

“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

Dec. Vision Article

*And now these three remain: **faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. (1 Corinthians 13:13)***

With Christmas, it's easy to get so busy with the cooking, decorating, and shopping that we forget why we're doing all this in the first place. Sometimes, the very people we love get lost in the hustle and bustle of packed schedules, holiday parties, and Christmas musicals.

I came across this Christmas version of **(1 Corinthians 13)** that was written by Sharon Jaynes to stay focused on what Paul deemed most important of all... love.

“If I decorate my house perfectly with lovely plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights, and shiny glass balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals, and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home, and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties, and sing in the choir's cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child.

Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband or wife.

Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn't envy another home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of your way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return, but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.

Love never fails. Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust. But giving the gift of love will endure.”

Let's Pray

Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, on that starry night in Bethlehem. We are still amazed at Your great love for us. May we never lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas but celebrate Jesus' birth with joy! Help us to give as You gave—with love.

In Jesus' Name,
Amen

What are some ways that we can make sure to love our family this holiday season?

Are there any activities that we need to eliminate from our busy schedule in order to alleviate over commitment? If so, what are they?

Merry Christmas,

Pastor Bud Goude

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

GLoucester Point Baptist Church
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Deacon's Devotional

“Keep The Faith”

It's hard to believe that December is already upon us, with the end of the year just ahead. 2020 has been an interesting and challenging year for most of us. I began the year celebrating my retirement from NASA with 42 years of exciting work. Leslie and I planned to do some traveling this year, but our plans were interrupted (like many of your plans) by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As I write this devotion, I am in quarantine preparing for knee surgery. For me, the COVID-19 virus has been an inconvenience, but for some it has been life changing. We have had to alter our social interactions and even temporarily suspended in-person worship. But through it all, God has been in control.

How do you face new challenges? When Paul wrote to the church at Philippi located in Greece, he told us how to deal with life's challenges: *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus"* Philippians 4:6-7.

Having worked with engineers and scientists for so many years, I know that many people desire visible proof before accepting new information. Some even try to apply this visible proof test to their spiritual lives. Many say they don't believe in God because they cannot see Him. Yet, these same people believe a virus, 400 times smaller than the diameter of a human hair, is real. They can't see the virus, but they can see its effects. We may not be able to see God, but certainly we can see how He affects the world as Creator and Lord.

In John's gospel we find that Jesus said: *"No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father"* John 6:46. So what allows us to believe in God if we cannot see Him? Yes, it's Faith. Paul describes faith this way *"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen"* Hebrews 11:1. To get through life's challenges we must have Faith that God is in control. To become saved from eternal death and receive the joy of eternal life we must have Faith.



Don't let the events of 2020 (or of any year) cause you to be anxious. The birth of our Savior Jesus Christ will always be celebrated by those who have faith. Share your faith with those you love this Christmas season. Remember, God is in control.

Deacon W. Keith Belvin



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 12/16** 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 6th, to join us at 11:00am for a special morning service, Hanging of the Greens. This special service will include beautiful Christmas music with readings to explain the meaning of the traditional decorations. The decorations include wreaths, garland, poinsettias, the Advent wreath, and the Christmas tree with Chrismons.

Christmas Eve Service

Please make plans to join us for a beautiful candlelight Christmas Eve Service on December 24 at 5:00 pm. (as of right now)

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





Deacon of the Week

12/6—Gus Saunders
12/13—Debra Wood
12/20—Keith Belvin
12/27—Bill Breeden

Nursery Workers

12/6—L. Walton/G. Breeden
12/13—TBD
12/20—Mallory Wagner/Youth
12/27—A. Crummett/A. Zepeda

December Ushers

Sonya Anthony
Stan Gandee
Jamie Moore
Stewart Wood

December Tellers

Tommy Ashe
Buddy Hogge

Sun. Sch. Nursery
Sharon/Howard Warren



**CHURCH
WORKERS**

Older Children's Church

12/6—TBD
12/13—Jennifer/Lauren Hall
12/20—M. McNeil/D. Gandee
12/27—Connie West

Younger Children's Church

12/6—Mike & Sarah Zipf
12/13—S. Anthony/N. Dyson
12/20—J. West/J. Marshall
12/27—L. Sentz/R. Wells



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 November 29—December 6.. This year our goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is \$2,500.00.



Some Interesting Facts About Lottie Moon

- 1840—Born into a wealthy southern USA family
- 1858—Became Christian after a Holy Land trip
- 1861—One of the first American women to earn a Master of Arts college degree
- 1862-1865—Teacher and nurse during the Civil War
- 1873—Sailed September 1st to China as a missionary, to teach, plant churches and care for women and children
- 1888—Challenged WMU to financially support international missionaries. This became our annual Christmas offering.
- 1912— Starved to death with her Chinese people. (Fellow missionaries were taking Lottie to America at that time

**Lottie Moon was only 4 feet 3 inches tall.
BUT WHAT A GLORY TO GOD!!**



Sunday Schedule
(during COVID)

Sunday School (All Ages)—cancelled
Worship Service—11:00 am
C.A.R.E. Ministry—cancelled
Youth Ministry—5:00 pm

December 2020

Wednesday Schedule
(during COVID)

6:00pm: Children's Ministry
Online Bible Study & Prayer Meeting
7:00pm: Choir Practice

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Advent Bible School 6:00 pm	3	4	5 Practice for Hanging of the Greens 6:30 pm
6 Hanging of the Greens & 2nd Advent Lighting 11 am Deacons Meeting 3:00 pm	7 American Heritage Girls Ministry Meeting 6:30 pm	8	9 Advent Bible School 6:00pm	10	11	12
13 3rd Advent Lighting 11 am	14 Vision Articles Due	15 Armstrong Circle 6:30 pm	16 Advent Bible School 6:00pm Called Business Meeting 6:30pm	17 Acree Circle 10 am	18	19
20 Choir Special & 4th Advent Lighting 11am	21 American Heritage Girls Ministry Meeting 6:30 pm	22	23	24 OFFICE CLOSED Christmas Eve Service 5:00pm 5th Advent Lighting 5pm	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26
27	28	29	30	31		

December Birthdays:

- Pastor Bud Goude 12/1
- Brad Burgess 12/4
- Sue Magowan 12/7
- J.E.B. Hutson 12/11
- Ann Smith 12/11
- Daniel Eifes 12/14
- Sarah Starkey 12/15
- Beverly West 12/15
- Ray Goude 12/19
- Kaleb Coates 12/21
- Madalyn Arquette 12/29
- 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

