



MACEDONIA
— Est. 1839 —
Baptist Church

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

THE LORD'S DAY

Worship @ 8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School @ 9:45 a.m.

KidZone Worship @ 10:45 a.m.

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

Meal from 5:30 - 6:15 p.m.

**Adult Small Groups
from 6:30 - 8 p.m.**

**Choir Rehearsal
from 6:30 - 8 p.m.**

**The Tribe Student Ministries
6:30 - 8 p.m.**

**Gospel Project Preschoolers
& Kids from 6:30 - 8 p.m.**

**1675 Hwy 76 East, P.O. Box 474
Hiawassee, GA 30546 706.896.2424**

mbc@brmemc.net

visit our webpage at

www.mbchiawassee.org

Church Office Hours : Mon.- Thurs.

9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



Dillon Pirkle	Feb 1
Sherman Wood	Feb 2
Clay Rogers	Feb 3
Wendell Dills	Feb 5
Vanessa Floyd	Feb 5
Jana Gabrielse	Feb 8
Cheri Mealer	Feb 10
Herman Wood	Feb 11
Louise DuBose	Feb 13
Amy Kirby	Feb 13
Teagan Thomas	Feb 15
J.T. Wilson	Feb 15
Robert Hughart	Feb 17
Lorie Bradshaw	Feb 18
Chet Kendall	Feb 23
Valerie Chastain	Feb 24
Bryan Allen	Feb 26
Doug Kendall	Feb 27
Vivian Osborn	Feb 27
Rex Long	Feb 28
Debbie Burnette	Feb 29

*"All the days ordained for me
were written in Your book before
one of them came to be."
(Psalm 139:16b, NIV)*

DORCAS SEWING FOR MISSIONS would like to thank everyone who donated supplies or worked on the dolls.

Because of your willing hands and hearts there are 147 Jesus Loves You dolls going to Uganda.



MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH
LOVING GOD...LOVING OTHERS...SERVING ALL

Senior Pastor - Dr. Wade Lott

Associate/Youth Pastor - Rev. Bradley Thomas

Music Minister - Dr. Ken Gabrielse

Director of Children's Ministries - Mrs. Wendy Gleaton

THE MACEDONIA CHRONICLE - FEBRUARY 2023

God is good; all the time! All the time; God is good! I like to celebrate when I see God at work in the life of His children and so, that is what I want to do with this month's newsletter article. January was an incredible month of growth in the life of Macedonia Baptist Church. We celebrated God's provision of \$63,000.00 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, through the faithful giving of our membership. We also saw a scheduling change on Wednesday nights, as we moved toward our First Priority discipleship ministry. We began offering a meal each Wednesday night, followed by five different small group offerings for adults, while continuing our small groups for kids and students. In addition, as a part of the increased time allotment on Wednesday nights, we have been able to add Children's Music to our Gospel Project Kidz programming. All of these changes have resulted in incredible growth on Wednesday nights with our average attendance more than doubling what we were seeing prior to the new programming. In fact, on our last Wednesday night prior to me writing this article, we had 126 people on campus. Praise the Lord!

The growth that we are seeing is not limited to Wednesday nights. I recently compared our 2022 calendar year attendance to the calendar year attendance of 2021 and, overall, we saw a 17%

increase in average attendance. Most church growth experts will tell you that if your church can see an 8-10% growth each year, then you are exceeding the national average. The good news continues in that when I compared our attendance in January of 2023 to January of 2022, we have averaged 25% more this January over last January. Because of the fact that we have two morning worship services, that growth is not apparent to many because they only see the ones in the service that they attend. I am sharing this, here, because I want you to join me and celebrate all that God is doing at Macedonia.

I could go on and tell you about the record giving that is happening, the new guests that we are seeing on a weekly basis, or even the great things that people around town are saying about Macedonia. However, I want to close this article by challenging us to remember that this is God at work. It is very easy to allow this type of information to cause us to boast in what we are doing. The reality is that every good thing that is happening here is a direct result of what *He* is doing in *His* church. Church family, I love you and I am grateful for the honor and privilege of serving as your Senior Pastor. Let's be faithful to Love God, Love Others, and Serve All as we seek to reach our community for Jesus.

**In HIS Service,
Pastor Wade**

Wow!!!! What a tremendous start to the new year! Our children's ministry is literally busting out of our space on Wednesday nights; praise the Lord! A few weeks ago, we introduced children's music into our time on Wednesdays. We are so fortunate to have Elisebeth Terry, one of our college students majoring in music at Truett McConnell, lead this new ministry for our kids. Elisebeth is a great asset to our children's team; she brings so much enthusiasm and fun on Wednesday nights. The kids are currently working on several songs, one of which they will sing in "Big Church" in the Spring. This is an exciting time for our children to learn how to worship through song and praise. Although, I recognize that some kids may not be as comfortable with music as others, we want to encourage them to stick with it. As they continue to take part in this ministry, they will gain more confidence in their abilities to sing.

After music, we're continuing with Gospel Project Kids. To more effectively accommodate the number of kids on Wednesdays, 1st and 2nd grade will now be a class, and 3rd through 5th will be together. Pre-K and Kindergarten remain in the same class. During our Gospel Project Kids lessons, the children are taught the Bible in a way that they can easily understand it. Also, the objective of our teachers is to plant the gospel seeds in our children's hearts every week. Kids need this reminder during the week as they are faced with worldly issues daily at school, on social media, home, athletic events, etc. They need the reassurance that they are loved by God no matter what the situation. Here at Macedonia, we want to show our kids the love and support they need each day.

Recently, I read an article posted by Rural American Ministerial Association that stated, "Bring them to church. Saturate their lives with the Word of God. Even if they lay on the floor. Even if they need 437 goldfish and a sucker to

be quiet. Even if you stand in the back swaying back and forth holding them. Even when it's hard. Even when your row looks like a small hurricane just came through. Bring them to church. Let them see you worship. Let them see you pray. Let them see you running toward the Savior ... because if they don't see and learn these things from you, who are they going to learn them from?

The world will teach them it's not a priority. The world will teach them it's okay to lay out, not to pick up their Bibles. The world will direct them so far off course, confuse them, and misinform them that just being 'good' is enough. The world won't teach them about Jesus. That's our job. Bring them to church.

Matthew 18:5-6 And anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf is welcoming me. But if you cause one of these little ones who trusts in me to fall into sin, it would be better for you to have a large millstone tied around your neck and be drowned in the depths of the sea.

Teaching kids is a huge responsibility. We must take it seriously and do it well. Prepare well, speak truth, and remember they are God's kids first."

Wow, if this doesn't speak to us parents, then what on earth does! I know it's hard with little ones; I've been there! I worked a full time job in downtown Atlanta while my kids were little, and by the grace of God, I still got them to church on Wednesday nights. It was hard, I was exhausted, but I also knew that is what God expected of me as a parent. I'm not a perfect mother by any means, but I do know that we only have a short amount of time to reach our kids; let's be wise and follow God's direction for their lives. They will prosper, and they will fail, but they will know that they can turn to God. Sometimes I must remind myself that God loves my kids more than I do, and boy does that put things in perspective!

God is love. 1 John 4:8
Love in Christ,
Wendy



February Calendar

Feb 7 @ 10 AM LADIES' BIBLE COFFEE BEGINS
Feb 13 @ 11 AM GLOW LUNCHEON
Feb 14 @ 12:30-2 PM THE NECESSARY CLOSET

"SOW & SEWS"

meet 1st and 3rd Mondays @ 10 AM.
Contact Marti Harper @ 706-896-0064 for details.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEAL MENU:

Feb 1 - Chicken & Rice, green beans
Feb 8 - Taco Soup with salad
Feb 15 - Brisket with roasted veggies, salad, rolls
Feb 22 - Tacos and fixings

MEAL IS SERVED FROM
5:30 - 6:15 PM.

Sign up on our website (under the meal tab) or call the church office @ 706-896-2424 by NOON on Monday of each week. The cost is \$5.00 for adults. Youth and children are free.



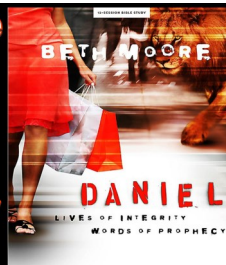
*Roses are Red, Candy is Sweet,
You are invited for a Valentine Treat!*

Join us for our GLOW Luncheon for Widows on Monday, February 13th @ 11:00 a.m.

GLOW - God Lights Our Way
Ministry to Widows



Emma Ruth Bible Coffee Begins Tuesday, February 7th at 10 AM
DANIEL, Lives of Integrity, Words of Prophecy
Sign-up in the foyer.



Dear Faith Family,

In the book, 9 Common Lies Christians Believe, Shane Pruitt shares some common misconceptions Christians believe to be true. We must remember just because something is said and said often does not make it the truth. One that stood out to me was "listen to your heart" and while this sounds like good advice, it's not. In the secular world this cliché is given as advice with good intentions; it's not great advice. You might be thinking "what's the big deal?" We should let the Lord guide us in the decisions we make. Our hearts and our feelings change on a whim. To be driven by our own feelings, desires, and emotions can be very reckless. Think about what was important 10, 15, or even 20 years ago. How important are those things now? Some are, but I would say it's fair to say most aren't. Jeremiah 17:9 teaches that, The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? Jesus teaches us in Mark 7:21-23 "that within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man." To say "follow your heart" is to say we know better than the Lord. We should instead encourage those who need encouragement by saying, "Don't follow your heart. Follow Jesus."

How are you all enjoying our new format Wednesday nights? Wow what a response we are having with weekly meals and small groups! We have seen a bump in the youth group not only on Wednesday, but on Sunday for Sunday school as well. Recently we had some fun and as we had a night of "Biblical Theater", here is what we did. We divided the youth in teams of 4 or 5 and gave them half an hour to develop their script. The assignment was to find a story in the Bible and retell it by acting it out! We saw the youth become very creative in the process. The stories chosen included: Baby Moses, The Good Samaritan, David vs. Goliath, and even the adults acting out the fall of Adam and Eve. I was very impressed with Shannon and Pam. If anyone heard a squeal, that was Shannon realizing he was naked! But, in all seriousness what an incredibly scary scene it must have been going from paradise to a harsh world outside of the garden.

Last month I asked what did Tychicus do in the New Testament? Many great answers were given such as Tychicus carried Philemon together with the Letters to the Colossians and the Ephesians where they needed to go. Gary Poteat, Shirley Hunter, Lynn Chambers, The MacBrides, Becky Woodard, and Kaye Allen all gave answers! Kudos to these folks. But can they figure out the answers this month??? For our trivia we will be looking back to the beginning. What are the first and second questions God asked mankind? What was mankind's first question to God?

Faith Family I am so excited to see what the rest of 2023 holds in store for each of us. In way of a joke this month, I want to encourage you to not be like the optimistic pessimist. Who said, "I'm positive things will go wrong." - Pastor Bradley

