



HABLE Keeping Carmel Connected

DEC. NOV. MON, 30 FRI, 4 SAT, 5 WED, 2 THU,3 Preteen Journey into Cuba Mission Ministry: Trip Departs Retreats TUE, 1 **SUN, 29** Registration Leadership Mothers of Love + Serve Daughters of Senior Adult Preschoolers -FamJam the King Prayer Engagement Christmas MOPS Gathering (AM) Area Luncheon "The Bridge" Registration Daughters of the King Prayer Gathering (PM) SUN, 6 MON, 7 TUE, 8 **THU, 10** FRI, 11 **SAT, 12** WED, 9 Elder Prayer Senior Adult: Wednesday Daughters of Carol Sing at Nights @ Carmel the King Prayer "The Bridge" The Cove Gathering (AM) Fuel Night of Women's Worship Ministry Bible Studies - last Journey Into Ministry: Leadership day to register **MON, 14 SUN, 13 THU, 17** FRI, 18 **SAT, 19 TUE, 15 WED, 16** "The Bridge" Wednesday Senior Adult Daughters of the King Prayer Night Prayer Christmas Gathering with Gathering (PM) Luncheon Pastor Alex Daughters of the King Prayer Gathering (AM) **TUE, 22 SUN, 20** MON, 21 WED, 23 **THU, 24** FRI, 25 **SAT, 26** Fitness Center NO Wednesday Christmas Eve Merry Christmas Campus Closed Worship at 9:30am and Night Activities Candlelight Closed Campus Closed 11:00am only Worship Services Fitness Center 2:00pm, 3:30pm, No DC's Closed 5:00pm & 6:30pm JAN. **TUE, 29 THU, 31** SAT, 2 **SUN, 27** MON, 28 **WED, 30** Worship at Fitness Center NO Wednesday 9:30am and Closed Night Activities FRI, 1 11:00am only Fitness Center Campus Closed No DC's Closed

SUN, 3
Return to
regular Sunday
Worship

Elder Prayer

Schedule

THE 5

WED, 6

THU, 7

FRI, 8

SAT, 9

Winter Weather Reminder

Should we encounter inclement weather this winter season, information regarding delays or closures can be found on our website, our Facebook page, local TV stations or by calling the main church phone at 704.847.8575.



December 2015

Carmel Family & Friends:

Wow! That was my response to the 2015 Year in Review the team pulled together on Page 5. God has been so good to equip and bless the work of His people here at Carmel to make disciples.

Among the many things God has been up to at Carmel this past year, none excites me more than the growing passion for prayer. I love our first Wednesday of the month prayer gathering, in the Worship Center. I love seeing people praying the Prayer Path and Carmel Mile on campus. Hove hearing the buzz of prayer from the Prayer Room on Sundays when the Elders and their wives are praying with members of our Carmel family. I love that women gather and pray faithfully in the Prayer Room as Daughters of the King.

Prayer is to our hearts like the tiller is to soil. Imagine with me what God can do when we surrender our hearts to the work of the Holy Spirit and allow Him to break up the sin in our unplowed hearts. Imagine with me a moving of the Holy Spirit where it's common every week for our friends, family, and neighbors to be born again. A year where it becomes the norm for men to lead, love, and serve their families. A year that finds us all of us leaning into that which is lasting and eternal. A year where we choose to live life with open hands of trust, worship, and generosity. A year where we see the gospel bearing fruit in ways that are more than we've asked or imagined in the lives of those Nearest, our Neighbors, and the Nations.

As incredible as this year has been, I'm even more excited about what God has planned for 2016 because of what Proverbs 4:18 declares... "the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day."

Love you Carmel,

Pastor Alex

December at Carmel



Sundays in December

Sunday, December 6: A Conversation about Spiritual Disciplines: Confession (Pastor Justin Taylor)

- · Elder Prayer between services in the Prayer Room.
- · Registration deadline for Carmel's 2016 Winter/Spring Women's Bible Studies. Visit carmelbaptist.org.
- A new Young Adults DC begins! Join leaders Ed Woodall and Belinda Schrenker at 9:30am in A107. This group welcomes all young single adults (early to mid 20's) who are beyond their undergrad years.

Sunday, December 13: A Different Kind of "Silent Night"

Sunday, December 20: War and Peace

- Worship at 9:30am and 11:00am only. No Discipleship Communities (1st Grade Adult).
- · Jody McBrayer who guest led worship at Carmel in July returns today! Jody is one of the four singers that comprised the Christian music powerhouse, Avalon. Avalon sold over 3.5 million albums, landed twenty #1 singles, took home six Dove Awards and even scored three GRAMMY Award nominations. We're excited to welcome Jody back!

Sunday, December 27: What's in Your Cistern?

· Worship at 9:30am and 11:00am only. No Discipleship Communities (1st Grade - Adult).

Celebrate the true Christmas story! Thursday, December 24 2:00pm, 3:30pm, 5:00pm or 6:30pm.



Come, bring your family and invite a neighbor to join you for Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship at Carmel! We encourage you to bring the little ones to worship with you, however, childcare will be offered for birth - 2 years at the 2:00pm and 3:30pm services, if you prefer. To help us better prepare, please register for childcare online.

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 2:00pm or 3:30pm service, please contact Debbie at debbiev@carmelbaptist.org or 704.8478575.

Sr. Adult Ministry (55+) - News & Events

Christmas Luncheon - Thursday, December 17

Enjoy a Christmas Luncheon at Carmel Thursday, December 17 - fellowship, food and amazing musical entertainment by Charity Helms! Register by Monday, December 7 online or with Robin Davis at robind@carmelbaptist.org or 704.847.8575. Cost is \$5 per person.

Trip to The Cove - Monday, December 7

We have filled the bus for the Monday, December 7 trip to The Cove to sing Christmas carols, hear a message from the Word, and enjoy lunch. If you'd like to be added to the wait list - or if you signed up and are no longer able to attend please contact Robin Davis (details above).

The full 2016 Sr. Adult Ministry calendar of fellowship events and trip opportunities will be published in the January edition of *The Table*.





Cultivate is a 6-week challenge focused on deeper personal discipleship and making the Student Discipleship Center a reality. Ministry Leaders gathered in November to prepare by fasting and praying weekly in advance of this churchwide effort. Mark your calendar now for Sunday, January 10 - you DON'T want to miss it!



2015 - Looking Back & Praising God!

So many great things happened at Carmel in 2015. Here are just a FEW of the highlights!

January:

Vision Sunday kicked off new year





February:

Men's Breakfast challenged men of Carmel to find an "And Guy" Joyful Hearts Club Night Out served special needs families Chinese Ministry hosted a Chinese New Year Family Festival



April:

9th Annual Joy Prom Mosaic Style with Love opened to serve local foster children Preteen (6th Grade)

Blessing Retreat (Milestone 3)





CarmelKidz Camp: Tabernacle (3rd - 6th Grade) Students SERVEd the International Village in Atlanta





Carmel Mile opened for prayer CarmelKidz Famjam celebrated 10 years **Senior Adults** visited The Cove

Generations Team explored Israel High School Graduation celebrated (Milestone 6)

Parent Child Dedication Celebrated (Milestone 1)



The Table launched CarmelKidz led worship in big

Leader Summit prepared volunteers to serve our Nearest Vision Initiative Update hosted by

Students SERVEd in Kenya Carmel became Lansdowne **Elementary** partner school

March:

Elders presented Vision Initiative Life in Christ Conference featured Jon Acuff

8th Grade Survivor Retreat



June:

Amazing Journey Back to Bible Times (Preschool - 2nd Grade) **SERVEd** at World Refugee Day Students SERVEd Big Heart

Orphanage in Mexico



September:

Parent Summit featured Rob Reinow

Parent Child Dedication Celebrated (Milestone 1)

Journey Into Ministry: Leadership Class Began

Oakhurst Baptist Relaunched C2 launched for Students on Sunday nights



December:

Praise offered to God for a full 2015 Christmas Eve Celebrated

> Father God we praise you and thank you for 2015 and the opportunities you provided for us to make disciples of those Nearest. our Neighbors and the Nations!

October:

50th Celebration

Weekend - worshiped under the BIG tent!

Hosted Orange Conference carmelbaptist.org added SERVE

sign-up tool Hope Ministry hosted first Hope Walk

Student Discipleship Center **Building Committee formed**





Family Night of Worship **GO Sunday** Love + Serve Engagement Area **Cultivate Leadership Dinner** The Pause Student Retreat





PRESCHOOL

THAT's What Christmas is All About, Charlie Brown!

This year marks the 50th anniversary of A Charlie Brown Christmas - the American TV classic where Lucy strives to produce the perfect Christmas play while Charlie Brown looks for the perfect Christmas tree. Fed up with the consumerism of his friends, Charlie Brown exclaims "Doesn't anyone know what Christmas is all about?!" In the end, little Linus answers that question with biblical truth - Christmas is all about the birth of our Savior!

This month in Preschool, we are adding in some Charlie Brown-themed Christmas fun as we hear familiar stories of the birth of our Savior,

Jesus! Together we will learn that Christmas was never about having the perfect tree, lots of presents or a big production. Christmas is all about Jesus, God's perfect plan to save His people!



This Month's Speical Words: God loves us and gave us Jesus

Preschool Christmas Series

November 29 Elizabeth & Zechariah December 6 Angel Visits Mary December 13 Baby Jesus is Born

December 20 Shepherds
December 27 Wise Men

Preschoolers Ages and Phases

Zero - One: Nobody sleeps, everybody smells, and one mesmerizing baby convinces you, "I NEED YOU NOW."

One and Two: Nobody's on time, everything's a mess and one eager toddler will insist, "I CAN DO IT."

Three and Four: Anything can be imagined, everything can be a game, and one curious preschooler wants to know,"WHY?"

Kindergarten: When unfiltered words make you laugh, homework makes you cry and life becomes a stage where your kid shouts,"LOOK AT ME."

New WEE Connect Series Tells Whole Story!



Parents in the Sunday morning WEE Connect class recently dressed up as Bible characters - standing in chronological order based on the chronological version of the Bible, THE STORY! WEE Connect will be using THE STORY in their next eleven-week Sunday morning series while studying the Bible from God and the Creation to Jesus and His Second Coming. Interested? Join them any Sunday morning at 9:30am in D101!



MOPS - Tuesday, December 1

If you are a mother of a preschooler (pregnancy through kindergarten) come to Carmel Baptist MOPS for a Mom's Night Off! Our Christmas meeting will include live music, a cookie exchange and a Christmas feast. Don't miss it - Tuesday, December 1 from 7:00 - 9:00pm. Childcare is available with a reservation. For more information, email MOPSatCarmel@gmail.com.

Gift Giving Idea for your Family

Preschoolers can get overwhelmed with too many gifts so why not limit gifts to these 4 items: something they want, something they need, something they wear and something they read (or have read to them). This is a great way for children to begin to make choices and understand it is better to give than to receive.

Considering Carmel Christian School for Kindergarten?

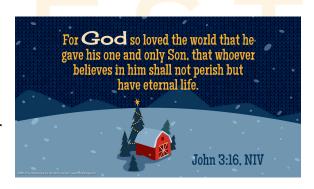
Just a reminder the CCS Kindergarten Application deadline is Friday, January 8. For more information visit carmelchristian.org.





Parents: Imagine - and Prepare for - the End

It can be heart breaking as a parent to think ahead to the day your child will leave your house. That moment will come when everything you have taught, modeled, and encouraged will be put to the test in the real world. It's never too early to begin laying the foundation for the kind of adult you hope your child will grow into and the kind of relationship you hope to have. Here are a few ideas:



- **Grow Compassion**: Peek into the daily life of Ugandan Pastor Tom, his wife Nancy and their 12 children, as they gather water, prepare food, find safety when they sleep, go to school, and enjoy time together. Consider putting a *Step Into My Shoes Family Kit* under your Christmas tree visit stepintomhyshoes.org.
- **Serve**: Imagine your kids becoming people who think of others more than themselves? Check out the Advent Calendar on the back cover and challenge your family to 25 days of serving others in big and small ways.
- Bake a Tradition: Traditions make a family a family. This month, pass on a family tradition by working together to make a dessert. As you eat your dessert, talk about the importance of family and how sweet your favorite traditions are.

Sundays in December:

1st Grade: God's Unstoppable Love (Good News: a Special Delivery/ Make a Joyful noise)

2nd Grade: God's Incredible Love (The Littlest Shepherd)

3rd Grade: Jesus, Welcome to our World (TV game show format)

4th Grade: God's Unstoppable Plan (4th graders get to play a part of the Christmas story!)

5th Grade: Welcome to Our World (God's promise is fulfilled by the birth of Jesus)
Preteens: Studying Jesus Birth and announcements to certain people on our own!

Special Needs: Happy Birthday Jesus!



CarmelKidz Special Needs Ministry - the Best Kept Secret

CarmelKidz is looking for adults to serve as buddies for special needs kids who can benefit from being in a regular CarmelKidz classroom but need extra attention. If you're interested, contact allisonb@carmelbaptist.org. If you know any family with an elementary school aged child with special needs, tell them about CarmelKidz Special Needs Ministry!

Key Dates:

December 2 - Famjam December 9 - Kidjam December 16 - Kidjam

December 20 & 27 - No DCs

December 23 & 30 - No Wednesday Night

Reminders: Registration for the January First Step class (2nd - 6th Graders) and April's Preteen (6th Grade) Blessing Retreats is available on carmelbaptist.org







Night of Worship

Student Ministry will be having a special night of worship and prayer Wednesday, December 9 in the gym from 6:15 - 7:30pm. Our Carmel Christian School Ignite Praise Band will be leading us throughout the evening. We encourage all students to come and join our voices together through song and prayer. Parents, you are welcome to come and be a part of this special night as well.

Student Pastor Search Update

A great deal of prayer, work, and progress has been made as we continue the search for a new Student Pastor. A nation-wide search was initiated with the assistance of The Shepherd's Staff search firm who ran our criteria against a database of more than 3,000 prospects. Here are the statistics as the search has narrowed.

- 213 possible prospects from 29 states for closer review
- 86 candidates seriously considered in the process from 16 states
- 10 resumes presented to the Student Pastor Search Team
- 6 candidate phone interviews with Chip Bradford and Patrick McCrory
- 4 Face-time candidate interviews with members of the Personnel Committee, Leslie Sheffield and Patrick McCrory
- 2 face-to-face interviews with the entire Personnel Committee, Leslie Sheffield, Jay Hancock and Patrick McCrory Please continue to be in prayer as we prayerfully consider God's man for this position!



Over 100 high school students had an incredible November weekend taking time to press pause in the midst of their fast paced lives. Students spent time learning what it means to trust in our Good Shepherd. They also experienced community through small groups that looked at how to live this trust out daily.



Key Dates:

December 6 - C2

December 9 - Fuel Worship - Night of Worship & Prayer

December 13 - C2

December 16 - Fuel Worship

December 20 & 27 - No DCs

December 23 & 30 - No Wednesday Nights

Jan 2-4 - Passion Conference for Seniors

Jan 3 - DCs Start Back Up

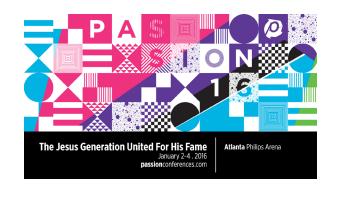
Jan 6 - Fuel Worship Begins

Jan 10 - C2 Begins

Parents of Seniors - Passion 2016

Parents of Seniors, are you looking for a great way to invest in your soon-to-be graduate and help equip them for the next step in their faith journey? 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 at carmelstudents.org!

Location: Atlanta, GA Dates: Jan 2-4 Cost: \$200

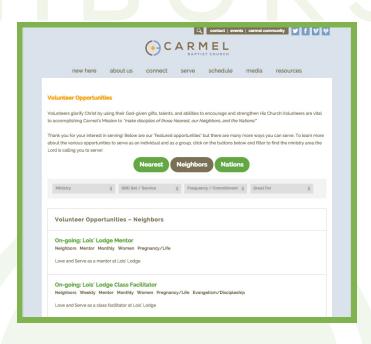




We celebrate and invite you to join what God is doing through Carmel to Love and Serve our Neighbors.

SERVE-ing Made Easy!

Heard about our new online SERVE tool? Check it out to learn how to plug into regular, on-going service. Visit carmelbaptist.org and click on the SERVE tab. This tool also includes one-time serving opportunities.



The Joy of Giving

Thank you to all who gave or signed up in the Love + Serve Engagement Area. If you missed it or are looking for additional ways to bless others during the holiday, here are some ideas:

- · check out the Advent Calendar on the back of The Table
- send a Christmas cards to a Carmel missionary or global partner
- purchase items for the Pregnancy Resource Center from their Target gift registry (first name PRC, last name Charlotte)
- decorate for or serve at the Joy Ministry Christmas Luncheon Sunday, December 6
- · send Christmas cards to women in prison through Changed Choices
- drop off Christmas cookies and a note of encouragement for our ministry partners in Charlotte who love + serve daily For specific details on these and more opportunities, contact Connie at conniec@carmelbaptist.org.



A huge thank you to all who participated in the Love + Serve Engagement Area! People throughout Charlotte have been blessed by your generosity!



DCs came together to host Thanksgiving feasts at Carrington Place and Jackson Park Ministry.



A Women's Bible Study group assembled gift bags for girls age 14 - 18 who are victims of human traffiking served by Hope House.



Want to learn more about what Carmel is doing to make disciples of the Nations? Visit the SERVE/NATIONS page on carmelbaptist.org.

Christmas? What's That?

"We talk of the Second Coming; half the world has never heard of the first." - Oswald

This is the month we celebrate the incredible Incarnation . . . Jesus coming from heaven, taking on flesh, revealing Himself to us, and providing the only way we can be reconciled to God. It is a season of great joy for those of us who have come to know the real reason for the season, but for the more than 2 billion people in the world who have never heard about Jesus, it is just another day.

You cannot celebrate something you know nothing about. You cannot find joy in a person you never knew existed. You can't have hope in eternal life if you don't know you don't know that it is a possibility.

As you celebrate this wonderful holiday with your family, remember those who have no reason to celebrate. As you gather with your family for all the special events, church services, dinners, and times of fellowship, pause and pray that this Christmas and in the coming year, the vast number of Unreached People Groups would hear the Good News that Jesus Christ was born, lived, died, and was resurrected so that they too could have the confidence of eternal life.

If you would like to make it a Christmas priority for you and your family to pray for Unreached People Groups this season, go to Carmel's Unreached People Group page under Nations on our website.



Pray for Syria

More than four million refugees of the Syrian Civil War have left the country during the course of the civil war and hundreds of thousands have been seeking refuge and a new life in Europe. This massive migration provides an incredible opportunity for those who are suffering the trauma of such an upheaval to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ as they travel to the West. This month we ask everyone to pray for Syria and those affected by this tragic civil war.

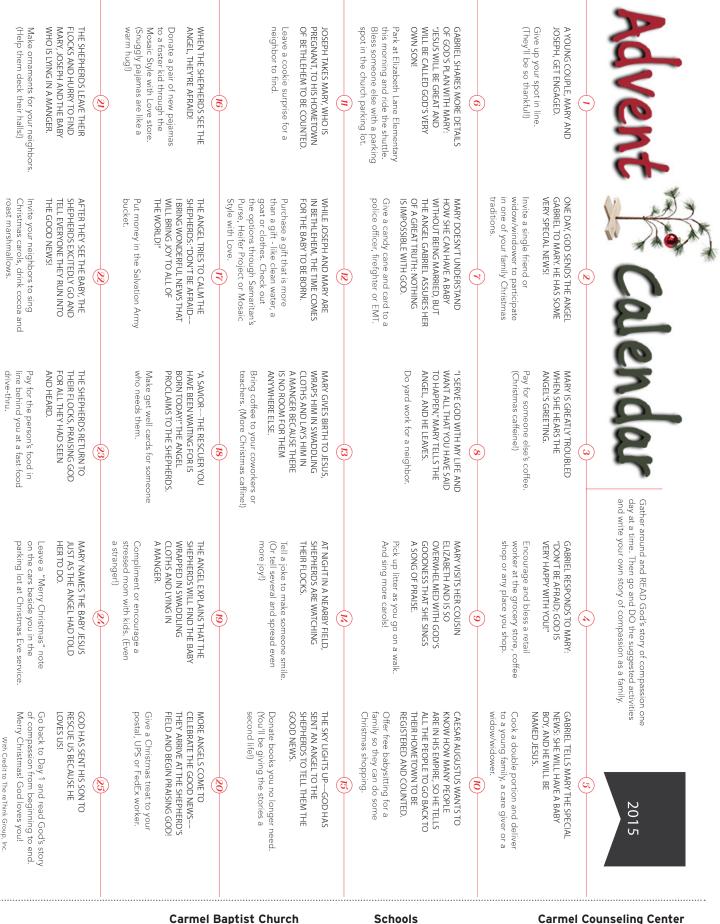
Pray for Cuba Mission Team

Please pray for the mission team to Santiago de Cuba, Cuba from December 3 - 11, 2015. This trip will involve church visitation, evangelism, leadership development, and strategic planning for church planting and native missionary assistance in Cuba.











Carmel Baptist Church

carmelbaptist.org 704.847.8575

weeschool.org carmelchristian.org

Carmel Counseling Center

carmelcounselingcenter.org

