



THE VISION

December 2022

*“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*

December

December: what comes to mind when you think of December? I guess it depends on who you ask. A child may say December is the last month of the year or that schools will be closed during Christmas. They may mention receiving gifts for Christmas and spending time with family over the holidays. An adult may say that winter is coming soon or that property taxes are due. They may be looking forward to time off from work to be with family and, yes, they probably mention Christmas. December is usually colder and darker (short days and longer nights). Most people spend more time inside due to less daylight and colder weather.

For some, December brings on melancholy due to the dark and being relatively cooped up. Before I retired, I used to say that I only saw my house on Saturday and Sunday during the winter because it was dark when I left for work and dark when I returned home. But December is also noted for something else altogether; much more important. The birth of our Savior was, according to the calendar, on the 25th of December. I don't know how accurate this date is and the Bible (Gods' Holy word) makes no mention. So, I am going to assume Gods' plan was at work in everything that happened. Therefore, He wanted us to celebrate in December. So, Jesus was born

during the darkest time of the year in an era when artificial light was very scarce. When the sun went down it got very dark fast. The living light of Jesus came to spiritually shine the bright light of salvation into our dark lives of sin. This Living light is brighter and longer lasting than any star in the universe.

Think now of December not as the end of the year but the beginning. Yes, it is the last month of the calendar year but our Savior who brings salvation to humanity serves more as a beginning. He brings us a new life that will last for an eternity. You will no longer have to think of December as the dark and cold end of the year because we can celebrate the renewal of our forever life with the living Light. We can look forward to December with renewed hope and shine the Light onto the world.

This December, I pray this Light will outshine anything we buy at the store or hang on a tree. And that we will be bright shining ornaments for Jesus throughout the year and all around the world. When we absorb the Light, darkness and sin will flee before us.

I pray that you have a wonderful December and Christmas this year in His Light.

Stewart Wood

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***PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AT

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Pastor Search Update (Dec. 1, 2022)

GPBC's Pastor Search Committee continues the work of discerning God's will in calling the next pastor of Gloucester Point Baptist. The profiles provided on the GPBC website (<http://www.gloptbaptist.org/pastor-search/>) have served us well in communicating the opportunity to become Senior Pastor of this Church. In particular, your inputs to the Church and Pastor profiles have provided sound guidance for the Pastor Search Committee and the public at-large.

Thus far, we have received 34 resumes from a variety of sources including the Baptist General Association of Virginia and from notices on the Southern Baptist Convention website. We have approached the review of each reference in a serious and professional manner.

We have begun interviewing candidates for the Pastor position. Remember, the interview process is aimed not just at discerning qualifications, but also discerning God's will. Both the candidate and the Search Committee must agree God is calling the candidate to be our next Pastor. We will continue to work diligently for you and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We are confident God has already selected our next pastor.

Pastor Search Team – Keith Belvin, Mike Crawford, Ann Hogge, Amy Jacobson, Sandy McElfresh, Brian Stewart, and Debra Wood



2022 Advent Devotions

Please pick up your families copy of this year's 'The Joy of Anticipation' Advent Book. The books are located in the Narthex. We thank each one of you who wrote a devotion this year and artist Jason Kissinger who created the cover art. -Advent Book Team



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 12/21** 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!

Christmas Eve Service

Invite your family and friends to join us for a beautiful candlelight Christmas Eve Service on December 24 at **5:00 pm**.

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



Irish Christmas Blessing
submitted by Barbara Fryer

God grant you lightness in your step
A smile on every face you meet
Loved ones gathered at your hearth,
and at your door, good friends to greet.
A holy hymn upon your lips,
A window candle burning bright,
And may the Good Lord bless your heart
And come to dwell there Christmas night.

Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 11th at 11am
as our chancel choir presents our
Annual Christmas Cantata.
All are invited to worship and celebrate with us!



Christmas Dinner

Sunday, December 11, 2022

Meat, Bread and Beverage will be provided
Bring a vegetable, salad or dessert
(enough to serve 10-12 people)

Please sign up in the Narthex by December 4th
with your name and number attending.

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 4 –10, 2022.
This year our goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is \$2,700.00.

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!!**

Deacon of the Week

12/4—Bill Breeden
12/11—David Crummett
12/18—Jimmy Diggs
12/25—Buddy Hogge

Nursery Workers

12/4—Howard Warren
12/11—L. Walton/A. Zepeda
12/18—Jamie/Bailey Moore
12/25—Howard Warren

December Ushers

Sonya Anthony
Stan Gandee
Jamie Moore
Stewart Wood

December Tellers

Tommy Ashe
Gail Mongold

Sun. Sch. Nursery
H. Warren/T. Owens



**CHURCH
WORKER'S**

Older Children's Church

12/4—Alice & Gordon Smith
12/11—Jayme & Brody Sanford
12/18—M. McNeil/D. Gandee
12/25—Connie & Sami West

Younger Children's Church

12/4—Nancy Dyson
12/11—S. Anthony
12/18—Joyce Marshall
12/225—M. Wagner/R. Wells

Mission Moment - Canada

Vast spiritual lostness describes just about the whole western region of the United States. Almost 9 out of 10 residents in the West have no relationship with Christ. Pray for the pastors, church planters and missionaries in both the urban and rural areas of the West as they reach out to minister and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ to many diverse populations.



Sunday Schedule

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

December 2022



Wednesday Schedule

6:00pm: Youth Bible Study
 6:00pm: Children's Choir & Bible Study
 6:30pm: Bible Study & Prayer Meeting

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Men's Bible Study 6:30pm A.A. Meeting 8:00 pm	3
4 Lord's Supper & 2nd Advent Lighting 11:00 am Deacons Meeting 3:00 pm	5 AHG Ministry Meeting 6:30 pm	6 Building & Grounds 6:30 pm Transportation 6:30pm	7 Advent Bible School 6:00pm	8	9 A.A. Meeting 8:00 pm New Fellowship Hall Reserved	10 New Fellowship Hall Reserved
11 NO SS Breakfast 3rd Advent Lighting & Christmas Cantata 11:00 am Christmas Dinner 12:00 pm NO CARE	12 AHG Christmas Party 6:30pm	13 Community Morning Out 9:30 am (Rescheduled from 12/6)	14 Advent Bible School 6:00pm Called Business Meeting 6:30pm NO CHANCEL	15 Acree Circle 10 am	16 Men's Bible Study 6:30pm A.A. Meeting 8:00 pm Vision Articles Due	17 AHG Wreath Laying Yorktown National Cemetery 12:00 pm Emma Crawford Quilting 9:00 am-4:00 pm
18 4th Advent Lighting 11:00 am C.A.R.E./D. Crummett 2:00pm	19	20 NO ARMSTRONG CIRCLE	21 Advent Bible School Birthday Party for Jesus 6:00 pm Doves Due	22	23 Men's Bible Study 6:30pm OFFICE CLOSED	24 Christmas Eve Service & 5th Advent Lighting 5:00 pm
25 <i>Happy Birthday Jesus!!</i> NO CARE	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27	28 NO CYM ACTIVITIES	29	30 OFFICE CLOSED Men's Bible Study 6:30pm	31

December Birthdays:

Pastor Bud Goude	12/1
Brad Burgess	12/4
Sue Magowan	12/7
J.E.B. Hutson	12/11
Daniel Eifes	12/14
Sarah Starkey	12/15
Beverly West	12/15
Kyle Jenkins	12/19
Kaleb Coates	12/21
Charlene Diggs	12/27
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

