# COGA NEWS



### WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

- · Reflect on the Year and Look Ahead
- Goods Drive

**DECEMBER 2024** 

- Upcoming Events
- · A Little Something to Laugh About



## Reflect on the Year and Look Ahead

AS DECEMBER UNFOLDS, we step into a season rich with meaning—a time to celebrate the birth of Christ, reflect on the year behind us, and anticipate the blessings ahead. This month brings with it the warmth of Advent, where the themes of hope, peace, joy, and love guide our hearts toward the wonder of Emmanuel, "God with us." It's a time to pause and remember the profound truth that Jesus came to bring light into the darkness and life to all who believe.

This month also offers an opportunity for reflection. As the year draws to a close, let us look back with gratitude on God's faithfulness. Through the highs and lows, His presence has



sustained us. Take a moment to recount the blessings, big and small, that have marked your journey this year. As Psalm 107:1 reminds us, "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever."

We should keep in mind both the victories and challenges. In each moment, we can see God's hand shaping us into His image. Psalm 90:12 says, "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." Let this wisdom guide us as we

prepare for what's ahead, seeking God's direction and recommitting our hearts to His purpose.

### THE NEW YEAR:

The season also calls us tolook forward with anticipation to the coming year. What will God do in and through us? As Isaiah 43:19 reminds us, "See, I am doing a new thing!" God invites us to embrace the future with faith, trusting His plans.

As we prepare for the new year, this is a chance to reset spiritually and renew commitments to His purposes. Perhaps God is calling you to step deeper into ministry, build stronger relationships, or walk boldly in your faith. Set aside time to pray and seek God's direction for 2025.

The new year is a time for growth. Let us challenge ourselves to live with open hearts and willing hands, ready to be used by God. Together, we can make a greater impact in our community, sharing His love through service, outreach, and kindness.

### **REFLECT & RENEW**

Finally, let us live out the message of Christmas by extending Christ's love to others. Whether





through a kind word, a helping hand, or acts of generosity, may we be His light in the world. As a church family, let us end the year united in gratitude and step into the new year with renewed hope, trusting God's plans for us.

Together, let us proclaim: "To God be the glory-

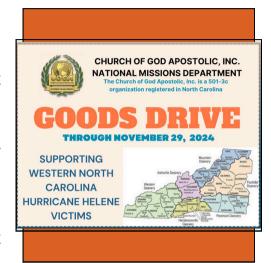
great things He has done and will continue to do!"

Let us end this year united in gratitude and begin the next with renewed hope. May we proclaim with joy: "Emmanuel—God with us!" Now and always.

## **GOODS DRIVE: NOVEMBER 30, 2024**

C.O.G.A. provided supplies to victims devastated by Hurricane Helene in Western NC this weekend. This work exemplifies the principle of being the hands and feet of Christ. Our actions not only transform lives by meeting immediate needs but also builds bridges for lasting relationships grounded in faith. These initiatives inspire individuals to see God's love in action and serve as a testament to the church's commitment to justice, mercy, and humility.

As C.O.G.A. works in the mission field, it demonstrates that faith is not just about belief but about action—reaching out to "the least of these" as Christ commanded.



## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

## **DECEMBER**

- 17th > Sothern District Christmas Program
- 31st > Watch Night Service

## **JANUARY**

- 1st > Happy New Year!
- 2nd > Begin 21 Day Daniel's Fast

Find more information on www.cogainc.org

## A LITTLE SOMETHING TO LAUGH ABOUT

- "Why do we wrap everything in December? Presents, scarves, and ourselves!"
- What's the best thing about December birthdays? You're already on everyone's shopping list!
- Why did the snowman go to therapy? He had a meltdown.
- What does a gingerbread man sleep on? Cookie sheets!
- What did the scarf say to the coat in December? "I've got you covered!"
- Why is December so easygoing? It knows the year's about to end, so it chills!
- "Christmas: When we pretend fruitcake is a dessert and not a doorstop."





