



The Knoll Word

DECEMBER 2017

Monthly News of Grace Unbounded at Knollwood Baptist Church

Knollwood Celebrates Advent & Christmas

Worship

Sunday, December 3

10:55 AM **The First Sunday of Advent: HOPE**

Sunday, December 10

The Second Sunday of Advent: PEACE

10:45 AM and 5:15 PM

Christmas Music Festival

How Far Is It to Bethlehem?

Chancel Choir, Youth Choir, Children's Choirs,
Handbell Choirs, Knollwood Brass

(see page 8)

Wednesday, December 13

5:30 PM **Christmas Jazz**

7:00 PM **Service of Remembrance** (see page 7)

Sunday, December 17

10:55 AM **The Third Sunday of Advent: JOY**

Agape Communion and Feast

Sunday, December 24

10:55 AM **The Fourth Sunday of Advent: LOVE**

5:00 PM **Christmas Eve Family Service**

Come as you are – child-friendly service with an original Christmas story for the children by Dr. Bob. Music by Children's Choirs, Youth Choir, Youth Choir Alumni, Guitars

Please Note: *There will be no 11 PM Christmas Eve Service as Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday. We will have our 10:55 AM, and 5 PM service that day, but no 11 pm service.*

Sunday, December 31

10:55 AM **The First Sunday after Christmas**

Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve

All are welcome to join us for worship at 10:55.

Sunday School classes will not meet Dec. 24 or 31.

Sunday School 2018 begins January 7.



Agape Sunday, December 17 *A Knollwood Tradition*

By **DEBBIE PRUITT**

Agape Team Chair

Each year, Knollwood celebrates the birth of Christ with Agape Sunday, a time to experience the love of the Father and fellowship among Christians. There will be a special worship service and Communion, followed by a shared meal in the Fellowship Hall and Dining Room. All are welcome to attend. To read more about the history of this celebration, go to www.knollwood.org/about-us/agape-traditions.

Each family attending is encouraged to bring a dessert (cookies, sweet breads, un-iced cakes, etc.) to share, in a disposable container. Those items should be dropped off in the Fellowship Hall prior to the worship service.

There will be special dietary offerings for those requiring gluten-free, sugar-free, nut-free and vegetarian options. This table will be near the Christmas tree and marked with balloons.

Contributions for the purchase of food are welcome and appreciated. These may be sent to the church office or placed in the offering plate (designated for Agape).

As this event hosts the entire congregation, we welcome your participation in decorating, food preparation, serving

Continued on page 11

Finding True Security this Christmas

By BOB SETZER JR.



We are now beginning the most beautiful and serene season of the year: Advent and Christmas.

In the culture at large, this season brings Hallmark cards with snowy landscapes; sentimental, fun Christmas songs; gifts beneath a magical, illuminated tree; and tender, loving times with friends and family.

In the church, this season brings sacred texts that tell the story of Christmas, glorious music proclaiming the birth of Christ, a sanctuary brimming with Advent beauty, and the heart-stopping sight of flickering candles held aloft into a Christmas Eve night as “Silent Night” sounds.

And yet this year, amid all those comforting scenes of serenity and calm, many of us are reeling from the worst church shooting in history (Sutherland Springs, Texas) and the most deadly attack on a mosque in memory (Egypt).

In such a violent world, where even the most sacrosanct religious refuges offer no escape, what, if anything, does the Christmas story have to offer?

Perhaps the realization that from the beginning, the Christmas story took root, not amid tranquil moments of calm, but in a stable where a peasant family on the run took shelter for the night. Dislocated by the whims of Rome, the reigning superpower of the day, Joseph and Mary welcomed God’s Son into the world, not in an idyllic holiday setting, but in a place that reeked of cow dung. I imagine Joseph’s heart was breaking that he couldn’t provide better, while a wincing, wailing Mary tried to assure him everything would be all right.

And the holy family had hardly settled in for what, in time, would become the Christmas holiday, before the killing rage of a tyrant forced them on the run again. This time to Egypt, where Joseph and Mary sought refuge as King Herod unleashed genocide on all the Jewish babies in and around Bethlehem (*Matthew 2:16-18*).

And when at last, the maniacal ruler’s rage was spent, and it was safe to go home to Bethlehem, Joseph was forced to set up shop in a new town, Nazareth, because he knew Herod’s son, Archelaus, ruling in his father’s stead, would be an equally lethal threat to God’s Boy (*Matthew 2:22-23*).

Yes, from Joseph and Mary, we can learn much. We can learn to take reasonable precautions against violence and evil, like fleeing a tyrant or being vigilant and locking our doors (see article, “Church Security,” p. 2).

But our ultimate security rests not in what we can do but in what God has done and is doing.

So where do we find serenity and calm, much less security, in such a violent, tumultuous time as this? Maybe the same place Joseph and Mary did. In the confidence, sometimes shaken but never surrendered, that God is faithful. And that through dreams and divine nudges, insight and moral courage, an occasional helper or even an angel or two, God will find a way to achieve God’s purpose: namely, to gift our world with the first and only, cosmic Christmas gift, the gift of God’s Son, who brought hope and promise of a New Creation.

This Christmas, amid the fears and foreboding, try to remember: God gave the “unspeakable gift” (*2 Cor. 9:15*) of Jesus Christ, not because the first-century world was full of Hallmark moments, any more than ours, but precisely because it was not. Thus, when tempted to look for security in our smarts and our strength, our guns and our arsenals, Christmas invites us to look instead for true security where God left it: in a manger.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob".

Christmas invites us to look for true security in a surprising place.

Good News on Church Security

By RICH HABEGGER

Facilities Chair

Recent events in the news have many of us concerned about the safety of our places of worship. Most of us can remember a time when church doors were never locked and churches were a place of sanctuary and safety. Sadly, those days are gone. Church buildings are now another place to be broken into or invaded. And although statistics show that places of worship are the safest place to be on any given Sunday morning, that knowledge brings little comfort. The KBC Facilities Committee has been studying security for several years and numerous steps to improve the security on our campus have already been implemented--some visible, many unnoticed--and further measures will be added as needed

Major action steps taken to date:

- Security survey of the KBC campus with the Winston Salem Police Department
- Increased exterior lighting
- Removal or trimming of shrubs to minimize outdoor hiding places, particularly around exterior doors
- Expansion and enhancements to the alarm systems to allow for instant communication with the local police
- Video surveillance in the WCC
- Enhancements to the key systems for the campus
- Installation of new door security hardware where needed

Major action steps to be taken in the near future:

- Implementation of policy and procedures for securing buildings during the worship hour
- Ongoing education of ushers on use of emergency procedures
- Continued conversations regarding policy and procedures for disruptive actions occurring during meetings \ worship

As the Winston Salem Police point out, churches walk a fine line between being an open door to God's welcoming love and providing safety from potential dangers. If you have additional, questions or concerns please address them to Rich Habegger, Facilities Chair, at richhabegger@gmail.com. Ultimately, we reaffirm that our faith is grounded in a loving God that provides comfort and hope in troubled times.

AMONG OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Our deepest sympathy is expressed to Linda and Herb Baker, and family, on the death of their daughter Lee Ann Baker, Nov. 5, and to Krystyna Davis, the wife of Bob Davis, and the family upon Bob's death, Nov. 23

We offer our congratulations to Trina and Craig Jackson on the birth of their grandson, Benjamin Robert Maltarich, born Nov. 20 to their daughter Kathryn and son-in-law Mike.

IN MEMORIAM

Robert Lee Davis
December 15, 1937 - November 23, 2017

The members of Knollwood extend their deepest sympathy to the bereaved and pray for God's healing presence in their lives.

NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is published monthly by Knollwood Baptist Church. Articles should be 300 words or less. Send articles to colleen@knollwood.org.

KBC Photographer: Stephen Ball



KNOLLWOOD
BAPTIST CHURCH
Grace Unbounded



Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve

Join us for morning worship at 10:55 AM.
 Come to **Christmas Eve Family Service** at 5:00 PM.
 No 11 PM Christmas Eve Service

Sunday School classes will not meet Dec. 24 or 31.
 Sunday School 2018 begins January 7.

Library/Resource Center Focus: *New and Coming Soon*

By **BONNIE MCCARSON**
 Resource Center Coordinator

So, what is new in the library? Take a look.

Already on the shelves or in circulation:

Days of Awe and Wonder by Marcus Borg
 (published posthumously)

Martin Luther, a new biography by Eric Metaxas

Hillbilly Elegy by J. D. Vance, and *Braving the Wilderness* by Brene Brown – two nonfiction books that speak to the social problems in our country and how we respond to them.

And in fiction, Amor Towles' *A Gentleman in Moscow* and Jessica Shattuck's *The Women in the Castle*. These two take us into the larger world and different times with characters who must deal with difficult situations.

Coming soon:

Everything Belongs: The Gift of Contemplative Prayer
 by Richard Rohr

Hallelujah, Anyway: Rediscovering Mercy by Anne Lamott
Short Stories by Jesus by Amy-Jill Levine

Finding Peace through Spiritual Practice by the Three Amigos, a pastor, a rabbi, and an imam

A Piece of the World by Christina B. Cline

We Never Asked for Wings by Vanessa Diffenbaugh

News of the World by Paulette Jiles

The first four of the second group above are nonfiction about practicing our faith while the remaining three are fiction that speak to the human condition through the experiences of the characters.

Happy winter reading!

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Update On Ken Wilson Transition

By **BETH FIELDS**

Personnel Chair

Please be sure to mark Sunday, February 25, as Minister of Music Ken Wilson's last Sunday among us. On that day, the worship hour will celebrate the importance of music at Knollwood. Then from 2:30 - 4:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall, a farewell reception honoring Ken for his 32 years of service at Knollwood will be held.

The Personnel Committee has contracted with Chris Gambill of The Center for Congregational Health to work with the Transition/Search Committee (to be appointed in December) to achieve the following goals:

- Help the congregation articulate its needs and expectations regarding future music ministry at Knollwood
- Identify larger trends in worship and musical style affecting similar-size congregations in the United States
- Help the congregation develop a leadership profile describing the musical, pastoral, leadership, and interpersonal skills needed in order for the ministry of worship and music to continue to thrive at Knollwood

Feel free to contact me, fieldsbfields@aol.com, with any questions or suggestions you may have.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Sunday School for all ages 9:45 AM

Worship Service 10:55 AM



SUNDAY AUDIO RECORDINGS

Dr. Bob's Sunday sermons are available online at knollwood.org. Recorded worship services are available on CD for \$1.

Contact the church office, 336-725-1343, or frontdesk@knollwood.org.

Advent Family Devotions at Home



By *CHRISSEY HARDY*

Children's Ministry Associate

Advent is my favorite season in the church year. In the Godly Play curriculum that we use in Children's Worship, we talk about advent as the "time to prepare to come close to the mystery of Christmas." I love that language.

When the world is telling us to prepare by buying and wrapping presents, sending Christmas cards, and planning meals, there is spiritual work to do here, too. We discovered through conversation on the family retreat that it is a challenge for parents to know how to do this spiritual work with our children at home.

So, this year we are offering a wonderful family devotional (www.knollwood.org/ministries/childrens-ministry/advent-devotions-for-families) for families in our church to use as they walk through this sacred season together. Each weekly devotion has scripture, a hymn, reflection, discussion, a family activity and a prayer. There are also beautiful coloring pages and a paper advent wreath craft that children and adults will enjoy working on together.

There is no better time than Advent to begin the practice of having a family devotion. I hope that you will find it a useful tool as you make the time and space during this busy season to prepare your families to come close to the mystery of Christmas.

KBC.KIDS CALENDAR

DEC 6 An Improvised Christmas Pageant

DEC 17 Agape Sunday

DEC 24 Christmas Eve Service

JAN 7 Family Bowling

FEB 10 Churchwide Valentine's Dance

FEB 23 Parents' Night Out

MAR 3 Children's Sunday Rehearsal/Lunch

MAR 4 Children's Sunday

A New School Year Begins



By *LUCRECIA NORMAN*

Minister of Senior Adults & Weekday Preschool

November was full of exciting activities at TTWS. The threes, fours, and fives helped make a tepee with our Environmental Worship Teacher. We prepared, cooked, and consumed a Thanksgiving Feast amid laughter and life lessons.



Wednesday Faith Formation Offerings



Diane Lipsett,
Minister of Faith Formation
and Education

DECEMBER 6

Entering the Story: Embracing Advent Together We'll enact and explore key parts of the Jesus story and reflect on our own culture, challenges, and devotion.

DECEMBER 13

Christmas Jazz – Join us for an evening of Christmas jazz, 5:30 - 6:45 PM. The music will be played during the dinner hour, and in concert after dinner. Knollwood musicians Mary Ann Davis (vocals), Dan Knight (piano), John Ray (bass) and Ken Wilson (guitar) will be joined by guest artist Dr. Ron Rudkin (saxophone) from UNCSEA. Dr. Rudkin is director of the jazz program at the school (as well as clarinetist with the Winston Salem Symphony).

Service of Remembrance

7 PM in the Sanctuary

A special tradition at Knollwood, this service is a tender time when members of our community of faith gather to remember loved ones who have passed away this year. Family and friends are invited to bring photographs or other small mementos to place on the altar table. Feel free to contact Dr. Bob or Rev. Chris Norman with any questions you may have.

DECEMBER 20

DECEMBER 27

No Wednesday Night gatherings

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE

Dinner is served

5:30–6:10 PM

Sharing celebrations and concerns

6:00–6:15 PM

Evening program

6:15–7:00 PM

KidsConnect

6:15–7:00 PM

Middle School Bells

5:15 PM

Children's Choirs

5:15 PM

Chancel Choir

7:00 PM

Wednesdays in January – A preview

We're still building a rich schedule of offerings, but here's a partial look at how we'll start 2018.

JANUARY 3

“The stamp of grace and the seed of fire” - Thomas Merton (and Bill Leonard) on God's gracious favor. Dr. Bill Leonard, church historian and friend of Knollwood, will begin our 2018 Wednesday conversations with an exploration of the contemplative thinker Thomas Merton. From Merton's reflections on solitude, community, the artistic conscience, and the call to gospel worldliness, Dr. Leonard will suggest paths into Merton's thought and writings and into the year ahead.

JANUARY 10

A friend among us-- Samuel Kiguli and stories of Uganda, of ministry, of hope
Pastor Bob Setzer will host a conversation with a new friend at Knollwood, Pastor Samuel Kiguli, in a conversation about his country, his ministry in Uganda, his family, and his current hopes.

JANUARY 10, 17, AND 24

Trouble the Water – A small group Wednesday option. The All God's Children ministry team will convene a lively study of the provocative book *Trouble the Water: A Christian Resource for the Work of Racial Justice*. The discussion will be facilitated by Judy Ginn and Spence O'Neill. Please sign up by emailing Spence at allgodchildren@gmail.com or contacting the church office, frontdesk@knollwood.org.

KNOLLWOOD CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

How Far Is It to Bethlehem

Sunday, December 10

The Second Sunday of Advent: PEACE

10:45 AM and 5:15 PM

Each Advent/Christmas season at Knollwood our musicians join forces for the annual Christmas Festival. Begun in this present form in 2003, our children, youth, and adult singers are combined with three handbell choirs, Knollwood brass, and guest instrumentalists for a musical feast, celebrating the coming of Christ in the form of a babe.

The 2017 version of our festival is themed “How Far Is It to Bethlehem” after the English Christmas carol of that title. This carol will appear in a number of forms throughout the festival, beginning with a newly commissioned brass prelude, written for the service. In addition to arrangements of this carol, a number of pieces are selections by the Chancel Choir as their favorites over these years of music ministry with Ken Wilson. This festival will be Dr. Wilson’s final festival; he will retire in February.

We hope that you will invite friends and family to worship with us.



Christmas Music Festival 2016
Photos by Stephen Ball

Habitat Forsyth Faith Build Dedications

By TERRY OBERLE

Habitat Forsyth's two Faith Build homes will be dedicated on Sunday, Dec. 10 at 3:30 p.m. Habitat dedications are meaningful, inspirational events, and the entire congregation is encouraged to attend.

The two homes, of which Knollwood was a financial and labor sponsor along with 12 other churches, mosques and the synagogue, are at 1759 and 1763 Richard Allen Lane on adjoining lots.

The houses were begun last summer with a wall build, and construction has been continuous since that time. The final landscaping was completed before Thanksgiving.

The new homeowners are Anna Stevenson and her children Catraviana Green, 20; Brian Carter, 15; and Treasure Cobbs, 2; and Norman and Phyllis McKay Graham.

Volunteers Needed to Help Staff Overflow Shelter

Each of the past four years, Knollwood has partnered with local nonprofit City with Dwellings (CWD) in their efforts to end homelessness. CWD runs three overflow shelters to provide beds for men and women during the coldest months of the year, when local shelters reach capacity.

The two men's shelters are hosted at Augsburg Lutheran and Redeemer Presbyterian (Dec. only) / First Presbyterian (Jan.-March). The women's shelter is hosted at St. Timothy's Episcopal. Last year, more than 200 individuals were provided shelter and warm meals by CWD partner shelters.

Knollwood partners with St. Timothy's Episcopal to help staff the Women's Shelter every Thursday from Dec. 1 - March 30. Our volunteers walk with the guests at St. Timothy's as they journey toward housing. The following KBC volunteers are needed: (1) 2 Overnight Volunteers (2) 2 Check-in Volunteers (3) 1 meal for 25 people and (4) 25 snack bags for the women to take with them. If you or your Sunday School class or other group can help, please sign up here: www.signup.com/go/sttimoverflow.

Please contact Corinne Causby if you have questions: corinny@gmail.com or call her at 336-409-3287.

Volunteers requested: Meals on Wheels

By BETTY LANNING

Want to give a gift that keeps on giving? Knollwood's Meals on Wheels team badly needs some new recruits. Please seriously consider picking up one of our three Wednesday vacancies. We need drivers for the first, third, and fourth Wednesdays. Knollwood's MOW team services the Winston-Salem Foundation Route. Delivery time takes about an hour and a half. Please call 336-766-4139. Thank you in advance.

Women's Evening Book Club in January

Knollwood's evening book club for women will gather in January to discuss *The 100 Year Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared* by Jonas Jonasson. Copies are available through Bookmarks at a 20% discount. The group will meet Monday, Jan. 22, 7-8 p.m. at Rachel Stinehelfer's home, 2813 Regency Drive. For more information, contact Rachel at ledalucy21@yahoo.com.

EACH YEAR our church is filled with beautiful decorations for the Advent Season. **To honor or remember a loved one, you may make a contribution of \$15 to help maintain the decorations.** Remembrances will be taken through **Dec. 10** and presented in the worship order on Agape Sunday. Please complete the form below, include your payment, and drop it in the offering plate, or mail it to the church office. (Sorry, no phone orders, please.)

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

Given by: _____

Please print clearly.

International Missions Offering

By PHYLLIS TATE

Chair, Missions Affiliations and Allocations Committee

Every December, as part of our observance of Advent and Christmas, Knollwood establishes a special Christmas offering as an annual focus on international missions. This giving is above and beyond our regular budget offerings. It is the strong conviction of the Missions Affiliations and Allocations Committee that these particular endeavors reflect the spirit of Knollwood, as expressed in our Purpose, Vision and Values statements. They allow us both to broaden and focus our missions efforts, as well as participate in strategic areas of the world.

This year Knollwood will sponsor four organizations, all having active connections with and support from members of our congregation:

- **Africa Exchange** provides the program support for Cooperative Baptist Fellowship missionaries to partner in Christian missions with local, national, and international groups in Kenya.
- **CBF Field Personnel Cindy and Eddy Ruble** serve in Malaysia in many different ways, including disaster response and fighting human trafficking.
- **Pico Escondido**, a Young Life camp and retreat center, is located in the Dominican Republic. Groups of our members have traveled there three times to work with Roy Clifford, who grew up at Knollwood and serves as Camp Director, and whose wife Rebeca oversees operations and finance for Young Life's work in the six countries of Central America.
- **Project AMOS** is a Christian non-profit that works to improve the health of impoverished communities in Nicaragua.

Letters, descriptive information and envelopes have been mailed to all members, and additional envelopes will be placed in the pews for your use.

Given the religious turmoil in the world today, we are acutely aware of the need for Christian missionaries around the globe and the vital importance of thinking carefully about what constitutes effective and appropriate Christian witness in our world. It is our strong belief that each of the endeavors included in this offering are effective, appropriate, and life-giving. Although all of us may not be able to go to these areas for direct personal involvement, we are all able to support them through financial gifts, prayer, and encouraging communication. Please prayerfully consider making a significant contribution this year to the work of these missions. We believe this is one way to joyfully remember whose birthday we celebrate.

Remember Knollwood in Your Year-end Giving

By MARLIN YODER

Church Administrator

We are approaching the time of year when generosity takes center stage in our nation. Beginning with Thanksgiving and continuing through the Advent and Christmas seasons, people will express their gratitude with generous giving. Your generous giving through our church by year-end will cover the costs of ministries that have resulted in deeper faith, service to others, and changed lives.

In keeping with IRS regulations, the church office must receive your generous gifts no later than Dec. 31 in order to count toward your 2017 charitable giving deduction. The church office will be open on Dec. 29 until 5 p.m. If you are mailing your year-end gift make sure your envelope is post marked by **Saturday, Dec. 30, 2017**.

Financial Commitments For 2018

Our church's annual exploration of generosity and giving has been moved to the Lenten season in the spring. However, if during your year-end planning, you wish to make a new or renewed commitment of your financial support of our church's life and mission, you may do so by:

- Requesting a Commitment Card from the church office
- Filling out the online form at [www.
http://knollwood.org/resources/giving-online-](http://knollwood.org/resources/giving-online-) or download a copy of the form <http://knollwood.org/filerequest/6135>
- Emailing our Financial Administrator, Peggy Koonts at finance@knollwood.org

Thank you for your continued faithfulness to our church.

RECREATION MINISTRY

New Games and New Hours

By JOSH GODWIN

Minister of Youth and Recreation

I love recreation in the winter time, mainly because it is the season for one of my most favorite sports: basketball. In this neck of the woods, basketball is king during this time of the year. Let the rest of the Southeast have their football from August to November; from now until the early part of April we will revel in the round ball.

This will be our first real basketball season in the WCC, and we plan on putting it to good use. This season, KBC is fielding two teams in the local church basketball league, Hoops4Him. We are fielding a high school team composed of some of our own folks mixed with high schoolers from the surrounding community who found a home

playing here over the summer months. We are also fielding an Intermediate team (5th-9th grade) made up of a solid core of Knollwood boys.

This is an exciting time, and our boys are excited for the chance to play together. If you ever find yourself in need of a mid-Saturday activity, I'm sure they would love to have your support. The full schedule can be found online at hoops4him.org under the "Schedules" tab. Come out and cheer them on.

The extended operating hours for the WCC during the autumn months were a resounding success. The building continues to come alive with the joy of use. Many thanks to all of those who gave their time as volunteers to assist in facilitating these times. We are still in need of volunteers, so if you would like

to lend a hand in serving our congregation, please let me know.

We will be continuing these extended hours during the winter months. However, they will be adjusted to reflect new program offerings. For details on these adjustments, look at the calendar on our website under the "Exercising Faith" tab. (www.knollwood.org/exercising-faith) Physical copies of this calendar will also be available in the WCC both at the door and at the reception desk upstairs.

With the changing seasons comes changing weather and daylight hours, so we hope that the WCC can become more of a home for folks' exercise as the days get shorter and colder.

WELLNESS & COMMUNITY CENTER			Building D
Open 8 a AM to 8 PM • Mon-Thurs • 8 AM-5 pm Friday • Open Sunday for KBC activities			
Pickleball	Gym/Courts	TUES THUR	9:30 AM - 12:00 PM / 4:00 -5:45 PM 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM / 4:30 -7:30 PM
Walking Track	Walking Track (upstairs)	SUN MON-THUR FRI	5:00 PM - 6:30 PM 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Yoga	D102	TUES	6:00 - 7:00 PM
Amen Yoga (flexibility focus)	D102	THUR	6:00 - 7:00 PM
Zumba	Gym	MON	5:45- 7:00 PM
Unscheduled times are open for member/community use. Check www.knollwood.org/exercising-faith			

Stacking Bags and Spreading Joy

By JOSH GODWIN



Each and every person contains special gifts and talents that make them who they are and define their style of leadership. These gifts are seeds that are sown into the soil of their DNA that require tending and fostering for growth. One of the biggest parts of ministering with young people is being willing to work that soil, ensuring that they get the proper nourishment of encouragement through faith and grace.

I am grateful for such a bountiful seedbed of young people to work with. Each one of them is more talented than they may even realize. Being able to walk alongside them through the moody teenage journey of growth is unquantifiably rewarding.

One of the most rewarding parts of my job as youth minister is seeing our young people grow into compassionate and mature leaders in our faith community. While there are countless examples of this throughout the year, none was more prevalent than during the 2017 Ingathering here at Knollwood. By its own merit and nature, the Ingathering is a spectacular event. I am blown away by the outpouring of gratitude and humility that floods our sanctuary every year. There is something to be said about so many uniform bags lining the front of the sanctuary without a name written on any of them.

One of the traditions that goes hand-in-hand with the Ingathering is the youth's participation in bringing those bags into the sanctuary. Some of those can-laden bags are quite heavy, and still our youth carried them and arranged them with reverence for the occasion. Laughter filled the narthex as they worked together to prepare the occasion for our congregation to celebrate together. Many thanks to all those who had a hand in preparing for this special day, and a special thanks to all the youth who helped that morning to prepare our celebration of giving.

But it wasn't all hard labor trudging heavy bags in on Sunday. That evening our youth got together again to prepare some joy for the Christmas season. Using money they donated, we loaded up on Sunday evening to buy toys for Forsyth Jail and Prison Ministries. These toys will be available for fathers to select over the next few weeks to give to their children on holiday visits. The youth set to the task with gusto, invading the toy section in search of the perfect gift. Between running from Lego sets to action figures to stuffed animals, we managed to wrangle close to 40 toys to donate. We pray that these toys bring hope and joy to families during this holiday season.

As 2017 draws to a close, KBC.ym turns our eyes toward the coming year. We have some exciting opportunities coming up in 2018, and we hope you'll be part of them. For more details, check out our tab on the church's website which includes our youth calendar (www.knollwood.org/ministries/youth-ministry/youth-calendar).



Agape Sunday, December 17

Continued from page 1

and clean-up. Most tasks will require only a couple of hours of your time - Dec. 15 and 16, decorating and prep work; Dec. 17, serving and clean-up. If you can help, please e-mail Debbie Pruitt at debbiepruitt@icloud.com or call/text to 336-782-3198.

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

- Dec. 10** Flowers to Homebound
- Jan. 16** Game Day
Soup Luncheon
- Feb. 18** Valentine Trip
Lunch at Cody Creek
- Mar. 18** Flowers to Homebound
- TBA** 2018 Spring Trip

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



We welcome
Cyndy Jones and Dana Hulme,
and their children, **Evan and Chase**
255 Ashbourne Lake Ct.
Clemmons, NC 27012
cynthiadjones@msn.com
danahulme@msn.com



Postmaster, please send address changes to:

KNOLLWOOD
BAPTIST CHURCH
Grace Unbounded

330 Knollwood Street
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PERIODICALS POSTAGE AT
WINSTON-SALEM, NC

DECEMBER 2017

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Church Office: 336-725-1343

Online at: knollwood.org

Knollwood Baptist Church is an inviting, inclusive family of faith open to all persons, whatever their race, gender, socioeconomic status, special needs, or sexual orientation, who want to walk in the way of Jesus.

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Weekend Minister on Call

Please call 336-283-5067 if you have a pastoral emergency on a weekend.