

Zebulon Baptist Church
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Zebulon Baptist Church

**a center of worship
a place of ministry
a fellowship of believers**

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Address Service Requested

THE ADVENT CONSPIRACY

How has Christmas evolved to be a time of so much stress? Why do we party too much, spend too much, eat too much, and stress out too much? Why isn't Advent and Christmas a time for reflection, for spiritual growth, for strengthening commitment and deepening love? The answer is all too simple. Christmas time is what it is because we have allowed it to be so.

Could the Advent Season change and once again become a time of promise and hope? Of course it can change. The answer is also simple. We have to make the right choices to make it happen. Five years ago several pastors challenged their people to make four choices at Christmas time – to worship God fully during the season, to spend less on gifts, decorations, and parties, to give more to others in ways that will make a difference in the world and please God, and to love everyone – no exceptions, unconditionally.

Worship fully, spend less, give more and love all became the fourfold mantra of “The Advent Conspiracy”. Each year in the past five years, more and more churches have joined the “conspiracy” and taught their members these significant steps to a brighter, healthier, more meaningful celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Christmas of 2011 is our first to join The Advent Conspiracy. Read our newsletter and discover the many opportunities for worship on page 2. Find out about many opportunities for generous giving on page 3. The Advent journey is underway. We want you to be part of the band of Advent pilgrims at Zebulon Baptist Church as we make our way to Christmas and once again celebrate the birth of Jesus. We want it to be a celebration that will never leave you stressed out, worn out, embarrassed, over committed financially, and empty and discouraged.

Instead we are journeying together so that Christ's hope, peace, joy, and love will be born once again inside all of us as we celebrate Christmas of 2011. Dare to believe this can be your Christmas experience this year!



YOUTH NEWS

JOURNEYS IN DECEMBER – The Wednesdays of December 7 and 14 – The Advent Conspiracy for Youth, 8 – 9 PM.

YOUTH EAT AT CHILP'S, SHOP FOR ADOPTED FAMILY – Sunday, December 11 after AM worship.

YOUTH CHRISTMAS DINNER – December 11, 7–11 PM – progressive dinner Christmas party at three homes. Bring a present, \$10 to \$15 range, for the gift exchange.

YOUTH OUTING AT CHRISTMAS – Wednesday, December 28, 11 AM – lunch at Kanki followed by a movie.

A PIZZA PARTY FOR PRESCHOOLERS!

Join us in the Blue Room at 4 PM on December 11 for some food and fun!

We'll make Christmas cards, eat pizza, watch a Christmas video and then off to Mr. Tim and Mrs. Martha's to prepare for the Joy Gift Service.

Contact Valerie Shelton if you have any questions – vbshelton@nc.rr.com.

K - 3rd Grade Christmas Party

K-3 grade children will have their Christmas party on Wednesday, December 14, beginning at 6:30 PM in the blue room. This will take place during the GA and RA time. Afterwards, children will be taken to their regular choir practice at 7:05 PM. Questions? Please contact Mary Paul Cantin by email at fourcantins@aol.com or phone at 269-5106.

WORSHIP FULLY

Listed below are the many worship opportunities available in December. Plan to be present for each worship service of the Advent season and bring your family, friends, and neighbors with you as we celebrate the birth of Jesus in worship.



- December 4** – 10:15 – The Candle of Peace, Music by the Music Mates and Sanctuary Choir, The Advent Conspiracy Emphasis – Spend Less!
6:30 – The Hanging of the Green – see the beautiful transformation of the Sanctuary, hear music by the Sanctuary Choir, and enjoy the first lighting of the Chrismon Tree.
- December 11** – 10:15 – The Candle of Joy, Music by the Cherubs and Sanctuary Choir, The Advent Conspiracy Emphasis – Give More!
5:30 – The Joy Gift Service – music by the Adult Handbells, Music Mates Choir, a musical by the Cherubs and Juniors, “*The Case of The Reluctant Innkeeper*”, presentation of our gifts for the Christmas benevolence ministry.
- December 18** – 10:15 – The Candle of Love, Music by the Juniors and Sanctuary Choirs, The Advent Emphasis – “Love All”
The Ingathering for Global Missions
6:30 – The Sanctuary Choir presents the Christmas musical service, “*Sing Gloria*”, with orchestral accompaniment and narration.
- December 24** – 5 and 11 PM – Christmas Eve Worship – the lighting of the Christ Candle, the Christmas Sermon, Candlelight Communion, Christmas musical favorites, and the traditional ending of carols and candlelighting
- December 25** – 10:15 – Christmas on a Sunday! Enjoy worship in the Sanctuary on Christmas Day. Casual dress. No Sunday School that morning.
- January 1** – 10:15 – New Year’s Day Worship in the Sanctuary
(Sunday School at 9 – Doughnuts in the Fellowship Hall for everyone, served from 9:30 until 10:05)

(Nursery will be provided for all of these services except the 11 PM service on Christmas Eve)

Senior Adult Trip

Our Senior Adults will enjoy a trip to A Carolina Christmas Show on Friday, December 2, at the Raleigh Convention Center. The cost is \$6.50 or \$5.50 for senior adults (65 and older). We will leave the church at 9:30 and shop until 12:00. We will stop at Chick-fil-A in Knightdale on the way home. A Carolina Christmas Show is a wonderful place to shop for crafts and gifts, plus seeing all the Christmas decorations. Let Barbara or the church office know if you plan on going.

Senior Adult Christmas Luncheon

All Senior Adults are invited to attend a Christmas Luncheon on Tuesday, December 20. The luncheon will begin at noon in our Fellowship Hall. We will enjoy turkey, dressing, and all the trimmings. Please bring 3 or more can goods (per person) for our food pantry. Please let Barbara Glasgow or the church office know if you plan on attending by Sunday, December 18. Please join us!!!

JUNIORS NEWS

Juniors Connections in December

We’re having a good time on Wednesday nights learning about how our lives connect with Jesus. Parents, continue encouraging your children to bring their Bibles. It would be great to have everyone in the group have their Bibles! We only have two meetings this month. Here is what we’ll be talking about:

Wednesday, December 7 – “*Having the Christmas Giving Spirit Year Round*”

Wednesday, December 14 – Game Night!

Come join us in the blue room 7:00 – 7:45 PM each Wednesday night!



December Mission Project for Juniors

The Juniors are adopting a family as part of the church’s Christmas benevolence program. Parents, your children will have an opportunity to shop for our adopted family when we go on our Christmas shopping trip on December 1. However, if your child cannot attend that evening, they are more than welcome to bring clothing and/or non-perishable food items to Wednesday night Connections meetings up until December 14. We will need mostly pants and shirts for a teenage girl (ladies medium shirt, size/5 long pant size) and a teenage boy (men’s medium shirt, size/ 36/32 pant size). Non-perishable grocery items are welcome too. If any parents and/or their children would like to help Matt deliver the items to our adopted family, then please let Matt know. Thanks!

Thursday, December 1, Christmas Shopping Trip

We’ll be traveling together to Triangle Town Center to go shopping for gifts for our family members and also our Christmas benevolence family that we are adopting. We’ll also catch dinner while we are there. This meeting was a popular event last year and should no doubt be a grand time this year too. We’ll plan to meet at the church at 5:30 PM and be back promptly at 9:00 PM. Be sure to bring enough spending money to buy gifts for family members, one clothing item for our adopted family, and dinner. Come out and bring a friend too!

Sunday, December 11, Juniors Christmas Party

Come out for a fun time to party and celebrate Christmas together! Yates and Julie Perry have graciously offered to host the Juniors at their home for our party this year (10768 Patrician Way, Zebulon). We’ll meet there directly after the Sunday morning worship service until 2:00 PM. There will be plenty of fun activities to do at their home and we’ll also have some Christmas-themed games to play. Lunch will be provided too. Parents, transportation will be provided at the church after the service or you can drop and pick up your child. Join us!

Please let Matt know if your child can attend these events by phone, email (mdinkins@zebulonbaptist.com), or in person in advance. Thanks!



GIVE MORE

Listed below are ways you can give more to God through opportunities here at Zebulon Baptist Church.

The 2011 Offering for Global Missions – perhaps you will choose to direct your extra giving toward the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship’s 2011 Offering for Global Missions. Your gifts will support the mission efforts of our career missionaries and mission volunteers throughout the world as we care for some of the most neglected people on earth, striving to be the presence of Christ to them. Share the love of Christ with others by bringing your offering for Global Missions to worship on Sunday morning, December 18. We will continue to receive Global Missions gifts through January 8, but we encourage everyone to be a part of the ingathering on the 18th. Also, don’t forget that gifts to the Fellowship Hall Missions Tree support local missions and global missions equally.

Christmas Benevolence – our church is helping a significant number of families enjoy a bright Christmas with clothes, toys, food, and gift cards. Check out the tree in Building D and find an item you can provide. Make a cash donation to Christmas Benevolence. And, be sure to bring toys and gifts for children of all ages to the Joy Gift Service on Sunday evening, December 11, at 5:30.

Year End Giving to the Budget and/or Believe Campaign – remember that gifts to God through our budget support mission and ministries that take place every day. Gifts to the Believe Campaign support our debt retirement as well as Caring for the Campus and Mission Ventures funds. Strong year end giving is essential to providing the funds needed for vital ministry through Zebulon Baptist Church. Give generously to God through the budget and Believe Campaign during December and in particular before the end of the tax year, December 31.

Christmas Eve Worship – the traditional Communion offering for hunger.

Sanctuary Choir to Sing at Riley Hill Baptist Church

Our Sanctuary Choir will be singing at Riley Hill Baptist Church on Thursday evening, December 8, from 8 until 8:30 PM. Come out and enjoy our choir and fellowship with the Riley Hill congregation that evening.

Children’s Choirs to Sing in December

December 4, AM – Music Mates Choir

December 11, AM – Cherub Choir

PM (5:30) – Music Mates Choir, Cherub Choir, Junior Choir

December 18, AM – Junior Choir; PM (6:30) – Cherub Choir, Junior Choir

Christmas Post Office

You can place Christmas cards to fellow church members in the appropriate alphabetical boxes of our Christmas Post Office, located in the front hallway of the fellowship hall building. Please remember to mail cards to homebound members and also to members who may not come to church often through the regular mail. Remember to check the post office regularly for cards sent to you.



Sanctuary Choir Christmas Musical

Join us on Sunday evening, December 18, at 6:30, as our Sanctuary Choir presents a concert of worship for Christmas. “Sing Gloria” is a beautiful collection of Christmas anthems both new and familiar. Our instrumentalists and handbell ensemble will accompany our wonderful Sanctuary Choir. There will be special music by the combined

Cherub and Junior Choirs. Please join us and invite your neighbors and friends. Nursery will be provided.

Are you Team Hot, Chocolate, or Cookies? A Tower Made of Food? What?

You are reading that right! We have three teams named Hot, Chocolate and Cookies. And yes... we are going to build 3 towers made of the food brought in for the “Pad the Pantry Food Challenge”. If you have “Tower Building Skills”, you could be part of the building squad for your team. Just find your team’s drop off location and the sign-up for the building squad is right there.

Not sure what team you belong to? Take a look below.

Here are the teams and their drop off locations:

Team HOT: All Sunday school classes in Building D, drop off location is room D12 (look for sign)

Team Chocolate: All Sunday school classes in Building B including the nursery, drop off location is the blue room (look for the sign)

Team Cookies: All Sunday school classes in the Sanctuary building, members of the choir who are not in a Sunday school class and then anyone in worship that does not attend Sunday school. Drop off location is the Foyer.

Here are the Donation Dates and what you are challenged to bring:

November 16 – Mac and Cheese (case quantities are good foundations)

November 20 – Cereal (larger the box the better to build with)

November 27 – Canned Meats, Stews, Ready to eat packages

November 30 – Peanut Butter and Jelly and Snack items (combo week)

December 4 – Canned Vegetables (case quantities are good foundations)

December 7 – Pasta and Sauces, Ready-to-eat packages

December 11 – Fresh Fruit bags, fruit baskets (good decorations for added points)

If you have not brought in items for the first three dates you can catch up this Wednesday, November 30 or on Sunday, December 4. You can also donate items that are not on the list if you would like to. Those items can be used to build the tower as well.

All three teams will compete in a tower building challenge on our last Wednesday night before Christmas and New Year’s break on December 14. You will want to be at dinner early to get a good seat! Competition begins at 6 PM sharp!

