



From Our House  
To Your House...  
The staff at  
Wallace Presbyterian  
Church  
Wishes you a Very  
Merry Christmas  
and a  
Happy New Year!

*Robert Lapp  
Cheryl Brinkley  
Karla Casteen  
Wayne Casteen  
Vera Simpson*

**Merry Christmas**



### **Birthdays in December**



Happy Birthday to You!



- 1- Vera Simpson
- 2- Joe Tillman  
Cameron Lee  
Christy Johnson
- 3- Chason Johnson
- 9- Henry Stevens, V  
Savannah Stevens
- 13- Jackson Gladden
- 14- Emily Sue Lee
- 17- Tommy Newkirk

- 20- Windsor Farrior  
Kate Hall
- 21- Jim Sills
- 23- Sandra DiDomenico
- 28- Garrett Bullard
- 30- Lori Newkirk  
Bud Newkirk
- 31- Lane Philip Rouse



# **NEWSLETTER**

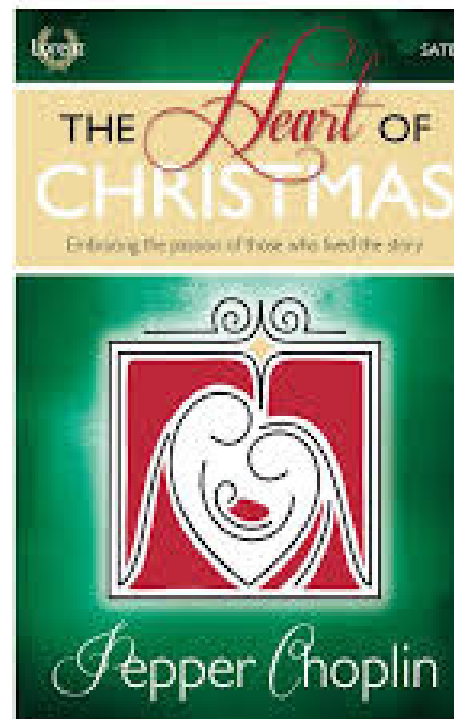
WALLACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Rev. Robert Lapp, Interim Pastor

DECEMBER 2025

Cheryl Brinkley, Editor



## **Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata**

**Sunday, December 7**

**“The Heart of Christmas”**

*Embracing the Passion of Those  
Who Lived the Story*

by  
**Pepper Choplin**

On Sunday morning, December 7, the WPC Chancel Choir will present ***The Heart Of Christmas!*** *The Heart of Christmas* tells the timeless story that we remember each year in a creative, profound way -- by probing the hearts of those most directly involved in St. Luke's account of that first Christmas. Written by Pepper Choplin, one of the choir's favorite composers, this cantata includes Choplin's masterful use of a variety of musical styles, from blues and bluegrass to the warmly melodic and chorally traditional. Narrators Robert Lapp, Susan Carone, and Parker Thompson will connect the scriptures while two soloists, Devan Riley and Adlyn Casteen enhance the story telling. The result will be a worshipful Christmas service, embracing the passion of those who lived the story. We look forward to sharing this beautiful music with all of you.



Beloved,

Presbyterian pastor, Keith Cook, tells the story of one Christmas morning when he and his wife heard a knock on their bedroom door. They weren't surprised. They knew their boys would be pushing for them to get up so the gifts could be opened. What did surprise them was that their two oldest boys, Andy and Paul, wanted to give them their gift. It was a big box. It was all wrapped up with a bow on top. They had gotten up pretty early to get all that work done. They yelled, "Merry Christmas," and told their parents to open the gift.

They undid the wrap and opened the box. And there was the most memorable gift they ever received for any Christmas. There in the box was their third son, little Todd. Todd jumped up and smiled. They loved it!

The very best gifts we ever give to each other are ourselves. That's what God did for us in Christ. That's what I see you doing for those in need in our church, community and throughout the world. That's what Vickie and I have personally experienced during her lengthy recovery. Thank you for giving yourself!

Faithfully,

Pastor Robb  
Transitional Pastor

*The most precious gift you can  
give someone is the gift of  
your time and attention.*



At the Tuesday, November 18, 2025 stated session meeting:

- Debbie Price offered the opening devotion and prayer.
- The December 16 stated meeting will be at the Rose Hill Restaurant at 6:00 pm. The elders elect, Susan Carone, Kristin Cottle, and Dwight Hall will be invited.
- Pet Friends request to meet at the church on Sunday, December 14 was approved. They will meet in room 304.
- Wayne Casteen and Glenn Price have agreed to be a part of the 30 Day Growth Plan with John Fong. We would like a female representative to serve on this team as well.
- Plans for a Confirmation Class in 2026 continue. Christy Johnson has agreed to assist Robb Lapp. Big God Big Questions, the PCUSA curriculum will be used. An orientation meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, December 3 at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall for the youth and their families.
- Officer training for the elders elect will be on Sundays, November 30, December 7, and December 14 at 9:45 am in the Blue Room.
- Christmas bonuses for the staff were approved.
- Advent & Christmas schedules were announced (see newsletter articles).
- Advent/Christmas Outreach opportunities: St. Nicholas Project (4 families), Reverse Advent Calendar (Helping Hands Food Pantry), and Christmas Joy Offering (special offering of the PCUSA).
- Karla Casteen had a preliminary discussion with an architect and builder on building a Columbarium.
- Joys and concerns were shared and the meeting was adjourned with prayer.



**DECEMBER WORSHIP LEADERS**

- December 7** (The Heart of Christmas by Pepper Choplin)  
Parker Thompson, Susan Carone, and Robert Lapp
- December 14** (A Super Christmas by Vanessa Unti)      Our Children and Youth
- December 21** (Matthew 1:18-25)      Sandy Cobb
- December 24** (Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion, Luke 2:1-20)      Karla Casteen
- December 28** (The Visited Planet by J.B. Phillips)      Robert Lapp



- \* **We will receive** our quarterly P.A.T.H. (Presbyterian Answer to Hunger Offering) on Sunday, December 7.
- \* **Advent worship services** will be at 12:05 pm on Thursdays, December 4, 11, & 18, with lunch provided in the Fellowship Hall following worship.
- \* **The Chancel Choir** will present their Cantata **The Heart of Christmas**, by Pepper Choplin, on Sunday, December 7, during worship.
- \* **The Youth & Children** will present their Christmas program **A Super Christmas**, on Sunday, December 14, during worship.
- \* **The session** will meet on Tuesday, December 16 at 6:00 p.m., at the Rose Hill Restaurant. If you have any concerns or business for the session to consider, please speak to one of the elders or Pastor Lapp.
- \* **We will receive** the annual Christmas Joy Offering during worship on Sunday, December 21. See the article in this newsletter for more information.
- \* **We will celebrate** the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper during worship on Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome at the table.
- \* **The church office** will be closed Wednesday, December 24 and re-open on Monday, January 5.
- \* **Robb Lapp** will be on vacation Thursday-Thursday, December 25-January 1. Please contact Clerk of Session Hope Turnbull (910-284-2813) in an emergency.
- \* **Church Secretary Cheryl Brinkley** will be on vacation Wednesday, December 24 through Thursday, January 1.



## DECEMBER



**12/07:** Lindsay & Stanley Skidmore  
**12/14:** Mary Laine & Jason Rouse  
**12/21:** Ellie & Michael Newton  
**12/28:** Harriet & Windsor Farrior

**Charley Farrior, Leader**  
**Joyce Ange**                      **Hayes Ludlum**  
**David Long**

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH

**12/07:** Sara Matthews  
**12/14:** No Children's Church  
**12/21:** Danielle Sills  
**12/28:** Emily/Miller Ludlum

## OPENING CHURCH BUILDING

**December 1-15:** Hayes Ludlum  
**December 16-31:** Dave Long



**We will celebrate the  
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper  
on Christmas Eve,  
Wednesday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m.  
All are welcome at the table.**



## Wednesday Mornings

You are invited to join the minister for a weekly Bible Study on Wednesday morning from 10:00-11:00 a.m., in Room 304. Join us for good fellowship and study of God's Word as we read and discuss the sermon text for the following Sunday.

Wednesday, December 3:	Matthew 3:1-12
Wednesday, December 10:	Matthew 11:2-11
Wednesday, December 17:	Matthew 1:18-25
Wednesday, December 24 & 31:	NO BIBLE STUDY

Bible study will resume on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.



## Advent Wreaths

If you would like to make a donation toward the expense of an Advent Wreath or other church decorations, please fill out an envelope provided in the pew pockets in honor of, or in memory of a friend or loved one, and put it in the offering plate on November 30<sup>th</sup> and December 7<sup>th</sup>. A list with the names of those honored will be in the Bulletin on December 14 and December 21. Thank you!



**Confirmation Class Orientation** will take place on **Wednesday, December 3, at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall**. Confirmation offers youth (6th grade and older) an opportunity to explore their faith to make a commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord of their lives and to become a member of the church. It is important that every youth who plans to be a part of the class have a family member present at this meeting as we explain the confirmation process and work out logistics.



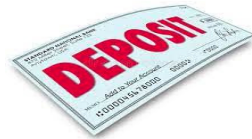


## CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING Sunday, December 21

**The Christmas Joy Offering** is one of the four special offerings of the PC(USA) and it will be received at WPC on Sunday, December 21 or anytime in December. 50% of our gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. 50% of our gifts provide assistance for current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs. If you're writing a check, please make it out to Wallace Presbyterian Church and note that it's for the Christmas Joy Offering. Thank you in advance for your generous support of past, present, and future church leaders. For more information about the Christmas Joy Offering, visit: [www.specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/christmas-joy/](http://www.specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/christmas-joy/).



## FINAL DEPOSIT FOR 2025 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31



Church Treasurer Wayne Casteen will make the final 2025 deposit on Wednesday, December 31. Contributions must be deposited by that date to be credited to your 2025 giving statement. You may contribute in these ways: offering plate in worship; mail a check to P.O. Box 717, Wallace, NC 28466; put your contribution in the mail slot of the front door of the church office; or donate online at our church website at [www.wallacepresbyterian.com](http://www.wallacepresbyterian.com). Thank you for your faithful and generous giving!



## Epiphany Star Words

Epiphany star words are a spiritual practice, where individuals receive a single "guiding word" for the new year. These words, associated with the star that led the Magi, will be made available at the church. They are meant to offer a theme for prayer, reflection, and spiritual guidance throughout the new year.

## How the practice works

- The practice begins with the Epiphany season (January 6) and is linked to the biblical story of the Magi following a star to find baby Jesus.
- Participants receive a "star word" by drawing a paper star with a word written on it.
- The word is intended to be a source of guidance for the new year, and people are encouraged to place it somewhere they can see it regularly.
- Reflection is key, with individuals encouraged to pray about the word, explore its meaning through scripture or other research, and notice how it appears in their lives.

## What to do with your star word

- Display it: Place your star word in a visible location, like on a mirror or a desk, to remind you to think about it daily.
- Study it: Research its meaning in the Bible, in literature, or through a word study, and consider its synonyms or antonyms.
- Pray about it: Ask questions like, "How might God be speaking to me through this word?" or "What might I need to pay attention to if I take this word seriously?"
- Connect it to your life: Reflect on how the word relates to your experiences, memories, and goals for the year.
- If you don't like it, consider a "holy mulligan": While encouraged to trust the word, some churches allow a "trade" if the word feels overwhelming or strange.



**QUARTERLY P.A.T.H. OFFERING**  
**Presbyterian Answer to Hunger**  
**Sunday, December 7, 2025**



We will receive our quarterly (March, June, September, and December) P.A.T.H. (Presbyterian Answer to Hunger) offering on Sunday, December 7. This offering supports the Hunger Program of the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina and provides funding for children’s feeding programs in Haiti and Malawi. The Hunger Program also provides grants for church food pantries such as our Helping Hands Food Pantry.



**Worship Opportunities**  
**During Advent and Christmas**

- Thursday, December 4: 12:05 pm: Community Advent Service
- Sunday, December 7: 11:00 am: Adult Choir will present the Christmas Cantata: “The Heart of Christmas” by Pepper Choplin
- Thursday, December 11: 12:05 pm: Community Advent Service
- Sunday, December 14: 1:00 am: Children’s Christmas Pageant: “A Super Christmas”
- Thursday, December 18: 12:05 pm: Community Advent Service
- Sunday, December 21: 11:00 am: Worship/Christmas Joy Offering
- Wednesday, December 24: 7:00 pm: Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

*Merry Christmas*



**Advent at Wallace Presbyterian Church**

- 1st Sunday, Nov. 30:** Light the *Candle of Hope* and decorate the *Chrismon Tree*.
- 2nd Sunday, Dec. 7:** Light the *Candle of Peace* and the choir presents *The Heart of Christmas*.
- 3rd Sunday, Dec. 14:** Light the *Candle of Joy* and the children and youth present *A Super Christmas*.
- 4th Sunday, Dec. 21:** Light the *Candle of Love* and candles to remember our grief and sorrows on the longest night of the year. *The Christmas Joy Offering* will be received.
- Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, 7:00 pm:** Light the *Christ Candle* and celebrate the birth of Christ at our *Candlelight Communion Service*.



**Advent Candle Lighting Families**

- 11/30:** Lighting the Candle of Hope : Kate and Cooper Hall
- 12/07:** Lighting the Candle of Peace : Hattie B, John-Ward, and Windsor Farrior
- 12/14:** Lighting the Candle of Joy: Will and Walt Phillips
- 12/21:** Lighting the Candle of Love: Hayes and Hollis Skidmore
- 12/24:** Lighting the Christ Candle: Adlyn and Clara Casteen

# ST. NICHOLAS PROJECT



For many years the St. Nicholas Project has been a mission of Wallace Presbyterian Church. The Outreach Committee has received families from our community for this year. St. Nicholas Project family and gift information will be available on the tree in the fellowship hall. Thank you for participating in this wonderful ministry and sharing the love of Christ with others.

To participate by **selecting a tag** and **buying a gift**:

- Select and remove labeled ornament tags from the tree.
- Purchase the gift
- **Wrap the gift**
- Label the wrapped gift with the tag you selected
- Place **wrapped and labeled gifts** on the table in front of the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall
- **Deadline to bring gifts to the church- Sunday, December 14.**

If you would like to make a donation to the St. Nicholas Fund:

- Please place a check, designated for “St. Nicholas Fund”, in the offering plate or donate online.

Please bring gifts to the church or make donations by **Sunday, December 14.**

Join us to deliver the gifts a few days before Christmas. The date and time will be announced. The families are listed on next page.

The Outreach Committee



## Reality of Money Returns to Duplin County High Schools

**The Reality of Money** - Duplin County Schools and the State Employees Credit Union will again offer the Reality of Money seminars for all high school juniors to help them learn about making real world choices about money. It takes about 30 volunteers for each session. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Below are the dates and links to sign up.

**Wallace Rose Hill: January 21, 2026 -**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050844AAA829AAFF2-60764156-wallace>

**North Duplin/Duplin Early College: January 22, 2026 -**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050844AAA829AAFF2-60764270-north>

**East Duplin: January 26, 2026 -**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050844AAA829AAFF2-60763776-east>

**James Kenan: January 27, 2026 -**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050844AAA829AAFF2-60763994-james>



**Community Advent Worship Services and Luncheons**  
**Sponsored by the Worship & Music Ministry Team**  
**and the Presbyterian Women**  
**Worship Service: 12:05 P.M.**  
**Luncheon: 12:30 P.M.**

### Thursday, December 4, 2025:

Speaker.....Dr. Karen Wolf  
Special Music.....Suzannah Creech  
Organist.....Karla Casteen

### Thursday, December 11, 2025

Special Program of Christmas Music.....Karla Casteen & Vera Simpson  
Organist.....Vera Simpson

### Thursday, December 18, 2025

Speaker.....Rev. Dr. Martha Highsmith  
Special Music.....The Attie C. Carlton Handbell Choir  
Organist.....Karla Casteen

*Please join us for this special annual tradition of worship and fellowship!*



## Advent Photo Project

Please help us express the meaning of Advent with your photographs depicting HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE - the four themes of the Advent candles. Your pictures will be shown during the Advent services. Please submit your photographs to Sandy Cobb ([sandycobb54@gmail.com](mailto:sandycobb54@gmail.com)) or Karla Casteen ([karla.casteen@gmail.com](mailto:karla.casteen@gmail.com)) and be clear on which photographs go with which theme. Submissions need to be received no later than the Tuesday before the Sunday they will be shown in worship (see above Advent Season schedule).





We are blessed at WPC to have young people who enjoy participating in worship. On December 14, our youth will lead us in all parts of the worship service – from reading scriptures, leading prayers, ushering, accompanying on handbells, and telling the Christmas story in a new and different way. The message on this Christmas Youth Sunday is in a skit called “**A Super Christmas.**” Join us and laugh as Superman, Wonder Woman, Batman, Hulk, Cat Woman, and Spiderman encounter Mary, Joseph, shepherds, and angels, discovering that Baby Jesus came to save the world, not take their jobs. “A Super Christmas” was written by Vanessa Unti in Bellingham, WA. Our young people are excited to lead us in worship on this special day.



## Reverse Advent Calendar

Start with a bag (bags with a list of items are available at the back of the church and in Gladden Hall) and instead of opening a door and taking out a treat during Advent, place an item into the bag. Once the bag is full, donate it to our Helping Hands Food Pantry. Your donations will make a big difference to a family this season. The Food Pantry is currently serving over 100 families (over 350 people) a month and the numbers are increasing!

# ST. NICHOLAS PROJECT



### Family 1

**Girl age 2:** Size 3t, Shoes toddler 7

**Wish list:** books, baby doll

**Boy age 5:** Shirt size youth XS, Pants size youth 5, Shoes toddler 10

**Wish list:** books, toy cars and trucks

**Boy age 7:** Shirt Youth M, Pants Youth 8, Shoes Youth 1

**Wish List:** books, cowboy boots, remote control car

**Girl age 12:** Wish list: nail kit, mannequin (to do hair), LED Lights(for bedroom)

**Adults:** basket of everyday household items

### Family 2

**Girl age 4:** Shirt size youth XS, Pants size youth 5/6, Shoe size toddler 10

**Wish list:** tablet, bike, basketball goal

**Girl age 8:** Shirt size youth S, Pant size youth 5/6, 7, Shoe size youth 2

**Wish list:** bike, phone, easy bake oven

**Boy age 9:** Shirt size youth M, Pant size youth 10, Shoe size youth 4

**Wish list:** bike, phone, trampoline

**Boy age 11:** Shirt size youth L, Pant size youth 16, Shoe size youth 6 or adult 7

**Wish List:** bike, anything electronic, PlayStation 4 Controller

**Adults:** basket of everyday supplies

**Family 3:** The youth group is going to buy for this family. 2 girls ages 5 and 7.

**Adults:** basket of everyday items

### Family 4:

**Girl age 7:** Shirt size-youth L, Pant size-Youth 10, Shoe size- youth 1

**Wish list:** pets alive magic bunnies, monster high dolls, elephants wicked doll

**Needs and interests:** clothes, socks, panties, favorite color is pink, Stitch & Angel, Wicked, K-Pop Demon Hunters

**Boy age 10:** Shirt size-10, Pant size-adult S, Shoe size- adult 7

**Wish list:** Pokémon Booster cards Box, Spiderman Legos, Ironman Legos.

**Needs and interests:** underwear, clothes, socks, favorite color sky blue, one piece anime, Pokémon, Marvel Superheroes & X-men

**Boy age 13:** Shirt size Adult L, Pants size adult L, Shoe size adult 7

**Wish list:** Star Wars Legos, Pokémon Booster Cards box, Art supplies& canvas

**Needs and interests:** socks, underwear, clothes, Garfield, Favorite color Red, Pokémon, plants vs zombies

**Adults:** basket of household items



St. Nicholas

# December 2025



November 2025						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

January 2026						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>30</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent 9:00 am Choir Practice 9:45 am Adult S. School 9:45 am Officer Training, 10:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship 11am Worship/5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Building Fund Offering 5:00 pm Cub Scouts, Pack 35	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10am Bible Study-Room 304 6pm Handbells 5:30pm Confirmation Class Orientation, Fellowship Hall	<b>4</b> 12:05pm Community Advent Service 1:30 pm East Community COM Meeting, Room 304	<b>5</b> Office Closed	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent 9:00 am Choir Practice 9:45 am Adult S. School 9:45 am Officer Training, 10:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship 11am Worship/Choir Cantata "The Heart of Christmas" 5:00 pm Cub Scouts, Pack 35	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 10:30 am Morning Circle Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm Evening Circle Fellowship Hall	<b>10</b> 10am Bible Study-Room 304 6pm Handbells	<b>11</b> 12:05pm Community Advent Service	<b>12</b> Office Closed	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent 9:00 am Choir Practice 9:45 am Adult S. School 9:45 am Officer Training, 10:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship 11am Worship/Youth Program-"A Super Christmas" 5:00 pm Cub Scouts, Pack 35	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 6pm Session Meeting, Rose Hill Restaurant	<b>17</b> 10am Bible Study-Room 304 6pm Handbells	<b>18</b> 12:05pm Community Advent Service	<b>19</b> Office Closed	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent 9:00 am Choir Practice 9:45 am Adult S. School 10:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship 11am Worship/ Christmas Joy Offering 2:00pm Pet Friends 2:30 pm Youth Wrapping Gifts 5:00 pm Cub Scouts, Pack 35	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve No Bible Study No Handbells 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Church Office Closed Secretary on Vacation	<b>25</b> Christmas Day HOLIDAY Church Office Closed	<b>26</b> Office Closed	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas 9:45 am Adult S. School 10:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship 11am Worship 5:00 pm Cub Scouts, Pack 35	<b>29</b> HOLIDAY Church Office Closed	<b>30</b> Office Closed Pastor & Secretary on Vacation	<b>31</b> New Year's Eve No Bible Study No Handbells Office Closed	<b>1</b> New Year's Day HOLIDAY Church Office Closed	<b>2</b> JAN. Office Closed	<b>3</b> JAN.



Merry Christmas

