



# Forerunner

First Baptist Church  
1024 E. Stuart Drive  
Galax, VA 24333  
276-236-5185  
[www.fbcgalax.org](http://www.fbcgalax.org)

Volume 51, No. 12  
December 1-31, 2024



## Sundays

9:45 am—Sunday School  
(Classes for all ages)  
11:00 am—Worship Service  
(Live on FBC Website & 98.1 FM Radio)  
6:00 pm Kids & Youth Meetings

## Mondays

Bible Study— No studies in December

## Wednesdays

6:30 pm—Choir Rehearsal



## December 2—Soup Kitchen -

Please have bread and desserts to the church by 1:00 pm

## December 4—5:30 pm Kingdom Kids

## December 8—Business Meeting

6:15 pm Live Nativity

7:00 pm - Choir's Christmas Cantata

## December 10—11 am

Women on Mission

## December 18—5:30 pm Kingdom Kids

## December 19—11:30 am

Loss Support Group

## December 24— 5:30 pm

Christmas Eve Candle Light Service

## December 25—Christmas Day

Church Office will be closed

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

New Year's Eve & New Years Day

Nothing in all creation will ever separate you from My love!

## Romans 8:35-39

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Could oppression, or anguish, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 Even as it is written, "For your sake we are killed all day long. We were accounted as sheep for the slaughter."

37 No, in all these things, we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,

39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.



Paul, the Apostle, said he was convinced that nothing could separate him from God's love. Then he went on to list many things that could try to separate him: death, life, angels, principalities, powers, things in the present, things in the future, etc. But something happened in Paul's life that convinced him that no matter what happened, nothing would ever keep the love of God away.

This is a man who was shipwrecked, stoned, persecuted at every turn, and eventually martyred. If Paul needed to be convinced of the closeness of God's love, I think we are, too. The Bible says that God's tender mercies are new every morning, so every morning is a new opportunity for us to be persuaded that we are loved beyond measure.

No matter what trials you are facing, nothing can ever separate you from God's love. Life can't separate you. Death can't. Angels or demons can't. Nothing in the present or the future will ever separate you. No height, depth, or any other creature will keep the love of God from overflowing and surrounding you... right now!

I pray that we will be more convinced of our Father's love today than yesterday and may it be your best gift this Christmas season!

In Christ's Love,

Kevin



The Thanksgiving holidays are over, and the turkey decorations are packed away for another year. Many have already adorned their homes in red and green and are busy wrapping presents to give to friends and family. By the time Advent begins here at FBC, our sanctuary will be beautifully decorated and ready to ring in the Christmas season.

The Music Ministry has been hard at work for weeks preparing this year's Christmas Celebration. Come unwrap our gift to you on **Sunday, December 8, at 7:00 p.m.** as we present David Clydesdale's *"JOY, JOY, JOY."* This program is filled with beautiful music and heartfelt narration, and we look forward to worshipping with you as we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. Don't forget to arrive early and walk through our live nativity before the service starts. Join us as *"earth receives her King!"* Merry Christmas to all!!

*Joy to the world! The Lord is come;  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.*

*Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns;  
Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods,  
Rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.*

George Frideric Handel, Isaac Watts. CCLI Song #24016. © Words: Public Domain; Music: Public Domain  
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The November 10th luncheon fundraiser was a huge success. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and the food was fantastic.

We have heard many comments of how nice it was to have this time of fellowship as it has been a while since we have shared a meal as a whole church family!

We would like to thank everyone who came out and supported this fundraiser.

A total of \$5,100.00 was raised. This will be used for the renovation of the upstairs youth room.

Pastor Kevin and the children & youth ministries are planning another fund raising luncheon in January. Please stay tuned for more information.

Thank You



If you placed an order for 2025 offering envelopes, you may pick them up on Sunday, December 8th. They will be placed on a table in the front entrance Narthex. Thank you.





A FEW WORDS FROM THE HISPANIC CONGREGATION.

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO A NEW MONTH FILLED WITH THE JOY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR. THE ACENCIO, IBARRA, AND GALVAN FAMILIES WERE ABLE TO VISIT WITH PASTOR MANUEL AT HIS HOME IN WINGATE, N.C. FOR A DAY OF FELLOWSHIP. OUR NEW FOUND BROTHER HAS PLANS TO BE WITH US THROUGH THE MONTH OF DECEMBER AS AN INTERIM PASTOR. WE DON'T KNOW AT THIS TIME WHERE THIS WILL LEAD AS HIS FAMILY HOME IS IN N.C. WE ASK FOR YOUR CONTINUING PRAYERS AS WE SEE WHAT OUR LORD HAS IN STORE FOR US WITH THIS NEW ADVENTURE.

TITUS 1:5  
FOR THIS CAUSE I HAVE LEFT THEE IN CRETE; THAT THOU SHOULDEST SET IN ORDER THE THINGS THAT ARE WANTING AND ORDAIN ELDERS IN EVERY CITY, AS I HAD APPOINTED THEE.



**The Lottie Moon Christmas offering starts this month. Our goal for this year is \$3,000, with 100% of the money going directly to sustain the international missionaries and their work. If you would like to donate, the prayer guides and special offering envelopes are located at the Welcome Desk and at the church office.**

**We also wanted to say thank you so much for your donations for all the ministries we support. WOM packed 34 Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes! We are overjoyed and so appreciate your support. The shoeboxes can show one child that there is love and kindness and that God loves them and wants to know them.**

**-Christy**



A huge thank you to Tlaquepaque Restaurant for hosting Kingdom Youth and Kids Ministry for a delicious meal and time of worship and fellowship. The evening was a blessing as we all came together as believers to worship God and to encourage one another and enjoy spending time together!! Kingdom Youth and Kids discussed 3 questions: when is the best time to do good, who is most important, and what is the most important thing to do?

Now, is the best time to do good! Look around, see the needs of others, and help them! There are many adults and children in our community who are hungry and unable to drive to the food give-aways and free meals. God is most important! Put God first always! Begin your day spending time with God! God deserves all our thanks and praise! God owns everything! Use your blessings to directly help others and to be light and salt in this dark world!

Accepting Christ Jesus as your Lord and Savior is the most important thing to do! Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life!

In all your ways acknowledge God, And He shall direct your paths. Proverbs 3:6

But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts. 1 Thessalonians 2:4

Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Philippians 2:4

## PASTOR KEVIN'S DECEMBER 2024 SERMON SERIES

December 1—1st Sunday of Advent  
"Look At The Fig Tree" - Luke 21:25-36

December 8—2nd Sunday of Advent  
"The Door of Repentance" - Luke 3:1-6

December 15—3rd Sunday of Advent  
"The Fruit of Repentance" - Luke 3:7-18

December 22—4th Sunday of Advent  
"Could They Believe..." - Micah 5:2-5

December 24—Christmas Eve Service  
Candlelight Communion  
"My Perspective on Christmas"

December 29th -  
"My Father's House" - Luke 2:41-52







## What is Advent?

Advent is a four-week season dedicated to reflective preparation for the arrival, "advent", of Jesus Christ's Nativity at Christmas time as well and Christ's expected return to the Second Coming. During this important event on the church calendar, each week of Advent focuses on a different theme—  
Hope, peace, love, & joy.

It begins on the Sunday closest to November 30th and ends on December 24th.

It is a time of anticipation and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas Day.

The word "Advent" is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, which means "coming" or "arrival," Which translates to the Greek word *Parousia*.

### The Advent Wreath

Lighting candles on an Advent wreath is practiced at First Baptist Church.

The wreath has 5 candles, each representing one of the weeks of Advent.

A new candle is lit on each Sunday leading up to Christmas.

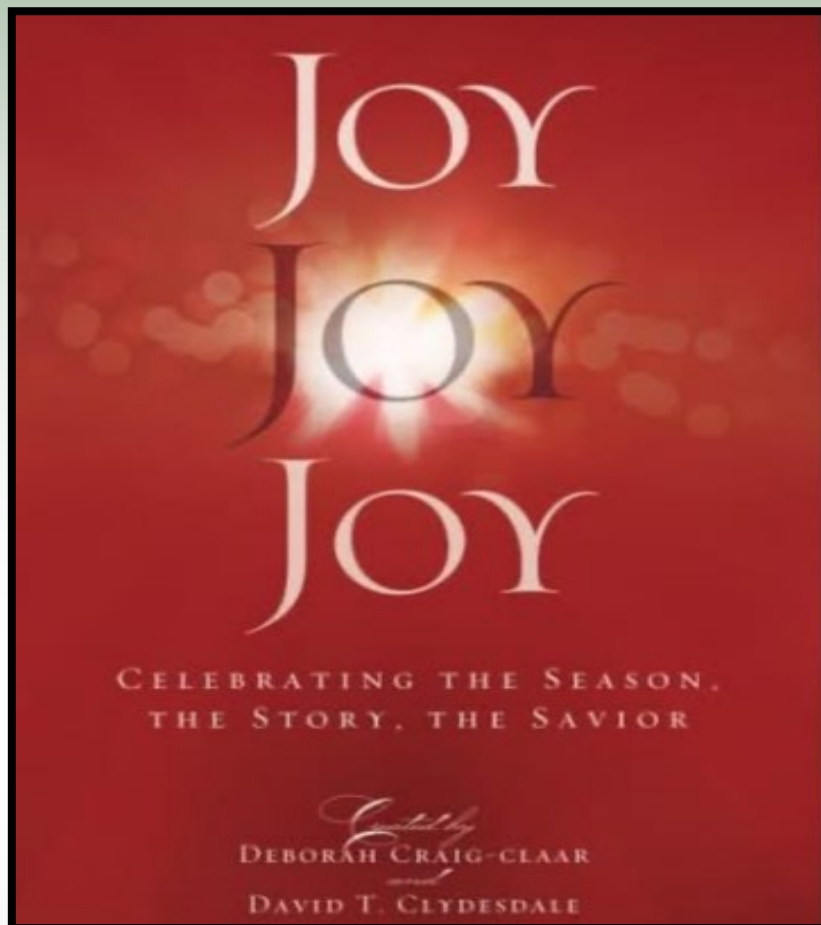
Three candles are purple, and are lit on the first, second, and fourth Sundays of Advent.

They represent a time of prayer, penance, sacrifice and spiritual reflection.

The pink candle is lit on the third Sunday and represents the joy of anticipation for Christmas.

The white candle, also known as the Christ candle, is in the center and is lit on Christmas Eve.

**FBC Choir's Christmas Cantata  
"JOY, JOY, JOY"  
Sunday, December 8th @ 7:00 pm**



There are many kinds of Christmas Joy.  
There is joy of celebrating the season; the happy anticipation of  
reunions with loved ones; the giddy excitement of children on  
Christmas morning;  
the contentment that comes from reliving  
Christmas memories;  
the delight in creating new traditions for the future.  
There is also the joy of celebrating the first Christmas story;  
remembering how God's people rejoiced at the prophecies announcing  
the Messiah; how Mary's spirit soared at the heavenly message that  
she was chosen to bear God's Son; how the shepherds responded in joy  
to angelic glories; how the magi joyfully bowed to offer gifts to the  
King of Kings.  
But most of all, there is the joy of celebrating the Savior,  
Immanuel, God *with us*.  
The Father's greatest joy was sending us His only Son;  
our greatest joy is believing in Him.



# Live Nativity



**Sunday, December 8th  
6:15 pm—6:45 pm**

**You May Also Enjoy the  
Live Nativity  
Following the  
Choir's Program!**





**Christmas  
Eve  
Candlelight  
&  
Communion  
Service**

**Tuesday,  
December  
24th  
5:30 pm  
FBC  
Sanctuary**



**TO PLACE A POINSETTIA IN THE SANCTUARY  
IN HONOR OR MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE,  
PLEASE EMAIL OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE**

**THE COST IS \$10.00 PER POINSETTIA**

**YOU MAY TAKE YOUR POINSETTIA HOME  
WITH YOU AT THE END OF THE  
WORSHIP SERVICE ON  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29TH**



**NOVEMBER 2024**  
**Attendance Records**

	<b>11/03/2024</b>
<b>Sunday School</b>	<b>87</b>
<b>11 am Worship</b>	<b>159</b>
<b>Evening Attendance</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>Hispanic Worship</b>	<b>36</b>
	<b>371</b>

	<b>11/10/2024</b>
<b>Sunday School</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>11 am Worship</b>	<b>167</b>
<b>Evening Attendance</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Hispanic Worship</b>	<b>36</b>
	<b>320</b>

	<b>11/17/2024</b>
<b>Sunday School</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>11 am Worship</b>	<b>161</b>
<b>Evening Attendance</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>Hispanic Worship</b>	<b>31</b>
	<b>360</b>

	<b>11/24/2024</b>
<b>Sunday School</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>11 am Worship</b>	<b>158</b>
<b>Evening Attendance</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Hispanic Worship</b>	<b>43</b>
	<b>329</b>



Shirley & Benny White,  
John Garner, Mike Coleman,  
Rose Houk, Amy Russell,  
Johnny Dillon, Max Brown, Bar-  
ry Newman, Nancy Blair,  
Frank & Eula Merrill,  
Doris Bedwell, Mimi Banks,  
Charlie Whalen,  
Joe & Sara Lindsey,

Cheryl Harris & Steve Conley.

Forest & Virginia Newman—Waddell Nursing & Rehab  
Betty Parks—Waddell Nursing & Rehab  
Iona Adams—Galax Health & Rehab—Room B17  
Pray for all those in the Nursing Home & Rehab Centers  
Pray for our country & the U.S. Military & other coalition forces.



Much Love & Sympathy to the Wanda Jean Harris Family. Wanda passed away on November 6th.



Donation by Robert & Doris Bowman to the Special Missions Fund  
In Loving Memory of Sam Blair  
Donation by William & Mary Blair to the Special Mission Fund  
In Loving Memory of Sam Blair  
Donation by David & Elizabeth Haynie to the Special Missions Fund  
In Loving Memory of Sam Blair  
Donation by Betty Parrish to the Preschool Fund  
In Loving Memory of Judy Hennis  
Donation by Donald & Earlene Ogburn to the Special Missions Fund  
In Loving Memory of Sam Blair  
Donation by Debbie Adams & Imogene Frye to the Special Missions  
Fund In Loving Memory of Sam Blair  
Donation by Debbie Adams to the Lottie Moon Fund  
In Loving Memory of John Adams

**CHURCH STAFF**

Dr. Kevin Rosenfeld.....Senior Pastor

Mrs. Wendi Pemberton.....Minister of Music

Ms. Barbara Bourne.....Administrative Secretary  
Mrs. Marie Combs..... Financial Secretary  
Mrs. Nancy Hazelwood..... Organist  
Mrs. Patty Davis..... Pianist  
Ms. Lynn Frank..... Weekday Preschool Director  
Pastor Kevin Rosenfeld.....Preschool/Extended Session  
Pastor Kevin Rosenfeld.....Sunday School Director  
Mrs. Penny Adams..... Bus Ministry Director  
Mrs. Martha Easter, RN..... Volunteer Health Nurse  
Rod Hale..... Sexton

CHURCH PHONE: 276-236-5185  
CHURCH FAX 276-236-5186

E-MAIL: [secretary@fbcgalax.org](mailto:secretary@fbcgalax.org)

Website: [www.fbcgalax.org](http://www.fbcgalax.org)

[www.facebook.com/FBCGalax](https://www.facebook.com/FBCGalax)



Church Office Hours:  
Monday—Friday 8:30—5:00 Friday—8:30—1:00

**DECEMER TEAM VOLUNTEERS**

**NURSERY**

December 1	Tara Spurlin
December 8	Sally Hill
December 15	Sara Hall
December 22	Erica Testerman
December 29	Penny Adams

**SECURITY TEAM**

December 1	Mark Burnett & Gerald Cox
December 8	Johnny Dickson & Scott Hall
December 15	Cody Edwards & Phil Helms
December 22	Don Houk & Billy Whitaker
December 29	Terry Anders & Gerald Cox

**WELCOME CENTER**    **FIRST IMPRESSIONS**

December 1	Robert Leonard	Patty Boyer & Debi Dixon
December 8	Regina Snow	Johnny & Karen Dickson
December 15	Kathy Cox	Willie & Cheryl Harris
December 22	Pam Turner	Phil & Gay Helms
December 29	Debra Cone	Calvin & Sue Griffith

**TECH SOUND**    **TECH PROJECTION**

December 1	Trevor Anders	Bryan Dillon
December 8	Mike Stevens	Jessica Whitaker
December 15	Bryan Dillon	Trevor Anders
December 22	Gary Ballard	Jessica Whitaker
December 29	Mike Stevens	Bryan Dillon





**TRU-NORTH YOUTH**



## **DECEMBER SCHEDULE FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH SUNDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES**

**December 1  
6:00 pm Dinner  
6:30—7:30 Breakout Groups**

**December 8  
Live Nativity  
Choir's Christmas Program**

**December 15  
Christmas Mission Project  
Dinner**

**December 22 & December 29  
No Activities**



**Operation Christmas Child  
Shoebox Blessing  
November 24  
188 Shoeboxes Were Filled—Thank You!**





**Women on Mission Packed 34 Shoeboxes On Nov. 22nd**

**Mrs. Rosenfeld's 4-Year Old Preschool Class Packed 18 Shoeboxes**

**FBC Volunteers Will Be Traveling To  
Boone, NC On Tuesday, December 10th  
To Work At The Operation Christmas Child Distribution Center**

**A Big Thank You To Jeff & Patti Holderfield & Everyone Who  
Helped Make The 2024 Shoebox Campaign A Huge Success!**





**THE CHILDREN & YOUTH HAD A MISSION PACKED DAY  
ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH  
SHOEBOX BLESSING, VISITS TO THE LOCAL  
NURSING/REHAB CENTERS &  
THEN A GREAT MEAL & TIME OF FELLOWSHIP AT  
TLAQUEPAGUE MEXICAN RESTAURANT**














SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNEDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3 Noelle Edwards Marie Thomas	4 Jane Alderman	5 Debbie Adams Erika Gonzalez	6 Robert Leonard	7
8	9 John Adams, Jr.	10 Dorothy Bowles	11	12	13 Rosella Munoz Audrey Turner Debi Dixon	14 Linda Riddle Crystal Adams
15	16	17	18 Sara Lindsey	19 Donna Garland Melanie Dowell	20	21 Joy Turner
22 David Ashby Tammy Wyatt	23	24 Bill Brannon Erica Testerman	25 Gay Helms Ginger Vaughan	26	27 Patricia Edwards Kaitlyn Turner	28 Jackie Mc Grady Cindy Rodriguez
29	30	31 Linda Painter Don Houk				





# DECEMBER 2024

## Services & Activities

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> 9:45 am Sunday School  11:00 am Worship Service 1st Sunday of Advent  6:00 pm Children & Youth	<b>2</b>  Soup Kitchen Please have bread & desserts to the Church by 1:00 pm  No Bible Study	<b>3</b>  10:00 am Paper Pals	<b>4</b> 5:30 pm Kingdom Kids  6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Sanctuary Reserved Choir Rehearsal	<b>7</b> Sanctuary Reserved Choir Rehearsal
<b>8</b> 9:45 am Sunday School  11:00 am Worship Service  Business Meeting  6:15 pm Children & Youth Live Nativity 7:00 pm Choir's Christmas Cantata	<b>9</b>  No Bible Study	<b>10</b>  10:00 am Paper Pals  11:00 am Women on Mission 	<b>11</b>  6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  Fellowship Hall Reserved for Common Ground Sunday School Class Christmas Party	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>  9:45 am Sunday School  11:00 am Worship Service  6:00 pm Children & Youth Christmas Mission Project & Dinner	<b>16</b>  No Bible Study	<b>17</b>  10:00 am Paper Pals	<b>18</b> Preschool Christmas Program  5:30 pm Kingdom Kids  6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b> 11:30 am Loss Support   Preschool Christmas Break	<b>20</b>  5 pm—9 pm Fellowship Hall Reserved  Preschool Christmas Break	<b>21</b>  
<b>22</b>  9:45 am Sunday School  11:00 am Worship Service  No Evening Activities	<b>23</b>  No Bible Study  Preschool Christmas Break	<b>24</b>  Church Office Closed  Christmas Eve  Preschool Christmas Break	<b>25</b>  Church Office Closed  Christmas Day  Preschool Christmas Break	<b>26</b>  Preschool Christmas Brak	<b>27</b>  Preschool Christmas Break	<b>28</b>  First Baptist Church Volunteering at Elisha's House
<b>29</b> 9:45 am Sunday School  11:00 am Worship Service  No Evening Activities  First Baptist Church Volunteering at Elisha's House	<b>30</b>  No Bible Study  Preschool Christmas Break	<b>31</b>  Church Office Closed  New Year's Eve  Preschool Christmas Break				



## **SOUP KITCHEN December 2**

**Please have desserts  
to the church  
by 1:00 pm**

## **Bible Study**



### **PASTOR KEVIN'S MONDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY**

**@ 5:30 pm**

**THERE WILL BE NO BIBLE STUDIES  
DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER  
Studies Will Resume in January 2025**



**December 10**

**@ 11:00 AM**

**Please contact  
Christy Sumner  
for more information**

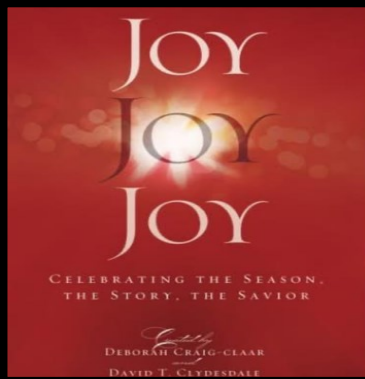


*Grief has no timeline*

**Loss Support Group  
Dec. 19th @ 11:30 am  
Lead by Bruce Thomas**

**For More Information  
Please Contact  
The Church Office**





**Sunday, December 8th  
7:00 pm  
The Choirs Christmas Cantata  
There Will be A Live Nativity  
6:15 –6:45 pm**



**CHOIR REHEARSAL  
EACH WEDNESDAY  
@ 6:30 PM**

**If you would like to join the choir,  
please see Wendi Pemberton.**



**Kingdom Kids  
December 4th & 18th  
@ 5:30 pm**



**Tru-North & Kids Explorers  
EVENING YOUTH MEETINGS**

**December 1— 6:00 pm Evening Activities  
December 8— Live Nativity & Choir's Program  
December 15—Christmas Mission Project & Dinner  
December 22—No Evening Activities  
December 29—No Evening Activities**



**PAPER PALS  
Each Tuesday @ 10 am  
Volunteers are needed to  
help prepare craft projects  
for the Preschool teachers.**