

## From Our Pastor

December 4, 2022

HOLLYWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

“In 1943, Philip Van Doren Stern wrote a short story called “The Greatest Gift.” He tried to get it published to no avail. So, he printed 200 copies himself and distributed them to friends and family members at Christmas time.

One of the booklets made its way to Hollywood, where it eventually fell into the right hands and was converted into a screenplay. The name of the project was changed to “It’s a Wonderful Life.” The film debuted in 1946 and is now a holiday classic. Stern’s short story was actually published a year earlier, but not as a book. It was released as a feature in *Good Housekeeping* magazine with the title, “The Man Who Was Never Born.”

The story is a familiar one, about a troubled man named George who is rescued by a theologically incorrect angel named Clarence. In an effort to earn his wings, Clarence shows George how terrible things would be in Bedford Falls if he had never been born. Though the comparison is obviously inadequate, the title of Stern’s story raises an infinitely more important question when applied to the heart of Christmas. *What if the Lord Jesus had never been born?*” This was taken from an article written by Nathan Busenitz Dean of Faculty at The Master's Seminary.

In John 15:5 Jesus said, *“For without me ye can do nothing.”* Have you ever imagined what life would be like if Jesus had not come to earth. A famous line in the film reads, “One man’s life touches so many others. When he’s not there it leaves an awfully big hole.” If the absence of an ordinary human life would leave an *awfully big hole*, just try to imagine what the absence of the life of Jesus Christ would be like. His absence from our lives would not just be sad, it would be tragic! This reality causes us to consider how rich we are because Christ has come!

If Jesus had not come, we would not know what it means to experience God’s faithfulness. Just think about the faithful promises that God has given to us over the years. All the promises concerning the coming of the Son of God and how God was going to use His birth to begin the process of bringing freedom and forgiveness to mankind. *“To save his people from their sins”* according to Matthew 1:21.

If Jesus had not come, we would not know the fullness of God’s love. The Bible says in John 15:13: *“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”* and also in Romans 5:8 where it states, *“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”*

If Jesus did not come, we would not know the depths of God’s humility and compassion toward us. According to Hebrews 2:17: *“Wherefore in all things it behooved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.”* Jesus was made like us in every respect — he took on all of our weaknesses and temptations and sufferings. And he did it that he might be a more merciful advocate for us.

Finally, if Jesus did not come, we would not know what it means to have eternal life and the forgiveness of sin. There would be no salvation for sinners. Romans 5:10: *“For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.”*

Bro. Terry

# December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
				1	2	3	
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship Service 5:15 p.m. Joy on the Ark 5:30 p.m. Bible Study</p>	5	6	<p style="text-align: center;">7</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Praise Team Practice 7:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting</p>	8	<p style="text-align: center;">9</p> <p><i>Ladies Christmas Treat Exchange</i> 6:30 p.m.</p>	10	<p><b>Operation Christmas Child Processing Center Trip</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">11</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship Service 4:15 p.m. Church Council 5:15 p.m. Joy on the Ark 5:30 p.m. Bible Study</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">12</p> <p><i>Packing Food Boxes at Food Center</i> 6 p.m.</p>	13	<p style="text-align: center;">14</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Praise Team Practice 7:00 p.m. Regular Business Meeting</p>	15	16	17	<p><b>Operation Christmas Child Processing Center Trip</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">18</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship Service 5:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling</p>	19	20	<p style="text-align: center;">21</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Praise Team Practice 7:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting</p>	22	23	<p style="text-align: center;">24</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">25</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>11:00 a.m. Worship Service NO PM SERVICES</p>	26	27	<p style="text-align: center;">28</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Praise Team Practice 7:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting</p>	29	30	31	

# Nursery for December

1 Brenda Collins

5 Cam Moore

8 Logan Mills

9 Michael Bryant

10 Tiffany Smith Moore

14 Sonja Gregory

David Matherly

Dale McFaddin

17 Lillian Paciello

Kent Bishop

19 James Lumpkins, Jr.

Sydney Scarce

21 Tara St. John Harper

Samantha L. Eller

Michelle Paciello

23 Dawn Aaron

24 Cathy Moore

Hailey Moore

25 Traci Nuckols

28 Will Nuckols

30 Adam Burgess

Makayla Lewis

## Sun December 4, 2022

9:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Pam Anderson, Dana Wells, Pam Kendrick, & Hannah Shaw

## Sun December 11, 2022

9:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Misty Bishop, Renee Moore, Anna Dunn, & Katie Hammock

## Sun December 18, 2022

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Mary Claytor, Holly St. John, James & Sylvia Lumpkins

## Sun December 25, 2022

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Shelly Lewis, Cassie Gatewood, Donnie & Peggy Moore

### Greeters

December 6 Joan Nuckols & Ben Dunn

December 13 Brenda Collins & Jetty Burgess

December 20 Emma Walden & John Moore

December 27 Patsy Conner & Melody Collins

### Deacon of the Week(\*)/Usher

December 6 Bobby Mullins\*, Tommy Jefferson, James Lumpkins, Randy Gatewood

December 13 Adam Burgess\*, Drake Easley, Larry Weiss, Roger Walden

December 20 Karle Byrd\*, Daniel Moore, William Tosh, Chuck Easley

December 27 Donnie Moore\*, Adam Lumpkins, Bryan Lewis, Terry Moore

I wanted to send you all this card to show how grateful I am for the care package I was sent. I had so much fun opening it, and loved everything that was inside! It made my entire week! Thank you guys for thinking of me!

Love,

McKenna (Stacy and Matt Reynolds' niece)

Hollywood,  
Thank you for the gift box. It was greatly appreciated. Being in college can be hard and grueling and having a group of people in your corner, like you all have been, is truly a blessing. Thank you for all you have done for me, it means a lot.  
Jared St. John

## December Missions



The Lottie Moon Christmas offering goes to support World Missions in getting the Gospel to all the ends of the earth. The money is collected thru out the year but our pledge amount is taken every December to determine our what our goal is for the next year.

You will find a blue pledge card in your bulletin in the month of December. If you would like to make a commitment towards our 2023 goal, simply fill out the card and return the small part of the card in the offering plate.

As a church, you have set a pledge goal of **\$14,965.00**, for the 2022 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. As of November 27, 2022 we have collected \$



2022 Lottie  
Moon Goal  
\$14,965.00



Samaritan's Purse distributes Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes to children across the world as a way to get the Gospel to children in more than 170 countries who might otherwise never hear the name of Jesus.



Thanks to the generosity of our congregation we filled boxes for 360 children! We have the opportunity to help process shoeboxes for distribution at the packing center in Charlotte on December 10 or 17. If you are interested , please let Julie know!

**Thank you so much for your support of this ministry!**



As we are enjoying the Christmas season, it is often easy for us to forget that there are members of our community who are struggling. This year more than ever, many members of our community are struggling with food insecurity and financial hardship.

Join us as we help pack boxes of food at our local food bank to help brighten the Christmases of families who would otherwise face hunger. We will be packing boxes at the Pittsylvania County Food Distribution Center at 402 Chaney Lane, in Gretna at 6:00 p.m. on December 12.



We will be having our Regular Business Meeting on December 14, at 7:00 p.m. Come join us as we discuss the important business that keeps our church running!



**On December 18 we will be meeting at the church at 5:00 p.m. to go Christmas caroling. We will be visiting shut ins and other members of our community to share the joy of the Christmas season through song. Everyone is welcome to join us, talent is appreciated, but not required, all you need is a joyful heart!**

**We'll be singing familiar Christmas classics (so there is no need to fear that you won't know the words). Don your favorite festive apparel and come make a joyful noise!**



Join us and this could be YOU!



Offering envelopes will be available soon. If you would like envelopes and did not receive them last year, please let Julie know. If you no longer wish to receive envelopes or wish to continue using the envelopes you currently have, please let Julie know.



**On December 24 at 5:30 p.m. we will be holding a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. This service will feature a celebration of Jesus' birth, song, and Scripture. Join us for this special time of the remembrance of the greatest gift that the world**



The Men's Prayer Advance will be held in Roanoke, January 26 -28. This is a special time of fellowship and prayer open to all men of the church. If you haven't already registered, sign up before January 3 for \$119.

Never been to an

advance? A discount is

available if you'd like to give it a try!

The church will have rooms at a local hotel available. If you have questions about attending the prayer advance, please contact the church office. Come see what blessings God has in store for you if you give Him your time and attention during

A big **Thank You** to our leaders for October and November

Megan and Dan Rouleau      Mary Moss

Stephanie Weiss   Holden Mills   Blair Lumpkins

Mike and Dana Wells      Sherry and Liz Reynolds

Logan and Zoey Mills      Marcus and Jess Gray

And **special thanks** to our puppeteers:

Damon and Aiden Mullins and Matthew Falls

We also had "Music with Mandi", and Mary Moon Moore getting ready for Hanging of the Greens.

As you can see, we have a lot of great volunteers for this ministry as we try to help our children grow in Christ. Please pray for us and for all the children we meet each week. We are having good numbers of kids attending, and we want each of them to go home knowing that they are loved by our leaders, and that we really care about them. We don't know what an impact we can have on our community and world by how we interact with these kids! What an exciting ministry opportunity!

In His Service,

Wendy Byrd



**Children's Church Group Sings For Pastor's Appreciation**



**Younger Class Learns About Dorcas**





Sherry and Liz With Older Class



Jess With Older Class



Marcus and Jess With Older Class



Flatman and Bobbin



Mike and Dana With Older Class



Zoey Interacts With Younger Class

## Ladies ... Welcome to December



I adore this time of year - the decorations,  
the excitement, the trees,  
the colder weather, the lights, the fun, the  
parties, the joy-  
I love every single bit of it.  
It truly is the most wonderful time of year!

However, as much as I love it, I find that it  
is so easy for me to get caught up in  
the crazy hustle and bustle of it all- the  
shopping, the planning, the decorating  
that comes along with this wonderful  
Christmas season.

Unfortunately, in this super busy time of year, spending time with God and in His word is often neglected.

When all of our focus is on decorating our houses, finding & trimming the perfect Christmas tree, making sweet treats to give away, preparing & mailing Christmas cards and shopping for and wrapping the perfect gifts- it is so easy to lose sight of what Christmas is truly all about.

It's only when our eyes are fixed on God and we spend time in His Word - when we read, meditate on, and truly treasure the story of the birth of Christ that we can celebrate the TRUE reason for the season. JESUS.

I pray each of us will make time for God & His Word - whether you are doing this writing plan or doing something else - everyday this month. It matters.

### **Also...Join us Friday, December 9 here at HBC 6:30pm For our Christmas Celebration!**

**\*Bake a few Christmas treats...cookies, candy or any of your favorites to exchange. We will each prepare 2 goody bags - one to enjoy and one to share with a neighbor!**

**\*Bring a gift. This is for FUN. Think of it as "re-gifting." Look around your house for something that you were given or maybe you even purchased that is like new and you do not use. It can be any small item: a book, a candle, an ornament, a throw, a kitchen item, etc. Wrap it up --- no name --- and bring to the party to exchange. It will be fun to see how God will take these items and use them to bring joy! Remember: share what you have...do not go shopping for this!**

**\*There will also be a fresh evergreen wreath making option! Bring \$10 to cover costs of supplies if you would like to do this. You can opt out of this and still join us for fellowship and fun!**

## In Remembrance and Honor

The Poinsettias used to decorate our sanctuary this Christmas were donated in memory or in honor of the following people:

In Loving Memory Of	Generously Donated By
<i>Billie Pierce</i> <i>Louise Yeatts</i>	<i>Pam Anderson</i>
<i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Randolph Collins</i> <i>Robert Collins</i>	<i>Brenda &amp; Melody Collins</i>
<i>Remi Rayne Scolpini</i>	<i>June Conner</i>
<i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. W.S. Easley, Jr.</i>	<i>Chuck Easley</i>
<i>Olive &amp; Doris Garner</i> <i>Dorothy &amp; Wayne Osborn</i>	<i>Sherri Garner</i>
<i>Archie &amp; Mary Motley</i> <i>Betty Jane Hammock</i>	<i>Nathan &amp; Jackie Hammock</i>
<i>James Holmes</i> <i>Mary Showalter</i>	<i>Susan Holmes</i>
<i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Mark Grubb</i> <i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Stanford Kendrick</i>	<i>Mike &amp; Pam Kendrick</i>
<i>Berkley McCrickard</i> <i>Virginia McCrickard</i> <i>Jean Gibson</i> <i>Cindy Moore</i> <i>Brenda Richmond Widner</i>	<i>Roger McCrickard</i>
<i>Nyssa Ana McFaddin</i> <i>L.T. "Tootie" Rowland, Jr.</i>	<i>JoAnne &amp; Dale McFaddin</i>

**In Loving Memory Of**

*Jimmy & Inez Mays  
Harry & Harriette Moore*

*Lucy Moore  
Lillian Moore*

*Cloyd "Poppy" Sparks  
Bobby Glenn Mullins, Sr.*

*Pete Reynolds*

*Our Parents*

*Rev. Robert & Betty Jennings  
Clide & Charlotte St. John*

*Dennis, Juanita, & Betty Edwards  
Joan E. Nuckols  
Lee, Sally, Paul & Allen Shelton*

**In Honor Of**

*Drake, Brenda, Elizabeth, Jeff,  
Mallory, & Bella*

*Baby Hammock  
The Hammock Family  
Tommy Agee  
Justine Allyn*

*Lena Ann Phelps*

*Our Children & Grandchildren*

*Debbie Sparks*

**Generously Donated By**

*Mary Moon & John Moore*

*Renee & Terry Moore*

*Bobby & Terry Mullins*

*Debra Reynolds*

*Steve & Brenda Reynolds*

*Pastor Terry & Holly St. John*

*Ginger E. Shelton*

**Generously Donated By**

*Chuck Easley*

*Mary Hammock*

*Mary Moon & John Moore*

*Renee & Terry Moore*

*Bobby & Terri Mullins*

**HOLLYWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH**

6405 Callands Road

Chatham, VA 24531



**Upcoming Events**

January 26-28      Men's Prayer Advance