the terms “Christmas”, “Merry Christmas”, “Christmas trees”, etc. in place of “Holiday Celebration,” “Seasons Greetings,” or “Holiday Trees.” This past week, the issue was brought back into the news when a retailer proclaimed they would not be using the word “Christmas” in their seasonal promotions. The announcer stated that Christians were not officially being asked to boycott the retailer, however, they were encouraged to contact the retailer with their concern.

Are you surprised that our world is censoring the terms related to Christianity? You shouldn't be! In our world where “tolerance” and “freedom of religion” have been so emphasized, even to the exclusion of “Christians” being able to exercise and express their faith, why should we be surprised that those who work in the world would exclude our reason for celebrating? Over the years that I have experienced celebrating Christmas from childhood to present (a half a century), I have seen the decay of our culture from “wholesome family values” to “whatever feels good to you is right”. In those years, television and movies have been given more freedom to use profanity and portray explicit scenes of sexual immorality. Music has included lyrics that are anti-authoritarian, filled with obscenities, and degrading to the human race. All in all, the foundation and bedrock of our families have been eroding, just as the waves of the sea erode the sands of the beach. There comes a time when one must fortify and rebuild what has been torn down or destroyed. Our families need to be redirected to Scriptural foundations and reflect devotion to Jesus Christ in all areas of life. One of the best tools for teaching our children is living our lives as an example for them to follow. Let us be devoted and dedicate the coming days to celebrate Christmas in a spiritual and meaningful way. (We are providing a way to bring your family together this Christmas season by offering you a devotional guide that will help you discover the real reason for celebrating Christmas.) As we examine the erosion of our culture, we may feel overwhelmed and think there is nothing we can do to begin making a difference. We must develop the method for “eating an elephant one bite at a time.” We may not be able to effect the entire culture, but we can reach out to each person we encounter each day. Maybe this Christmas season we can share the love of God with others, as He has shared with us by giving us the greatest love gift, Jesus Christ. The Christmas presentation of the Sanctuary choir is entitled, “Christmas is Jesus” and will be presented on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. and on December 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Georgia Square Mall. The musical reminds us that the real reason for celebrating Christmas is “Jesus”, the reason for the season. Without “Christ”, there would be no reason to celebrate Christmas.

As we venture out into the world each day, let us be mindful that others may not know the Christ of Christmas, much less have a reason to celebrate Christmas. We can help them by sharing in a loving way, the true and best gift of all, Jesus Christ. Begin by expressing the words of the season- “Merry Christmas.” You will be surprised what kind of opportunities it will open up if you express it in love. Others don't need a militant or argumentative response from us; they need our love. Only after receiving the Christ of Christmas will they know how to have a “Merry Christmas.” Say it loud, say it proud, but say it with love---- **“MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!”**

Serving Jesus and you, *Mike Sarratt*

### EVENTS OF CHRISTMAS

**December 3<sup>rd</sup> 6:30 p.m. “Black and White Concert”** Our accompanists will present an evening of Christmas praise and celebration along with some special readings and interaction with decorating.

**December 10<sup>th</sup> 6:30 p.m. “Christmas Across the Ages”** Our choirs from preschool to senior adult will present special Christmas music along with some participatory surprises for the children.

**December 17<sup>th</sup> 6:30 p.m. “Christmas Is Jesus”** presented by the Sanctuary Choir. We will also combine with FBC Winterville and present this at the mall on December 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

**December 24<sup>th</sup> 6:00 p.m. “Christmas Eve Service”** A night of family worship as we celebrate Christmas.

## Children's Ministry Opportunities

Every Sunday  
Sunday School  
9:45 am

Praise Connection  
Children's Choirs  
5:00 pm

Teamkid  
Off for December

Wednesdays  
Family Supper  
5:30 pm

Mission Friends  
Girls in Action  
Royal Ambassadors  
(Boys)  
6:30 pm

## Christmas with Family

As we begin this month celebrating the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, there are plenty of wonderful events for your whole family to remember and celebrate the reason for the season.

December 3	<b>BELIEVE Concert</b>	6:30pm
December 10	<b>Christmas Across the Ages</b>	6:30pm
December 17	<b>Adult Choir Musical</b>	6:30pm
December 24	<b>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</b>	6pm

## winter wonderland dec. 10



Our great seasonal celebration for pre-schoolers!!! Babies through kindergarten children are invited Sunday December 10th from 5-6:15p.m. to enjoy a great time of great games, crafts, snack supper and even a special visit from the North Pole. All this to help them celebrate God's wonderful gift of Jesus Christ! Afterward, plan on staying for our Night of Christmas as our Children through Senior Adult Choirs lead us in the music of Christmas.

Our Royal Ambassadors (boys) and Girls in Action will have a great night of celebrating God's love with their adopted grandparents on Wednesday December 6th at 6:30p.m. in the Gym. So don't miss this night!

## RA/GA/Grandparents Christmas party

Our Royal Ambassadors (boys) and Girls in Action will have a great night of celebrating God's love with their adopted grandparents on Wednesday December 6th at 6:30p.m. in the Gym. So don't miss this night!



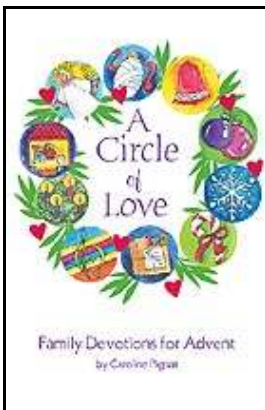
## Thank You!



Your response to our request for shoeboxes was tremendous! We donated 185 shoeboxes to Operation Christmas Child. Thanks for sharing His love with children around the world.

## A Special Gift for Your Family

Advent is a wonderful opportunity to nurture family prayer. We have purchased a devotional guide, "A Circle of Love—Family Devotions for Advent," for each Mars Hill family. Our desire is to help you, as a family, take time to know, grow, and show God's love this Advent season. We ask that you take only one guide per household. Pick one up in the foyer this Sunday.



# december events



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Deacons Christmas Party	2 Committee Members Breakfast
3 <i>Black &amp; White Concert</i>	4 Spirit Class Christmas Party	5	6 WNS  <i>GA/RA/ Grandparents Christmas Party</i>	7 <b>MOPS</b> Christmas Party	8 Senior Saints Christmas Party	9 Acteens Christmas Party <b>Genesis Class Party</b> Joy Class Party
10 <i>Deacon Meeting</i> <b>Winter Wonderland</b> <i>Christmas Across the Ages</i>	11	12	13  Family Fellowship Meal	14	15	16
17 Brotherhood Breakfast <b>Adult Choir Christmas Musical</b>	18 Christmas Musical at GA Square Mall	19	20 <i>No WNS</i>  Youth Christmas Party	21	22  <b>Church Office Closed</b>	23
24 <i>No Early Service</i> <b>Christmas Eve Service 6pm</b>	25 Christmas Day  <b>Church Office Closed</b>	26	27  No Activities  Ski Retreat Meeting	28	29	30
31 <i>No Early Service</i>						



December 7th  
9:30—11:30am  
Christmas Party

Bring a gift under \$5 to exchange.

## Committee Members Breakfast

All committee members are asked to attend a breakfast meeting Saturday, December 2nd from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. in the Gymnasium. We will elect our committee chairmen and develop a ministry plan for 2007!



# church stuff

## Memorial Gifts

In memory of Stan Stanckek  
 by David and Deborah W.  
 by Hunter Douglas Inc.  
 by Herbert and Darlene A.

## Christmas Cookies

We are going to shower the Navy School with cookies for Christmas. Watch the bulletin for more details.

## Welcome New Members

Jim and Mary D.  
 James H.  
 Brad and Brandi T.  
 Bailee and Blaine T.  
 Robby and Heather R.  
 Tiffany, Elizabeth and Haley R.

## December Anniversaries

Dec 2nd—Cody and Lynn A.  
 Dec 2nd—Mercer and Melissa T.  
 Dec 10th—Jeff and Jennifer D.  
 Dec 12th—Mark and Marie S.  
 Dec 17th—J.R. and Peggy W.  
 Dec 23rd—Harold and Barbara S.  
 Dec 24th—Irey and Roberta V.  
 Dec 25th—Preston and Peggy B.

## Christmas Poinsettias

Order your Poinsettias for December 17th and 24th services. Place one "In Memory of"... "In Honor of"... "Celebrating"... or for yourself. Cost is \$10 each (red only) and order **deadline is this Sunday, December 3rd**. See Denise S. or pick up an order form in the church office. You may take your poinsettia home after the Christmas Eve service.

## December Birthdays

1— Selby B.	11—Kathy M.	Teresa W.	23—Sherry C.
Rebecca B.	Joel R.	16—Mary Beth C.	Gayle D.
Katie F.	Helen W.	Barbara C.	Brittany H.
2— Sherry H.	12—Leslie D.	Wally P.	Kevin T.
3— Emy G.	Keith G.	17—Gary C.	24—Beth S.
Zack G.	Callee M.	18—Terri C.	Casey T.
Jason M.	Kay T.	Keith M.	David W.
Janice T.	13—Robert E.	Kelli N.	25—Chris W.
Natalie W.	Donna G.	Patti R.	26—Don C.
4— Betty B.	Robert P.	19—Darrell D.	Chris E.
Susan B.	Gene S.	Breanna P.	Cliff L.
Melanie H.	Hannah S.	21—Matthew B.	Robert O.
Maddy P.	14—Carl S.	Wayne B.	28—Janet L.
Brad W.	15—John C.	Michele F.	Jane V.
6— David M.	Carrie C.	Lisa P.	29—Danny M.
7— Becky C.	Donna C.	Phillip R.	30—Bruce C.
Amber H.	Bryon F.	Will W.	Sheryl C.
Annie Ruth M.	Misty M.	22—Danny G.	Logan G.
Sherri P.	Greg R.	John L.	31—Sunny A.
Tiffani W.	Marie S.	Molly M.	Jerry D.
9— Jeff F.	Phyllis S.	Doyle M.	
Mara J.	Jennifer T.	Wayne S.	



*"The Fellowship That Cares"*

2661 Mars Hill Road  
Watkinsville, GA 30677  
Phone: 706-548-6962  
Fax: 706-548-4210  
Website: [www.marshillbaptist.org](http://www.marshillbaptist.org)  
E-mail: [info@marshillbaptist.org](mailto:info@marshillbaptist.org)

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
WATKINSVILLE, GA  
PERMIT NO. 7

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

### **Lending Policy**

Please check with the office before borrowing anything from the church. All items borrowed must be signed out in the church office as we need to make sure there are no upcoming events that have requested the items you wish to borrow. Also, some items can not be loaned because they damage easily.



### **Office Hours**

Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### **End-of-the-Year Giving**

December is the time to consider end-of-the-year gifts for 2006 tax deductions. All donations are welcome. Contributions dated December 31st or before will be included on 2006 statements. However, please be sure your contributions are made in a timely manner for statement preparation. Finance Committee



### **Publication Deadlines**

The deadline for submitting information for the bulletin is Wednesday evening.  
The deadline for submitting information for the newsletter is the 15th of the month.

### **Inclement Weather Policy**

In the event that activities or services will be cancelled or changed due to the weather, information will be posted on WMSL 88.9 and WNGC 106.1. We will also up-date the church voice mail.