

Making
Disciples
of those
Nearest, our
Neighbors
and the
Nations

December 2016



THE TABLE
Keeping Carmel Connected

December 2016

Carmel Friends and Family:

Christy and I spent time recently looking through old Christmas pictures. Two things were clear:

First, time is flying by - just look at how our family has grown (and how my hair has changed)!

And second, my family loves the shared experience of Christmas traditions.



I relish giving my kids money at Thanksgiving and finding out on Christmas Eve how they used it to help someone else. I cherish lighting the candles of the advent wreath at our kitchen table. I admire the creativity of Christy's daily "guess the name of Jesus" game during the month of December. I'm thrilled we're back in NC so we can head to the mountains for a Christmas tree. Our kids enjoy getting new Pj's on Christmas Eve. And what better way to start Christmas day than sitting together and reading the Gospel (before we open presents). These are just a few of the things we have done over the years to add depth, richness and fun to our Christmas celebration.

Be intentional this Christmas to recognize how quickly time is flying and let that motivate you to be intentional in how you live and celebrate this season (and every day) with your Nearest.

Merry Christmas!

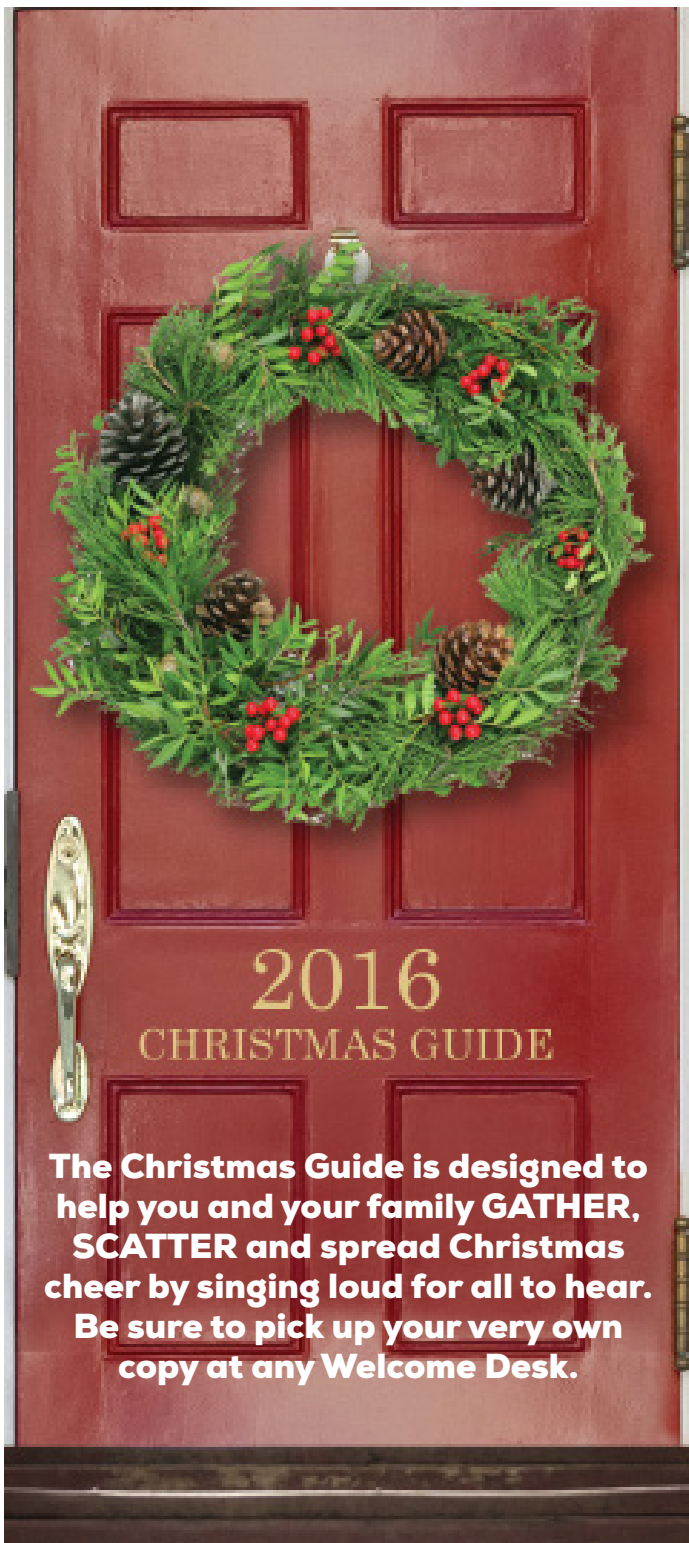
Love you Carmel,

Pastor Alex

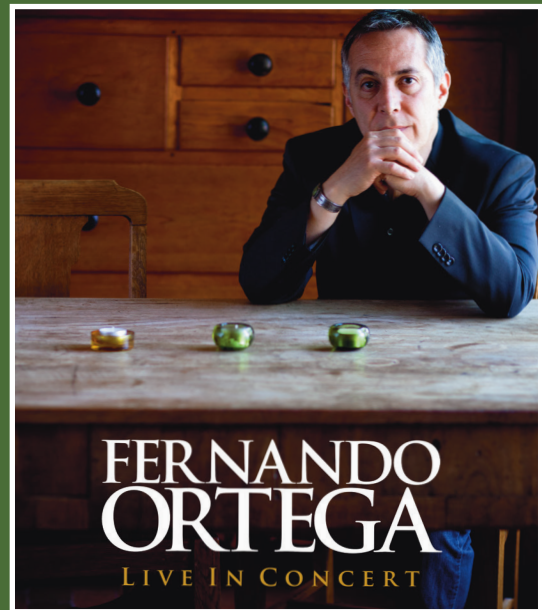
PS - This year we're going to add caroling our neighborhood to our family traditions - I hope you will too!



Christmas and Music



Fernando Ortega Concert December 18



Christian recording artist Fernando Ortega is coming to Carmel! You're invited to come enjoy both Christmas and non-seasonal favorites on Sunday, December 18 at 6:30pm. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at carmelbaptist.org. Ortega and his band will also lead Sunday morning worship on December 18.

for all to hear

<p>DEC. SUN, 4 <i>Carmel Carols</i> Baptism Elder Prayer C2</p>	<p>MON, 5 Pursuing Purity: Becoming Courageous Men</p>	<p>TUE, 6</p>	<p>WED, 7 Wednesday Nights @ Carmel Recharge Famjam GriefShare Choir</p>	<p>THU, 8  Christmas Brunch/Program Daughters of the King Morning Prayer Gathering</p>	<p>FRI, 9</p>	<p>SAT, 10</p>
CarmelSERVE Christmas Collection						
<p>SUN, 11 <i>Carmel Carols</i> First Step Classes C2</p>	<p>MON, 12 Pursuing Purity: Becoming Courageous Men</p>	<p>TUE, 13 </p>	<p>WED, 14 Wednesday Nights @ Carmel Prayer with Pastor Alex GriefShare</p>	<p>THU, 15 Daughters of the King Morning Prayer Gathering</p>	<p>FRI, 16</p>	<p>SAT, 17</p>
CarmelSERVE Christmas Collection				#goacrossthestreet Carol Your Neighborhood		
<p>SUN, 18 <i>Carmel Carols</i> Choir Leads Worship C2  Live in Concert 6:30pm</p>	<p>MON, 19 Pursuing Purity: Becoming Courageous Men</p>	<p>TUE, 20 Daughters of the King Evening Prayer Gathering</p>	<p>WED, 21 NO Wednesday Night Activity</p>	<p>THU, 22</p>	<p>FRI, 23</p>	<p>SAT, 24  Services: 10:00am 1:30pm 3:00pm 4:30pm 6:00pm</p>
<p>SUN, 25 Worship at Home with Your Nearest  Pick up a guide at any welcome desk <i>Campus Closed</i></p>	<p>MON, 26 <i>Campus Closed</i></p>	<p>TUE, 27 <i>Campus Closed</i></p>	<p>WED, 28 NO Wednesday Night Activity</p>	<p>THU, 29</p>	<p>FRI, 30</p>	<p>SAT, 31</p>
<p>JAN. SUN, 1 Services: 9:30 & 11:00am No DCs</p>	<p>MON, 2  <i>Campus Closed</i></p>	<p>TUE, 3 </p>	<p>WED, 4  NO Wednesday Night Activity</p>	<p>THU, 5 Daughters of the King Morning Prayer Gathering</p>	<p>FRI, 6</p>	<p>SAT, 7</p>



Sunday Mornings @ Carmel

Sermon Series



Unique doctrines of the gospel story told through carols.

NOV. 27

O The Father's Love Begotten

DEC. 4

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

DEC. 11

The First Noel

DEC. 16 - 17

#goacrossthestreet
Carol Your Neighborhood

DEC. 18

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus
Fernando Ortega leads Worship

DEC. 24



Services:

10:00am

1:30pm

3:00pm

4:30pm

6:00pm

DEC. 25

Christmas Day Worship
at Home with Your Nearest
See Christmas Guide

Coming in 2017

Jan. 1

Closer than Close
Guest Speaker: Dave Hickman

Jan. 8

NEW Sermon Series Begins
Root 66: A survey of all 66 books
of the Bible

Worship

You're invited to Worship at Carmel. Services are at 8:00, 9:30 or 11:00am. This month, Pastor Alex is exploring unique doctrines of the Gospel story told through carols.

Note: On **Sunday, Christmas Day, December 25**, instead of gathering for worship on the Carmel campus, we will have worship scattered around the city in our homes. Be sure to pick up a Christmas Guide to help you celebrate the birth of our Savior with your Nearest. **Sunday, New Year's Day, January 1** We will gather for worship on Carmel's campus at **9:30 and 11:00am**. Discipleship Communities will not meet.

NextStep

Take the next step in your faith journey! We're here to help. Visit the Next Step area to talk to one of our team members about a relationship with Jesus Christ, baptism and getting connected at Carmel.

Shuttle

Construction on campus has impacted parking. Free up a parking space on Sunday morning for a family with young children or a guest by parking at Elizabeth Lane Elementary and catching the shuttle. (7:15am-12:45pm)

Adult Discipleship Community

Give yourself the transformational gift of living in community! Adult Discipleship Communities (DCs) meet Sunday mornings at 9:30 and 11:00am. Stop by the Welcome Desk or visit carmelbaptist.org/connect to learn more. **NOTE: DCs will not meet on Dec 25, or Jan 1.**



Wednesday Nights @ Carmel

Enjoy dinner and fellowship (4:45-6:00pm) followed by prayer and equipping for all ages. Full details at carmelbaptist.org.

This month, we'll have an abbreviated Wednesday Night schedule, only gathering Dec 7 and 14. There will be NO Wednesday Night activities Dec 21 - Jan 4.

December 7

Famjam
Choir Rehearsal
Recharge Classes
Adult Bible Study

December 14

Prayer with Pastor Alex in the
Worship Center

Stay tuned via *Enews* for details about **NEW Recharge** classes being offered beginning in January 2017!



2016 Year-End Giving

Looking for a year end tax deduction? Planning to make a gift before the end of the calendar year? The church office will be open on Friday, December 30 until 4:30pm. You can make your gift by:

- Leaving your gift with the receptionist.
- Mailing your 2016 gift (postmarked by Dec 31, 2016).
- Giving online at carmelbaptist.org/give by Dec 31, 2016.

Please contact the Finance Office at 704-847-8575 with questions.

Help Us Celebrate Ms. Debbie!



Debbie Vanhoy - fondly known as Ms. Debbie to so many - celebrates the milestone of 25 years in leadership at Carmel at the end of this month.

If Ms. Debbie has made an impact on your life or someone you know, please help us prepare a special gift to celebrate her legacy of discipleship.

Complete the brief form at carmelbaptist.org to help us celebrate.



Carmel Christian school

Considering CCS Kindergarten?

CCS Kindergarten applications are due Friday, January 6, 2017. Apply online at carmelchristian.org. Register online for campus tours, offered Tuesday and Thursdays (9:30 am for Grades K-5 and 11:00 am - Grades 6-12).

Save These 2017 Dates

- Men's Breakfast** - Saturday, February 11 (7:30 - 9:00am)
- Life in Christ Conference** - Saturday, March 4 (8:00am - 2:00pm)
- Joy Prom** - April 28 & 29

Prayer Room Gatherings

Carmel believes in and depends upon the power of prayer.

You're invited to join the following prayer gatherings:

Sundays @ 5:00pm

Open to all Men & Women of Carmel

Led by Charles Cranford

Wednesdays @ 6:15pm

Open to all Men & Women of Carmel

Led by Pastor Alex

1st & 3rd Tuesdays @ 7:00pm

Open to all Women of Carmel (Daughters of the King)

Led by Denise Goldman

Every Thursday @ 11:45 am

Open to all Women of Carmel (Daughters of the King)

Led by Christy Kennedy

Other Prayer Gatherings?

If you are responsible for a prayer group that meets regularly, please contact Denise Goldman at Rushingwind91@bellsouth.net or 704-544-9059. We look forward to working together to equip, mobilize and communicate with those leading prayer at Carmel!



Sunday Mornings

Lower Level Preschoolers: Jesus is born!

This month the children will learn why we celebrate Christmas: Because Jesus, the Son of God, was born! The children will hear stories about Jesus' birth, the shepherds visiting baby Jesus, and the journey of the Wise men. This is sure to be an exciting month for our Preschoolers!

Threes - Kindergarten: Sing a Song of Christmas!

As Carmel Carols is underway this month, preschoolers on the main level will also learn to "Sing a Song of Christmas!" Each week, we will hear a familiar Christmas song that sets the stage for an interactive Bible story about the events surrounding the birth of Jesus. You will not want to miss it!



Our "Preschool Playlist" includes:
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!
Away in a Manger
Go, Tell It on the Mountain
We Three Kings



Christmas Eve

Worshipping with us on Christmas Eve?
Children of all ages are welcome at each service.
Childcare is available for birth - 24 months during the 1:30 or 3:00pm service - register online.

Mom & Dad



Help Celebrate Ms. Debbie's 25th Anniversary! We're preparing a special recognition to help celebrate Ms. Debbie's 25 years of leadership at Carmel! If Ms. Debbie has impacted you in any way, please visit carmelbaptist.org to help us celebrate her well! We are trying to reach as many preschool/WEE school alumni parents, children and volunteers as possible!



MOPs (Moms of Preschoolers) Tuesday, December 13 @ 7:00pm

Join us for a relaxing evening during the busy Christmas season. We will enjoy an abundance of food, get to meet other mothers with young children and create a craft together.



Wednesdays = Date Night

Enjoy a chef prepared family dinner (and dessert!), check your children into a quality learning experience and invest in your marriage! Wednesday Nights @ Carmel are for you and your spouse! Check out the schedule for Wednesday Night Recharge classes, prayer gatherings and Bible study at carmelbaptist.org.



MILESTONE 1

Parent/Child Dedication is February 12

If your family would like to participate in Milestone 1: Parent/Child Dedication on Sunday, February 12 @ 8:00, 9:30 or 11:00am, contact Cindi Baker at cindib@carmelbaptist.org.



Jesus is the reason we find JOY

December is the perfect time to show CarmelKidz - and others - why Jesus is the reason we find **JOY**. When God created the world, He made it to be a place of peace and contentment. But when sin entered the world, so did disharmony and all the messiness. But God made a way for us to have joy regardless of circumstances and challenges. Joy isn't dependent upon stuff or relationships. Joy is about being content despite your circumstances. We can have joy when we recognize that God's plan is greater than our own. Joy is a response to our trust in God and **His character**.

This month our 1st - 6th graders will explore the Christmas story and how they can trust God and have **JOY** even when things don't go their way.

- 1st Grade: God's Unstoppable Love: Good News - a Special Delivery
- 2nd Grade: God's Incredible Love: The Littlest Shepherd and Advent
- 3rd Grade: Jesus, Welcome to our World
- 4th Grade: God's Unstoppable Plan (Playing a part of the Christmas story!)
- 5th Grade: Welcome to Our World (God's Old Testament promise fulfilled)
- Preteens: Studying a Familiar Story
- Special Needs: Happy Birthday, Jesus!



Wednesday Nights @ CarmelKidz



Famjam & Kidjam

Wednesday's in December will focus on **JOY**: finding a way to be happy, even when things don't go your way

Don't miss **Famjam on December 7!** We'll learn how we can have Joy because the gift of Jesus is for everyone - regardless of who you are.



Thanks to Carmel Christian School for updating the Famjam furniture! Carmel Christian Middle School players used the CarmelKidz Famjam stage in November and they provided us with a new sofa and cool chairs. Come and see what is new!

Key Dates:

- Wednesday, Dec 7 - Famjam
- Wednesday, Dec 14 - Kidjam; Preteen Junction (6th grade)
- Note:** No Wednesday activities - Dec 21 & 28
- No DC's - Dec 25 or Jan 1
- Sunday, Jan 8 - CarmelKidz DC's resume
- Sundays, Jan 8, 15, 22, 29 First Step class (registration required)
- Wednesday, Jan 11 - Famjam (Knowledge)



You've Got Mail

Parents, be sure to check your email inbox on Friday, December 23 for a special picture from your child's DC.



the **pa**use

Over 100 high school students had an incredible time taking some time to press pause in the midst of their fast paced lives November 18-20. Students spent time learning the importance of the Word Made Flesh and embraced community in small groups studying Psalm 119.

Caroling and Christmas Sweaters

Join us December 14 in the gym from 6:15-7:30pm for our special Christmas night of Fuel Worship. We encourage all students to come and join our voices together around the piano for carols. Also, don't forget to wear your ugly Christmas sweater!!!



Important Dates

- December 4 - C2
- December 7 - Fuel Worship
- December 11 - C2
- December 14 - Fuel Worship
- December 18 - C2
- December 25 - No DC
- January 1 - No DC



Students from all across the nation will gather together in Atlanta to be united as one generation committed to the Gospel. At the heart of it all, Passion exists to see a generation stake their lives on what matters most. That's the fame of the One who rescues and restores, and the privilege we have to fully leverage our lives by amplifying His name in everything we do. Don't miss this opportunity. Registration is open for Grade 12 and College students at carmelstudents.org!

Location: Atlanta, GA
Dates: Jan 2-4
Cost: \$225



Neighbors

Carmel SERVE Christmas Collection

Christmas is a time when we all think about ways to give to others. **Looking for a way to give to those with needs in Charlotte?** Check out the **Carmel SERVE Gift Guide** to bless our local ministry partners with basic needs. There will be Carmel Serve Christmas Collection bins located near the Neighbor's house December 4 - 14 for you to drop off your gifts and donated items.



Praise



More than 300 women from 18 churches gathered for *Evening of Empowerment*. It was a powerful night that challenged women to reflect on ways God may be leading them to use their gifts, passions, talents and time to empower and care for others. The evening ended with the opportunity to purchase with a purpose from ministry partners and other vendors selling hand-made items from around the world to benefit those overcoming poverty and human trafficking.

You too can purchase with a purpose online, and in time for Christmas!
Visit carmelbaptist.org for links to each participating vendor.

#goacrossthestreet Challenge: Carol Your Neighborhood



Carmel challenges you and your family to #goacrossthestreet and spread Christmas cheer by singing loud for all to hear! That's right-- you can love where you live by going caroling in your neighborhood. Stop by the Welcome Desks to pick up your very own *Carmel Carols* Christmas Guide that includes helpful caroling tips, song lyrics and more.





Nations

Mission Minded

Bolivia & India Products Featured

Word Made Flesh works alongside Sutisana in El Alto, Bolivia to provide holistic care, including training and dignified employment, for women rescued from prostitution. At November's *Evening of Empowerment*, a powerful video from Sutisana spotlighted a testimony of healing and redemption resulting in freedom--and beautiful handmade bags!

Also spotlighted was AshaBelle, which provides women living in a New Delhi slum with training, care, and sustainable employment through the trade of handcrafting jewelry.

This Christmas season, we encourage you to purchase with a purpose from these and other retailers listed on carmelbaptist.org.



Proverbs 31:8



What's Stopping YOU?

Carmel is committed to making disciples of those nearest, our neighbors.... and the NATIONS. One way we accomplish this is by GOING to the nations.

- Have you ever thought about going on a short-term mission trip?
- Has something prevented you from taking the next step?

What's Stopping You?

Join us in January as we find our place in the Great Commission by talking through common concerns, tremendous needs and the opportunities that await each of us.

Details coming soon!





Christmas Eve

@carmel

Services:

- 10:00am
- 1:30pm
- 3:00pm
- 4:30pm
- 6:00pm

Celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ! Come, bring your family and invite a neighbor for Christmas Eve at Carmel! We encourage you to bring the little ones to worship with you. However, childcare will be offered for children ages birth - 24 months at the 1:30 and 3:00pm services. To help us prepare, please visit carmelbaptist.org/christmaseve to register for childcare.

Childcare Volunteers Needed Christmas Eve

If you are an approved Preschool Ministry volunteer and available to assist with childcare on Christmas Eve during either the 1:30 or 3:00pm service, please contact Cindi at cindib@carmelbaptist.org or 704.847.8575.

**THE AVERAGE SHOPPER IN THE US
PLANS TO SPEND \$929 ON CHRISTMAS GIFTS.
WHAT COULD \$929 BUY ONE OF OUR MINISTRY PARTNERS?**

Ponder This



5 children clothed with new shoes, undergarments, accessories & 3 outfits from Mosaic Style with Love



471 meals + care for men residing at Charlotte Rescue Mission Rebound



31 Homes Warmed by a small portable heaters provided to 31 homebound older adults served by Love INC.

<https://americanresearchgroup.com/holiday/>

Carmel Baptist Church
704.847.8575
carmelbaptist.org
questions@carmelbaptist.org

Schools
704.847.8575
weeschool.org
carmelchristian.org

Carmel Counseling Center
704.849.0686
carmelcounselingcenter.org