

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Our Sympathy to ...

Laura Boland on the death of her father, Anthony "Tony" Darr

## Congratulations to ...

Theo and Brittany Facinoli on the birth of their daughter, Tessa Reneé Facinoli

**Deacons' Offering** — This month's special offering will be shared between On Eagles Wings and Lily Pad Haven. These organizations provide housing, transitional services, and other outreach efforts to minister to women who are victims of human trafficking.

**Annual Christmas Worship Concert** — This evening at 7 p.m., we will present Handel's *Messiah* in our sanctuary, featuring the Christ Covenant *Messiah* Choir, Symphony Orchestra, soloists, and guest conductor Jeffrey Heyl. This concert is free and NO tickets are required. A love offering will be taken to help support the music ministry. Note that this concert is our evening worship service.

**Children's Birthday Party for Jesus** — Our annual outreach event for children ages 3 to 5th grade will be Saturday, December 9, from 10 a.m.-noon in our Community Life Center. See our Highlight on the back of this sheet for more information.

**Sunday Bible School Winter Quarter** — Today is the beginning of the winter quarter of our Sunday Bible School program. Our church has many classes to choose from based on life stages. See <https://christcovenant.org/connect/sunday-bible-school> for a list of what each class is studying this quarter.

**ProjectSHARE Collection** — Our December collection is for Changed Choices, an organization that provides support to women who are incarcerated as well as women who are transitioning back into society. Items can be dropped off at the Information Desk. The list of items is at <http://christcovenant.org/projectshare>.

**CDS Scholarship** — Covenant Day School is accepting applications for its Roper Scholarship, which covers up to 80% of a student's annual tuition. This scholarship is available only to Christ Covenant Church member families considering enrolling a new student for the 2018-2019 school year, who would also qualify for financial assistance. The deadline to apply for this scholarship is January 15, 2018. Please contact the CDS Admissions office at 704-847-2385 for more information or to pick up an application. The application can also be downloaded at [christcovenant.org/news](http://christcovenant.org/news).

**Women's Winter Bible Studies & Small Groups** — Registration is open for our winter/spring Anchor groups and Bible studies. Please see the Women's Ministry page of our website for details and registration. Click on "Women's Bible Studies" or the "Anchor" links on the right margin for more information.

**Watching Our Budget** — Thank you for your tithes and gifts to all of the ministries of Christ Covenant. Please continue to pray for God's provision in 2017. As a reminder, the Our Heritage pledge fulfillment period goes through December 2017.

<i>Inflow 1/1/17 – 11/26/17</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Difference</i>	<i>% (-) or +</i>
Operating Budget	4,437,148	4,427,500	9,648	0.22%
Faith Promise Budget	263,395	257,500	5,895	2.29%
<i>12/1/14 – 11/26/17</i>	<i>Gifts Received</i>	<i>3-Year Commitment</i>	<i>Fulfillment %</i>	
Our Heritage	3,567,805	3,500,000	101.94%	

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# PRAYER FOCUS THIS WEEK

**The Persecuted Church:** For believers in Egypt where ISIS terrorism continues against Coptic Christians and Muslim neighbors who have allowed them to live and work in peace. Pray for the government to protect its people and for God to strengthen His church in the Middle East.

**Our Presbytery:** Hope Community Church, Charlotte, and Rev. Mark Upton

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

This list shows special and monthly events and start of weekly programs. See our website for more church events/programs and the E-Courier (e-newsletter) for this week's events.

### This Week

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> | Morning worship (10:45 a.m.)  
Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> | Evening worship concert: Handel's *Messiah* (7 p.m.)  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> | Anchor dessert (7 p.m.)  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> | Senior Adult ladies luncheon (11:30 a.m.)  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> | Children's Birthday Party for Jesus (10 a.m.)  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> | WBS: Philippians young women's study (9:30 a.m.)

### Upcoming Events

Dec. 11 | Yarn Lovers Ministry (6:30 p.m.)  
Dec. 13 | Yarn Lovers Ministry (10 a.m.)  
Dec. 13 | WBS: Philippians monthly study (7 p.m.)  
Dec. 13 | HS outing to McAdenville/MS movie night  
Dec. 16 | MS & HS sons & dads paintball outing  
Dec. 24 | Christmas Eve morning worship (10:45 a.m.) \*NO SBS  
Dec. 24 | Candlelight Christmas Eve service (6 p.m.)  
Dec. 31 | NO SBS

## THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHT

### A Birthday Party for Jesus

*Though you have not seen Him, you love Him. Though you do not now see Him, you believe in Him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory — 1 Peter 1:8*

This Saturday, December 9, from 10:00 a.m. to noon, our Children's Ministry will host our 12<sup>th</sup> annual Birthday Party for Jesus in the Community Life Center. Our special celebration provides church families with a loving way to reach out and share the true heart of Christmas in a fun and inviting way with neighbors, friends, and family. We expect more than 100 young guests again this year.

Our party will be a lively, kid-friendly celebration that includes lots of music and a Bible based story time to explain Christ's birth and the Cross in a simple gospel presentation that children will understand. There will also be games, crafts, cookie decorating, face painting, and balloon sculpting. All of our guests will be able to enjoy each activity along with cake and party refreshments. Everything is free, as a gift to each of our young guests and their families. For more information, please contact Fellowship Coordinator Lindey Dunclee at [ldunclee@christcovenant.org](mailto:ldunclee@christcovenant.org).

Smiling volunteers are welcome to join the party or be a part of the preparations. Please contact Ministry Administrator Gatha Schleicher at 704-814-1045 or [gschleicher@christcovenant.org](mailto:gschleicher@christcovenant.org).

Please pray for the children that you and others will invite this week and plan to join us with your friends, family, and neighbors as we celebrate Christ and share the true meaning of Christmas with a new generation.