



# Macedonian Call December 2019

One of my most favorite books is a small volume titled *On the Incarnation*, written by St. Athanasius, a fourth century church father. Following a discussion of man's fall into sin and the subsequent penalty (death) for that fall, St. Athanasius points to the only remedy for man's transgression—the Word of God Himself. He wrote: "Who, save the Word of God Himself [Jesus Christ], Who also in the beginning had made all things out of nothing? His part it was, and His alone, both to bring again the corruptible to incorruption and to maintain for the Father His consistency of character with all. For He alone, being Word of the Father and above all, was in consequence both able to recreate all, and worthy to suffer on behalf of all and to be an ambassador for all with the Father. For this purpose, then, the incorporeal and incorruptible and immaterial Word of God entered our world. In one sense, indeed, He was not far from it before, for no part of creation had ever been without Him Who, while ever abiding in union with the Father, yet fills all things that are. But now He entered the world in a new way, stooping to our level in His love and Self-revealing to us. He saw the reasonable race, the race of men that, like Himself, expressed the Father's Mind, wasting out of existence, and death reigning over all in corruption. He saw that corruption held us all the closer, because it was the penalty for the transgression; He saw, too, how unthinkable it would be for the law to be repealed before it was fulfilled. He saw how unseemly it was that the very things of which He Himself was the

Artificer should be disappearing. He saw how the surpassing wickedness of men was mounting up against them; He saw also their universal liability to death. All this He saw and, pitying our race, moved with compassion for our limitation, unable to endure that death should have the mastery, rather than that His creatures should perish and the work of His Father for us men come to naught, he took to Himself a body, a human body even as our own. . . . Thus, taking a body like our own, because all our bodies were liable to the corruption of death, He surrendered His body to death in place of all, and offered it to the Father. This He did out of sheer love for us . . . ." This is perhaps the most eloquent explanation of the Incarnation I've ever read. I encourage you to read and re-read the words of St. Athanasius this Christmas season, as you contemplate and celebrate the birth of "the Word of God Himself," our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. ~ Pastor Randy



**December is the month to give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Give anytime during the month. We will have a special time of giving on December 22nd during our morning worship service.**



CARE

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 11th.

This month we will be Christmas Caroling. Everyone is invited to join us for this night of fellowship and ministry.



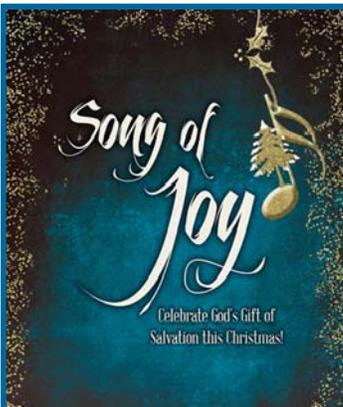
**You are invited to join us for Sunday School each week at 9:45 am as we journey through the story-line of Scripture!**

**MISSIONTRIP**

**Eastern NC Mission Trip  
December 11th—14th  
Hurricane Rebuild**



**Embrace Annual Christmas Breakfast  
Sunday, December 8th @ 9:00 am  
In the Fellowship Hall  
Special Speaker: Phyllis Foy**



**Sunday, December 15th**  
Our Celebration Choir Presents  
“Song of Joy” during the morning worship service



**Wednesday, December 18th  
6:30 pm**



Hello Macedonia Family,

This is such a wonderful time of year. A time for fun family gatherings, giving presents, celebrating family traditions, hoping for snow, and lots of shopping. There is just something so amazing about Christmas time. Maybe it’s the anticipation in our hearts as Christmas Day draws near. But if it’s the anticipation of just presents, family, or food then we really miss the point and we will be disappointed. All those things are wonderful, but nothing compares to the anticipation of the greatest gift of all, “God with us”. The thought of Emmanuel, God coming from heaven to be with us is just so incredible. Jesus came to be with us, to die for us on a cross so that we would never be separated from Him again. It is because Jesus came on Christmas Day so now we can have God with us every day through eternity. This Christmas don’t miss the opportunity to worship our Lord and celebrate the birth of our Savior, God with us. ~ Pastor Jeremy

**A Rockin’ Royal Christmas**

PRESENTED BY OUR CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

**Sunday, December 15th  
6:30 pm in the Worship Center**  
A time of fellowship will follow the program. Please bring pick ups, desserts, chips or drinks.



AWANA Clubs  
Sundays @ 6pm  
For Children 3 years – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
(Must be 3 by August 31<sup>st</sup>)



**Sunday Evenings @ 6:00 pm  
in the Youth Room**

**Weekly Youth Bible Study  
Wednesday @ 6:30 pm**



**Gatlinburg, Tennessee  
December 29th—31st  
7th—12th Grades**

**Children's Church** is worship designed especially for children 3 years - 6th grade. They will meet this month on December 1st, 8th & 22nd during our morning worship service.



Please grab the opportunity to go to YouTube and listen to Dave Ramsey's "A Walk One Winter's Night." It isn't but about 15 minutes long. You will be glad you did. It is about a man looking at and listening to a nativity scene. It gives the right perspective of that first Christmas, the birth of our Savior. Jesus' birth was like no other. An infant in a manger, a star high above with a special brightness. A young mother in total amazement with her equally awestruck husband standing beside her. Lowly shepherds lost in silent worship as magi would be soon. A nation unaware, unconcerned, preoccupied with the grip of Roman authority, taxation and demands.....Then, the cries of the baby were the first audible sounds of God's voice from a human throat....but no one was listening. Nobody was expecting the arrival of the God-Man. Certainly not in Bethlehem, in a stable, from a virgin's womb. Today we are listening. We need Him. He is our Savior, our only way to the very presence of Almighty God. Knowing, whether young or old, that the God of all eternity loved you so much, that He gave His Son on that first Christmas so that you and I could have eternal life is what Christmas is all about. If you know Him as your Savior, be thankful. And if you don't know Him please take time to ask Him into your heart. Then you will truly know what Christmas is really all about. Merry Christmas ~ Pastor Joe



**JOY Ministry Annual  
Christmas Lunch  
Saturday, December 14th  
11:30 am in the  
Fellowship Hall**