

# Pastor to People

As I am writing this, a cold front is bearing down on our community with lows expected to be some of the coldest of the season. Yet, in my office I am warm thanks to a small but efficient space heater that I place behind my desk. It's amazing that such a small thing can offer such comfort against the brutal elements of nature.

In a similar vein, I find it fascinating that a small book of the Bible in the New Testament can be filled with such meaningful wisdom for the church as is found in the Epistle of James. James was written by the Lord Jesus' brother and the early leader of the Jerusalem Church. It is unique in the New Testament because it is believed to be one of the first of the New Testament documents written and the only one

from the Apostle's Church in Jerusalem that has survived the centuries. It offers us a different perspective than that of the Gospels and the letters of Paul, Peter and John. Scholars believe that it was a sermon manuscript that was intended to be passed from church to church and read aloud. At this time in our church history, I have been led to consider James and share a series of sermons during the frigid months of January and February that will hopefully warm your soul and inspire you to live faithfully for Christ and His Church.

To the right is a schedule of these upcoming messages. Please pray for me as I prepare. Blessings!

Pastor Kent

## SERMON SERIES FROM THE EPISTLE OF JAMES

### January 8

James 1:1-12  
*Taking Trouble 101*

### January 15

James 1:13-18, 4:7  
*Tripping the Tempter*

### January 29

James 1:19-27  
*Test of a True Testimony*

### February 5

James 2:1-13  
*Tackling the Tough Tasks*

### February 12

James 3:1-13  
*Taming the Tongue*

### February 19

James 4:13-17  
*The Tension of Time*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Contributions, Sympathy, Thank You & Prayer Request 2

Loray Fitness Class, Youth Winter Jam 2

January Calendar 3

Baptist Men's Day, Sr. Adult Club, Church Council & Deacon Ordination 4

## F.Y.I.

### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2- Ernie Jones
- 3- Dave Lewis
- 10- Bubbles Styers
- 11- Kent Cranford
- 12- George Bolick
- 15- Jack Funderburk
- 18- Margaret Hamrick  
Barbara Tate
- 20- Pat Causby
- 21- Ray Barnes  
Vicky Mabry
- 22- Beth Davis
- 23- Jane Phillips
- 24- Diego Gonzalez
- 26- Dixie Whitener
- 31- Rachel Dean



## OUR NEW MEMBERS

The following people have joined Loray Baptist Church over the past few weeks. We welcome them to our church family!

### Frances Payne

213 S. Trenton St.  
Gastonia, NC 28052  
(704) 898-1158

### Michael Nunn

1-336-337-5086

### Enoch Addah

207 S. Highland St.  
Gastonia, NC 28052  
704-215-5547

The next time you are at Loray, please give these new members a warm, hearty welcome!

We look forward to worshipping and serving with them in our church family.

**Contributions, Sympathy, Thank You & Prayer Request**



*GOD LOVES A  
CHEERFUL GIVER!*

**Gift to the Youth Fund  
By Jeane & Cal Moore**

**Gift to the Bus Fund in Memory of  
Blanche Ellis by the  
Faithful Workers Class**

**Gifts to the Budget in Memory of**

**Chuck Cannon by  
Gail T. Elmore & Glenn Treadway,  
Edna Burleson,  
Gary & Claudette Watts, and  
Tatie & Don Morgan**

**Gift to the Budget in Memory of  
Coy T. Bradshaw by  
Betty & Hicks Goforth**

**Gift to the Budget in Memory of  
Naomi & Buford Blanton by  
Robert A. Blanton**



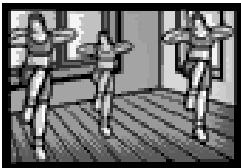
*Christian sympathy is expressed to  
**Juanita Cannon** on the recent loss  
of her son, Chuck.*

*Christian sympathy is expressed  
to the family of **Opal Jenkins** on her  
recent death.*

*Christian sympathy is expressed  
to **Chubby Styers** on the recent  
loss of her brother, James Hollifield.*

*Christian sympathy is expressed  
to the family of **Debbie Hill** on her  
recent death.*

**Loray Baptist Church Fitness Class**



Have you thought about your New Year Resolution? Well, if it includes getting into shape, then you are in luck! Come join the Loray Baptist Fitness Class on Mondays and

Thursdays at 5:45 in the evening. If you want to lose a few holiday pounds or just increase your cardio health, we can help.

Joe and Angela Davis have enlisted the service of Joe Austin as instructor. He has an aptitude in physical training and in Krav Maga, the Israeli Self Defense System. The class is open to all from the ages of 16 to 110! Come do part or

all of the class. Joe will tailor your training to your need as best as he can.

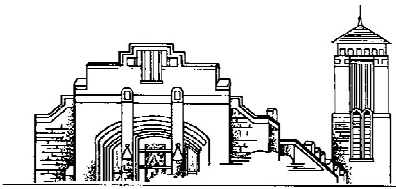
While we train our bodies, we will be discussing things of our Lord and what He is doing in and through us.

Come on out and have some fun!

If you have questions about this class, please contact Joe or Angela Davis (704) 864-6219.

# JANUARY 2012

| SUN  | MON   | TUE   | WED  | THU       | FRI       | SAT       |
|--|---|---|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| <p>1</p>  <p>New Year's Day</p>                                      | <p>2</p> <p>7 pm—Boy Scouts</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE<br/>CLOSED FOR<br/>HOLIDAY</p> | <p>3</p>  | <p>4</p> <p>6:15 pm—Youth &amp; Adult<br/>Bible Studies</p> <p>7 pm—Sanctuary Choir<br/>Rehearsal</p>  | <p>5</p>  | <p>6</p>  | <p>7</p>  |
| <p>8</p> <p>8:30 am—Deacons' Mtg.<br/>11:00 am—Deacon<br/>Ordination</p> <p>Youth Winter Jam—<br/>Leave church after morn-<br/>ing worship</p>       | <p>9</p> <p>7 pm—Boy Scouts</p>   | <p>10</p> <p>Noon—Sr. Citizens' Club<br/>Lunch/Mtg.</p> <p>2 pm—Robinson-Blalock<br/>BW</p> | <p>11</p> <p>6:15 pm—Youth &amp; Adult<br/>Bible Studies</p> <p>7 pm—Sanctuary Choir<br/>Rehearsal</p> | <p>12</p> | <p>13</p> | <p>14</p> |
| <p>15</p> <p>8:45 am—Church<br/>Council—Breakfast<br/>Provided</p>   | <p>16</p> <p>7 pm—Boy Scouts</p>  | <p>17</p>   | <p>18</p> <p>6:15 pm—Qtrly. Business<br/>Mtg.</p> <p>7 pm—Sanctuary Choir<br/>Rehearsal</p>            | <p>19</p> | <p>20</p> | <p>21</p> |
| <p>22</p>  <p>Women on Missions<br/>Planning Mtg.—<br/>2:30 pm</p> | <p>23</p> <p>7 pm—Boy Scouts</p>  | <p>24</p> <p>10:45 am—Prayer Group</p>  | <p>25</p> <p>6:15 pm—Youth &amp; Adult<br/>Bible Studies</p> <p>7 pm—Sanctuary Choir<br/>Rehearsal</p> | <p>26</p> | <p>27</p> | <p>28</p> |
| <p>29</p>  | <p>30</p> <p>7 pm—Boy Scouts</p>  | <p>31</p>   |  |           |           |           |



# LORAY Baptist Church

1128 W. Franklin Blvd.  
Gastonia, NC 28052

Phone: (704) 867-4479  
Fax: (704) 867-4470

E-mail: [loraybaptist@bellsouth.net](mailto:loraybaptist@bellsouth.net)



*Lighting the  
Way for Christ*

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Gastonia, NC 28052  
Permit Number 233

**RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED**



## **BAPTIST MEN'S DAY**

Sunday, January 22

**8:00 a.m.**

Breakfast at the Pancake House,  
Hwy. 321

**Between 9:00 & 9:15 a.m.**

Men's Choir Rehearsal

(All men are encouraged to sing in the men's choir on this special Sunday).

Special speakers will be sharing with us and special music by some of our men will be highlights of this service. Come support our men, and worship our Lord on Baptist Men's Day, January 22!

## **SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB**

### **LUNCH & MEETING**

Tuesday, January 10—Noon

Speaker: Dr. Kent Cranford

You are asked to bring food and share in this special time with our senior citizens.

## **CHURCH COUNCIL**

Sunday, January 15—8:45 a.m.

Breakfast Provided

If you are a member of the church council, please plan to be in attendance as we make plans for our church for the upcoming year.

## **DEACON ORDINATION**

Sunday, January 8

11:00 a.m.

Wayne Bradley will be ordained as a deacon on January 8. Please come support Wayne as he makes this commitment to our Lord and to our church.

## **WMU PLANNING**

### **MEETING**

Sunday, January 22

2:30 p.m.

(In the library)

All women are encouraged to come help us plan the upcoming quarter's mission projects for our church.