

The Link

December 2021 Monthly Publication of Garden City Baptist Church

Volume 34 Number 12

Merry Christmas

Churchwide Christmas Party

Wednesday, 12/8

5:15 – 7:00 pm

Join us for our annual Christmas Party in the Fellowship Hall. **Bring** some appetizers and desserts to share. After we eat, we'll sing some Christmas songs and play some interactive Christmas-themed games.

Christmas Eve

candlelight service
Dec 24th – 6:00 pm

GOAL ACHIEVED

Thanks to generous donations, we have exceeded the amount needed to pay for the projectors and the A/V equipment!!!

★
FOR
TO US
A CHILD
IS BORN
TO US A SON
IS GIVEN
AND HIS NAME
WILL BE CALLED
WONDERFUL
COUNSELOR
MIGHTY GOD
EVERLASTING FATHER
PRINCE OF PEACE
ISAIAH
NINE
SIX

CHRISTMAS Parade

Sunday, 12/5

- *Sign up in the office if you want to ride on or walk with the church's float.
- *Meet at the church at 2:00pm.
- *Parade starts at 3:00pm



Let's Go Caroling

Wednesday, 12/15

5:30 pm

Meet us at church for some hot chocolate before we go singing to some of the church's shut-ins.

-Note-

No Wednesday Bible Study or TeamKID
Wednesday, 12/22 and 12/29

LUNCH BUNCH

Hi Girls,

We had a wonderful time at J Peters. It was so good to have Tiny, Marilyn, Joan and Gayle back with us. We sure did miss you girls.

This month we are going to Litchfield Inn ... Austin's Ocean One at noon on December 17. This is a tradition--one of our very favorite places. Great food and exceptional service. It is a wee bit pricey. If you find that this might be a problem for anyone please let me know as there are several girls who will help. Sign-up sheets in the side hall & front foyer.

If you choose to participate in our gift exchange please bring a gift - not more than \$10.

Looking forward to seeing all of you again. God Bless You,
Shirley

SURPRISE BIRTHDAY PARTY

**For DOUG SHIRLEY
on his 80th birthday!**

Saturday, December 18 – 6:00 pm

**Beach music! Southern Comfort Food!
Lots of Fun! The cake is a 3-D
Motorcycle**

**Everyone invited!
Please RSVP to the church office before
December 12**

No gifts please, cards OK

Remember it's a surprise, don't tell

Widow's Birthday Luncheon Sunday, December 12 after worship service Driftwood Restaurant Celebrating Peggy Hodges birthday

For information, contact Pat
Hample at 843-748-0163

Joy Fellowship Monday, December 13 12:00 pm Fellowship Hall For those 55+

The main course is baked ham--
bring a covered dish or dessert.

Program: Our Praise Team and
Members of the Choir are
providing special Christmas
music and a time to sing along
with them.

Church-wide Breakfast Sunday, 12/5 Sponsored by our Deacons

Happy Birthday December

1 – Griffin Bailey
2 – Mytsi Coker
2 – Jody Denny
3 – Debbie Good
4 – Lon Smith
5 – Carmen Carella
5 – Skylar Hays
6 – Carol Haire
6 – Peggy Hodges
6 – Blanche Markley
7 – Katelyn Hawes
7 – Alex Beri
7 – Nancy Todd
14 – Skyler Stoll
14 – Dianne Spearman
17 – Peggy Smith
17 – Pat Oliver
18 – Bob Wood
19 – Betty Wing
20 – Doug Shirley
20 – Jim Kirtland
20 – Tammy Black
21 – Melinda Hall
22 – Mike Reese
22 – Bob Green
25 – Karen Peavey
26 – Harold Smoak
26 – Linda Williams
26 – Alayna Lanier
27 – Will Peterman
28 – Amber Huffstetler
30 – Julie Skelton
30 – Barbara Carraway
31 – Joy Kimel

Not Meeting December (return in January)

- WMU
- Ladies Exercise Class
- Sunday's OT Bible Study

**Woman's Missionary Union and
the Missions Committee** thanks
everyone for the great support with
the shoeboxes for Operation
Christmas Child, Christmas
Prisoner Packets, "Fill the Truck"
Food Drive for South Strand
Helping Hand, and donations for
the Thanksgiving gift cards.

*December is the Season of
Prayer for International
Missions & the Lottie Moon
Christmas Offering*

Our Goal : \$4,000

"Together we transform lives"

Varina's ♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪



Merry Christmas . . .Varina, Choir, Praise Team ,and Audio-Visual

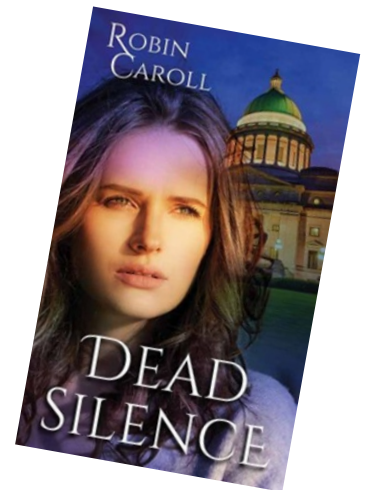
From the Media Messenger...

Dead Silence by Robin Carroll

Elise, a single mom of a deaf son, has a job as a court sign language interpreter. Reading lips comes natural for her. When leaving the courtroom she reads the lips of someone discussing a planned attempt on the life of the state senator, who happens to be her mother-in-law. Before she can act on this information she receives a call from her son's caregiver saying he has fallen at the playground and is being taken to the hospital by ambulance. In the chaos that ensues she forgets about what she overheard until she hears the morning news broadcasting the death of her mother-in-law. Elise reports the incident to the FBI, but finds that she has put herself and her son in danger. The book continues the story from there.

The book has a great plot. I really enjoyed it, but the author could have done a better job developing Elise's character. Elise works in the courts, yet she makes some questionable decisions. Her son was not severely injured and she totally forgets about a murder plot involving a family member. There are other incidents that she fails to report to the police. For someone involved in the legal process on a daily basis her judgement seems poor.

Even so, it is an interesting mystery with lots of twists and turns. There are many references to biblical passages and Elise is struggling with her faith. It is a clean Christian based novel.



Operation Christmas Child

We would like to extend a hearty thank you to everyone who helped us greet donors, count, pack, and deliver the Christmas shoeboxes during National Collection Week. 48 volunteers gave 340 hours of their time collecting and processing 3,542 shoeboxes!

Thanks again to all and God bless,
Paul and Roberta Collins



Youth Update – Pastor Jake

As we come into the Thanksgiving Holiday, we have a lot to be thankful for – many new friends who have joined us this year, the way God is growing the students spiritually, friendships that are deepening, students who have been baptized, and so much more! After Thanksgiving, we will come back for a few more Sunday nights of Bible study and fellowship, and then enjoy our annual Christmas party full of fun games, great food, and a reminder of the meaning for the season. Be in prayer for the students as they enter their final month-and-a-half of the semester, that they would finish well and study hard!



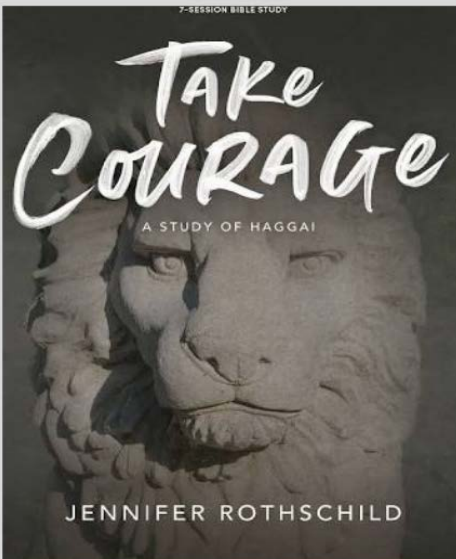
Youth at a Sunday Night of Bowling



Youth Sponsored Parents Night Out

Children's Ministry – Pastor Jake

We have a lot to be thankful for in our Children's Ministry as well – we have so many wonderful volunteers who sacrificially give of their time each week to ensure our children have a fun and safe environment to learn about their Savior. The children will be enjoying their annual Christmas party on the Wednesday night of Dec. 8th during TeamKID, please plan on bringing your child to this awesome evening of celebrating Jesus' birth!



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Take Courage by Jennifer Rothschild

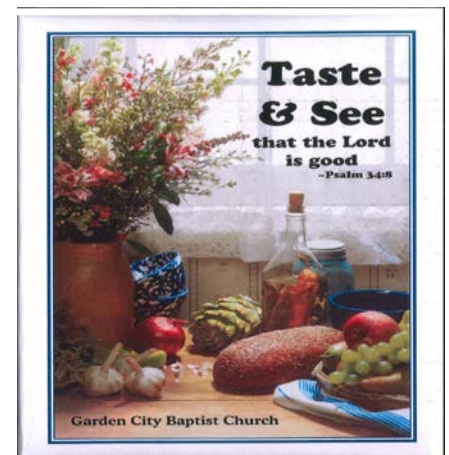
Join us for an in-depth look at Haggai, where the prophet reminded God's people to take courage and work, for God was with them.

Thursdays beginning January 13
10am or 6pm

Books: \$18

(scholarships available)

Look for sign-up sheets soon.



A Church Cookbook in a Christmas Gift Bag will make a very nice gift for a special person this Christmas.
Cost : \$20

Ask at the Connection Center in the front foyer or the church office.



It's that time of year!

Women's Ministry Annual Christmas Party

Friday, December 10 at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall

Bring a finger food to share and a wrapped gift (Christmas decoration or tree trimmer) costing no more than \$10.

All ladies are invited to come and hear a new Christmas story, enjoy some festive foods, and join in our fun-filled gift swap!

If you have any questions, contact Roberta Collins at 207-576-6222.



One more supper from the hands of Nancy & Woody and their team in 2021. Wednesday night, December 1 they are preparing baked ham, corn, sweet potato casserole, and dessert. Then after a short break they will be back in January. Always exciting to see what Nancy will come up with for the menu.

ALABAMA THEATER

Christmas Show

Thursday, December 16

Trip open to everyone!

Drive yourself or take the bus (space limited)

The bus will leave church at 5:30 pm. (to be at the theater by 6:15 pm in time to get your seat.)

Cost: \$52.95 per person

Money must be in the church office by 12/5.

Planned by Women's Ministry

FROM THE APPALACHIAN MISSION FIELD, OCT/NOV 2021 – Eric & Sissy Rutherford

“Therefore, I urge elders among you, as your fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and one who is also a fellow partaker of the glory that is to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not with greed but with eagerness; nor yet as domineering over those assigned to your care, but by proving to be examples to the flock.” (1Peter 5:1-3)



God rarely calls us to do what we can do in our own power; or what we're comfortable doing. This allows Him to work through and in us. When we are obedient, His amazingness (not sure that is a word) will be apparent and He will get the glory. His latest assignment for me and Sissy is to take what we have learned over the last eight years in ministry here and to help lead and mentor the next generation. We are excited He is allowing us to remain with Meridzo and serving in this area as full-time, faith-

based missionaries.

I apologize we have not had an update in *The Link* the last couple of months, but we have stayed super busy, and I have spent a lot of time going back and forth to Virginia to help look after my aging parents. Dad just turned 90 and Mom is 87. The level of care they need is ever increasing, but we are all grateful they are as healthy as they are. Please keep my family in your prayers.

We enjoyed the group that came up from GCBC, which included Pastor Charlie. We appreciate their hard work painting at Solomon's Porch. They also joined us for Celebrate Recovery and witnessed some of the participants getting baptized in the creek by our CR leader, 'Pastor T'.



I was back in the pulpit at Eolia Baptist Church filling in, and we set up a table with the Christian Motorcycle Association to wrap up the riding season as winter approaches. Today we'll be passing our turkey boxes provided by one of our mission teams. God continues to allow us opportunities to love others in His name and to share our faith. We appreciate your prayers and continued support!

-In His Love and Service, Eric and Sissy