



# *The Jonesboro Heights Baptist Church* **ANNOUNCER**

**JANUARY 2025**

*May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to You,  
Lord, my rock and my Redeemer.*

Psalm 139: 14

*“Scrooge was better than his word. He did it all, and infinitely more...  
He became as good a friend, as good a master, and as good a man, as the good old city knew, or any  
other good old city, town, or borough, in the good old world.”*

Charles Dickens

Last week I had the opportunity to see a fantastic performance of “A Christmas Carol” at the Temple Theater (especially exciting with a couple of our church members participating in the play). But one of the highlights of the show is seeing the contrast between Scrooge at the beginning and him at the end. In the beginning he is a crotchety old man who has sacrificed everything to gain money and would rather see people die than for him to have to deal with them (“If they would rather die,” said Scrooge, “they had better do it, and decrease the surplus population.”) But by the end he was a good friend, a good master, and a good man, caring even about (and especially for) a crippled young boy who could do nothing for him. We see his fictional example and maintain the hope that people can change.

We find this concept all throughout scripture. Possibly the closest example is the Pharisee Saul who, rather than money, sacrificed everything for self-righteousness. But we also see a king named David brought low by his affair and corresponding murder seek reconciliation with God (Psalm 51), a coward named Gideon made into a “mighty man of God (Judges 6-8), a deceiver named Jacob made into the father and namesake of the Israelite nation. Example after example we see men and women changed as they encounter the one true God.

As we celebrate New Years, our encouragement is that God still changes people. New Years Resolutions have become a joke that rarely lasts past the first few weeks of January. But would you commit yourself to growing closer to God this Christmas season? Would you set aside time to spend in his Word, to memorize a passage of Scripture, to serve in His church, and/or to tell someone about the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Would your deepest prayer be the same as David’s: May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, Lord, my rock and my Redeemer.”

Pastor Brian Charland

**Address**

316 W. Main Street  
Sanford, NC 27332  
919-776-1541  
www.jhbc.org

**Senior Pastor**

*Rev. Brian Charland*  
Brian.charland@jhbc.org

**Associate Pastor**

*Rev. Scott Davis*  
Music Ministry  
scott.davis@jhbc.org

**Associate Pastor**

*Rev. Nick Smetak*  
Youth, Children  
& Families  
nick.smetak@jhbc.org

**Administrator**

*Mr. Mike Bundy*  
mike.bundy@jhbc.org

**Administrative Assistant**

*Mrs. Kristina Cutter*  
kristina.cutter@jhbc.org

**Pastor Emeritus**

*Rev. Gilbert W. McDowell*

**Pianist**

*Mrs. Joan Luellen*  
joanluellen@windstream.net

**Nursery Staff**

*Ms. Claire Cummings*  
*Ms. Evelyn Martinez*  
*Ms. Nya South*

# WORSHIP MATTERS

*Pastor Scott*

## Scott's (light-hearted) Review of the Christmas Choir Musical Through Word and Photo

(Photos by Pastor Nick)



Pastor Brian greeting folks. This first year of working with Brian has been great. I appreciate all the gifts he brings to the table, which are many.

James Alverson did an awesome job narrating. His years in radio are still paying off!



Joan Luellen – She does such a wonderful job and is so easy to work with! Thanks, Joan!



JHBC's Awesome Worship Choir  
It is a privilege to get to lead them.



What's up with that 'little finger'?



How 'bout that tie?!



Everybody Singing Carols!

WOOPS!

What's going on?!

We're singing the words of "Angels From the Realms of Glory" to the tune of "Angels We Have Heard on High" AND IT WORKED!!



## Survive in 2025?

As we were wrapping up 2024, I had a question to ponder... We had “Pray More in 2024” here at JHBC, but we couldn’t just go “Pray More in 2025”... that just doesn’t work as well as it did for 2024. So what would we call our church’s prayer focus for 2025? As I do with most things, I turned to my sounding board (i.e. my wonderful and better half). We joked about naming it “Survive in 2025”, because that’s how we feel going into 2025. I instantly knew that we couldn’t name it that, but it was fun to joke about.

How many of us honestly feel that way, though? We feel like we are just doing good to survive right now, we can’t even imagine thriving in our lives, our Christian walks, our jobs... but how many times do we think of prayer as just surviving? How many times is prayer our first response? I will be the first to admit that, even as one of your pastors, I can sometimes view prayer as my “survival mode”, only running to it when things seem hopeless and finally beyond my control.

I know, that’s wrong, and it may seem shocking for you to hear. But recently, God has really been showing Heather and I some things that we need to rely on Him for... but we need to bring it to Him in prayer. We need to pray over it, turn it over to Him, and trust that He has it under control. I don’t know about you, but when I really get the opportunity to think about that, it is so freeing! Realizing that God is in control of every situation in our lives frees us up so much from fear and worry. When we cling to Him, we can move from merely surviving day by day, and truly thriving in the will of God for us.

What would it take for us to Thrive in 2025? What areas of our lives do we need to fix so that we can go from simply surviving to totally thriving? Do we need to work on our prayer lives? Do we need to get back into His Word? Do we need to make worship a rhythm of our lives, rather than an event we attend? What small habit-forming actions can we take today that will bring us an inch closer to Thriving in Christ each day?

Let’s lean into God this year, and learn to Thrive in 2025!

*The Lord Bless and Keep You.*

*Pastor Nick Arnetak*



*A song that has helped me realize this lesson was “God is Listening” by Triumphant. You can find it by searching on YouTube or scanning the QR Code to the right.*



# Deacon's Corner

Submitted by Lynwood Jones

## Leadership Lessons from the Past

The first few weeks in January is always an interesting time of year. Many of us have jumped into the New Year full of intentions to make positive changes, both small and large. Health goals, professional goals, and everything in between. The promise of new and different is in the air and it feels good.

At the same time... I don't know about you, but after the holidays I still have this nagging desire to simply live in the same 'ol, same 'ol. 2024 is gone, but 2025 isn't fully operational just yet. It's a weird space. Part of us wants to sprint towards the future and the other part wants to stay where it is comfortable. Maybe you do too...

One thing that I have learned over the years is that sometimes simply remembering the past can be a powerful motivator. Scripture reminds us as well in Romans 15:4,

"For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope".

I firmly believe there is tremendous value in taking a strategic pause, especially for anyone in a leadership role. In a world where responsibilities are always added to your plate, slowing down in order to go fast is essential. It creates space for intentional actions.

So let me share a few of the lessons I have learned from reflecting on this past year...

1. **Run your own race.** Looking around at others only diverts your focus and direction.
2. **Minimize unhealthy escapism.** Maybe its social media, sports, the kids or grandkids... maybe its simply withdrawing in an effort to make it all go away... Remember, leaders run toward problems, not away.
3. **Tell the Story.** It helps connect and create clarity. Leaders take note: a good story, especially one that is personal, can inspire those around you... especially when that story comes from the pages of Scripture.
4. **No one has it all figured out.** And I mean no one! Despite what you see on the outside, every person is dealing with their own demons or insecurities. This leads back to lesson #1.
5. **Put back your shopping cart.** Don't leave in the middle of the parking lot.. The little things matter now more than ever. Small acts of kindness and leaving things better than how you found them make a difference to our world. Do your part in taking care of this place, your company, our church and each other.

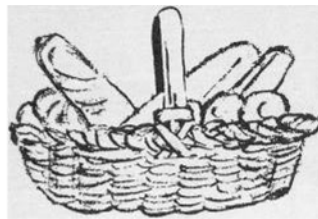
Here's to what 2024 taught you and what lies ahead in 2025!





Honduras

We are excited about our partnership with Legacy Mission International and for the opportunity we will have to send a mission team to Honduras in February 2025. If you would like to give to support our mission team, please send a check made payable to JHBC and write “Honduras” on the memo line.



**SERVE OPPORTUNITY - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

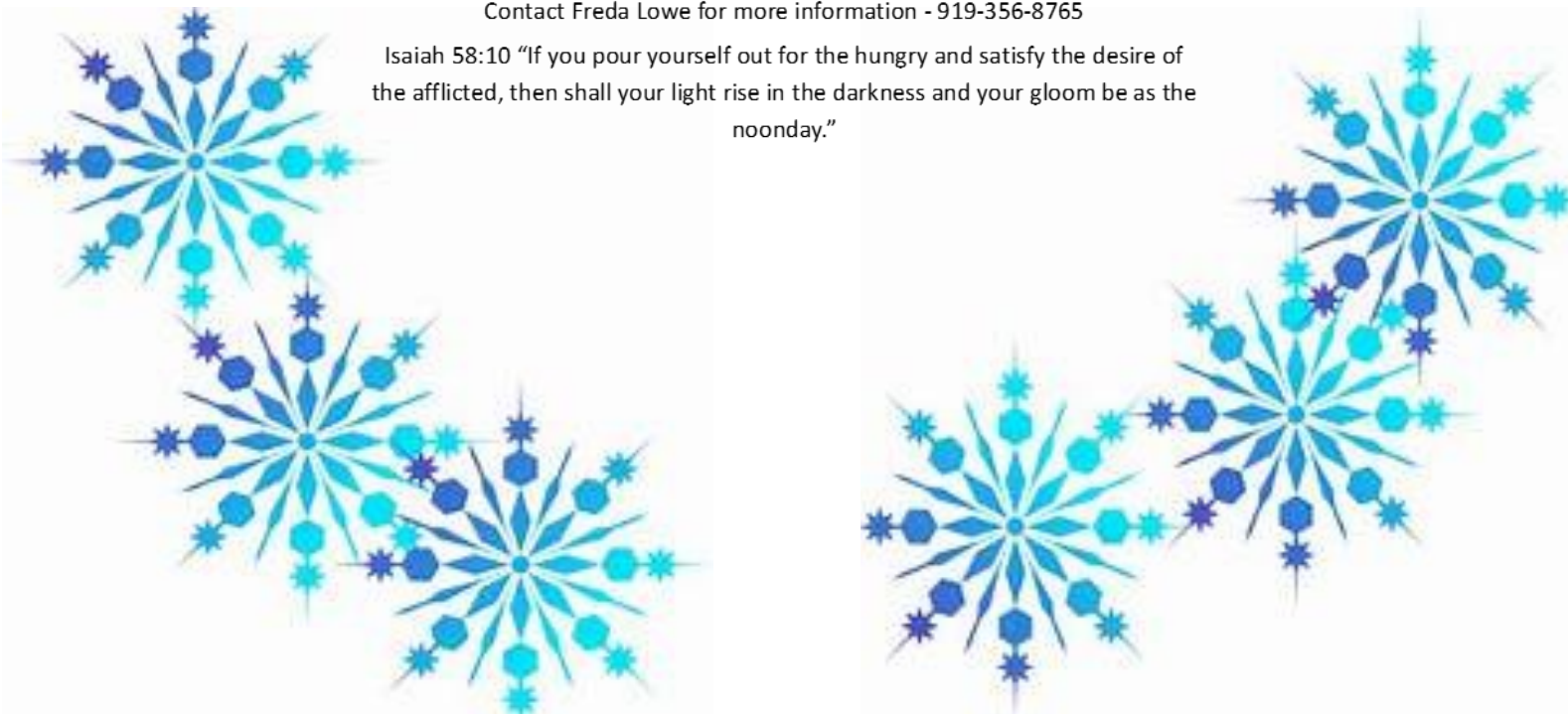
Join us on the 4th Tuesday each month at The Bread Basket of Sanford

Time: 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Address: 140 E. Chisholm Street

Contact Freda Lowe for more information - 919-356-8765

Isaiah 58:10 “If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday.”





## Higher Heights

Wednesday, Jan. 22, 11 AM  
McDowell Fellowship Hall

Guest Speaker: Anna Phillips,  
Bridges – Cameron Funeral Home  
Topic: End of Life Planning

## Baptist Men Meeting

Monday, Jan. 27, 6:30 pm

Speaker: Matt Cashion  
Cashion Fishing Rods

**Sign up on the Bulletin Board – TODAY!**

**Great Men on a Great Journey!**

**Come join us!**



**Snow many blessings!**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 25TH**

**5-7 PM**

Register here!



**Marriage Nights at JHBC**

*Next Session is Saturday, January 25th*

Join us for this transformative resource, designed to help you explore new levels of intimacy, communication, and connection with your spouse.

**Meal (\$5/person, family max \$15) and children's event provided. RSVP by scanning the QR code.**



03/13/25

TRUESONG - LIVE IN CONCERT

*TRUESONG*



**COMMUNITY CONCERT**

TrueSong, the resident band for the Ark Encounter in Williamstown, Kentucky, will be performing a **free** concert open to the community at Jonesboro Heights Baptist Church. The concert is March 13th, 2025 at 6pm in the Main Sanctuary. For details, contact Nick Smetak at [nick.smetak@jhbc.org](mailto:nick.smetak@jhbc.org)



CREATION  
MUSEUM



## Ark Encounter and Creation Museum Trip Interest Meeting

Interest Meeting: Sunday, February 2nd, 2025  
at the end of service in Bullock-Matthews

Proposed dates for the trip: July 28-August 1st  
3 Days between the Ark Encounter and Creation Museum, with some  
wonderful concerts from artists like Triumphant, Truesong, and more!

*Contact Pastor Nick for more details at [nick.smetak@jhbc.org](mailto:nick.smetak@jhbc.org)*



This trip will occur at the start of the 40  
Days of Christian Music Festival. Admission  
to the concerts will be included in the cost.



*Thank You!*

**San Lee Middle School praises JHBC**

We want to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude to Jonesboro Heights Baptist Church. Words truly cannot convey how thankful we are at San Lee Middle School for your generosity. Thank you for taking time out of your day (Monday, November 25th) to provide a meal for our staff. The outpouring of support from this wonderful community means so much to us, and we are deeply appreciative. Your kindness has had a lasting impact!

**Bereavement Ministry**

A special thanks to the six groups of the Bereavement Ministry that so willingly supplied food for the staff of San Lee Middle School. Thanks to Pastor Brian, Brenda Wicker, Belinda McGugan and Sandy Brown for transporting the food. Thanks to Jean Kelly for her assisting in organizing all the dishes and others.

Dear JHBC Carolers,  
Please accept my thanks for your visit with beautiful Christmas music. May God bless you in return.  
Thanks,  
Armelia Garren



**WMU Update**

Thank you to everyone who studied, prayed, participated and for those who gave financially to support International Missions during our emphasis for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. All the money given to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goes to meet the needs of our missionaries serving unreached people in all corners of the earth. They sacrifice their lives, their families and the comforts of home to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those who do not know Jesus as their Savior. Please continue to give as you can and to pray for these missionaries who have heard the call and answered yes. As of 12/23/2024 we have collected \$8,861.86. The goal for JHBC is \$11,000.

In WMU our ladies will continue to learn about and pray for missions as we prepare to start back our Blessing Your Heart bags in partnership with the H3 Ministry here in Lee County to provide basic supplies for our homeless.

February 23, 2025, we will celebrate Baptist Women's Day. Our special speaker that morning will be our own Phyllis Watson. The February Announcer will give you more details about a wonderful day of celebration and worship.

Mary Hawley Oates

FRANKLIN GRAHAM  
P.O. Box 3000, Boone, NC 28607

December 9, 2024

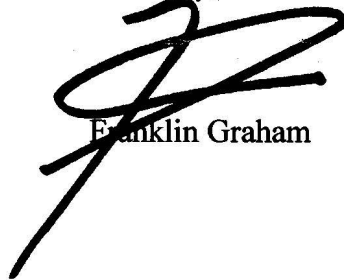
Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous gift to Samaritan's Purse for Operation Christmas Child. Your support and prayers for this ministry are greatly appreciated.

This is a busy and exciting time of year as we prepare millions of gift-filled shoeboxes to be shipped to over 110 countries. We are deeply grateful for every person who packs a shoebox, the churches who serve as drop-off locations, all those who volunteer at the processing centers, and those who give—and pray—to make this project possible. Every box is an opportunity to share the life-changing message of the Gospel with a child, his or her family, and their community. It is our prayer that many will put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ. *“For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved”* (John 3:17).

Your partnership means so much. May God bless you.

Sincerely,



Franklin Graham

FG/br

Jonesboro Heights Baptist Church  
316 W Main Street  
Sanford, NC 27332-5922

# *MEMORIAL GIFTS*

**In Memory of James Tolliver**

*To the Tolliver Scholarship*

>By Daphne Toliver

**In Honor of Aaron & Shpresa Smith**

*To Operation Mobilization*

>By Anonymous

**In Honor of Bob Tilley**

*To the Debt Reduction Fund*

>By Anonymous

**In Honor of Janette Al-Habib**

*To the Higher Heights Fund*

>By Anonymous

**In Honor of Shirley Holt**

*To the Benevolence Fund*

>By Anonymous

**In Honor of Shirley Johnson**

*To the Kitchen Team*

>By Anonymous

**In Honor of Ann Wester**

*To the Nursery Fund*

>By Anonymous

**In Honor of Joann Vance**

*To the NC Baptist Children's Homes*

>By Anonymous



**In Honor of Hudson Badders**

*To the NC Baptist Hospital Fund*

>By Anonymous

**In Honor of Billy & Mary Cox**

*To the Building & Grounds Fund*

>By Anonymous

**In Honor of Barbara Cashion**

*To the Youth Fund*

>By Anonymous

**In Honor of Teresa Jones**

*To the Library Fund*

>By Anonymous

**In Honor of Cindy Johnson**

*To the Music Fund*

>By Anonymous

**In Memory of Virginia Johnson**

*To General Fund*

>By Juanita Neal

**In Honor of Wanda Howard**

*To the Flower Fund*

>By Tony & Agnes Kelly

**In Honor of Freda Lowe**

*To Higher Heights*

>By Tony & Agnes Kelly



# 10 Biblical New Year's Resolutions

- 1** Pray Every Morning
- 2** Study a Book of the Bible
- 3** Memorize weekly Bible verse
- 4** Exercise Regularly
- 5** Eat healthier
- 6** Read a book on prayer
- 7** Save money
- 8** Do something nice for someone
- 9** Give rather than receive
- 10** Pray for wisdom



January 1 - Jordan Brown

January 2 - Agnes Kelly

January 3 - Eli Wood

January 6 - Ramona Bowling

January 8 - Rev. John Hackney

January 11 - John Watson

January 14 - Maxine Matthews

January 15 - Pastor Nick Smetak

January 16 - Claire Gilchrist

January 19 - Mary Sue Patterson

Roger Jackson

January 20 - Donna Rouse

January 22 - Jeff Cummings

January 28 - Lorraine Adkins

Jackson Snipes

January 29 - Eddie Bowling

Jeff Brown

Jonesboro Heights Baptist Church  
Balance Sheet  
November 2024

Accounts	<u>Amount</u>
<b>Assets</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
General Fund	\$111,420.92
Designated/Restricted Funds	\$61,489.82
Facilities Funds	\$62,857.44
Money Market	\$102,116.19
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<b>\$337,884.37</b>
Sales Taxes to be Reimbursed	\$11,499.47
Investments/Endowments	\$889,841.67
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$1,239,225.51</b>
Fixed Assets	\$3,098,522.97
Contra Asset Account	(\$11,309.07)
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$3,087,213.90</b>
	<b>\$4,326,439.41</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Current Liabilities	
Payroll Liabilities	\$2,852.87
Facilities	\$0.00
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$2,852.87</b>
Mortgage Payable	
BB&T Loan Land	\$0.00
<b>Total Mortgage Payable</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$2,852.87</b>
<b>Equity</b>	
Unrestricted	
Unrestricted Net Assets (Fund Principal Closing Account)	\$4,205,871.94
Unrestricted this year: (Revenues minus Expenses)	\$37,897.92
<b>Total Unrestricted</b>	<b>\$4,243,769.86</b>
Temporarily Restricted (sum of all Designated/Special accounts)	\$79,816.68
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$4,323,586.54</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	<b>\$4,326,439.41</b>
Income	November 2024
Expenses	November 2024
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$26,997.18</b>
	2024-2025 Total Income
	2024-2025 Total Expenses
	2024-2025 Net


Current credit card receipts not paid/reconciled

Total facilities security deposits

Loan has a zero balance.

Used by ACS as Fund Principal closing account  
Total revenue minus expenses for the year

# January 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29 9:45 am Sunday School 11 am Worship Service	30 6:30 pm Deacons Meeting	31 <i>Office Closed</i>	1 <b>*Happy New Year*</b> <i>Office Closed</i>	2	3	4 2 pm Choir Open House
5 9:45 am Sunday School 11 am Worship Service 5 pm Honduras Team Meeting	6 6:30 pm Youth Ministry Team 6:30 pm Building & Grounds	7 6 pm Band Rehearsal 6 pm Budget & Finance 6:30 pm Missions & Outreach	8 10:30 am Staff Meeting 5 pm WMU Council Meeting 5:30 pm AWANA & Youth Worship 6:15 pm Adult Prayer Meeting and Bible Study 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal	9 5:45 pm Baptist Men Coordinating Team	10 <i>Office Closed</i>	11
12 9:45 am Sunday School 11 am Worship Service	13 6:30 pm Youth Ministry Team 6:30 pm Building & Grounds	14 7 pm WISH	15 <b>Items for Announcer due to Kristina</b> 10:30 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm AWANA & Youth Worship 6:00 pm Band Rehearsal 6:15 pm Adult Prayer Meeting and Bible Study 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal	16	17	18
19 9:45 am Sunday School 11 am Worship Service 12:45 pm Worship Service	20  <i>Office Closed</i>	21 6 pm Band Rehearsal 6 pm Nursery Committee 7 pm Children's Ministry Team	22 11 am Higher Heights 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm AWANA & Youth Worship 6:15 pm Adult Prayer Meeting and Bible Study 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal	23	24	25 5 pm Marriage Night 5 pm JHBCkids! "Snow Many Blessings"
26 9:45 am Sunday School 11 am Worship Service	27 6:30 pm Baptist Men Meeting	28 8:30 am Breadbasket Serve Opportunity 7 pm Family Ministry Team	29 10:30 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm AWANA & Youth Worship 6:00 pm Band Rehearsal 6:15 pm Adult Prayer Meeting and Bible Study 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal	30	31 <i>Office Closed</i>	1

*The Announcer*  
Jonesboro Heights Baptist Church  
316 W. Main Street  
Sanford, NC 27332

## RETURN SERVICE REQUEST



### **GREETERS**

James & Jean Kelly

### **LOCKING & SECURITY**

January 5 - Ray Carter  
January 12 - Tom Janysek  
January 19 - Patrick Snipes  
January 26 - Preston Perdue



### **Sunday, December 1, 2024**

9:45 AM Sunday School - 125  
11 AM Worship Service - 166

### **Sunday, December 8, 2024**

9:45 AM Sunday School - 134  
11 AM Worship Service - 146

### **Sunday, December 15, 2024**

9:45 AM Sunday School - 144  
11 AM Worship Service - 222

### **Sunday, December 22, 2024**

9:45 AM Sunday School - 126  
11 AM Worship Service - 192

### **Sunday, December 29, 2024**

9:45 AM Sunday School -  
11 AM Worship Service -