



THE SHALOM NEWSLINE



Joy
to the world the
Lord
has come!

Church Staff

Rev. Mark Miller.....Senior Pastor
Jean Dart.....Minister of Music & Worship
Kathy Seay.....Children's Ministry Director
Adam Crigger.....Interim Youth Director
Jeff Farrier.....Church Musician
Kelly Bittler.....Ministry Assistant

Contact Us

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Phone: 804.746.7737 ♦ Website: www.shalombaptist.net
Email: shalombaptistma@gmail.com
Church Office Hours
Monday: 8:30am-5pm, Tuesday & Wednesday 8:30am-4:30pm,
Thursday: 8:30am-2pm



Mark's Minute

So many thoughts rushed through my mind, despite the fact that my body was completely still.

The day had been a busy one (the day after Thanksgiving always is). Our relatives had departed, which led to Tiffany and me embarking on a thorough cleaning of the house. The rugs had been shaken, the floors vacuumed, the laundry done, and there was a seemingly never-ending amount of picking up and straightening up in addition to all of that. Furthermore, the tree had been set up, the lights had been put on, and the decorations had been strategically placed. The electric candles for the windows had been brought out, the bulbs had been replaced, and the extension cords had been dug out, untangled and plugged in.

The small tree upstairs was decorated as well, bringing with it an added dimension of glowing beauty at the top of our stairs. The stockings had even been hung in the foyer, and a place had been cleared for the manger scene to be set up, which led to Tiffany arranging the figures beautifully--they were all facing the center--the baby Jesus.

This was our first Christmas in our first house. It was Christmas of 1998. As darkness fell over Roxbury Street in Clifton Forge, Tiffany and I decided to commence with "the lighting". Around the house we went, turning on and plugging in. Then...we ran outside to inspect our decorated home from the street. We observed the front, then, just like excited kids, we ran around to the back too.

Later that evening I sat with my wife (there were no kids, yet). The Christmas carols were softly playing on the stereo and all of the overhead lights had all been turned out. The only light in the whole house came from the window candles and the tree.

So many thoughts rushed through my mind-- despite the fact that my body was completely still.

Was this sense of awe the same sense of awe that the shepherds felt as they knelt before the baby Jesus? Was this tired and achy, yet energetic and excited feeling the same feeling that Joseph felt as he looked at his wife and his new baby? Were numerous thoughts swirling in Mary's mind that night, just as they were swirling in mine?

Jesus had arrived...in Bethlehem so long ago...but Jesus had also arrived in the quietness and gentle glow of our own living room. We most definitely felt His presence that evening.

Have you experienced Jesus' arrival yet this season? Take a break at times and bask in the warm glow of His presence.

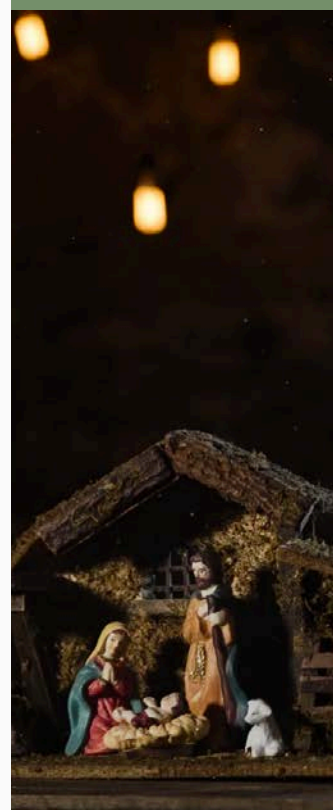
In Him,

Pastor Mark

"HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED JESUS' ARRIVAL YET THIS SEASON? TAKE A BREAK AT TIMES AND BASK IN THE WARM GLOW OF HIS PRESENCE."



-PASTOR
MARK



Shut-In of the Month:

Eileen Cosby

9495 Atlee Road #102
Mechanicsville, VA 23116

Please remember Eileen this month by sending her a card. It means so much to our Shut-Ins, that they are remembered and that we still care.



Meet our Deacon for the month of December:



December 3rd
VEGETABLE BEEF SOUP

December 10th
CORN CHOWDER

December 17th
NO MEAL

December 24th
NO MEAL

Cost: \$5.00 for adults
\$2.00 for children
\$15.00 per family

Each week reservation cards will be in the bulletin. Please fill out a card and put it in the offering plate or call the church office with your reservation by 3:00pm Monday and leave a message.

FROM THE OFFICE:



- Church Council will meet on Tuesday, December 2nd at 7:00 pm in the Co-Ed classroom.
- Entries for the January newsletter are due Wednesday, December 17th.
- The church office will be closed December 25th & 26th for Christmas & January 1st and 2nd for the new year. Kelly will be off December 24th and 31st.
- Grace Christian School will not be utilizing the gym during the month of December. They will resume use in January.



Jesus Is the Perfect Gift



As we enter into the season of giving, remember there were three gifts given by the Magi: **Gold** to represent His kingship, **frankincense** to signify His divinity and priestly role & **myrrh** to represent His humanity, suffering and death (for us).

Three reasons why Jesus is the perfect gift to you.
Three criteria for “the perfect gift”

1. The gift should reflect the one who gives it.
2. The gift should reflect knowledge of the one who receives it (needs, desires, tastes, etc.)
3. The gift should have quality that will hold its value.

Jesus meets the criteria of “the perfect gift”

1. Jesus reflects the One Who gave Him - **God**
Hebrews 1:3
Colossians 1:15
2. Jesus has knowledge of our needs. God knew we needed a Savior, Deliverer, Redeemer, Healer, and Friend.
Luke 2:10-11
Luke 5:30-32
Luke 19:10
3. The Gift of Jesus holds its value for all eternity.
John 3:16-17
John 5:24

Remember, Jesus and His sacrifice of His very perfect life to be your Savior, Deliverer, Lamb and Friend.

Blessings to you and your family during Christmas!



Tree of Warmth

The Tree of Warmth starts off bare the first week of Advent, but is soon decorated with new and handmade hats, gloves, scarves and socks. This year, these items will be donated to the Bland Ministry Center in Bland, Virginia. Collection will continue through the entire month of December.



Shoe Box Total:

Physical: 197
Online: 31

= **228**



REMEMBER

No Deacons Meeting for the month of December!



formally



- Sisters in Service Circle meets **Tuesday, December 9th at 10:00 am**, in the Co-Ed classroom to set up the Lottie Moon Christmas Shop.
- We need gently used items to put in our shop. Please bring items and leave in the Beloved classroom. We also need gift bags-all sizes.
- The Beloved Circle will meet in January.
- Lottie Moon Christmas Tea at the Chinese Baptist Church in Manakin-Sabot on **Saturday, December 6th, at 2:00 pm**. We plan to take the bus. The tea is free. Please contact Ann McFaden if interested.



November 30th-December 7th is the Week of Prayer for International Missions. Prayer guides are available at the welcome desk in the church lobby. During the month of December, we also collect money for the Lottie Moon Christmas offering. This year our goal is \$25,000. Offering envelopes are located at the welcome desk in the church lobby.

Our Acteens will again be working the Lottie Moon post office. There are a couple of changes to be aware of:

- The post office will open on **Sunday, November 30th through Sunday, December 21st**. This provides you with four Sundays to visit the post office.
- The post office will be located in the front foyer for your convenience. There will be two large baskets on the table. One is for your incoming cards/mail, and the other basket is for cards for our homebound and shut in members.
- A donation box will be available for your suggested monetary donation of 50 cents per card. Please assist the volunteers by giving them your last name and allowing them to process your mail. You may still pick up cards on December 28th.

All proceeds go toward the 2025 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering which in turn supports our missionaries in the field.

We look forward to greeting each of you as we are learning our Shalom family. Thank you for your participation and understanding.



KIDS CORNER

Christmas Breakfast
Saturday, December 13th
9:00 am

You and your family are invited to our annual Christmas breakfast! We will have the Lottie Moon Christmas store open for children to buy gifts for their loved ones & pictures with Santa.



Children's Lock-In

Fri. Jan. 2nd & Sat. Jan. 3rd

This is mandatory for 2nd-5th graders who are planning on attending camp this summer. It's optional for kindergarten and 1st graders. For more information, contact Kathy Seay.



Join us for our Christmas eve services on Wednesday, December 24th at 4:00 pm or 6:00 pm. We will not have Wednesday night activities on Wednesday, December 31st

MOMENTS OF HOPE OUTREACH

Pantry Report

Everyone at the pantry stays busy—picking up donations, organizing food, packing and loading boxes, welcoming guests, and yes...even making dump runs! The Wednesday crew loaded 140 boxes in just 90 minutes!

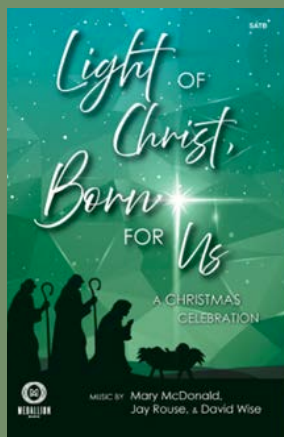
If you'd like to donate (as someone kindly did Saturday morning—thank you!) or help with a dump run, please contact Betty Jo at 804-913-9151 and leave a message if needed. Thank you for your continued prayers and support!

A big thank-you to the TNT Class for providing snack bags filled with nonperishable treats like Vienna sausages and chips—our guests love them!

The Resource Center recently hosted a Thanksgiving dinner on Chamberlayne Avenue for the homeless and continues to connect clients with much-needed resources. need.

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ forgave you."

Ephesians 4:32



Light of Christ Born for Us
 A Christmas celebration
 presented by our cantata choir

*"His light had no darkness.
 His day had no night
 He promised He would come ~
 and so, we waited."*

Sunday, December 21
 7:00 PM

Shalom Baptist Church
 8116 Walnut Grove Rd.
 Mechanicsville, VA 23111

A Christmas cookie
 fellowship will follow.



Strength in the Journey

A support group for widows and widowers



Strength in the Journey in a ministry for those who have lost a spouse and are seeking support to navigate this path in their life's journey.

Our next meeting is a Christmas luncheon at Covenant Woods on **December 15th at 12:00 pm**. Contact Dee Ober or Jane Nelson for reservations.



The Encouragement Ministry Team (EMT) meets every 4th Monday of the month. Our next meeting is **Monday, December 22nd** at 6:30 pm.

Just Breathe



Just Breathe is a group of caregivers who are experiencing some of the same concerns, frustrations and prayer needs.



We will not meet in December! We will see you next year!



The Cancer Support Group at Shalom meets every 4th Tuesday of the month at 11:00 am. Due to the holidays we will not meet until the new year. **Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 27th.**



Raisin' Canes Christmas Party

Friday, December 19th
11:30 am-2:00 pm

At the McFaden's home
(Please call the church office for their address)

Join Shalom's Senior Adult Group for a festive potluck lunch—chicken provided, bring your favorite side or dessert. We'll play Santa Swap Gift Exchange Dice (bring a \$15 gift suitable for anyone to join the fun). Wear your favorite holiday outfit or Raisin' Canes t-shirt. Parking is available, but carpooling is encouraged. We can't wait to celebrate together!





Dear Shalom, *Thank You*

Thank you for all the care you showed me through prayers, phone calls, text messages and visits. It is truly a blessing to have such a loving church family.

Linda Seay



The Men's Ministry Breakfast scheduled for December 13th has been moved to **Saturday, December 6th** at 8:30 am at Riverbound Cafe.

- The Tuesday Men's Bible Study continues to meet every Tuesday at 8:30 am.
- The Men's choir meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month from 9:45 am to 10:30 am, following Bible study, for practice. Bring your heart and join us as we sing praises to the Lord.

Celebrate!



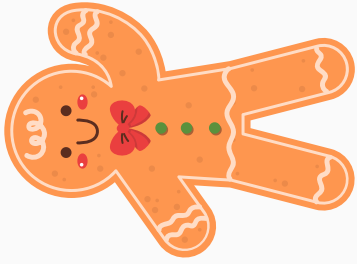
December Anniversaries

4th	Tony & Myra Bentley
7th	Allen & Dottie Layne
13th	Bill & Gerry Mick
18th	Jim & Robin Fraley
23rd	Dallas & Cindy Clayton
24th	Steve & Janis Garbett
29th	Jim & Jackie Harris
30th	Mark & Tiffany Miller



December Birthday's

2nd	Gina Ali	17th	Ron Bowles
3rd	Chuck George		Jen Ritz
4th	Anita Bost		Margene Secor
	Paul Fleming	18th	Cindy Clayton
	Kevin Kelly	19th	Bryson Blake
	Burt Olsen	21st	Carolyn Boshier
	Rich Verbeeck	23rd	Noelle Loving
5th	Carolyn Hufner	26th	Adam Baker
	Connie Simmons		Gretchen West
	Kari Smith	27th	Karen Stokes
6th	Ellen Toman	28th	Shawn Adams
7th	Lehlia Hardy		Travis Dillard
8th	Kathy Seay		Jackson Nolan
9th	Lynn Crew		Myrtle Shockley
11th	Chad Mayhew		Nancy Wilkinson
	Gayle Revere	29th	Anne Fowler
14th	Geoff Baldwin	31st	Tony Tuminello
	Danny Dean		
15th	Tiffany Miller		



December 2025

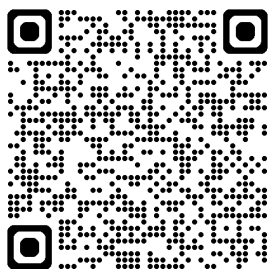
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 Lottie Moon Christmas Post Office Opens 8:30am Worship 9:20am He'Brews Cafe 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 12:15pm Young Adult Sunday School 3:00pm Christmas Cantata Rehearsal 7:00pm Hanging of the Green Service	1 11:00am Staff Meeting	2 8:30am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Walking in the Gym 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	3 8:30am GBC Preschool- Fellowship Hall Reserved 5:30pm Supper 6:15pm Bible Study 6:15pm Children's Ministry Program 6:15pm Praise Team 6:15pm Youth 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	4 9:00am GBC Preschool Christmas Sing-A-Long 6:15pm Bible Study 6:15pm Children's Ministry Program 6:15pm Praise Team 6:15pm Youth 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	5 Youth Christmas Party 9:00am Santa Breakfast	6 8:30am Men's Ministry Breakfast 10:00am Sanctuary Reserved (Funeral) 2:00pm Ladies Annual Lottie Moon Tea 5:30pm Staff/Deacon Christmas Party
7 8:30am Worship 9:20am He'Brews Cafe 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 12:15pm Young Adult Sunday School 3:00pm Christmas Cantata Rehearsal 3:30pm Girl Scout Meeting	8 11:00am Staff Meeting	9 8:30am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Walking in the Gym 9:45am Men's Choir Rehearsal 10:00am WMU Sisters in Service Circle Meeting 7:00pm Stewardship Meeting	10 5:30pm Supper 6:15pm Bible Study 6:15pm Children's Ministry Program 6:15pm Praise Team 6:15pm Youth 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	11 9:00am GBC Preschool Christmas Sing-A-Long 6:15pm Bible Study 6:15pm Children's Ministry Program 6:15pm Praise Team 6:15pm Youth 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	12 Youth Christmas Party 9:00am Santa Breakfast	13 Youth Christmas Party 9:00am Santa Breakfast
14 8:30am Worship 9:20am He'Brews Cafe 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 12:15pm Young Adult Sunday School 3:00pm Christmas Cantata Rehearsal 3:30pm Deacon's Meeting 3:00pm Christmas Cantata Rehearsal	15 11:00am Staff Meeting 12:30pm Strength in the Journey	16 8:30am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Walking in the Gym 9:45am Properties Committee Meeting	17 6:15pm Praise Team 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	18 11:00am Co-Ed Christmas Luncheon (Early)	19 6:00pm Cross Connection (Ford)	20 10:00am Christmas Cantata Dress Rehearsal 4:00pm Koinonia SS Christmas Party (Fellowship Hall Reserved)
21 8:30am Worship 9:20am He'Brews Cafe 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 12:15pm Young Adult Sunday School 7:00pm Christmas Cantata	22 9:00am Feedmore Truck 11:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm EMT Meeting	23 8:30am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Walking in the Gym 9:45am Men's Choir Rehearsal	24 4:00pm Christmas Eve Service 6:00pm Christmas Eve Service	25 4:00pm Christmas Eve Service 6:00pm Christmas Eve Service	26 Children's Lock-In	27 Children's Lock-In
28 8:30am Worship 9:20am He'Brews Cafe 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 12:15pm Young Adult Sunday School	29 11:00am Staff Meeting	30 8:30am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Walking in the Gym	31 8:30am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Walking in the Gym	1 Children's Lock-In	2 Children's Lock-In	3 Children's Lock-In



Shalom Baptist Church



8116 Walnut Grove Road
Mechanicsville, VA 23111



Use your
smartphone to
scan the QR
code to access
our church
calendar.

