

Winns' Messenger

Published for Members and Friends of Winn's Baptist Church
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December 2020



Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

On Sunday, December 6th, tickets will become available for the Christmas Eve Services. We are having three so that we can stay within the Covid guidelines. The times are 5:00, 6:00 and 7:00 pm.

Of course, there is no charge for the tickets; we are doing this to ensure that we distribute ourselves evenly between the services.



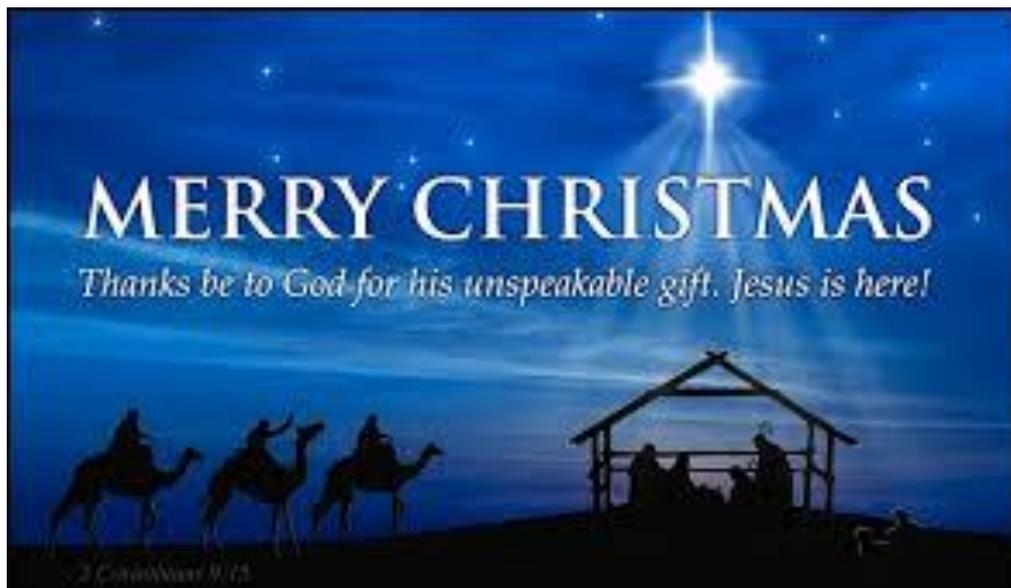
Dear Church Family,

As we enter the Christmas season, it is going to be a very different one in regard to the way that we celebrate with family and friends. I'm not sure that that is a bad thing. I know that I have experienced a number of Christmas seasons where it seemed that the celebration of Christmas about me was diminishing somewhat the joy of Christ within me. Too busy with a good thing is still too busy. There will certainly be enough in most cases to have some sense of traditional activities, but perhaps not so much that we are running, out of breath, eagerly anticipating December 26. With a factor, such as the pandemic, naturally limiting some of the activity, we can slow down some without having to make tough choices, or risk hurting anyone's feelings. While there have been many occasions when I was convinced that God would have me to make the extra push, run the extra lap, or go the extra mile, I don't think that He intends us to live our lives that way, and certainly not celebrate His Son's birth that way.

Micah 6:8 tells us. "He has shown you O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to **walk** humbly with your God." While there are references to running, and as I said, occasions when we should, generally our spiritual journey here on earth is described figuratively as our "walk".

So much of what we did to celebrate Christmas was good, right, and appropriate. But rather than mourning the loss of some of our activities, take a few minutes, now that you might actually have a few to spare, and savor the blessing of a slower paced season.

Focusing on Him,
Pastor Jeff



Rev. Dr. Emmett D. Dunnevant – 1968-1984
Biographical Sketches of Winn's Pastors
Rev. Thomas Lacy

Little has been written/recorded regarding the 16 years Rev. Dunnevant served Winn's Baptist Church. Since I (Tom Lacy) did not become a member until 1995 I only knew of Rev. Dunnevant through my wife, Pat McDaniel Lacy. So to give more detailed account of his life and ministry, following is his obituary that outlines his life's story.

The Rev. Dr. Emmett D. Dunnevant, a Baptist pastor who last served at Grove Avenue Baptist Church, dies at age 89

Emmett Douglas Dunnevant had been married for 10 years and had four children when he felt the call to serve God in his mid-30s. Knowing he needed more education; he began attending the University of Richmond by day and working the graveyard shift at Reynolds Metals Co. to support his family. After graduating, he taught high school math while saving to attend New Orleans Baptist Seminary in Louisiana.

In a 2009 interview, he recalled how he and his wife “gathered the children and asked them about moving away. Linda, who was 7 at the time, climbed on my lap and said, ‘Dad, it won’t make any difference where we live as long as we are together.’” Those words sustained him as he did what he had to do to realize his goal.

After moving to Louisiana, he studied in the morning, went to class, worked loading trucks from 6:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. and prepared for his duties leading Nicholville Baptist Church in Alabama while his wife cared for the children, worked full time and also attended classes at the seminary.

The Dunnevants returned to Virginia after he earned his Master of Theology in 1967. He later earned a Doctor of Divinity degree at Brown Theological Seminary.

Dr. Dunnevant, who retired in 1995 as pastor of Enon Baptist Church in Chester and in retirement was associate pastor for visitation at Grove Avenue Baptist Church in Henrico County, died Monday at 89. The Henrico resident will be honored at a funeral at 2 p.m. Thursday at Grove Avenue Baptist Church, 8701 Ridge Road. Burial will be in Westhampton Memorial Park in Henrico.

Originally hailing from Buckingham County, he interrupted his education at Buckingham Central High School to serve at 19 in the Navy in the South Pacific as a carpenter’s mate during World War II. When he came home, he farmed with his father in Curdsville until deciding to finish high school.

At school, his locker was next to that of honor roll student Betty Dixon. They began to study together, go to ballgames, and talk about a future together. He gave her an engagement ring when she was 16. The yearbook selected them as “Most in Love Couple.” His future wife’s homeroom teacher lectured Betty about the evils of marrying too soon.

After graduation, they married at Buckingham County Courthouse on July 12, 1947, and moved in with Dr. Dunnevant’s parents.

Then came the call. His first full-time church was Winns Baptist Church in Glen Allen, where he served for 16 years, followed by Laurel Hill Baptist Church in Charlottesville and then Enon Church. In 1996, he began serving at Grove Avenue Church.

“Brother Emmett,” as he was called, exhorted all to put Christ first in every aspect of their lives, according to a family account. He especially enjoyed visiting the homebound and the sick and was known as a good listener and encourager. His wife died in June 2012. Survivors include two sons, Don Dunnevant and Doug Dunnevant; two daughters, Linda Schwartz, and Paula Roop; two sisters, Nancy Narron, and Irene Parks; and eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.



Good Morning Church, Family, & Friends:

We have a lot of things up in the air with the uncertified election and Covid concerns, BUT we need to be in prayer that God’s will be done in all this and in our own lives. I still think that President Trump will win in the end, but if he doesn’t – we need to not lose focus and not lose hope because this is not our home and our hope is not based in man, but rather in Jesus! I am very thankful for that.

The bottom-line is never be fearful!

2 Timothy 1:7 NKJV

(7) For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

That’s why I am not personally concerned with the possibility of getting Covid-19, but don’t get me wrong - I’d rather not! That being said, I do not want to over-focus on that, but rather place it in the very capable and loving hands of my faithful Creator.

We are approaching a wonderful time of year and we should enjoy it to the very fullest. I don’t have to remind you of the true reason for the season, we all know that it’s all about Jesus. It is really humbling when you stop to think about it – that God loved us so much that His only Son, our Creator, was sent to live among us and save us from our sins. We didn’t initiate that – God did! And that indescribable Gift is what we are to be so thankful for and celebrate. See where you can incorporate a more Biblical mindset into your life. One thing that I can suggest is this Christmas be sure to read the Christmas story in **Luke 2:1-20** (and following) with you family. You can start a new tradition in 2020 if you haven’t already.

Luke 2:14 NKJV - "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

I want to encourage you to never lose sight of all we have in Christ! We have so much to be thankful for here in Jesus now on earth in addition to the perfection that awaits us in Heaven, where we will be with our loving, Heaven Father – forever.

I love y’all.

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Doug

Women's Ministry



Christmas Party An Ornament for Christ ...and the Secret Sister kick-off!



Thursday, December 3rd
6:30 - 8:30 pm
Winn's Fellowship Hall

Join us for a night of celebration as we take a break from the busyness of the season to celebrate Christmas together!

Happenings at our Christmas Party, *An Ornament for Christ* ...

- **Deliciousness** - Please bring your favorite Christmas appetizer or dessert 🍪🍩🍰 to share along with the printed recipe. We will be compiling a Christmas Recipe Booklet for each person...handed out at a later date. Oh, and include your name on the recipe. 😊
- **Sending love to our shut-ins** 💖 - We will be making Christmas cards to mail to our shut-ins.
- **Secret Sister Program** 📁 - Kicking off our Secret Sister gift exchange program. What a blessing it is to shower someone with prayers, encouragement, and love for 3 1/2 months. If you are not familiar with this program, please see the guidelines and participation form located at the Welcome Center. You do not have to be present to participate. *Please return your completed form to the Welcome Center by Wednesday, Dec. 2nd.* **Secret Sister program will take place for the next 3 1/2 months only.
- **Optional - Donations for Pregnancy Resource Center** - A table will be set up at our Christmas party for donations supporting our local Pregnancy Resource Center this Christmas. If you feel led to participate please see the needed items in the packet at the Welcome Center. Again, this is completely optional!!
- **And most importantly, a time of devotions...*An Ornament for Christ*.**

More details about this evening are in the Christmas Party packet located at the Welcome Center. Feel free to grab one and don't forget to sign up.

Jesus is the Reason for the Season



We are very excited to be planning for the start of AWANA!

Dust off your shirts, vests, and bags! WooHoo!

We will be offering AWANA for Kindergarten-6th grade starting on
Wednesday, January 6th, 2021

AWANA club will continue to meet from 6:30 - 8:00pm

Before we start club on January 6th, we plan to have an AWARDS CEREMONY for clubbers that earned book awards before we were shut down in the spring. Parents will be notified by email if their child will be receiving an award. The Award Ceremony will be held on Sunday evening, January 3rd.

If you have any questions, please contact [Dana Osborne](mailto:dosborne@winnsbc.org) dosborne@winnsbc.org

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The annual business meeting will be held Sunday, December 6th after the 11am service



Christmas Holiday Schedule

December 23rd and 30th no regular Wednesday evening activities.

The Church office will be closed December 24th, 25th, 31st and January 1st.
At different times some of the staff will also be taking additional time off.

Please feel free to call anyone on staff on their home or cell phone.
The main church voice mail will be checked daily for any messages.
Even at limited office hours, we are always available to you.

Join us for our Christmas Eve services 5pm, 6pm & 7pm December 24th