

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2015**

**DEACONS:** John Barrow & Bill Norvell  
**BUS DRIVER:** David McCall (482-8667)  
**BUS RIDER:** John Barrow  
**CHILDREN'S SERMON:** David Brooks  
**CHILDREN'S CHURCH:** Joy Harvill  
**AUDIO OPERATOR:** Paul Williams  
**VIDEO OPERATORS:** Allen & Claire Mills



**CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24, 2015**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON:** Mary Anne Croom  
**AUDIO OPERATOR:** Gary Swanner  
**VIDEO OPERATOR:** Susie Swanner



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2015**

**DEACONS:** Mary Daniels & Paul Williams  
**BUS DRIVER:** Ben Rinehart, Jr. (482-2959)  
**BUS RIDER:** Mary Daniels  
**CHILDREN'S SERMON:** Gary Stanley  
**CHILDREN'S CHURCH:** Julie Privott  
**AUDIO OPERATOR:** Maurice Bunch  
**VIDEO OPERATOR:** Holly Smith



Thank you to all the readers, the choir members, and the bell ringers who shared their talents last Sunday in our Festival of Lessons and Carols. Well done!

-Michael Morgan

**OUR SHUT-INS**

**Week of Dec. 17-20**

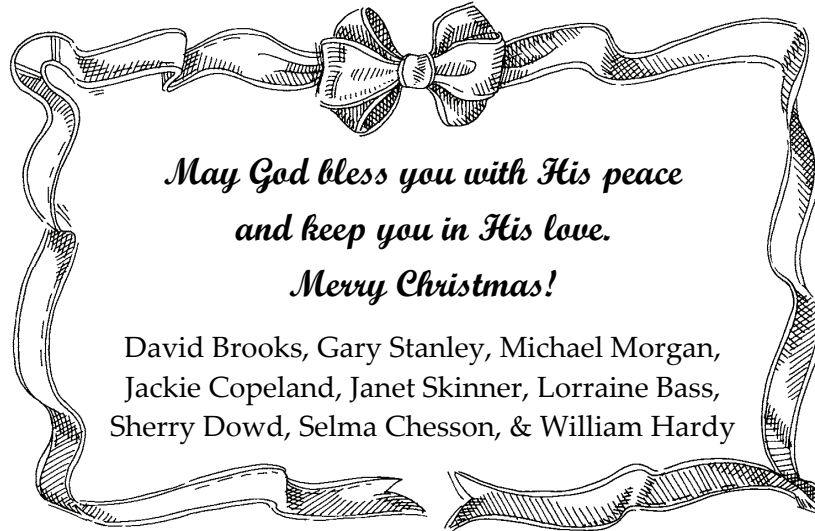
Kenneth & Joe Griffin  
Litchford Falls Nursing Care  
8200 Litchford Road  
Raleigh, NC 27615

**Week of Dec. 27-Jan. 2**

Mrs. Jane Nowell  
Edenton House  
323 Medical Arts Drive  
Edenton, NC 27932

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*May God bless you with His peace  
and keep you in His love.  
Merry Christmas!*

David Brooks, Gary Stanley, Michael Morgan,  
Jackie Copeland, Janet Skinner, Lorraine Bass,  
Sherry Dowd, Selma Chesson, & William Hardy

This is a two-week edition of *The Informer*. The next issue will be mailed on December 31.

**Holiday Schedule Changes**

The church office will be closed beginning Wednesday, December 23, and reopen Monday, December 28. The office will also be closed New Years Day, Friday, January 1.

There will be no Wednesday evening activities on December 23 and December 30. Our regular schedule resumes January 6.

**SOUPER MONTHS at the Food Pantry.** During January and February, we are asked to contribute items used to make a hearty pot of soup.

# THE INFORMER

Edenton Baptist Church  
Edenton, North Carolina 27932

*A Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Congregation*

**David B. Brooks**  
Pastor

**Gary P. Stanley**  
Interim Youth Minister  
**Michael W. Morgan**  
Director of Music  
**Jackie P. Copeland**  
Organist/Assistant Music Director

**Janet C. Skinner**  
Church Administrator  
**Lorraine B. Bass**  
Financial Secretary  
**Sherry S. Dowd**  
Preschool Coordinator

VOL. XXXIII

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2015

NO. 49

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2015**

**The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Baptist Men's Breakfast, 8:30am

*"Where Hopes and Fears Meet"*  
Micah 5:2-5a  
Luke 1:39-55

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2015**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion**



6:00pm  
Prelude will begin at 5:40pm.  
Come in, slow down, & prepare you heart for worship.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2015**

**The First Sunday of Christmas**

Dr. Jesse Croom, Guest Preacher



## LECTIONARY READINGS

**DEC. 20, 2015**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sun. of Advent**

Micah 5:2-5a  
 Luke 1:46b-55  
 Hebrews 10:5-10  
 Luke 1:39-45,(46-55)

**DEC. 27, 2015**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sun. of Christmas**

1 Sam. 2:18-20,26  
 Psalm 148  
 Colossians 3:12-17  
 Luke 2:41-52

**JAN. 3, 2016**

**Epiphany Sunday**

Isaiah 60:1-6  
 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14  
 Ephesians 3:1-12  
 Matthew 2:1-12

## Birthdays

### Sunday, December 20

Linda Boyle  
 Holden Fuller  
 Linda Potts  
 Lisha Sparks

### Monday, December 21

Wendell Copeland

### Tuesday, December 22

Janet Skinner

### Thursday, December 24

Gene Nixon  
 Dona Polous  
 Doris Toppin

### Sunday, December 27

Wanda Perry  
 Betty Smith

### Monday, December 28

Elton Askew  
 Anne Hollowell

### Tuesday, December 29

Maurice Bunch  
 Matt Swicegood  
 William Whitaker

### Wednesday, December 30

Carole Zembraski

### Thursday, December 31

Bryant White

### Friday, January 1

Gretchen Doake

### Saturday, January 2

Steve Lane  
 John Rogerson

## CBF Offering for Global Missions

Goal: \$8,000.00

Received to Date: \$2,130.00

## WEEKLY REPORT (12/13)

### Offering

Budget Needed	10,349.15
Amt. Received	24,182.84
Over Budget	13,833.69

### Other Monies Received

Wed. Supper (12/9)	250.00
Memorial Fund	720.00
Global Missions	1,370.00
WMU NC	50.00
Food Pantry	110.00
Poinsettias	235.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,735.00</b>

### Attendance

Sunday School	123
Chowan River Nursing	39
SS TOTAL	162
Worship TOTAL	276

### YTD Offerings (50 weeks)

Amt. Required	517,457.50
Amt. Received	496,029.17
Under Budget	(21,428.33)

## HOSPITAL REPORT (12/16)

At the time of printing there were no known members in the hospital.

## What Jesus Wants for Christmas

It is mid-December, but it certainly does not feel like it. This recent stretch of balmy days with bright sunshine and a temperature as high as 75 degrees makes me feel like I have returned to the December days of my childhood in Miami, Florida. The tour of homes in town last weekend felt more like the biannual spring Pilgrimage than a Christmas tradition for Edenton. Many of us took advantage of such rare winter warmth and did some things outside with friends and family. I know at least one family in our church that was compelled to get a jump start by doing some “spring cleaning,” even though spring is still over three months away. They opened up all their windows and let the fresh air in. They cleaned out some cluttered closets, and their children sorted through their toys and clothes to decide what to keep and what to give away.

Every December, our culture beckons us to shop and spend and add to our stockpile of “stuff.” But maybe this rare “spring break” in December is cause to consider how we might all do some spring cleaning of our hearts and souls that are filled with too much stuff—stuff like fear, worry, anxiety, shallow cravings, prejudice, and anger. Ironically, filled with so much stuff that clouds our relationships with God and one another, we often feel empty inside.

One of the most beloved carols of Christmas—*Joy to the World*—makes an annual appeal to us as we sing, “Let every heart prepare Him room.” What if instead of simply singing these words boldly and cheerfully this Christmas we *acted* on them? We can all think right now of some things that are cluttering our hearts and causing us to say to Jesus, “I’m sorry, but there is no room in the inn of my heart for you right now.” But Christmas is still a few days away. There is still time to let some biases go, to say no to our fears, to clean out the clutter of all the voices except God’s voice speaking to us. Don’t let another Christmas come and go without taking deliberate steps and doing some early “spring cleaning” of your heart to make ample room for Jesus. Because really and truly, that’s what Jesus wants for Christmas—a vacancy, an opening, some room to live and breathe within each of our hearts.<sup>1</sup>

Merry Christmas!

David

<sup>1</sup>The thought of “what Jesus wants for Christmas” is taken from James C. Howell, *Why This Jubilee: Advent Reflections on Songs of the Season* (Nashville, TN: Upper Room Books, 2015), 17.

## EBC Christmas Card Post Office

It’s not too late to leave cards to your church family in the drop-off box located in the back hallway. Remember to contribute the price of postage in the box, to support our CBF Global Missions Offering.

## Angel Tree for Local Schools

There are many books left to be purchased on our tree. When you make your selection, take your book slip to the Church office, along with the needed funds to purchase the book.

**2016 Offering envelopes** may be picked up in the back hallway, near the church office, where they will remain for the rest of the month. Most people will have a new number, so it is important not to use them until January.

## Youth Christmas Party

Sunday, December 20

Home of Ashley & Mark Hanger  
 7:00-9:00pm

*Go straight to the Hangers, or ride the EBC bus from the church parking lot at 6:30pm.*

## Youth Christmas Caroling and Hayride

Monday, December 21  
 6:00-8:00pm

*Meet at the Stanley’s home.*

## Anniversaries

### Wednesday, December 23

M/M David LaFon

### Thursday, December 24

M/M Gene Nixon

### Friday, December 25

M/M Gary Ray

### Sunday, December 27

M/M Paul Stallings

### Tuesday, December 29

M/M Bill Potts

M/M Bobby Sparks

### Thursday, December 31

M/M John Bassett

## Calendar of Activities

### Sunday, December 20

8:30-Baptist Men’s Breakfast  
 9:45-Sunday School  
 10:45-Pastor/Deacon Prayer  
 11:00-Morning Worship  
 7:00-Youth Party

### Monday, December 21

3:00-Laura Harrell Class,  
 Edenton Primetime  
 6:00-Youth Hayride/Caroling

### Wednesday, December 23

Office Closed for Holiday  
 5:15-Handbells  
 6:00- Deacon Communion  
 Practice

7:00-Adult Choir Practice

### Thursday, December 24

6:00-Candlelight Service

### Sunday, December 27

9:45-Sunday School  
 10:45-Pastor/Deacon Prayer  
 11:00-Morning Worship

### Wednesday, December 30

No activities