

# A REAL CHURCH for REAL PEOPLE

- R** eaching the Lost *John 3:16-17*
- E** quipping for good works *II Timothy 3:17*
- A** ctive in ministry *Colossians 3:17*
- L** oving each other *I John 3:17*



**December 2023**

# The Oak Grove Link

First Church of God ~ Oak Grove, LA

To contact us: website [ogfcog.com](http://ogfcog.com)  
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Pastor, Jonathan Williams 318-428-2455

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Luke 2:4-7 *[NTV]*

What is your favorite part of Christmas? As a kid, I remember finding it hard to fall asleep on Christmas Eve. My siblings and I would wake up early Christmas morning to see what Santa had left in our stockings. And then the waiting began. We couldn't open presents until everyone was up and dressed. Then, we would gather around the tree in the living room and Dad would read the Christmas Story from Luke chapter 2. In that state of excitement and anticipation, Luke chapter 2 seemed like it must have been the longest chapter in the Bible. In that moment, I didn't truly appreciate my parents' commitment to celebrating the real meaning of Christmas. But now that I am older and have a family of my own, I more fully understand and appreciate it. Christmas is not about finding the best deals. It's not about decorations or parties. Christmas is about Jesus. At Christmas, we celebrate his birth, remember his death, and look forward to his return. Jesus was the greatest gift that has ever been given. This Christmas, take time to remember the reason we celebrate.

In Christ,  
Bro. Jonathan

## Holiday Schedule

Sunday, Dec 24 ~ regular SS & worship  
Communion will be observed in the morning service

No meetings on Wed, Dec. 27  
No p.m. activities on Sun, Dec 31



## Choir Christmas Cantata

Performance ~ Sunday, December 10 ~ 10:30 a.m.



## SUNDAY'S SCHEDULE [12/3/23]

**MUSIC** - Pianist: Robyn Creech **Digital Piano:** Denise Boyte  
**WORSHIP LEADER** - Angela Griffis  
**WORSHIP TEAM:** Ricky Allen, Peggy Hankins, Lee Sanders  
**SPECIAL MUSIC** - Children  
**GREETERS** - Jennifer & Timmy McCallie  
**CHILDREN'S CHURCH** - Elizabeth Williams



Church Office will be closed Dec. 25 - 29

## Christmas in the Grove

Fri, Dec. 1 [9 a.m. - 7 p.m.] Sat, Dec. 2 [9 a.m. - 3 p.m.]  
Lingo Community Center



## W. C. Schools Holiday Break

December 21 - January 3



**FYI:** Check out these resources on the foyer table

- 2024 calendars
- 2024 Bible Reading Guides
- Advent devotional books

**CONGRATULATIONS !!**  
to SueZanna & Cory Maxwell on the birth of their son, Isaac Elzie. Isaac was born on November 22. He weighed 7 lbs, 1 oz and was 20" long. He is welcomed by his big sister, Ira. Proud great-grandparents, Ruth & Mack Albritton.



## C. E. Team & Bd. of Directors Meetings

Sunday, Dec. 17 == following a.m. worship



## Kids' Christmas Choir

Practice ~ Wed, Nov 30 [6:30 p.m. in sanctuary]  
 Dress Rehearsal ~ Sat, Dec. 2 [9 a.m. - noon]  
 Performance ~ Sun, Dec. 3 [be here at 5 p.m.]  
 Performance begins @ 6 p.m.  
 Christmas Party ~ Wed, Dec. 6 [6:30 p.m. @ Kidztown]



Reminder!

\*\*No newsletter will be published Dec. 19 or 26



CHOIR PRACTICE ~ Dec 3 @ 4 p.m. in FLC

Dec. 6 @ 5:30 p.m. in [sanctuary]

## PRAYER NEEDS

New Converts  
The Lost  
Our Missionaries  
Our Pastors & Staff  
Our Troops  
Unspoken Requests

Kathy Allen  
Mike Allen  
Regina Allen  
Kim Allred  
David Bennett  
Odell Bonnett  
Cecil Boyte  
Terry Breed  
Debra Brown  
Ray Brumley  
Sybil Brumley  
David Byrd  
Connie Clack  
Marie Costello  
Estelle Creech  
Becky Crowe  
Debbie Crowe  
Mary Lois Crowe  
Nicky Curtis  
Mark & Carma Davis  
Chris Dungan  
Betty & Ron Elkins  
Billy Elkins  
Peggy Franks  
Beth Gregory  
Dena Gunter  
Louise & Doll Gunter  
Wayne Hancock  
Ken Harrell  
Brenda Haverkamp  
Mildred & Charles Hayman  
Noel & Ron Haynes  
Belinda Hill  
Al Hilton

Dot Hunter  
Larry Jackson  
Jerry Jeane  
Blaine Markham  
Baby Kase McElveen  
Gaye McIntyre  
Ruby Moore  
Connie Morgan  
Jimmy Dale Newell  
Paul Ninemire  
Terry O'Neal  
Robert Overby  
Cathy Paul  
Johnnie Pearson  
Shea Pennock  
Myrtle Phillips  
Janice Poland  
James Prewitt  
Don Riley  
Eddie Robian  
Cindy Russell  
Linda Sanchez  
Eli & Will Springer  
Will Springer  
Jamee Stampley  
Ronnie Taylor  
Maddox Thompson  
Ruth & David Thornberg  
Tommie Jo Wilson

*\*\*TNT Ministries  
\*\*WC Retreats Ministry*

### New This Week

Betty Butler  
S. J. Stephens  
~~~~~  
Dwight Grubbs Family  
Carl Wesley Tullos Family  
Marilyn Warren Family

**November 26**

### OFFERING

### ATTENDANCE

*Sunday School* 49  
*Morning Worship* 90  
*Hanging of the Greens Service* 60

|                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Weekly Needs     | 4,559.52        |
| Tithes           | 3,950.00        |
| Sunday School    | 9.00            |
| Harvest Offering | 400.00          |
| Youth            | 50.00           |
| Missions         | 240.00          |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>4,649.00</b> |



**Family Night Christmas Party @ FLC**  
*Wednesday, December 20 ~ 6 p.m.*

*Please bring party foods to share*



We extend our deepest sympathy to Sylvia Grubbs and her family in the loss of her husband of 64 years, Dwight Grubbs. Bro. Dwight served as pastor of FCOG in the early sixties.



### Christmas Eve Communion

*will be observed in the Sunday morning service on December 24*



**All Ladies' Invited to a Paint Party**  
Tuesday, December 12 ~ 6 p.m. @ FLC

*You can contact the church office or Christy Ostrowski to check on availability and come join the fun!*

\$20 is the cost of the supplies. We'll be painting a winter church scene.



**Youth Christmas Party @ FLC**  
Wed, Dec. 13 ~ 6:30 p.m.



### Christ's Birthday Offering



**Our annual Christ's Birthday Offering will be taken on Sun, Dec. 17**  
The goal for this national offering is \$1,000,000.00

### Children's Day

**Sunday,  
December 3**

### Toys for Tots

We will be collecting **new, unwrapped toys for distribution** in W C. Parish. So, look for those great deals on bikes, stuffed animals, Barbie, Legos, board games, etc. & have fun blessing a child this Christmas!



*If you know of any children in need, contact the church office to nominate them for Toys for Tots.*

### Christmas Musical / Jesus' Birthday Party

**Sunday, Dec. 3 ~ 6 p.m.**

Our children's Christmas musical, "A Christmas Yarn" will be performed on Dec. 3. Following the Christmas musical, we will have our **Jesus' Birthday Party** with a fellowship time in the FLC.

**Please** come be part of this special night of celebration!



### TNT Follow-up Meeting

Thursday, December 7 ~ 6:30 p.m. in FLC  
Please bring finger foods to share



### Christmas Events in NELA



Carols @ the Cross in Rayville  
Saturday, December 2 ~ 6-8 p.m.  
Free admission

**NELA Christmas Celebration @ First West in West Monroe**  
December 15, 16, 17 ~ 6 p.m.

*Tickets are \$5 -- purchase online @ nelachristmas.com [all proceeds will be given to selected ministries in NELA]*



### Annual Business Meeting / Potluck

**Sun, Dec 10 ~ 5:30 p.m.** [FLC conference room]

**Bring a dish to share** for a meal consisting of soup, salad, sandwiches, & sweets.



### Ladies' Christmas Party

**Tuesday, December 5 ~ 6:00 p.m.**

**All ladies are invited!**

We will meet at the home of Brenda & Gary Kelly. [737 S. Old Kilbourne Rd] *Please bring a dish to share for a potluck meal and a gift for a gift exchange. Please make plans to come!*