

Macedonian Call

December 2018

The late prolific painter of pastoral scenes, Thomas Kinkade, shared the following in a small book titled “Come Let Us Adore Him.” His words are as thoughtful and comforting as his paintings. Under the heading, “Painting Grace,” Kinkade wrote: “On the canvas of my mind, I see the picture clearly. A little child, clothes torn and tattered, stands lost in the heart of a deep, dark forest. As night descends, his fears arise, heart pounding as he turns to the right . . . to the left . . . and recognizes nothing. . . . He knows he is as good as dead, for it is only a matter of moments before the night creatures overtake his fragile form. But look! There is a light in the distance, and steadily it comes closer. Suddenly the boy can see the enormous shape of a man, holding the lantern above his head. ‘It is the King,’ the boy says to himself. ‘And He has come just for me.’ And with that, the giant but gentle King bends down and scoops up the boy in His big, burly arms. ‘Come with Me, My child,’ the King says to the boy. ‘I have prepared a wonderful place for you. It is a world full of light and beautiful things—a world that grows in the grace of My love. It is reserved just for you. Come, let Me show you the light.’ Imagine if you were that child—the joy of feeling His arms surround you with a safety and love like you’ve never known. Buried in His chest there is warmth, peace and hope. It is the message of true love, and it is the portrait of Christmas. It astounds me that God sees me as that little boy, lost without hope in a dark and dying world. Then out of the dismal night comes His light of hope—His own Son—who saves me from certain death and places me in the kingdom of His love.

I believe that is why so much of Christmas is defined by light. Light in the trees, on the houses, from the candle and the fireplace. The darker the night, the brighter they shine—like Christ’s love on that blessed birthday. In humility He came, exchanging royal robes for swaddling cloths and a throne for a meager manger. . . . If I had been given the opportunity to be a part of that first Christmas, I believe I’d have asked the child how I could be a part of His light—how I could capture His heart in myself and be a beacon of that hope for others. And as if He had known just what I’d ask, He would have handed me the key to my dream through His Word. ‘Receive Me.’ To celebrate Christmas with Jesus means simply to receive the ultimate gift, the gift of life. And as I open this precious gift, His light chases away the shadows of my soul.” Merry Christmas! ~ Pastor Randy & Denise

“Come Let Us Adore Him” by Thomas Kinkade, Media Arts Goup, Inc., San Jose, CA 1999, pp. 8-10

Lottie Moon Week of Prayer for International Missions December 2nd—9th



Give anytime during the month of
December

Special Offering for Lottie Moon,
Sunday, Dec. 16th



ACO Backpacks 2018
Please have your backpacks
turned in by Sunday, Dec. 2nd



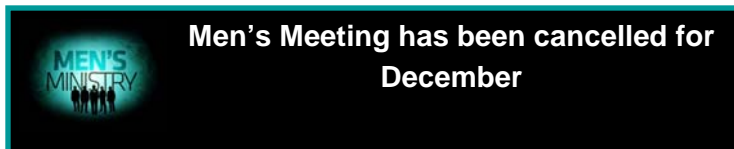
Every second Wednesday of each month is C.A.R.E. Night. C.A.R.E. is an acronym for

“Christians Actively Reaching Everyone.”

We have a meal each C.A.R.E. Night beginning at 6:00 pm and ministry opportunities follow at 6:30 pm.

This month C.A.R.E. Night is December 12th

Everyone is invited to join us for this night of fellowship and ministry. One of our Ministry activities this month will be Christmas Caroling.

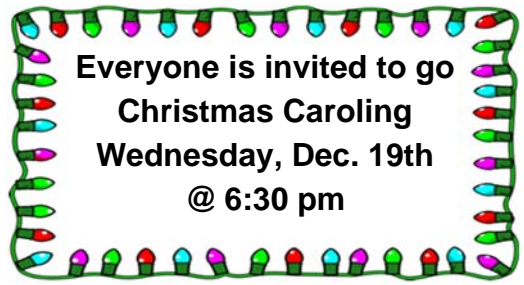


Journey Through the Story-line of
Scripture in Sunday School @ 9:45 am.
We have classes for everyone nursery
through senior adults



From the Youth Pastor

Hello Macedonia Church Family,
 This is a wonderful time of the year. A time for family, gifts, great food, and unfortunately busy-ness. We get busy during this time of year and honestly, we are just relieved when it's over most years and it really shouldn't be this way. Our focus should be on celebrating the birth of our Savior but so many times we focus on other things. We worry about getting enough gifts for those we love or sometimes getting a gift for someone we don't even like. We run to Black Friday to find a deal or call store after store to find the last of a popular toy. We worry about being at every event and pleasing everyone, but this isn't the way it's supposed to be. I know some of these things are a labor of love for someone we want to surprise and that's great, but Christmas needs to be a time of peace and reflection. What if one year everyone decided to only get gifts for people in need? What if we spent all the holiday food money on a huge meal for the needy? Then we could sit down and eat with them while we told them about the birth of the Savior of the world. Well, not everyone is going to do that but we as individual families can choose to change things. Only you can decide to do something this year to change your Christmas and the Christmas of others. If you do, I know it will be a blessing not only to them but to you also. ~ Pastor Jeremy



MBC CELEBRATION CHOIR PRESENTS

PEACE HAS COME

CHRISTMAS CANTATA
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16TH
11:00AM WORSHIP SERVICE



Join us for our
Candlelight Communion Service
Sunday, Dec. 23rd
Morning Worship Service





**Sunday Evenings @
6:00 pm**

**Weekly Youth Bible Study
Wed. @ 6:30 pm**



**Youth Christmas Party
Sunday, Dec. 9th
in the Fellowship Hall
5:30 –7:30 pm**



**Youth Trip
Dec.30th—Jan. 1st**



**AWANA Clubs meet Sunday
evenings at 6:00 pm in the
Worship Center
3 years through 6th grade**

Children's Church is worship designed especially for children 3 years - 6th grade. They will meet this month on December 2nd, 9th & 30th during our morning worship



My lovely wife Elaine told me this morning, (as she informed me that she needed this article ASAP), not to begin it by saying "I can't believe this year is almost gone." So I will try to honor her wishes. But, I can't believe this year is almost gone!! It seems like New Years Day 2018 was just 2 weeks ago and (mark it down please), March 10th, my birthday, was just last week! We always say these things as the year is ending, but as we get older they become more true. I realize that all ages of our church may read this article and I hope it is a blessing to all you youngsters below 60. But it is written with our seniors in mind. So to "us" please read Isaiah 46:3-4. Basically it says "I am God, I made you and I've carried you. When you get old and gray, even then, I will sustain you because you belong to Me. I will carry you, provide for you and rescue you." Recue us from what? Any and all things!! Health problems? Rescued! Loneliness? Rescued! Finance problems? Rescued! Fear? Rescued! He is your God and He will provide. By the way, I can't believe it's almost Christmas, Wow! Merry Christmas ~ Pastor Joe

**JOY Ministry Weekly Bible Study
Thursdays at 11:00 am**



Children's Lunch & Shopping Trip to Dollar Tree Sunday, Dec. 2nd following the morning Service



**Birthday Party for Jesus
Saturday, Dec. 15th
@ Noon
in the Fellowship Hall
Pre-K—6th Grade**



**JOY Ministry
Annual Christmas
Lunch
Saturday, Dec. 8th
11:30 am
In the Fellowship Hall**



**MBC Children's Ministry
Annual Christmas Program
Sunday, Dec. 16th @
6:30 pm**

"It All Happened in the Country"