



THE VISION

December 2018

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them and...teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...”
Amen. Matthew 28:19-20

Have you ever wondered what the Christmas word “Noel” means? The word “noel” is a French word for Christmas, derived from the Latin for Christ’s nativity. By common use it has become an alternate word for the gospel. In our Christmas songs it usually refers to the announcement of the angels to the shepherds of Bethlehem.

In 4-5 B.C. (the usually accepted dates for the birth of Jesus), the three largest settlements of Jewish people were found in Israel, Persia, and Egypt. God sent announcements to each of these descendants of Abraham.

The Shepherd’s Field near Bethlehem was once owned by David’s father, Jesse, and may have been where David wrote **Psalms 23**. Earlier, it had belonged to Boaz and was the field where Ruth gleaned. In fact, the rock overhang forming a shallow cave where shepherds kept their sheep may have been the threshing floor where Ruth slept at Boaz’ feet in Ruth, Chapter 3.

According to the Jewish Mishna, that field was later dedicated for Temple use to raise sheep for sacrifice or Passover. Yet, the shepherds who raised those sheep were considered outcasts because they chose a vocation that required working on the Sabbath. To these “untouchables” God sent an angelic host to

announce the coming of the Good Shepherd.

The second largest contingent of Jews was in Persia where many chose to remain after the Assyrian and Babylonian captivities. Jewish priests there, called Magi in the Persian tongue, would know of Balaam’s prediction in **Numbers 24:17**. Upon seeing a brilliant supernova they chose, on their own, to lead a caravan to Jerusalem to find the prophesied King of the Jews. They did not follow the star across the desert because the star would not have led them to Herod!

Disappointed at not finding a baby in Herod’s palace, **Matthew 2:10** says they rejoiced when they saw their star again, this time leading them the 6 miles to Bethlehem. That night, when Joseph fled with his family to Egypt, he joined the third largest settlement of Jews. There, Joseph told everyone that Mary’s son was the Jewish Messiah.

The Coptic Christian Church of Egypt traces its beginning to Joseph who told them about Jesus. Thus, God was letting all of Abraham’s descendants know the fulfillment of His announcement, His “Noel” to their forefathers. Jesus Christ is God the Father’s good new announcement, Noel!

Merry Christmas,
Pastor Bud Goude



***PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AT
804-642-2555 IF YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES OR BY EMAIL:
secretary@glotbaptist.org***

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Deacon's Devotional

Knowledge + Wisdom = Life

Knowledge is good, but there is a big difference between "knowledge" (having the facts) and "wisdom" (applying the facts to life). We may gain knowledge but without wisdom our knowledge is useless. We must learn how to live out what we know.

Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, left us a legacy of written wisdom in three books, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Songs of Songs. He gives practical insights and guidelines for life. Please take time to read these.

In Proverbs, Solomon passes on his practical advice in the form of proverbs. A proverb is a short, concise sentence that conveys moral truth. The book of Proverbs is wisdom. He wrote "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline." (1:7) He then gave us practical examples of how to live according to godly wisdom.

Proverbs covers a wide range of topics that apply to all people and provides advice for governing our lives. By reading Proverbs, understand that knowing God is the key to wisdom. We need to apply these truths to our life. Instead of just reading them, we need to act on them!

In Christ's love,

Al West



Christmas Doves

"...and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove..." Matthew 3:16

Would you like to place a Dove on the tree in memory or in honor of a loved one? A dove can be placed for a minimum of a \$5.00 donation, but more will gladly be accepted. Donations will go to support benevolence. The deadline is Wednesday 12/19 and doves will be placed on the tree as donations are received.

A dove contributors list will be included in the Christmas bulletin. Place your form and payment in the labeled box in the Narthex. If you have any questions, contact Paulette Ashe at 642-3251. Thank you for your generosity!



Hanging of the Greens Service

Mark your calendars for December 2nd, the first Sunday of Advent, to join us at 11:00am for a special morning service, for Hanging of the Greens. This special service will include beautiful Christmas music with readings to explain the meaning of the traditional decorations, as we decorate our sanctuary. The decorations include wreaths, garland, poinsettias, the Advent wreath, and the Christmas tree with Chrismons.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Christmas is rapidly approaching and at this time of year we are called to pray for our missionaries who are spreading the Good News all over the world and support them with the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The Week of Prayer for International Missionaries is December 2 - 9.

This year our goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is \$2,500.00.



Deacon of the Week

12/2—Buddy Hogge
12/9—Sonya Anthony
12/16—Sonya Anthony
12/23—Al West
12/30—Bill Breeden

Nursery Workers

12/2—L. Walton/G. Breeden
12/9—A. Milligan/Youth
12/16—Devan/Elyza Willard
12/23—S. Jenkins/Youth
12/30—Beverly/Connie West

December Ushers

Sonya Anthony
Stan Gandee
Seth Gandee
Jamie Moore

December Tellers

Buddy Hogge
Tommy Ashe

Sun. Sch. Nursery

Sharon/Howard Warren



**CHURCH
WORKERS**

Older Children's Church

12/2—P. Belvin/T. Svoboda
12/9—Jennifer/Lauren Hall
12/16—Madison/Seth Gandee
12/23—Charlene/John West
12/30—Seth Gandee

Younger Children's Church

12/2—Tracy Williams/Jade Jenkins
12/9—Sonya Anthony/Nancy Dyson
12/16—Denise Gandee/Mallory Wagner
12/23—Laraine Sentz/Rachel Wells
12/30—Tammy Greggs/Youth



Gloucester Point Baptist Church 60th Anniversary

We will be celebrating our 60th Anniversary on October 27, 2019. The Anniversary Committee has its first meeting on November 7, 2018. At this meeting the following were elected to serve:

Jimmy Diggs, Chair
Sharon Warren, Vice Chair
Sonya Anthony, Secretary
Other Members include;

Tommy Ashe, Linda Breaks, Merlene Swindeck & Rachel Wells

Christmas Cantata and Dinner

Please make plans to join us
Sunday, December 16th at 11am
as our chancel choir presents our
annual Christmas Cantata. All are
invited to worship and celebrate with us!

The Annual Christmas Dinner will follow
the Choir's Cantata. The menu will be
Roast Beef, Gravy, Bread, and
Beverage provided. Please bring a
Salad, Vegetable, or Dessert (enough
to share with 10-12 people) and, of
course, your family and friends!

**GPBC will host GUEST
January 14-January 21
and
March 11-March 18, 2019**

If you would like to help, you
can do so by bringing any of
the following items:

Heavy duty paper plates,
Drinking cups, styrofoam
cups, plastic bowls, napkins,
plastic forks and spoons.

Please drop items off in the
box by the WMU table in the
Narthex.

If you have any questions,
please call Pauline Littell at



Christmas Eve Service

Invite your family and friends to join us for a beautiful candlelight
Christmas Eve Service at 5:00pm.

There will be Christmas music, scriptures, and the Lord's Supper.



American Heritage Girls, an outreach program of Gloucester Point Baptist Church, was the first group to register to participate in Fall Clean Gloucester Day in October.

Sunday Schedule
 Sunday School (All Ages)- 9:40am
 Worship Service— 11:00am
 C.A.R.E. Ministry—2:00pm

December 2018

Wednesday Schedule
 5:30pm: Teens Living For Christ
 6:30pm: Children's Bible Study & Choir
 6:30pm: Prayer Meeting & Bible Study
 7:30pm: Choir Practice

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Hanging of the Greens Rehearsal- 6:30pm
2 Lord's Supper 11am Hanging of the Greens & 1st Advent Lighting 11am Children's Council 12n Deacon Mtg 3pm	3 American Heritage Girls 6:30pm	4 Bldg & Grounds Mtg 7:00pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm	5 Advent Bible School 6:30pm	6	7 9:30am Senior's Morning Out Homeschool Co-op 10am AA 8:00pm	8
9 2nd Advent Lighting 11am	10	11 Girl Scouts 6:30 pm	12 Advent Bible School 6:30pm Called Business Mtg & Nominating Committee 6:00pm	13	14 9:30am Senior's Morning Out AA 8:00pm Vision Articles Due	15 Choir Dress Rehearsal 9:00am
16 Cantata 11am Christmas Dinner 12pm NO C.A.R.E. 3rd Advent lighting 11am	17 American Heritage Girls 6:30pm	18 Armstrong Circle 5:30pm meal 6:00pm meeting Girl Scouts 6:30pm	19	20 Acree Circle 10 am	21 9:30am Senior's Morning Out AA 8:00pm	22
23 Children's Christmas Presentation 11am 4th Advent Lighting 11am	24 OFFICE CLOSED Christmas Eve Service 5:00pm 5th Advent Lighting 5pm	25 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	26 NO ACTIVITIES	27	28 9:30am Senior's Morning Out AA 8:00pm	29
30 Molly Trainum Speaks 11am	31					

December Birthdays:

Pastor Bud Goude	12/1
Brad Burgess	12/4
Justin Cox	12/6
J.E.B. Hutson	12/11
Lisa Terry	12/13
Osvaldo Zepeda	12/13
Elaina Willard	12/14
Daniel Eifes	12/14
Elisse Fitzgerald	12/14
Sarah Starkey	12/15
Beverly West	12/15
Sue Magowan	12/17
Ray Goude	12/19
Kyle Jenkins	12/19
Kaitlyn Saunders	12/21
Elyza Willard	12/26
Charlene Diggs	12/27
Joseph Springer	12/28
Alyssa Owens	12/30
Murielene Swindeck	12/30
Aaron Cirillo	12/31
Taylor Burgess	12/31

Anniversaries:

Ricky & Amy Green	12/24
Chris & Hope Hutson	12/30

