



Striving to be the complete church using our complete gifts completely!

Shalom Baptist Church Newsletter

December 2020



THE SHALOM NEWSLINE



Merry Christmas!

Church Staff

Rev. Mark Miller.....Senior Pastor
Jean Dart.....Minister of Music & Worship
Kelly Bittler.....Ministry Assistant
Jeff Farrier..... Church Musician

Contact Us

8116 Walnut Grove Road Mechanicsville, VA 23111
Phone: 804.746.7737 ♦ Fax: 804.746.7271
Website: www.shalombaptist.net ♦ Email: shalombaptist@verizon.net
Church Office Hours
Monday: 8am-5pm, Tuesday & Wednesday: 8am-3pm Thursday: 8am-2pm



Mark's Minute

As a child growing up, I remember always having an Advent calendar during the month of December. Sometime after Thanksgiving, my mom would buy one...and it would be waiting for us on Dec. 1. When I was really little (and there were 5 of us siblings in the house), we would all take turns opening "our day" on that calendar. I can't tell you how excited I was when "my day" rolled around. Opening those little perforated "windows" was like opening a gift. You just never knew what picture was hiding behind that "day".

This tradition continued on into my own family. After Thanksgiving (but, before Dec. 1) we would proudly display our advent calendar (and Morgan and Madeline would undoubtedly feel that same excitement that I had felt as a little boy). The fact of the matter is that there was a "surprise" each and every day.

In many ways, 2020 has robbed us of our peace (divisiveness in politics, society, and our culture), robbed us of our hope (only recently have we heard promising news of a vaccine), and it has robbed us of our joy (Covid cases continually on the rise, increased hospitalizations-with no visitors, and even deaths). I also believe that many of the things that occurred during 2020 robbed us of looking for the surprises/the blessings of each day. God plants surprises every day for each of us (after all, says James 1:17, "Whatever is good and perfect comes down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens.") God has surprises (and blessings) for us...every day. But are we actively looking for them?

Just like we used to root around in the box of cereal or that box of cracker jacks for the "surprise" just like I used to open those advent calendar "days"...do we look for God's daily surprises in the same way?

When I was in college, my grandfather was in his 90's and, at that time, he lived in an assisted living facility in Canton, Ohio. One day, on a whim, I decided to give him a call. And during that conversation he told me something that I will never forget. He said, "I look for the surprise in each day...and today, your phone call was 'my surprise'". What a gift it is to not only be looking for life's little surprises each day-and even more so, to be looking for God's surprises each day!

As we move into December, I would encourage you to get into that habit. Beat back the doldrums of 2020, the depression of 2020, the disappointments of 2020 and the divisiveness of 2020...by looking afresh...every single day...for God's surprises...with the same anticipation that a child excitedly opens up those windows of an advent calendar. May your December be full of God's surprises...so much so that it shapes the way you enter 2021.

In Him,
Pastor Mark

— ✨ —
"...do we look
for God's daily
surprises in the
same way?"
— ✨ —





Meet our Deacon for the
month of December:

Jane Sneed



December
Church Council
Meeting

12/01/20

7:00 PM



Shut-In of the Month:

Erlene Goodwyn

**7600 Autumn Park Way
Room 503 B
Mechanicsville, VA 23116**

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



*Please remember that visitation is not permitted at most nursing homes and assisted living locations due to the
Covid-19 Coronavirus. Please check in with all of our shut-ins, to make them feel loved, and connected to our
church family!*



Christmas Eve Services

A SAVIOR IS BORN

3:00 PM

5:00 PM

7:00 PM

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. These items will be donated to the folks involved in our Moments of Hope ministry so they can be warm and cozy in the cold weather.



REMEMBER!

No Deacons Meeting for the month of December!





December Meetings:

December 1st-7:00 pm-Evening Group

Contacts: Virginia Ryan 804-370-0583

Mitzi Hubble 804-937-4515

December 14th-10:00 am-Morning Group

Contact: Ann McFaden 804-746-0678

LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS BOXES

December 6th-located near Fellowship Hall

Drop cards in basket to be distributed-
suggested amount for postage is \$0.50 per
card

Week of Prayer for International Missions

November 29th-December 6th

Pick up your brochure and Lottie Moon
envelope in the lobby at the Welcome Desk.

*****Upcoming Events*****

WMU KICK-OFF MEETING-January 30th

Guest Speakers: Valerie Carter Smith,

Executive Director/Treasurer WMUVA

Laura Davis, Director of Missions WMUVA

Rhonda Maistin, Children's Missions

Consultant WMUVA

Sara Hubble, Director Crossroads and

Conference Center Staff

A Great *Multitude* + You
Rev 7:9

Your Generosity Makes it possible.

All of the proceeds from the Lottie Moon
Christmas offering go toward supporting
missionaries, from entry through exit to
partnership.

Global Impact

by the numbers*

- 827 People groups engaged by IMB
- 535,325 heard the gospel message
- 47,929 Baptized
- 12,368 New churches started
- 33,068 Received advanced theological training
- 214 People groups with self-sustaining ownership in the missionary work

*Figures come from the field, reporting on 2019 work.

***"Why should we not...do something
that will prove that we are really in
earnest in claiming to be followers of
Him who, though He was rich, for our
sake became poor?"***

-Lottie Moon, September 15, 1887, Tungchow

imb

**LOTTIE MOON
CHRISTMAS
OFFERING®**



Thank you everyone for all the food you've so generously donated. We will continue to collect the same items throughout the month of December.

- Boxed Instant Mashed Potatoes
- Canned Collard Greens
- 24 oz. Applesauce
- Boxed Stuffing
- Jars of Gravy
- Cornbread Mix
- Cake Mix & Icing
- Brownie Mix
- Kroger Paper Bags w/ Handles



Clothing Items still Needed:

- New underwear and socks (all sizes and for all ages)
- Men's Long and Short Sleeve Shirts in Colors
- Boys Winter Clothing-All Sizes

On your next visit to **Chicken Salad Chick** (located in Brandy Creek Commons near Publix) donate \$5.00 to support your local food charity (MCEF) and **you'll receive \$60.00 in Chicken Salad Chick rewards** during 2021! Just ask for the *Spread of Joy Giving Card* and **donate \$5.00**. MCEF will receive your donation and YOU get the rewards! Thanks Chicken Salad Chick for your support of MCEF and the Mechanicsville Community!

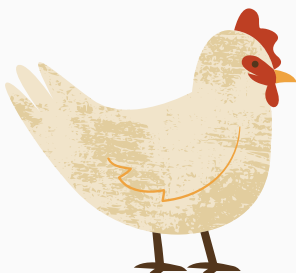
FUNdraising for MCEF

When: Third Monday of the month beginning NOVEMBER 16, 2020

Where: Chicken Salad Chick, 6575 Mechanicsville Turnpike, Suite 1A, 23111 (in the Publix shopping center)

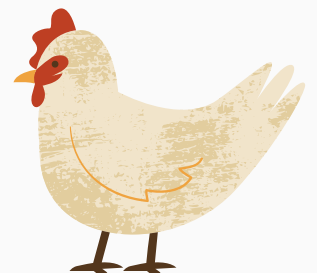
What: From 4pm-8pm every month on all orders-eat in, carry out or drive through. Check out the menu at www.chickensaladchick.com.

How: Mention that you are supporting MCEF and 10% of the sale will benefit MCEF's ministries here in Mechanicsville.



Chicken Salad Chick
Brandy Creek Commons
6575 Mechanicsville Turnpike
Mechanicsville, VA 23111
804-723-4798

Open Monday-Saturday 10 am-8 pm





All tithes & offerings **must be received by Sunday, December 27, 2020** in order for them to be included in this year's statement. Any donations submitted after that date will be recorded as a 2021 contribution. If you give on-line you have until Thursday, December 31, 2020.



2021 Offering Envelopes

Due to Covid-19, some of us have changed the method in how we give our tithes and offerings. Please contact Jane Snead at 804-347-8971 and let her know if you would like offering envelopes for 2021.



Thank you Shalom Family.

I was so excited when I received my package from you all. I appreciate the thoughts and prayers. I enjoyed everything in my box. I even shared my rainbow cookies to my roommates who had never had them before. Thank you again!

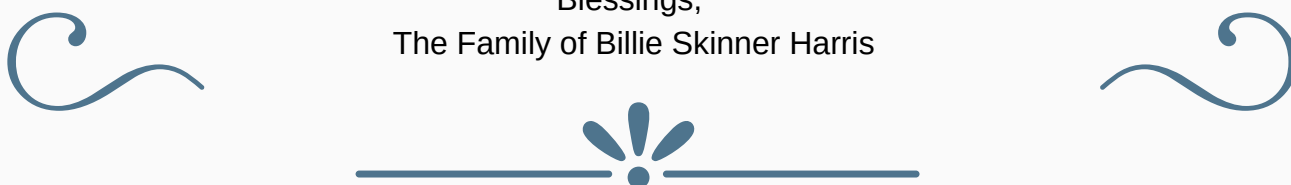
Love,
Sidney Norman

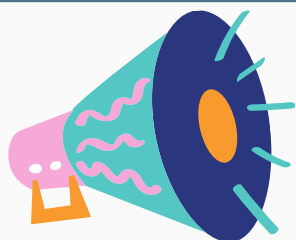


Shalom Baptist Church,

Our family wishes to express our sincere thanks and gratitude for your love and prayers during the passing of our beloved mother. Your church family meant the world to her and your kindness honors her memory.

Blessings,
The Family of Billie Skinner Harris





Calling ALL Drama Kids (AND their parent(s)!)



I would like to start Drama Workshops for Kids. I need to gauge interest on how many would be interested and how often we can meet on a consistent basis.

What does Drama Workshop mean?

I will work with the children on theatre basics: warmups, reactions, memorization, how to use your voice, stage directions, etc.

Why would we do this?

Our children are our future. I feel a sense of duty to pass on the talents that God has given me to whomever is willing to accept them but most importantly the children. Additionally, I would like to work up to performing some skits and/or a short play for the congregation during one of the sermons some time in the new year. Most likely not until the March time frame (or later).

What else do you need to know?

- Workshops will be held at the Church and masks will be required until the mandate changes.
- Workshops are FREE/all children are welcome but should try to attend on a regular basis.
- No experience needed & previous experience okay//plan to have FUN!

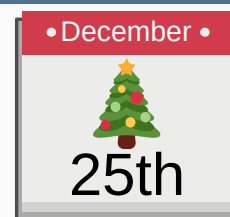
NEXT STEPS!

Contact Rhonda Neal by calling or texting at 804-241-3863 or email at rhonda.s.neal@outlook.com to let her know your child's interest and how often you are willing to meet (weekly, bi-weekly or monthly)-she needs the child's name, parent's name(s) and contact information (cell phone and email). PLEASE CONTACT RHONDA BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11th.



From the Office

The church office will be closed Friday, December 25th in observance of Christmas.





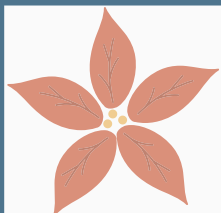
Stewardship Snippet

As we are in the month of Christmas, we want to take time to remember the real reason for this season is to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We have been talking about financial planning and working toward learning about financial contentment and how to attain it. As this is Christmas, we want to take a short detour and return to a financial principle we spoke about a few lessons back, financial planning is allocating limited resources among unlimited alternatives. We want to share with you a story Ron Blue, author of the text we are using to learn about financial contentment, related about teaching his children about money. At Christmas he would give his children a sheet of paper as a gift. On that sheet he had listed numerous things they could do together. The list included different activities and things to do together with him, since he traveled a lot, so they could spend time together, go to breakfast, lunch or events etc. The one thing they most often chose was having 4 hours together and spend \$25 any way they wanted. They looked forward to this with much excitement. They would walk around the mall with so many options to choose from, it was very difficult to choose. Most times they would spend the money on knickknacks they would soon become uninterested in, broken or used up. Later they would admit they made bad choices for some temporary joy. But the lesson was not lost, as it taught them the value of making financial choices. This illustrates four truths: 1) We have unlimited resources; 2) there are more uses of money available to us than money available; 3) once a dollar is spent it's gone forever, and; 4) the longer your perspective the better the potential for wise decisions. The summary, don't be a responder to friends, ads, or emotions, be a planner of your spending.

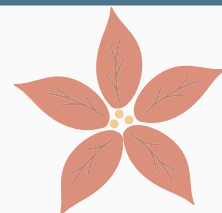
"A man's treatment of money is the most decisive test of his character- how he makes it and how he spends it."

Moffat

1Timothy 6:9



Poinsettia Orders



It's that time of year again! During the Christmas Season you will have the opportunity to honor or remember loved ones by purchasing poinsettias. You can place your order one of three ways:

1. You can pick up an order form (and attached envelope) from the Welcome Desk.
2. Submit your order online by following the instructions in the email that was sent out.
3. Call the church office and place your order directly through Kelly.

Make checks payable to "Shalom Baptist Church" and put "Poinsettia" in the memo of your check. The order forms at the welcome desk have an attached envelope to place your payment in. There are also single envelopes available for you to place your payment in if you order online or by phone. You can also mail your payment to the church office. Orders will not be placed if they have not been paid for in advance. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the church office at 804-746-7737.

Poinsettias cost \$12.00 each.

Please have your orders in by 5:00 PM on Monday, December 7, 2020

Merry Christmas Everyone!

As of November 11th, the following wonderful volunteers are now on Shalom's Youth Committee:

- Gayle Revere
- Madeline Miller, Youth Representative
- Shelly Wilson
- Lori Glass
- Craig R. Secor, Chairman

By the time you read this, we will have already met on November 23rd. We have a 'Job' like challenge ahead in that everything has hit the church all at once without, seemingly, no end in sight. But, like Job, we're staying put in His will and praying for His direction, wisdom and peace as we seek to minister to you and the adolescent/s in your family. Please pray for us, each other and the church as we seek to come out of this part of our journey more united in sharing the gospel and in love for each other. (John 13:34-35; Luke 10:27).

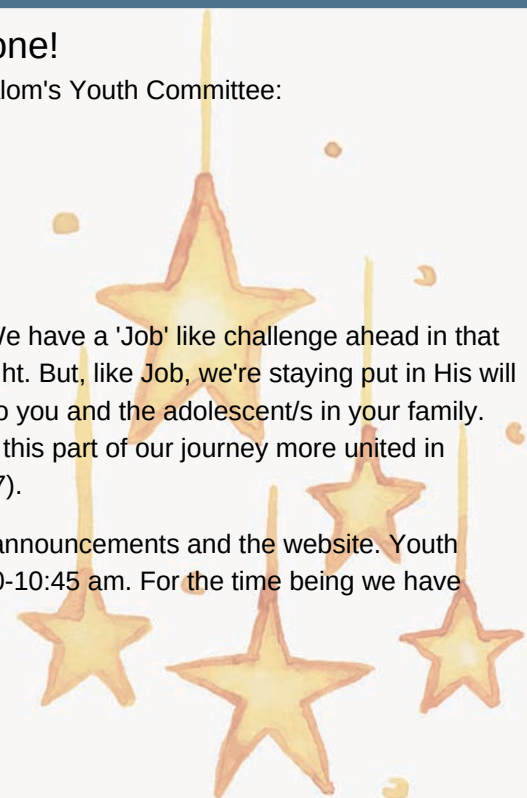
Any plans we have will be communicated through the newsletter, email, announcements and the website. Youth Sunday School has begun for Middle and High School beginning at 10:00-10:45 am. For the time being we have combined both classes.

Your prayers are appreciated. We love you.

On behalf of the Youth Committee

In His Love and Service,

Gayle, Madeline, Shelly, Lori and Craig





Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Prayer Corner

Christmas 2020 what will it hold for you? For many of us it will be the same, yet for others very different this year.

As a leader in prayer I ask you to pray for the following during this holy season.

Pray for peace and justice in this land.

Pray for families who have lost a loved one.

Pray for those who will be alone this year.

Pray for families to come back to Christian values.

Pray for your spouse and children.

Pray for those who put their lives on the line fighting this ugly virus.

Pray for health and wellbeing for your and your family.

Pray for your pastor.

And last, praise be to our God who sent His son as a tiny baby so many years ago. The Lion of Judah who saves our very souls. I leave you with this poem. Merry Christmas and peace to each of you.

In Him,

Dee



Christmas 2020

The first few lights glow brightly-

As you watch the season start-

I know I should be happy, but sadness fills my heart.

Instead I think about the time-when loved ones gather near-

Because of an ugly virus, I'll be alone this year.

So Christmas comes with sadness and a longing deep inside-a thirst for health and peace and hope-I pray won't be denied.

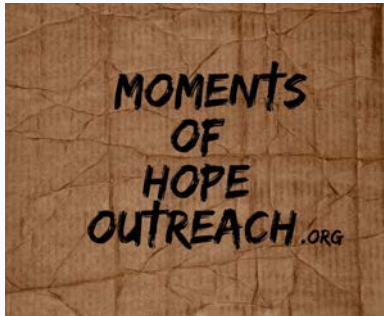
And late last night I heard a voice-so soft and clear no blame-in a moments time I realized, He was calling out my name.

I know your pain and loneliness, and heartache that you bare-I listen and I weep for you-through each and every prayer.

I promised from the manger, and fulfilled it from my cross-there's a home for you in future days-that's filled with wellness, peace and praise.

This night I'll comfort you my child-and give you peace within-this earth will one day heal again, no sin can enter in.

His words still echo through the years-a vow that He made true-as long as there's a Christmas, I'm always here with you.



Night at the Inn: Every Christmas, MOHO provides two nights (December 24th & 25th) for many of our homeless friends. They will also provide a gift card for a meal and a nice warm hoodie. The cost is \$177.00 per person. This ministry opportunity gives our neighbors the opportunity to get a warm shower and have a comfortable place to spend Christmas. Please prayerfully consider giving to this cause. Please see Faye Cosby to learn how to donate.

Food Drive: Our pantry is being stretched to the limit! **6000** cans are needed each week to meet our needs. On a Saturday, the drive through pantry serves **234** neighbors. If you would like to sponsor a tote and a sign, please let Faye Cosby know by calling her at 804-746-4976 or pick up a tote at the pantry on 301.

Beloved WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Invites you in making Christmas blankets for the children at Northside Outreach Center. Northside Outreach Center (NOC) resides in Highland Park community which is considered disadvantaged and is at high risk for violence. This Christmas the children of NOC will be delighted to receive their very own warm fleece blanket.

Event: Make No Sew Fleece Blankets

Day: Sunday, December 6th

Time: 3:00 PM-5:00 PM

Where: Shalom Fellowship Hall



of Blankets Needed: 20

Materials: 1 1/2 or 2 yards each for 2 fleece fabrics (should be complementary)

For instructions: On Pinterest search "No Sew Fleece Blanket"

If you are interested in participating or donating fleece, please contact Dawn Hansen at 804-647-2925 or dawn.hansen09@comcast.net.

Note: Masks are required and social distancing guidelines will be followed.



Shoe Box Total:

Boxes made online: 16

Boxes brought in: 119

Grand Total: 135

Thank You Shalom!





Celebrate!

December Anniversaries

7th	Allen & Dottie Layne
18th	Jim & Robin Fraley
19th	Bill & Vicki Trice
22nd	Donroy & Dee Ober
23rd	Dallas & Cindy Clayton
24th	Steve & Janis Garbett
30th	Mark & Tiffany Miller



December Birthday's

1st	Louise Parker	17th	Ron Bowles
2nd	Gina Ali		Dalton Glenn
	Jacob Joyner		Margene Secor
3rd	Chuck George	18th	Cindy Clayton
4th	Kevin Kelly	19th	Bryson Blake
	Burt Olsen	20th	Joyce Brown
	Rich Verbeeck		Niki Gibson
5th	Carolyn Hufner	21st	Carolyn Boshier
	Connie Pace	23rd	Grace Shortt
7th	Allen Broaddus	25th	Buddy Kelly
	Emma Farrier	26th	Travis Atkinson
	Lehlia Hardy		Adam Baker
	Dehlia Jackson		Caroline Dillard
8th	Kathy Seay		Mary Seay
9th	Isabella Baldwin		Gretchen West
	Lynn Crew	27th	Karen Stokes
10th	Ethan Trice	28th	Travis Dillard
11th	Chad Mayhew		Jackson Nolan
	Gayle Revere		Myrtle Shockley
12th	Steven Dillard	29th	Anne Fowler
14th	Geoff Baldwin		
	Donna Heath		
15th	Tiffany Miller		





Shalom Baptist Church

8116 Walnut Grove Road
Mechanicsville, VA 23111



— homemade —

POLAR BEAR HOT CHOCOLATE



ingredients

- 4 CUPS MILK
- 1 CUP WHITE CHOCOLATE CHIPS
- 1 TSP VANILLA EXTRACT
- PINCH SALT, OPTIONAL
- OPTIONAL GARNISHES: WHITE CHOCOLATE CHIPS, WHITE CHOCOLATE SHAVINGS, MARSHMALLOWS, WHIPPED CREAM, CANDY CANES

instructions

- PLACE THE MILK, WHITE CHOCOLATE, VANILLA AND A PINCH OF SALT (IF USING) IN A MEDIUM SAUCEPAN. WHISK CONTINUOUSLY OVER MEDIUM-LOW HEAT, UNTIL THE CHOCOLATE HAS MELTED AND THE MIXTURE IS SMOOTH (DO NOT BOIL). SERVE IMMEDIATELY.