

CATAWBA FOCUS

Monthly Newsletter of Catawba Valley Baptist Church



Isaiah 9:2

*The people who walked in
darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwell in a land of
deep darkness,
on them has light shone.*
Isaiah 9:2 (ESV)



THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

Remebering why we celebrate

"Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?!"

This familiar line is shouted in exasperation by the dear cartoon character Charlie Brown, as his best efforts to understand the meaning of Christmas seem to have failed.

It appears as though many people in the world today are shouting the same questions: *What's the point of Christmas anyways? Where is the 'comfort and joy?' Why is there no peace on earth?*

Brothers and sisters, not only do we have the answers to these questions of heartache, but we have been charged by Jesus himself to be a light to the world (Matt. 5:16), and to give a reason for the hope that we have inside of us (1 Peter 3:15)- the reason for our hope (and for Christmas) is Jesus!

During this treasured time of celebrating His birth, let us be unashamed in proclaiming this joyful truth to the lost and broken around us. Let's be like Linus, as he lovingly spoke to Charlie Brown, and declare that Jesus Christ came to redeem us, a King humiliated and broken, so that we might be made whole.

CHRISTMAS HAPPENINGS

Christmas Cantata

The choir will be presenting this year's Christmas Cantata, *Noel: Christ is Born!* during the morning worship service on December 13th at 10:30am. The choir has been working hard to prepare for this special concert since early September, so come prepared to experience a joyful opening to the Christmas season!

Candlelight Service

One of our most treasured traditions is the Candlelight Service we hold each year. This year's service will take place on Wednesday, December 16th at 6:30pm.

Homebound Christmas Caroling

Our homebound individuals are long-time members and dear friends of CVBC who are unable to be out of their homes or attend services due to health needs and other considerations. This year, to remind them how much they are loved, we are going Christmas caroling to each of their homes. Health and safety precautions will be maintained, so join us as we share songs of the Christmas season and bring joy and fellowship to these dear friends.

The Neighbor Beside You

During the holiday season, we're encouraging every family to reach out to two neighboring families in order to make a meaningful connection for the gospel. This can be accomplished by doing something as simple as taking a small gift of encouragement to your neighbors. Dylan Scaglione is serving as the point contact for this initiative. He can be reached at (540) 988-2924 if you have any questions.

Important Dates

December 13th

CHRISTMAS CANTATA | 10:30AM

December 16th

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE | 6:30PM

December 20th

HOMEBOUND CHRISTMAS CAROLING | 4:00PM

December 23rd

NO MIDWEEK SERVICES

December 30th

NO MIDWEEK SERVICES



LOOKING AHEAD: VISION SUNDAY

Seeking what God has in store for the days to come

January 10th at 10:30am

In spite of a year of unique challenges, modified schedules, and endless unknowns – we have witnessed the LORD do incredible things in the life of our congregation! From buying new property, to adding a number of new families to our congregation, tremendous outreach in our media ministry, continued outreach to our community through unusual means, and ultimately seeing God deepen people in their relationship with Him, we're grateful for God's faithfulness in these days! The circumstances of this year have challenged many people in their understanding of who God is. We pray that you would continue to lean into the LORD in these challenging times and based on your knowledge of Him that would drive you follow and trust Him all the more!

While many people are excited for 2021 for a litany of reasons, we're excited because we know that God will continue to build HIS church. Jesus promises that even the gates of hell are unable to prevail against HIS church. It is because of this, we continue to boldly advance His mission *"steadfast and immovable. Always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain"* (1 Cor. 15:58).

Please make special preparations to join us for Vision Sunday, January 10th, to learn about exciting ways and new opportunities we're endeavoring to pursue in 2021 as we abound in the work of the Lord!



CVBC STUDENTS WINTER RETREAT



January 1-3 | Pigeon Forge, TN

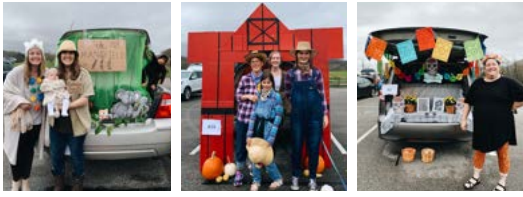
Winter Recharge is coming up! This annual retreat is open to all 7th-12th graders. The cost for our CVBC Students is \$65. The price for the retreat includes lodging, food (except travel snacks and one transit meal), one external activity, all event planned activities, and more. As always, funding should never be a reason for a student to miss out on this retreat, so scholarships are available for students in need.

The Winter Recharge has become one of the premiere annual events for CVBC Students. It's both spiritually refreshing and challenging, while being one of the most fun trips of the year. We partner with Barnhardt Baptist in Goodview, VA in this endeavor.

During the weekend every leader and student is challenged through four group sessions, two personal devotional times, and two group devotional times. There are also games and activity times that give countless opportunities for students to build relationships with one another. Last year, we had 23 of our students go and 7 leaders. It was an incredible time for our group. Your student does not want to miss this amazing event, so contact Pastor Stephen at (540) 798-3225 as soon as possible to register or if you have any questions!



TRUNK-OR-TREAT HIGHLIGHTS



A stiff rivalry occurred between Dunkin' Donuts and Starbucks themed trunks...



Johnny and Marcy Cross (above) won this year's trunk decorating contest with an elaborate rendition of Little Red Riding Hood.



And the live chickens in this trunk (right) were a massive crowd-pleaser!

On Wednesday, October 28th, we held our annual Trunk-or-Treat at the Homeplace Restaurant. In the past, Trunk-or-Treat has been one of our largest community outreach events, but with health and safety regulations in place due to COVID-19, we knew we had to be creative to host this event. So this year, we designed a drive-thru style Trunk-or-Treat, and over 180 vehicles (at least 600 attendees!) drove through our event! We are still praising God for the awesome outreach to our community, and the support they showed us by coming out. Trunk-or-Treat 2020 held an endless supply of candy and fun for the community. But most importantly, each vehicle that drove through left with a note of appreciation and a short gospel presentation! We also sent out 30 follow-up letters to new families who had registered for the event that night. Along with our many guests, we had many volunteers involved in this endeavor, from those who directed traffic, worked at our welcome station, to the many who dressed up and decorated their trunks. Without you, this awesome night wouldn't have been possible!

PROPERTY UPDATES GIVING TOWARD THE GOAL

We are continually celebrating God's provision through the faithful giving of His people, and special gifts toward the property continue to come in! A special "building fund" has been established for the purchase of the property and future development.

As we near the end of the year, would you consider making a special donation toward the property during this season of giving? All contributions are tax-deductible. Year-end giving statements are provided to CVBC membership or upon request by emailing our church office at admin@catawbavalleybc.org. If you choose to give toward the property, your contributions must be received or postmarked by December 31 each year to be posted for that year's contribution statements.

We look forward to what God will do in the new year to come- thank you for giving!

KNOW GOD DEEPLY FOLLOW GOD BOLDLY

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WE GLORIFY GOD BY OBEYING HIS MISSION AND MAKING HIM KNOWN HERE AND AROUND THE WORLD