

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

WE ARE INVITED to be Salvation Army Bell Ringers this holiday season. Bell ringers are needed through Dec 23 for 2-hour shifts. There will be no bell ringing on ANY Sundays. Please call the Salvation Army if interested: 642-3443.

DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING! The week of prayer for International Missions is Dec 3-10. Our gifts enable thousands of missionaries to live among, serve, and share the gospel with people who have never heard it. TODAY, the WMU will share homemade cookies with the congregation in honor of these missionaries.

A PERSONAL SAFETY PRESENTATION will be held December 8th at 9:30am during the Seniors' Morning Out group. You do not need to be a senior citizen to attend. This presentation is for all ages. Please join us!

THANK YOU: I want to thank each and every one of you who called, sent cards, brought food, and sent up heart-felt prayers for me during my recent surgery. I especially want to thank Barbara Stevens, who helped me with my infusions until I got the hang of it. She and Pastor Bud, as well as my daughter and grandsons were true blessings. I am so thankful I belong to this wonderful church and am able to fellowship with you all each week. —In His Joy, Barbara Fryer

YOUR AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRL TROOP VA 1318 invites you to join us tomorrow night, December 4th at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall to celebrate the earning of our Joining Badge. This is the first badge that any American Heritage Girl earns and will be marked with a candle ceremony. We want to thank you for the love and support you have given us from the moment we became a part of the Gloucester Point Baptist Church family.

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Advent Wreath Lighting (1st Sunday in Advent)

Deacon: Sonya Anthony

Deacon: Today is the first Sunday of Advent. Advent is a time of waiting. We wait for God to send divine love and light into our dark world.

Congregation: How does this happen?

Deacon: God's light comes through Jesus, who became a human being just like you and me, so that he could show us the way back to God's divine love and light.

All: "Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armor of light."

Deacon: A reading from the prophet Jeremiah: "Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will perform that good thing which I have promised unto the house of Israel and to the house of Judah. In those days, and at that time, will I cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land. In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this is the name wherewith she shall be called, The LORD our righteousness," (Jer. 33:14-16).

Congregation: Today we wait for the coming of Jesus. We begin in the dark, and on this first Sunday of Advent, we light the first candle...known as the candle of HOPE.

First candle is lit. (JUST the PINK)

Deacon: Every week in Advent, we will light another candle. Each candle that we light will remind us that the Light of the World will soon come to us in the human form of the baby Jesus.

All: The Kingdom of God is drawing near. May we prepare our hearts with God's peace. God's justice, and God's love. Amen.

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