

# Boykins Baptist Church Messenger

## December 2025

### From the Pastor's Desk



#### The Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love of Advent

The days grow shorter and slower as the year winds toward its close. Likewise, the season of Advent invites us to join in a sacred slowing. Advent is a time when we pause to remember the light that darkness cannot extinguish. We are invited to examine ourselves and see that goodness is still being born, and if we want to be a part of Advent, then we are invited to make room in our hearts for renewal. Advent is not a countdown to Christmas—it is a spiritual journey through four gifts that shape the season: hope, peace, joy, and love.

#### Hope

Advent begins with hope—the hope that the darkness is not able to overtake a single steady flame. Hope does not ignore hardship; - it believes that something new is possible even when circumstances are bleak. We are able to find hope in unexpected places: kindness toward others, generosity toward others and compassion for others. The faintest light can guide the way is the recipe for hope.

#### Peace

The second week of Advent turns our hearts toward peace. Peace is that elusive trait that all people desire. True peace is the presence of wholeness, not the absence of conflict. To achieve true peace we must quiet the noise around and within us. When we make space for calm, understanding, and harmony, we are then able to practice peace. We practice peace through reconciliation, patience, and gentleness. Peace grows best when we practice it intentionally.

#### Joy

Joy is that deeper, resilient grace that shines eternally. As joy bursts into the season, we are able to discover joy in our everyday life. As Advent progresses, joy bursts into the season, radiating even in difficult times. Joy comes from gratitude, connection, and recognizing beauty in everyday life. The third week of Advent reminds us to celebrate: to laugh, to sing, and to delight in goodness. Joy is a gift made brighter when we share it freely.

#### Love

As Advent draws to a close, love is the heart of the season. Love urges us to see the dignity in every person, and to care for others. Love moves us forward with generosity and tenderness. Love is patient, persistent, and most of all redemptive. Advent love is the only force known to our world that has the ability to change the world. Love makes it mark through acts of compassion, courage, and kindness.

#### A Season of Becoming

As we journey through Advent, we our worship themes will be hope, peace, joy, and love. As we journey through Advent, will we welcome light more fully? Our journey encourages us to anticipate a celebration. But this celebration is much, much more than an ordinary celebration. The celebration of Advent creates in us a desire to continue the throughout the year. May this Advent be a time of renewal for each of us—a chance to breathe deeply, to look forward with confidence, and to embody the gifts that bring life to the world.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Steve

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#### Food Drive:

The Children's Sunday School class is sponsoring a canned food drive until December 14<sup>th</sup>. Food will be donated to Southampton Dept. of Social Services to be distributed to families in need. Any non-perishable items are appreciated but suggested needs include: **tuna, peanut butter, mac and cheese (deluxe type), and canned vegetables.**

### Community Christmas Calendar

Circle of Trees Lighting  
Buck Lassiter Mini Park  
December 7, 5:30pm



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Town of Boykins Christmas Parade  
December 14, 3:00pm



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Christmas Eve Service, BBC  
December 24, 4:30pm



### Important Notes

There will be a Deacon's Meeting on Sunday, December 21 immediately following worship service.

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#### Help Wanted!

**Choir Director/Pianist for BBC**  
**Please contact Sara Crowder,**  
**757-647-8337**

#### Counting Team for December:

Jason Baldwin (chair), Laura Baldwin,  
Brenda Watson, Ronnie Johnson

#### How to Reach Us at BBC:

[www.boykinsbaptistchurch.org](http://www.boykinsbaptistchurch.org)

Church office: 757-654-6231  
Email: [boykinsbaptistchurch@gmail.com](mailto:boykinsbaptistchurch@gmail.com)

Interim Pastor ..... Rev. Steve Gibson  
757-298-0398 [s.r.gibson1880@gmail.com](mailto:s.r.gibson1880@gmail.com)

Deacon Chair.....Win Browne

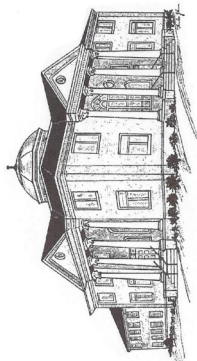
Finance Committee ..... Harrell Turner

Secretary/Treasurer..... Ashley Johnson



# December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>30</b> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">November</span> <b>Advent: Hope</b> 9:15am Sunday School 10:00am Hanging Greens 5:30pm Cantata, BBC	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Reed Felts Lynne Bryant	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Andy Johnson
<b>7</b> <b>Advent: Peace</b> 9:15am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 5:30pm Circle of Trees Leah Tabor	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Winston Browne, IV	<b>11</b> Mark Turner	<b>12</b> Ashley Dunlow	<b>13</b> Amy Browne
<b>14</b> <b>Advent: Joy</b> 9:15am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 3:00pm Town Parade	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Catherine Somerville	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Hank Fuller <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: block; text-align: right;">First Day of Winter</span>
<b>21</b> <b>Advent: Love</b> 9:15am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Deacons Meeting	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 4:30pm Christmas Eve Service, BBC Richard Edwards <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: block; text-align: center;">Christmas Eve</span>	<b>25</b> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: block; text-align: center;">Christmas</span>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Ashley Johnson Jennifer Vincent
<b>28</b> 9:15am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service Dennis Overby Taylor Stallard	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Mr. & Mrs. John Darden <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: block; text-align: center;">New Year's Eve</span>			



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