



The VOICE of the People's Church

Stallings Memorial Baptist Church

*"Encounter God, Equip Believers,
Engage the World, Encourage One Another"*



Volume 53

December 19, 2023

Number 23

Dear Church Family,

As we stand on the brink of a new year (hard to believe!), It's a fitting time for us to reflect on the state of our lives and see what adjustments need to be made. There's a reason January is the most critical month of the year for gyms and diet programs: It seems like a fresh chance to start again and improve yourself. It seems like a natural time for beginning something, which is why lots of people make New Year's resolutions. The Christian life offers many opportunities for fresh starts, changing what we've been doing, or beginning to live differently. In this season of new beginnings, let us explore the importance of spiritual disciplines and how they can guide us on the path of faith.

1. Prayer: Prayer is our direct line of communication with the Creator. In the hustle and bustle of our daily lives, it is easy to lose sight of the transformative power of prayer. Let us make a commitment to carve out moments each day to commune with God in prayer. Through this intentional practice, we open our hearts, seek guidance, and foster a deeper connection with Jesus.

2. Scripture Meditation: The Bible is not merely a book of stories or pithy statements but a living, breathing source of God's revelation to humanity. As we meditate on Scripture and absorb its teachings, I believe we will find comfort in its promises, a deeper awareness of God's goodness, and practical insights for our daily lives. Let us immerse ourselves in the Word in the coming year, allowing it to shape our thoughts, actions, and attitudes.

3. Community and Fellowship: Spiritual disciplines are not meant to be solitary endeavors. The fellowship of believers is a vital part of our faith journey. Engaging in communal prayer, worship, and study provides accountability, encouragement, and a sense of belonging. Let us actively participate in the life of our church community, recognizing that we are stronger together.

4. Acts of Service: Serving others is a tangible expression of our faith. In the new year, let us actively seek opportunities to serve those in need within our church family and the broader community. Through acts of kindness, we embody the love and compassion of Christ, fulfilling our calling as His disciples.

As we embark on this journey into 2024, may we embrace the spiritual disciplines that can transform our hearts, renew our minds, and draw us closer to the One who sustains us. Let us cultivate a rhythm of spiritual practices that will enrich our individual lives and contribute to the spiritual vitality of our entire church family.

What better way to begin this new year than to gather for worship, to be changed by the presence and beauty of the Lord, and to look ahead in wonder to what the Lord will do in and through us. Let us make the most of our time in 2024 by trusting Him and serving our neighbors with joy.

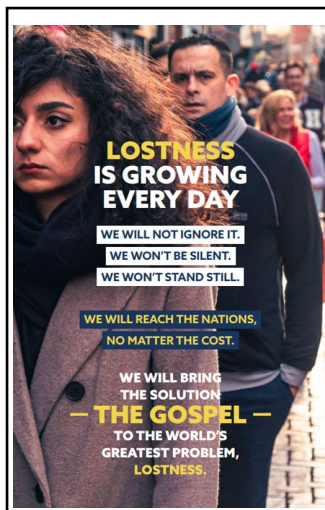
In His service and love,

Pastor Larry



Walk To The Manger
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

INGATHERING FOR LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING
GOAL: \$6000



Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® 2023

WEEK OF PRAYER

for international missions

December 3-10, 2023

Southern Baptists observe a Week of Prayer for International Missions each year before the annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® emphasis. Will you join your heart with others to pray for missionaries around the world who are faithfully sharing the gospel?

TOGETHER

We pray for missions around the world

Thank You **Stallings Church Family,**

"Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God."
Philippians 1:3

It has been almost a year since we moved to Iowa, and you all are on our hearts and in our minds so often. While we are so grateful for what the Lord is doing in our lives, we miss you!

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you for the wonderful luncheon you held for our family last December and the devotional and Bible. You all were so kind to honor us and send us off so sweetly before our move.

More importantly, we thank you for your support, encouragement, and love for many many years. I am the Christian woman I am today because of the teaching and commitment to loving Jesus that you embody.

Brooks, Parker, and Ruby know Jesus because of you. Stallings has such a heart for children and missions and I'm proud to carry the same passions in my heart.

Keep up the amazing work!

All my love, Cassie Derflinger

FEED THE NEED

FOOD MINISTRY REPORT

Below is the report of how many families Stallings provided food and other items during September, October and November. There has been an increase of food insecurity that has continued into December. Your support of the Food Ministry thru volunteering, prayers and gifts is needed and welcome.

| SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER | NOVEMBER |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Total number of Households - 86 | Total number of Households - 135 | Total number of Households - 137 |
| Children - 96 | Children - 169 | Children - 183 |
| Adults - 118 | Adults - 194 | Adults - 215 |
| Seniors 65+ - 62 | Seniors 65+ - 99 | Seniors 65+ - 108 |
| Total number - 276 | Total number - 462 | Total number - 506 |



CANNED GOODS/
FROZEN FOOD



Love Your Neighbor Projects

Special Events is looking for service projects and activities for Love Your Neighbor month in February. We have the opportunity to have volunteers help us with some items. If you have a project in mind, please contact Claire Karriker, Frieda Miller, Stephanie Doblovosky or Angela Gilbreath.

Special Events Thank You

The Special Events Committee would like to say thank you for supporting our special events in 2023. Everyone used their talents and time to help grow God's Kingdom. Special thanks to Michael Lippard and Jayne Petrea for their work on the church float, Zebbie and the Kitchen Committee on the Veterans Meal, and all the volunteers at Trunk or Treat.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

DECEMBER 24, 5:30PM
SERVING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
REV. LARRY GILBREATH




Bill Anderson, Michelle Bates, Jim Bollinger, Ashleigh Bredigkeit, Polly Carlton, Laura Dudek, Mike Hartness, Loretta Hayworth, Billie MacClary, Annaig & Doug Masingo, Mike Stone, Colby Temes, Larry Trexler; Spiritual Lost, State and National leaders, military, first responders, rescue workers, school students & teachers; Nursing Home Members: Brookdale: Ernest Baucom; Liberty Commons: Lucille Horton, Emma Lou McCall; Terra Bella: Libby Avant, George Peeler; Homebound: Bettie Bradley, Jennell Deziel, Bennie Garvin, Doris Hall, Nancy McSwain, Charlotte Nall, Janette Seagroves,

Merry Christmas



*“Glory
to God
in the highest,
and on earth
peace among
those with whom
he is pleased!”*

Luke 2:14, ESV

Financial Report as of 12/17/23

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Total Budget Offerings | \$227,138.75 |
| Investment Income/Other offerings/Receipts | \$15,006.80 |
| Total Receipts | \$242,145.55 |
| Total Expenses | \$233,955.97 |
| Excess Income/Expense | \$8,189.58 |
| Monthly Budget Needs | \$23,688.34 |

Meetings/Activities

Tuesday, December 19
6:30pm Men's Discipleship Study

Wednesday, December 20
6:30pm Bible Study, Rhyne bld.

Thursday, December 21
2:30 - 3:15pm Food Distribution

Sunday, December 24 Christmas Eve
9:15am Sunday School
10:30am Worship Service
5:30pm Candlelight Service

Monday, December 25 Christmas Day
Church Office Closed

Tuesday, December 26
Church Office Closed

Wednesday, December 27
6:30pm Bible Study, Rhyne bld.

Sunday, December 31
9:15am Sunday School
10:30am Worship Service
4:00pm Handbells
4:50pm Youth Choir
5:15pm Kids for Christ
5:15pm Youth for Christ
5:15pm Adult Bible Study

Monday, January 1
Church Office Closed

Tuesday, January 2
6:30pm Men's Discipleship Study

Wednesday, January 3
6:30pm Bible Study, Rhyne bld.

| <i>Offerings/Receipts</i> | <u>12/3</u> | <u>12/10</u> | <u>12/17</u> |
|---------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| Budget offerings | \$5,141.00 | \$3,170.00 | \$5,141.25 |
| Food distribution Offer. | 35.00 | 35.00 | 135.00 |
| Food for Thought | 25.00 | | |
| Breakfast/lunch | 161.00 | 199.00 | |
| Pregnancy Ctr rent | | 750.00 | |
| Prop & Grounds | 50.00 | | |
| Food drive Turkeys | | 7.00 | |
| Poinsettias | 104.00 | 70.00 | |
| Lottie Moon | 120.00 | 558.00 | 261.00 |

| Date | Babies, 1-2yr olds | GospelKids 3yrs-2nd grade | Security | Deacon of the Week |
|-------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 12/24 | Jenny Beattie Linda McDougald | Hannah Clark Maggie Blackford | Steven Wagoner | James Beattie |
| 12/31 | Lynn Masingo Frieda Miller | Marsha Evans Eden Gilbreath | Chuck Petrea | Jim LaFevers |



**Newsletter
DEADLINE**
Deadline for submitting
articles/notices for the
Jan. 4th newsletter is
Thursday, Dec. 28th.



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ABC's For Becoming A Christian

A- Admit to God you are a sinner. Repent and turn away from your sin. (Romans 3:23 & 6:23; I John 1:19; Acts 3:19)
B-Believe that Jesus is God's Son and that God sent Jesus to save people from their sin. (Romans 5:8; Acts 4:12; Acts 16:31; John 3:16; I Peter 3:18; John 14:16)
C-Commit your life to Jesus. Trust Him to be your Savior and Lord. (Romans 10:13; Matthew 16:24; Luke 9:23)