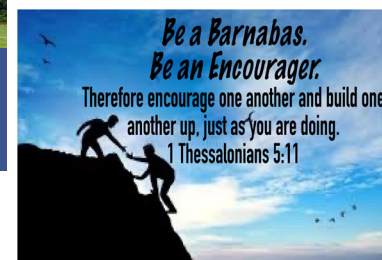




W.O.N.
White Oak Newsletter
White Oak Hill
Free Will Baptist Church



Issue #174
October 18, 2023
252-235-3868



I was walking into the Lowes Store and noticed something. The marketing department has set up Christmas displays (ornaments, wreaths, trees, etc.) Nothing unusual about taking an early advantage of the largest consumer spending holiday of the year. Many of our friends (maybe you) have already put up some Christmas decorations. What caught my attention were the displays across the aisle from the Christmas displays. There were goblins, ghosts, artificial spider webs, and a lot more Halloween decorations. Some were hideous and some were funny. But every part of the Halloween decorations was an effort to get families to invest in something the wicked holiday. According to the National Retail Federation, the average spending for Halloween is \$103 and the average amount for Christmas is \$998. However, experts predict Americans will spend an average of \$1,500 more this Christmas than last Christmas. (October 2023 article). All of the retailers are vying for a slice of that increased spending. The stores have to make it captivating. One last statistic (I promise) is that 43% of Americans will start shopping for Christmas in October and 57% will do it online.¹ The merchants don't care if you want to be a part of the wickedness on Halloween or a part of the birthday celebration of Jesus Christ. It's all about the money. For me, the aisle represents a way to walk. A place of choice. Let me encourage everyone to ignore the evil grab for attention in the Halloween section and let's focus on the beauty of Christmas. Our church will invest a lot of time, money, and resources to help divert young people away from the Halloween section this October 31st. A special thanks to everyone who are willing to volunteer and help make it easier for families to choose wisely. While it may seem insignificant, the candy donations given put a smile on the children's hearts and hopefully will open their hearts to the gospel.

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Ephesians 5:10-12 10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

12 For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.

Thank you
from the
bottom
of my heart.

These past ten days my heart carried more pain than I had ever experienced in my life. But our church made the load significantly easier to carry. Thank you for all the texts, calls, and love given to our family. Words cannot express the difference it made and the strength it provided. Also, our family deeply appreciated all the people who drove down for mom's celebration of life. The fingerprint of your love left an imprint in our hearts. Thank you!



Operation Christmas Child has kicked off at White Oak Hill. Don't miss the opportunity to be a blessing and share the gospel with kids around the world. All you must do to participate is:

- Take a shoebox from the display in the foyer.
- Fill the shoebox with some of the suggested items already provided for the appropriate age group. (I normally get mine at the Dollar Tree).
- Give just \$10 to help Samaritans Purse ship the shoeboxes around the world.
- The shoebox deadline is November 12th. This way the gifts can reach the children prior to Christmas.

Thousands of children around the world will come to Jesus Christ through this ministry. What a privilege to be a part of such a fruitful ministry.



Homecoming is less than a month away. We always love this time of year. One of our former pastors, Rev. Jim Marcum, will be preaching the Word of God this year for our special day. Joining him will be the Sounds of Praise ensemble. How exciting! Please take some flyers provided in the foyer and let's invite people to join us. We will be celebrating the 136th birthday of White Oak Hill FWB Church. Of course, we need lots of help to prepare for such an event. The church is going to order Parker's Barbeque and fried chicken. But we are asking members to prepare some home-cooked dishes and some desserts to help feed the crowd. Also, a sign-up sheet is located in the foyer if you don't mind helping us set up or clean up the food and decorations. Mrs. Sharon Dew is spearheading the preparations phase. Will someone volunteer to coordinate the breakdown phase after the meal? Just let me know if you will help in this area. Thank you in advance. Of course, the best way to partner with us for Homecoming is to pray. Let's pray for souls to be saved and for God to be glorified! Don't forget the date is November 5th.



Important Dates in November:

- The Sonshine Club will meet on Nov. 4th.
- The clocks get set back on Nov. 5th. (Hallelujah-an extra hours sleep)
- Teenagers will go to the Judgment House in Goldsboro on Nov. 11th.
- The Library Awards Ceremony will be Nov. 12th.
- The Deadline for Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes is Nov. 12th.
- A special Veteran's Day Service is planned for Nov. 12th.
- A special Thanksgiving Service will be held Nov. 21st.
- The Christmas Decorations Fellowship will be Nov. 26th at 5:30 p.m.

Of course, this isn't the total list of the ways to engage in the many other events happening at the church in November. The monthly calendar will give you the dates for W.O.W., Leadership team Mtg., Be the Change, and other ways to fellowship.



Our hearts go out to the Brantley and Bass families. Please pray for both families as they grieve over the loss of a loved one recently. Randy Bass's grandmother and Ms. Bertha Brantley's sister passed away. The service for Mrs. Clara Stocks (Ms. Brantley's sister) was Monday evening, and the Bass family will receive friends for a time of visitation this Saturday (the 21st) from 1-3 at the Kenly Funeral Home.

PRAYER REQUEST

Listed below are the prayer needs in our church:

- Judith Grant - Please pray for Ms. Judith! Please pray specifically for her lungs to function normally.
- Patricia Register - Please continue to pray for our dear

sister. She still needs the healing hand of God to perform a miracle.

- Tim Riggs - Please pray for our former pastor. His kidneys are not working, and he needs a kidney transplant.
- Carl O'Neal Family - Brother Carl passed away last week. His memorial service will be November 18th.
- Melisa Belcher - Melisa is home recovering from Bacterial Meningitis. She is taking antibiotics and is on an IV drip. Please pray for her recovery.
- Loretta Lamm - She is Sue Lamm's daughter. They found a few suspicious lumps in her intestinal tract and are doing a biopsy.
- Geraldine Tuck- She is doing much better. But please continue to pray for continued healing.
- Bailey Christian Childcare -Specifically everyone can get healthy.
- Glenda Carroll - Please pray for Glenda. According to the UNC surgeon, the tumor seems to be stable, and they are going to keep a watch on it over the next year. Praise the Lord, she has conquered the battle of shingles in her ear. She is still on medication but feeling much better.
- Teresa Medlin- Ms. Teresa is improving, but still having some medical issues that affect her quality of life.
- Randy Bass Family - Randy's grandmother passed away this past week.
- Earlene Pitts - Many of you know she has been struggling with Parkinson's disease for years. She is having a very difficult time. Please pray for Brother Gene and Ms. Earlene as they navigate this season of life.
- Joyce Batchelor - Ms. Joyce is in Wilson Medical Rehab. She is doing better, but the long road to recovery is extremely hard to travel. Also, the center has had a Covid outbreak. Pray Ms. Joyce and Brother Don stay healthy.
- Gail Pridgen- Ms. Gail has recently been diagnosed with cancer. Please pray for her and the doctors as they seek treatment and healing.
- Faye Bottom - This is Dottie Massey's cousin. Dottie asked us to pray for her.
- Harold Brantley - Brother Harold is home and doing better. Please continue to pray for him and Ms. Nancy.
- Peggy Bunn - Please pray for Ms. Peggy as she regains her strength.
- Israel- Let's pray for peace!

Love in Christ,

Rev. Hal W. Jones III

Pastor Hal
Galatians 2:20



October 11th

Wednesday Night 61

October 15th

Sunday School 77

Sunday Worship 136



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September 2023

Dear Friends,

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." I Corinthians 15:58 (KJV)

Greetings in the name of the Lord. I trust this note finds you and your family doing well and enjoying God's blessings.

September is the month we celebrate "Labor Day", in honor of the working men and women of our great country.

We here at Family Ministries are blessed to have such a dedicated staff of over 200 faithful and dedicated employees. Doing the challenging ministry that we do, working at Family Ministries is not just a job, but a calling, and we appreciate each committed member of our ministry team.

We also appreciate all of you, our faithful prayer warriors and financial supporters, who are fellow laborers with us in the mission field. Without your faithful love and encouragement, we would not be able to do what we do.

On the day of judgement, there is no doubt in my mind that each one of you will share in the reward for every life changed through the outreach of this ministry.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for all you do.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim McComas".

Jim McComas
Executive Director

Note: No goods or services were received in exchange for this contribution.