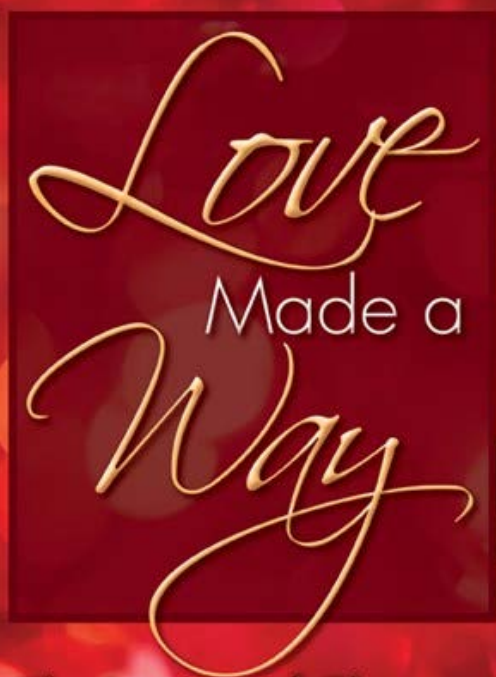


Striving to be the complete church using our complete gifts completely!



THE SHALOM NEWSLINE



The Journey of Christmas

Mary McDonald and Jay Rouse

Narrations Created by Rose Aspinall

Love Made a Way

The Journey of Christmas

presented by the Cantata Choir
of Shalom Baptist Church

Sunday, December 19
at 7:00 p.m.

Join us as we celebrate how love made a way for each of us! "His coming means freedom for the captive, sight for the blind, good news for the poor." Come and share the journey and the joy of Christ's birth and the love that made a way for each of us to have eternal life.

Church Staff

Rev. Mark Miller.....Senior Pastor
Rev. Dan McFaden.....Associate 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: 7:30am-5pm, Tuesday: 8am-2pm,
Wednesday: 7:30am-3pm Thursday: 8am-2pm



Mark's Minute

In Matthew chapter 3, John the Baptizer quotes from Isaiah chapter 40, when he proclaims, "Prepare the way for the Lord". As we take steps toward Christmas...we are called to do the same in each Advent season. In fact, Advent is a time for preparing, expecting, and anticipation. So, this advent season, I thought it might be helpful to break down that phrase "prepare the way for the Lord."

PREPARE: To prepare means to "put in proper readiness or condition". Preparing is about getting ready for something. Preparing is all about getting things in order...getting things ready. And when it comes to Christmas, we have a lot of preparing to do: decorating the house, making Christmas cookies, writing this year's Christmas letter, getting the Christmas cards in the mail, buying all those gifts, scheduling all those Christmas parties, preparing all the food for the big Christmas feast...prepare...prepare...prepare. But what's interesting about this word "prepare" here in the Bible is that it is an "imperative" verb. An imperative verb is a command. In the original Greek, this literally reads, "YOU prepare". No one else can prepare for you. Furthermore, here in Scripture, the whole notion of preparing carries a much deeper meaning than setting up Christmas trees, marking things off your "to buy" list, or cooking a holiday ham. "Preparing" (at least in this context), is directly linked to repentance. As you **PREPARE** for Christmas this year...have you prepared to encounter Jesus Christ in a new way this coming month...by first approaching him humbly...with a heart of repentance? All that to say: you and I must take the time...make the effort...and actually **PLAN** to prepare our hearts for the Advent season. You see, if we don't plan to prepare now, we will find ourselves waking up on the morning of December 26th surrounded by trash bags full of wrapping paper and new gadgets, yet still feeling somewhat unfulfilled and somewhat empty. Plan to prepare your heart for Christmas...or you might just miss it altogether.

"THE WAY". Prepare **THE WAY**: That's an interesting phrase isn't it? To fully understand this, we need to realize that the word "way" (odon)-literally means "road"?-Prepare ye the road. In its original context, those words

"Prepare
the way
for the
Lord..."
Matthew 3:3



-Continue on page 2-



-Continue from Page 1-

"prepare the way" were all about clearing obstacles out of the road. Isaiah's words, "prepare ye the way of the Lord" draw richly upon an ancient near Eastern custom of sending representatives ahead to prepare the way (or most often, literally, the road) for the visit of the monarch (a king, a queen, a prince). The idea here (even way back in Isaiah chapter 40) was that of preparing a processional highway for the Lord's coming to Jerusalem. That should immediately bring to mind Palm Sunday...(Jesus entering Jerusalem on that donkey.) Even today, this concept isn't all that foreign, is it? Whenever the president of the United States travels anywhere, aren't there teams of secret service agents who go out before that president..."preparing the way"? Even today, "way" and "road" are interchangeable, aren't they? If somebody asks, "How do I get to your house?", you might answer, "Well, you travel down 360 this way, take a right on Pole Green Road and go that way for about 2 miles". But that's not all. Even in our language "way" can also mean "conduct" (for instance-this is the "way" that Jesus desires that we live). In fact, original Christians were even referred to as the "followers of the Way" (capital W). In the Greek, "odon", means both road...and conduct. Advent is not just about clearing debris from the street for the Lord's coming, it's about clearing the debris from our hearts...in preparation for Christmas. What external junk is weighing you down? What stuff is robbing you of your Christmas joy? What needs to be cleared from your heart this Christmas season?

FOR THE LORD. Everything we do, as Christians should, be done with a focus on our Lord, Jesus Christ. Everything that we do to prepare (even in the small ways) should somehow point back to the Christ of Christmas. After all, it is the way of the Lord. The "way" in which we prepare for this season should be rooted in the Way of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Furthermore, when we look around our church sanctuary each Advent Season, we will see visual reminders of the Lord, even in the small things. (Red petals of poinsettias remind us of Christ's blood shed for us; the nativity is a visual reminder that God came to us; the evergreen tree-as "ever green"--symbolizes our eternal life in Christ; the lights on the tree remind us that Jesus is the light of the world; the holly and its prickly leaves, remind us of the crown of thorns; the circle of the wreath is a reminder of Jesus' unending love for us and a reminder that Jesus, our Lord is Alpha and Omega, Beginning and End.

Shalom, we have just under 4 weeks until Christmas...so how will you prepare?
Will you "Prepare the way for the Lord"?

In Him,
Pastor Mark



Shut-In of the Month:

Rose Wheat



**9099 Atlee Road
Mechanicsville, VA 23116**

Please remember Rose 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.

Meet our Deacon for the month of December:



Jane Sneed

MENU

December 1st
CHICKEN TENDERS

December 8th
SPAGHETTI

December 15th
CHILI MAC

December 22nd
NO MEAL
(CHRISTMAS CAROLING)

December 29th
NO MEAL

Cost: \$5.00 for adults
\$2.00 for children
\$12.00 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.



PASTORAL PONDERINGS Countdown to Christmas

As hard as it may seem, Christmas is upon us! As the newsletter goes to press, there are barely 4 weeks until Christmas Day itself. Already I have seen, in my prayer walks around the neighborhood, several homes bedecked for the Christmas season. [I won't tell you that your Associate Pastor and his wife have also begun to decorate!]

All that said, Christmas is, indeed, a time of celebration, especially this year more so due to the lessening of COVID restrictions. Stores are offering an abundance of Christmas merchandise, some radio stations have begun playing Christmas/seasonal music, advertisers are flooding the airways with their wares, and churches are preparing for the blessed event we call Christmas.

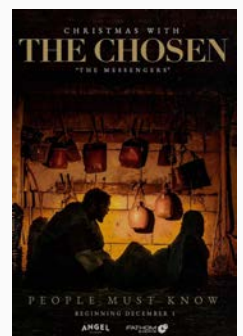
You, as followers of Christ, don't need to be reminded about what traditionally we call "the true meaning of Christmas," or "Jesus is the Reason for the season." We KNOW that! Nevertheless, even we can get too caught up in the doing and not the WHO of Christmas: Christ-mas, the Birth of our Lord and Savior. As we approach Advent, which means "coming to us," let us focus daily on this very special Birthday—even if you don't use an Advent calendar. Christ is coming to us, ready or not! What a joy to count down to that blessed day of His birth!

-Pastor Dan



Upcoming Events

- | | |
|----------|---------------------------------------|
| 12/05/21 | @ 11 AM Youth Committee Planning Mtg. |
| | @ 5 PM Bon-Fire |
| 12/11/21 | @ 2 PM The Chosen: Christmas Special |
| 12/12/21 | @ 5 PM Christmas Party |
| 12/31/21 | @ 5 PM NYE at Kings Dominion |





Thank you to everyone for all the Thanksgiving goodies you so generously gave to help those in need. December will be the last month collecting Gravy, Boxed Mashed Potatoes and Brownie Mix.

In January, February and March we'll be collecting **Pancake Mix & Syrup.**

The clothes closet will continue taking coats through December. Please make sure that any donated clothes are clean and in good condition.

Linda Wade will be taking over the MCEF ministry. She is so eager to serve in helping this wonderful cause. Please continue to support her and MCEF as she reaches out to you in January.

-Vicki Crew

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.



Shoe Box Total:

Boxes made online: 26

Boxes brought in: 127

Grand Total: 153

Thank You Shalom!





Prayer Corner

'Twas the night before Christmas,
 in a sleepy little town.
 Everyone was fast asleep,
 as the snow fell softly down.
 In a tiny little cabin,
 lived a family of five.
 No presents graced the tree this year,
 as they struggled to survive.
 The embers barely burning,
 at the fireplace inside.
 And only ten logs left outside,
 as mama softly cried.
 The father lending comfort,
 as he held her extra tight.
 Reassuring his dear Lucy,
 that things would be alright.
 And falling to their knees,
 they both began to pray.
 Their faith beseeching God,
 for a miracle this day.
 And as the night turned into day,
 The children soon awoke.
 "Wake up, wake up its Christmas Day!"
 As each one loudly spoke.
 As Papa grabbed his Bible,
 it had always been tradition.
 To instill what Christmas 'twas all about,
 had always been his mission.
 Of how the Christ-child born to earth,
 'twas the greatest gift of all.
 And nodding in agreement,
 they ran quickly down the hall.

And shrieks of laughter could be heard,
 in that tiny cabin this day.
 The fireplace warmly burning,
 it was warm in there today!
 Each stocking filled to overflow,
 and gifts beneath the tree.
 And logs piled high upon the hearth,
 how could this miracle be?
 And peering out the window,
 expecting footprints near,
 But not one 'twas seen out there,
 as he wiped away a tear.
 A Christmas miracle!
 The father soon exclaimed.
 'Twas only faith in miracles,
 was how it was explained.
 So don't lose hope,
 this Christmas eve,
 no matter what your plight.
 Believe in Christ and miracles,
 and all will be alright.

My prayer is that this brings you hope.
 Celebrate the Christ-Child and the
 greatest gift of all!

Merry, Merry CHRISTmas,

See



Christmas is quickly approaching and so is our annual Room in the Inn program! With the belief that no one should have to spend Christmas Eve and Christmas night outside, our goal is to provide a Room in the Inn packages to at least 100 unsheltered households. Please consider giving to this ministry.

Packages will include: a motel room for 2 nights, fast food gift card, 4 microwavable meals, hoodie, & 2 pairs of socks. The total cost of this program will be \$24,200. We truly need your support this year. Please specify Room in the Inn when you give. Thank you!





Poinsettia Orders



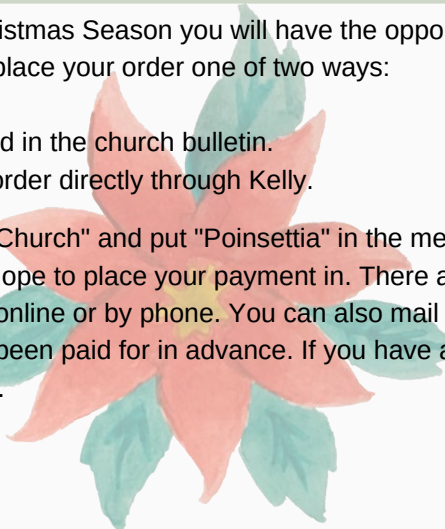
It's that time of year again! During the Christmas Season you will have the opportunity to honor or remember loved ones by purchasing poinsettias. You can place your order one of two ways:

1. You can fill out the order form enclosed in the church bulletin.
2. 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 \$12.50 each.

Orders are due Sunday, December 5th.



All tithes & offerings **must be received by Sunday, December 26, 2021** in order for them to be included in this year's statement. Any donations submitted after that date will be recorded as a 2022 contribution. If you give on-line you have until Friday, December 31, 2021.

2022 Offering Envelopes

TITHES/OFFERINGS

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

MEMBER VISITOR

CASH

CHECK

"Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your bag. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you." Luke 6:38



Some of us may have changed the method in how we give our tithes and offerings. Please contact Jane Snead at 804-347-8971 by **December 9th** and let her know whether or not you want offering envelopes for 2022.



No Deacons Meeting for the month of December!



Evening Group: Meets December 2nd at 7:00 pm at church. For more information contact Virginia Ryan at 804-370-0683 or Mitzi Hubble at 804-937-4515.

Morning Group: December 13th at 10:00 am at church. For more information contact Ann McFaden at 804-513-0052.

Both of our groups are busy with mission projects and encourage all ladies to attend.

December 4th-The WMU will be heading up the Lottie Moon Christmas Shop, from 9 am-12 pm, for our children to shop for their families. We need volunteers! For more information please contact Ann McFaden at 804-513-0052.



The Lottie Moon Christmas Card Box is now available in front of the fellowship hall. Suggested donation per card is \$0.50. Please, only cards for active members and those on the shut-in list.

December 5th-12th-The Lottie Moon Week of Prayer. In-gathering of offering is Sunday, December 12th.



See the Children's Section on page 12 to learn what Children in Action (CA's) is doing!



Stewardship Snippet.

It's been another trying year but folks at Shalom have stepped up and listened to God and provided to the local community body. Shalom has been able to minister to others. I hope everyone enjoyed and got something they can use in their personal financial situation from the study of Ron Blue's *Master Your Money*. I'd like to end with numerous quotes involving money.

"Fools can make money. It takes a wise man to know how to spend it." -English Proverb

"When it is obvious that the goals cannot be reached, don't adjust the goals, adjust your action steps." - Confucius

"Often all it takes to start down the road to bankruptcy is a raise in pay." -Anonymous

"Creditors have better memories than debtors." -Benjamin Franklin

"Never spend your money before you have it." -Thomas Jefferson

"We didn't actually overspend our budget. The allocation simply fell short of our expenditure." -Keith Davis

"There are two times in a man's life when he should not speculate: when he can't afford it, and when he can." -Mark Twain

"Want to safely double your money? Fold it over once and put it in your pocket." -Anonymous

"The world will never be won for Christ with what people can conveniently spare." -Bernard Edinger

"If you want to be rich, give;
if you want to be poor, grasp;
if you want abundance, scatter;
if you want to be needy, hoard!"

-Unknown



KIDS CORNER

Children's Christmas Party



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4TH



Children and their families are invited to a delicious pancake breakfast in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 9:00 am. Children will be able to visit the Lottie Moon Christmas Shop to purchase inexpensive gifts for their family members. Please be sure to bring a few dollars to spend on those gifts. The money collected will go to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering. There will also be a family craft time and possibly a **special visitor**.



Children in Action (CA's), children grades 1-5, meets every Wednesday at 6:15 pm-7:15 pm. We focus on a different country or state each month, learning about the missionaries who serve there, it's culture, Bible verses, and much more. The children earn badges and are looking forward to share this with the congregation in late January.

The children's committee would like to take this time to express our gratitude to the members of Shalom for all of the help and support you have shown this year. We are so thankful to all of you that have volunteered with us in carrying out our ministry to the children.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy new Year as we continue to create more opportunities to spread the Love of Jesus.



Ladies are invited to:



You are invited!
Better Together
**Cozy Christmas
Carols**

Come join us around the
fire pit for fun, food
and fellowship

Hot dog dinner and
beverages served.
Bring a plate
of cookies to share!

Oh come
let us
adore
Him

WE ARE
**Better
Together**

When: December 4th
6pm-8pm

Where: Oaklawn
9102 Old Oaklawn Drive
Mechanicsville VA. 23116

Bring your heart for
Jesus
and a cozy blanket!

R.S.V.P # attending to
Dawn.hansen@bofa.com

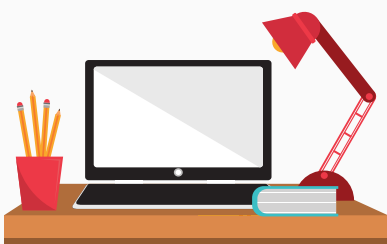
THANKS 



The Men's Ministry has no events currently planned for December. We have cancelled the previously scheduled December 11th Men's Breakfast.

The Tuesday morning Men's Bible Study will continue with our study of Romans, consider joining us at 8:30 am at Shalom. Looking ahead to January, we will have a Men's Breakfast on January 8th at 8:00 am at Shalom. Join us and bring your sons, grandsons and neighbors.

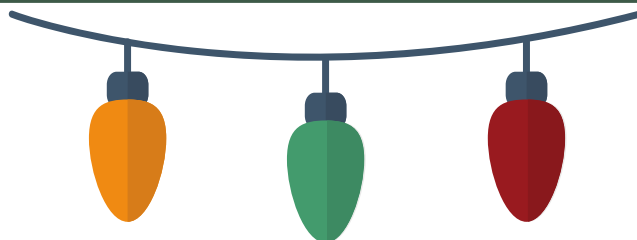
From the Office



- Church Council will meet Tuesday, December 7th at 7pm.
- Entries for the January newsletter are due Wednesday, December 22nd.
- The church office will be closed Friday, December 24th in observance of Christmas.



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 | | |





December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Lottie Moon Christmas Mailbox opens 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 4:30 PM Cantata Rehearsal 5:00 PM Cantata Choir 7:00 PM Hanging of the Green Service	29 5:00 PM Staff Meeting	30 8:30 AM Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Walking 7:00 PM Personnel Committee Meeting	1 5:30 PM Dinner 6:15 PM Bible Study 6:15 PM Children in Action 6:15 PM Praise Team 6:15 PM Youth 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Practice	2 7:00 PM Overcomers Outreach 7:00 PM WMU Meeting	3 7:00 PM Sight & Sound Showing: Voices of Christmas	4 9:00 AM Children's Christmas Party
5 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Youth Committee Meeting 3:00 PM Cantata Rehearsal 5:00 PM Warriors (Youth)	6 5:00 PM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Bible Study	7 8:30 AM Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Walking 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting	8 5:30 PM Dinner 6:15 PM Bible Study 6:15 PM Children in Action 6:15 PM Praise Team 6:15 PM Youth 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Practice	9 7:00 PM Overcomers Outreach	10	11 2:00 PM The Chosen: Christmas Special Movie
12 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 3:00 PM Cantata Rehearsal 3:00 PM Children's Drama Workshops 3:00 PM Warriors Christmas Party (Youth)	13 5:00 PM Staff Meeting	14 8:30 AM Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Walking 7:00 PM Stewardship Meeting	15 Cantata Dress Rehearsal 5:30 PM Dinner 6:15 PM Bible Study 6:15 PM Children in Action 6:15 PM Praise Team 6:15 PM Youth 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Practice	16 11:00 AM SS Christmas Party 7:00 PM Overcomers Outreach	17	18 10:00 AM Final Cantata Dress Rehearsal 5:00 PM SS Christmas Party
19 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 7:00 PM Christmas Cantata	20 5:00 PM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Bible Study	21 8:30 AM Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Walking	22	23 7:00 PM Overcomers Outreach	24 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Service 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Service	25
26 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	27 9:00 AM Feedmore Truck	28 8:30 AM Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Walking	29	30 7:00 PM Overcomers Outreach	31 5:00 PM Warriors (Youth)	1

Merry Christmas!





Shalom Baptist Church

8116 Walnut Grove Road
Mechanicsville, VA 23111

Christmas Eve Services
4:00 pm & 6:00 pm

