



the GATEPOST

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A MINISTRY OF GATEWAY BAPTIST CHURCH // MONTGOMERY, AL

GREETINGS, GATEWAY FAMILY!

Christmas Opportunities for Fellowship

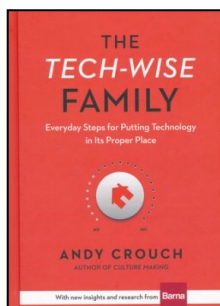
I am excited that December is here! There are many special opportunities this month. Details are on pages two and three, but here is a quick overview:

- *December 6 Service project and Christmas movie night
- *December 11 Ladies cookie swap and game night
- *December 13 Gingerbread house decorating fellowship
- *December 24 Morning Worship & Christmas Eve services



Books To Read or Give During the Holidays

The Gateway resource center in the hallway by the office is stocked with lots of great books. If you need a good read during the Christmas season, or want to give a gift to someone to help them grow in their walk with the Lord, there are a lot of options available for you on topics like the attributes of God, Christian living, help with life issues, marriage, parenting, and more!



In addition, I want to highly recommend a book to you. In fact, if you will read it this month, we will give it to you for free! It is *The Tech-Wise Family: Everyday Steps for Putting Technology in its Proper Place* and is authored by Andy Crouch, the editor of Christianity Today magazine. It is one of the most helpful resources I have found on how we can use technology in our families, instead of letting it master and control us. It gives incredibly helpful ideas on how to organize our lives so that we can focus on the Lord and on our families, instead of constantly being lured away by our technology devices. I hope you will read it! See me or any staff member if you would like a free copy.

Deacon Election & Annual Business Meeting

We are pleased to let you know that the following four men were nominated for deacon, accepted, and are being recommended to you after having completed their ordination councils: Craig McCullough, Henry Williams, Linnie Dickson, and Steve Gillis. Members will have an opportunity in the worship service on December 10 to cast a ballot to vote to elect each man to the office of deacon beginning in January. In addition, on December 10 at 6 p.m. we will have our annual business meeting. We will give updates on each ministry area, discuss plans for 2018 including new Life Groups, and approve the proposed 2018 budget. You also will have an opportunity for a Q&A with church leaders. I hope you will join us for it!



~Grady
grady@gatewaybaptist.com



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FELLOWSHIP NIGHTS

Join us the first two Wednesday evenings of December at 6:00 p.m. for special church-wide fellowship opportunities! These will be events for all ages (children, youth, college, and adults) .

SERVICE PROJECT & A MOVIE! Wednesday, December 6

Join us December 6 as we come together to prepare cookie bags for first responders in our city. After the bags are ready, we'll watch "A Charlie Brown Christmas" and have popcorn and hot-chocolate. As we leave, each family or group can take goody bags to nearby fire stations.



GINGERBREAD HOUSES Wednesday, December 13

Join us December 13 as we have a gingerbread house decorating fellowship! Families or groups of friends can work together to decorate their gingerbread house. All supplies will be provided for you, as well as Christmas snacks and hot-chocolate!



WEDNESDAY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

There will be NO Wednesday evening activities on:

December 20
December 27

YOUTH MINISTRY

During the Christmas season, I am often reminded of an old Max Lucado book entitled *God Came Near*. John 1:14 says, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." I love that concept - the God of the universe, Creator and Sustainer of all things putting on an "earth suit" and making Himself accessible to mankind.

Here is an excerpt from that book that is a good reminder to me. I hope it will encourage you too...

"So people came to him. My, how they came to him! They came at night; they touched him as he walked down the street; they followed him around the sea; they invited him into their homes and placed their children at his feet. Why? Because he refused to be a statue in a cathedral or a priest in an elevated pulpit. He chose instead to be Jesus. There is not a hint of one person who was afraid to draw near him. There were those who mocked him. There were those who were envious of him. There were those who misunderstood him. There were those who revered him. But there was not one person who considered him too holy, too divine, or too celestial to touch. There was not one person who was reluctant to approach him for fear of being rejected. Remember that. Remember that the next time you find yourself amazed at your own failures."

So grateful that God came near. Merry Christmas!

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, December 17
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Location: Pump It Up!
Cost: \$5 per person



Youth, please join us for this fun evening as we celebrate Christmas together!

~ Drew
drew@gatewaybaptist.com

GATEWAY ONLINE MEMBER PORTAL



DID YOU KNOW...
You can update your information, see the church calendar, and give online?

Just go to: <http://members.gatewaybaptist.com>

LADIES MINISTRY

COOKIE SWAP & GAME NIGHT Monday, December 11 ~ 6:00 pm

Ladies, join us on Monday, December 11, for our next fellowship evening! We will do a cookie exchange and game night at the Gateway campus from 6 - 8 p.m.



If possible, bring two dozen cookies to share. We want each lady to go home with a plate of a wide variety of sweets! We will provide hot chocolate and apple cider.

Childcare is only available by request. If you need childcare, please contact the church office at 272-9494 no later than noon on Thursday, December 7.

CHILDRENS MINISTRY

It is hard to believe that December is here and 2017 is almost behind us. I want to encourage you (and me) to intentionally slow down this holiday season. Take time to enjoy your family, to serve others, and most importantly, to make the Gospel known to a lost world!

We want to help you by taking a break from GO! during December. You will have an opportunity on the first Wednesday (December 6) to serve Montgomery's first responders by providing home baked goodies for six local fire stations. Bake some treats with your kids and join us! The second week (December 13) will be a time for families to come to Gateway for a night of fun. Details about those special evenings are on page two. The remaining Wednesdays we will not meet at the Gateway campus to facilitate you having family time together.

Also, there will be no Kid's Worship on December 24 and 31. Families are encouraged to sit and worship together to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Finally, I would like to encourage you to incorporate Scripture into your family activities this Christmas season. Below is a link to a great article from Paul David Tripp. I hope this helps you teach your children about the true meaning of Christmas:

www.paultripp.com/articles/posts/read-these-passages-during-christmas

Thank you for allowing me to serve you and your children. As always, I am continually praying for their salvation.

~ Molly

molly@gatewaybaptist.com

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas is almost here! Make plans to celebrate the birth of Christ with us at Gateway.

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE Sunday, December 24 ~ 10:30 am

We will have our regular Sunday morning worship service on Christmas Eve Day at 10:30 a.m.. It will be a kid friendly service with story time for the kids and with activity books available for them. Please note: There will be no Sunday School classes that morning.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE Sunday, December 24 ~ 5:00 pm

Join us on Christmas Eve at 5 p.m. for a one hour service of carols, communion, and candlelight. We will sing together, read Scripture, celebrate communion, and end singing together by candlelight.



SUNDAY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

On the following Sundays, there only will be the worship service at 10:30 a.m. There will be no Sunday School.

December 24
December 31



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DECEMBER 2017



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Margaret Whatley

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Jessica Choi

6
Patsy Hood
Susana Resende

8
Grady Smith

10
Mark Guarin

11
Reed Lawrence

13
Mike Gwin

14
Andy Whatley

16
Laura Glass

17
Betty Stevens

18
Brooke Resende

30
Ellen Fowler
Liz Lee

31
James Choi

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE FOR NOVEMBER

Sunday Worship _____ 212
Sunday School [for all ages] _____ 110
Wednesday Evening [for all ages] _____ 59

GIVING UPDATE

December Budget Requirement _____ \$ 42,911.67
December Budget Receipts _____ \$ 32,199.62

Other Designated Receipts _____ \$ 1,933.00

2017 YTD Budget Requirement _____ \$ 472,028.37
2017 YTD Budget Receipts _____ \$ 412,204.00
2017 YTD Deficit _____ \$ 59,824.37

PASTORAL AND STAFF TEAM

Grady Smith _____ Pastor
CJ Falcione _____ Associate Pastor
Drew Burton _____ Student Ministries Pastor
Molly Moore _____ Children's Ministry Director
Ashley McCullough _____ Worship Leader
Erin Gross _____ Administrative Assistant
Ethan Widen _____ Ministry Assistant

ELDERS

Robby Collins, William Foxx, Ira Hostetter, William Hurley,
Jeremy Jones, John Reese, Seth Rhodebeck