

December 2017 Issue



at
First
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First Assembly
1501 Hwy 24/27 West
P.O. Box 516
Albemarle, NC 28002

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
ALBEMARLE, N.C.
PERMIT NO. 06

Rev. Bob Gruver ~ Senior Pastor
Rev. George Mullen ~ Senior Associate Pastor
Rev. Josh Modisette ~ Associate & Youth Pastor
Rev. Lilly Wilson ~ Children's Pastor
Rev. Stacy Sanders ~ Worship Pastor

www.albemarlefirst.org



Church Office

Hours:
Monday ~ Thursday
9 AM – 5 PM
Friday ~ Closed

Phone:
(704) 983-3719
Fax:
(704) 982-7276



December 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday 9am: Adult, Youth & Children Sunday School 10am: Adult Worship Children's Church	Sunday 6pm: Worship Service Tuesday 1pm: Ladies Prayer @ Bea Cox's Home	1st Sunday Nursing Home Ministry @ Woodhaven 3rd Sunday Nursing Home Ministry @ Forrest Oakes 4th Sunday Nursing Home Ministry @ Bethany Woods	Wednesday 1st, 3rd & 5th Wed 7pm: Small Groups 2nd & 4th Wed 7pm: Bible Study		1	2 TBQ Competition Greensboro CC Christmas/Skating Party 2-4pm
3 TBQ 9am & 6pm Communion	4 7pm: Men's Ministry Meeting - YRoom	5 Living Free 7pm: Rooms 101-102 6pm: Divorce Care & DC4K	6 JBQ - 5:45 6pm: Praise Team/Choir	7 7pm: Praise Band	8	9 9am-2:30pm: C. Church Christmas Musical Rehearsal In The Sanctuary 6pm: Couples Group Eating Out
Children's Christmas Program Set Construction & Decorating - 12/4 thru 12/8						
10 TBQ 9am AM: Children's Choir Christmas Program PM: Barry McGee Christmas Social	11 7pm: Stephen Ministry CE 7pm: Corporate Prayer	12 Living Free 7pm: Rooms 101-102 6pm: Divorce Care & DC4K	13 JBQ - 5:45 AFA Preschool Christmas Celebration In Youth Room Youth Worship Practice 5pm 6pm: Praise Team/Choir	14 Senior Saints Potluck Lunch @ Noon In Youth Room 6:30pm: Jail Ministry @ Albemarle Jail 7pm: Praise Band	15	16 WM of AFA Christmas Party/Outing Supper & Billy Graham Library 3:30pm - Until...
17 TBQ 9am & 6pm AM: Adult Choir Christmas Special No PM Service	18 7pm: Men's Ministry Meeting - YRoom	19 No AFA Preschool Living Free 7pm: Rooms 101-102 6pm: Divorce Care & DC4K	20 No AFA Preschool 7pm: Gravity Christmas Party	21 No AFA Preschool Office Closes @ Noon	22	23
24 TBQ 9am Christmas Eve Service. No PM Service TBQ 9am New Year's Eve No PM Service	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26 Office Closed No AFA Preschool	27 No AFA Preschool Office Closes @ Noon No Evening Activities	28 No AFA Preschool Office Closes @ Noon 6:30pm: Jail Ministry @ Alb. Jail	29	30
31						

at **First** glance
December 2017

“The Ancient of Days...is with us!!”

Recall the words of Pilate, the Governor of Judea? He questioned Jesus with these words, **“So you are a king?”** Jesus answered, **“You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world — to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.”** (John 18:37) This is a great Christmas text even though it comes from the end of Jesus’ life on earth, not the beginning. The uniqueness of his birth is that he did not originate at his birth. **He existed before he was born in a manger.** The personhood, the character, the personality of Jesus of Nazareth existed before the man Jesus of Nazareth was born. The theological word to describe **this mystery is not creation, but incarnation.** The person, not the body, but the essential personhood of Jesus existed before he was born as man. **His birth was not a coming into being of a new person, but a coming into the world of an infinitely old person.** Micah 5:2 puts it like this, **700 years before Jesus was born:** But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet **a ruler of Israel will come from you, one whose origins are from the distant past.** The mystery of the birth of Jesus is not merely that he was born of a virgin. That miracle was intended by God to witness to an even greater one; namely, that **the child born at Christmas was a person who existed “from of old, from ancient days.”** Matt 1:23 reads in part, “...they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’ Beloved, the Great I AM has been with us from the beginning, and He will be with us forever and ever.... **That’s a reason to keep our faith strong and alive!!!**

Merry Christmas from Kathy and myself,

Pastor Bob & Kathy

First Assembly...
a place to belong
a place to become

Music Notes

At AFA, the month of December is always full of festive celebrations and gatherings as we celebrate the greatest gift to the world, Jesus! Mark your calendar for some special services this month. On Sunday, December 10th, our children will present their Christmas program in the morning service, and the adult presentation will be on Sunday, December 17th. Christmas Eve falls on Sunday this year, and we will have a special Christmas Communion service on Sunday, December 24th at 10am. Invite your friends and family to this special service.

Remember to take some time this season to refocus your mind on the things above. Don’t let the enemy steal your joy!

I wish you and yours a Very Merry Christmas!

See Ya Sunday,
Pastor Stacy



Senior Saints

**Thursday, December 14th
Potluck Lunch @ Noon In
Youth Room**

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**For More Info See Pastor
George & Janice Mullen**

GRAVITY YOUTH JAM Ministries

Wow It’s Christmas! We get to celebrate the birth of our Savior! I hope that you and your family have a very blessed holiday season this year!

What a great year it has been in GRAVITY Youth, and we know that even greater things are coming next year.

We will be competing in our TBQ competition on Saturday, December 2nd, so please keep our students in your prayers that day!

We have our youth Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 20th. It will be a night of hanging out and playing some Christmas games, and lots of fun!

So again, have a great holiday, and we will see you next year!

Pastor Josh

**Women Of AFA
Saturday, December 16th
Christmas Party/Outing Supper
& Billy Graham Library
3:30pm - Until**

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For More Info See Amy Mott

**Men’s Ministry
Monday, December 4th & 18th
Monthly Meeting @ 7pm
In Youth Room
Supper Provided**

~ ~ ~
**For More Information See
Keith Reeder**

God’s selflessness and compassion for mankind sent the baby Jesus to earth with the plan to be our Savior. During this Christmas season, let us be selfless and share the gift of the good news of Jesus with others. Let us be compassionate to the lonely and the troubled.

Our Nursing home team is now involved in 5 different outreaches. All would love to have extra help with our Christmas services. It is a great place to give of yourself and teach your children to share the gift of Jesus. Please see me if you would like to plan to join us.

December 2nd all children are invited to attend our children's church Christmas party. It will be held at the skating rink on 52 North from 2-4 pm.

On Sunday, December 10th at 10am, our First Assembly house will be filled with some very excited children. Please come and enjoy the Christmas presentations. Our children have been working very hard in the Preschool, Bell Choir, and in our Musical presentation. It will be a day to remember. God bless the team of dedicated adults who are helping to make this the best presentation ever.

Be Blessed, We love You First Assembly Kids!

**Because He Lives,
Pastor Lilly**

