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MAULDIN FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH 150 S MAIN STREET MAULDIN, SC 29662 **The Herald** Volume 2022 Issue 12 December 2022

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Guest Soloist: Kendra Robinson



Website: www.mauldinfirstbaptist.org Phone: 864-288-7835 Email: mauldinworship@gmail.com

December 11 • 10:30 AM

From your Discipleship Pastor:

Thinking of Christmas, I'm still thinking of Thanksgiving Past and the many things I have for which to be thankful. Primarily, those of you who have stepped up to the plate and volunteered to help out until a ministry assistant can be found to replace Ron Haught. Jane Verdin has volunteered to do the bulk of my administrative work, she and Dudley have been a great help already in the fact that she has been taking care of ordering our literature. You will probably be hearing from her on different levels as she now keeps my schedules on track and keeping records for me. Margaret Thompson has volunteered to keep the schedule for guest services, and Betty and Mark Thompson are keeping the coffee bar operating for us. Your Discipleship Team is helping with study reviews and scheduling for Sunday nights. Thanks for all you do.

Beginning this month (December) we will start a wonderful study of the Gospel of John during our Sunday School hours. I know you will enjoy and benefit from the study of this great book of our Bible. Since Christmas is on a Sunday this year, we will have only one service on Christmas Day which will be our family worship service which will be held in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 am. There will be no in-person Sunday School classes held, however, the online class will still be available.

Sunday night Bible Studies Christmas break will be from 12/18/2022 – 1/8/2023. We will have sign up sheets for the classes beginning on the 8th. So far, the Ladies group will continue meeting, the title of their study is yet to be determined. John Jones will start teaching "Weird Stuff in the New Testament" which will cover such topics as the devil, Ananias and Sapphira, Lake of fire and other "stuff" and a possible offer for Experiencing God. Keep watching for details as they become confirmed.



Thank you for the privilege of serving you. I pray that you will have the Merriest/Holiest of Christmases.

Have a great day in The Lord, Bill

An Unlikely Christmas

December Sermon Series



Senior Adults, Join Us!



Tuesday, December 6 • 11:30 AM In the Church Sanctuary

Potluck Lunch to Follow in the Fellowship Hall Bring a Side/Dessert to Share • The Church Will Provide the Meat

To Sign Up: Senior Adult Board or Contact Bill Voorhes 864-351-0848 or bvoorhes@fbcmauldin.org

From your Senior Adult Pastor:

Merry Christmas! December is here and we will start it off with SONSHINE FELLOWSHIP December 6, 2022. Please note the change in time, we will start at 11:30am in the sanctuary where the preschool children from MCA will present their Christmas program. The families of the children will be in attendance as well, but there will be 4 rows reserved for us. Following the program, we will adjourn to the fellowship hall and partake of a delicious potluck luncheon. You will only need to bring side dishes and dessert as the church will provide the meat. Sign up is strongly requested in advance by noon on December 4, 2022, so JJ can be given a count. As you know, food prices have risen guite a bit this year and JJ tries to keep the expenses down as best as possible, making sign up necessary to eliminate her cooking for more than needed and then food is wasted. Sign up sheets are on the Senior Adult bulletin board in the hall behind the sanctuary. We will not have Sonshine Fellowship in January 2023.

There are several activities going on in December we are working on and don't yet have all the details, but these are included in the offering:

Tentatively, Saturday, December 10, 2022, 3:00pm we will see the Mill Town Players perform "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" at Simpsonville's Art Center on Academy Street. The tickets will be \$7.00 per person. If enough show interest by the first of the month, see sign up sheet on Senior Adult Board, I'll get some tickets and arrange for a bus. Mauldin Cultural Center is performing "The Christmas Carol " the first couple of weeks in December. I share this for information only since it is practically in our back yard. The performances they put on are Broadway quality and I strongly recommend it. Tickets there are \$15.00 per person. Tickets may be purchased online from Mauldin Cultural Center. Also in the works is the possibility of attending Charles Billingsley Concert December 21, 2022 at Berea Baptist Church. There will be a sign up sheet for that. Admission is free, first come first serve. The doors open at 6:00 pm, the buses will leave by 5:00 pm.

One more thing:

Sunday, December 18, 2022, I will be hosting a drop in, 121 Saxon Falls Ct., Mauldin, primarily for Senior Adults, but the family is more than welcome.

Have a great day in The Lord, Bill



Friday, December 23 CLOSED in Observance of Christmas Holiday mfb

- Monday, December 26 CLOSED in Observance of Christmas Holiday
- Friday, December 30 8:30-5:00

Monday, January 2, 2023 CLOSED in Observance of New Year's Day

LIVE NATIVITY | FESTIVE FOOD | GAMES | CRAFTS | BINGO | FIREPITS

CHRISTMAS DROP IN

DECEMBER 10, 4:00-6:00 PM JOIN US FOR A CAROL SING AT 6 PM



From your Worship Pastor:

What to do when you feel like "They messed up my hymn!"

I'm sure you've felt like that at one time or another (maybe even last month?!) - either the words were changed, verses were added, or the arrangement adds musical gaps that you weren't anticipating. It can be frustrating! How should you respond? Let me suggest 3:

1. Put your focus on God and what these words and truths are celebrating – no matter what. We do this when we visit other churches, and we do this when we go on mission trips. Sometimes "different" can bring attention to an underseen side of God's attributes and acts – much like a diamond has many angles to perceive its beauty. Believe me when I say that this worship pastor wants your engagement with God and puts it at the highest priority! When there are adjustments to tradition, there is a conscious effort to minimize disruption or explain ahead of time what's about to happen.

2. Reflect that there was a time when your favorite hymn was "new" as well. We must be open to expressing God's value in different ways (new songs and new arrangements of older songs) - otherwise our children and grandchildren may never fully understand Jesus' importance. History shows us that every generation that has followed intentionally after Jesus has also put their creativity to use in worship and the arts (example: the revivals that birthed the SBC). This doesn't mean a steady diet of any one generation, but it does mean a steady diet of songs that pull from several generations. Remember, every time the church sings the carol, "Silent Night," with a piano, we are demonstrating a departure from tradition with its original composition on acoustic guitar.

3. Consider what happens with the teaching that you receive each week from Pastor Wade. He takes eternal truths that never change and arranges them in a 4 to 8-part sermon segments that highlight a specific angle from the Scriptures. No series is exactly alike, and no sermon is exactly the same. Yet it's not that unfamiliar. Wade uses stories we understand in a style that's easy to understand, with a Scriptural translation that sounds like modern English. While this isn't a perfect analogy in all respects with corporate worship, it does highlight that we can get used to a different angle or approach to unchanging truth. In fact, we expect it from Wade's sermons!

So let us sing! No matter if the instrumentation is different, or a verse is added, or the arrangement is slightly different. Why? Because who we sing about - rises above every preference in how we worship! Howie