



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

Shalom Baptist Church Newsletter

December 2022



# THE SHALOM NEWSLINE



*Christmas Cantata*  
*Brand New Hallelujah*  
 A Christmas Worship Experience  
 presented by the Cantata Choir  
 of Shalom Baptist Church  
 Sunday, December 18  
 at 7:00 p.m.

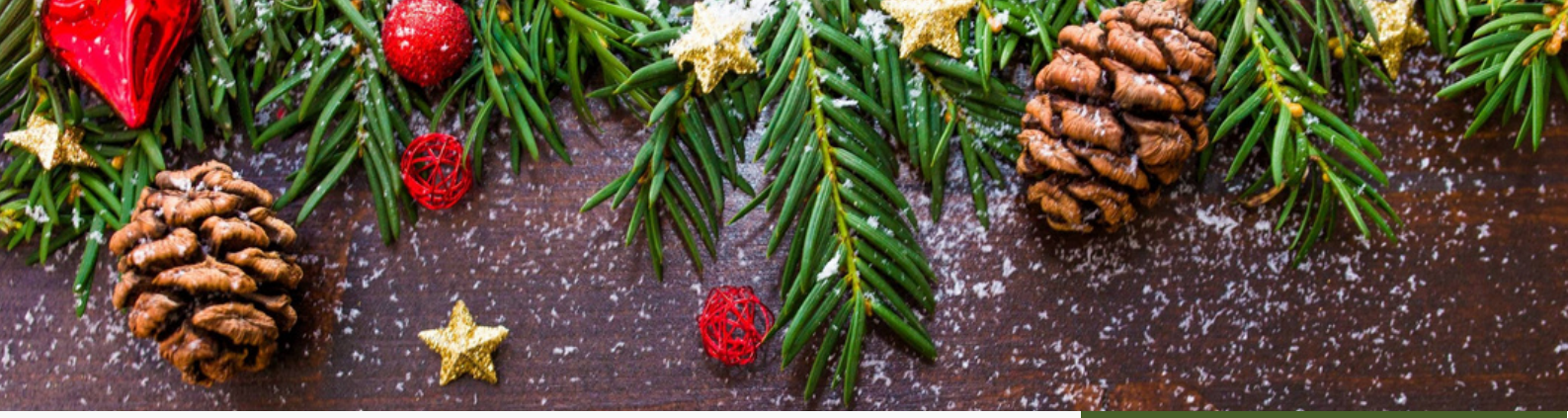
## Church Staff

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](http://www.shalombaptist.net) ♦ Email: [shalombaptist@verizon.net](mailto:shalombaptist@verizon.net)  
**Church Office Hours**  
 Monday: 7:30am-5pm, Tuesday: 8am-2pm,  
 Wednesday: 7:30am-3pm Thursday: 8am-2pm





# Mark's Minute

The little boy stood outside the department store window looking in. His face was pressed up against the picture window (his eyes nearly as wide as his mouth). He marveled at the countless lights, numerous toys, and the amazingly rich magical wonders that lay just behind that glass. It was all so incredible! So spectacular! So indescribable! He watched a little girl tug at her mother's coat sleeve. "C'mon, mama! Let's go in and see Santa!" The little boy's excitement grew. This was the highlight of an already perfect experience: Santa was IN THERE--Right behind those doors! He couldn't wait. He had been looking forward to seeing Santa all year long! What would it be like to stand next to him? What would it be like to talk to him? What would it feel like to sit with him? He was so anxious to tell Santa all about the many gifts that he wanted this year. His father spoke to him, "Are you ready to go inside?" He just nodded, leaving a face print smudge on the picture window. As he grabbed his daddy's hand and stepped inside, he was even more overwhelmed. All the decorations! All the bright colors! All the music! All the hustle and bustle! This was going to be a Christmas he would never forget! This is what Christmas is all about or is it?

The little shepherd boy stood under the starry sky. He marveled at that little baby, the tears on the cheeks of that baby's mother, and the proud smile spread across the face of that father. It was all so wonderful! So spectacular! (though he didn't quite completely understand why) So indescribable! He watched one shepherd tug at the tunic of another one, "C'mon! Let's go in and see this One that the angels told us about!" The little shepherd boy's excitement grew. Looking in at that family seemed to him to be the highlight of an already perfect experience (Could He, this little baby, be the One?) The Messiah was IN THERE—Right past the entryway! He couldn't wait. He had heard about the Messiah his whole life...all 8 years! What would it be like to stand next to Him? What would it be like to talk to Him? What would it feel like to sit with Him? This was such a gift in itself! He prayed to Jehovah God and he felt as though the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob was speaking back to him...into his little quick-beating 8 year old heart. God was saying, "Are you ready to go inside?" And he nodded his little shepherd boy head...and as he entered the warmth of the inside, he was even more overwhelmed. The simple straw...the smelly animals...the soft glow of a lantern...the quietness...the hope...the peace...the joy...the love. This was going to be an evening he would never forget.

*This is what Christmas is all about.*

Merry Christmas!

Love,  
Pastor Mark







## Shut-In of the Month:

*Myrtle Shockley*



**8198 Greenview Road  
Mechanicsville, VA 23111**

Please remember Myrtle 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:



*Virginia Ryan*

### From the Office

- No Church Council
- Entries for the Jan. newsletter are due Wed., Dec. 21st
- The church office will be closed Monday, December 26th in observance of Christmas



## MENU

December 7th  
**BAKED ZITI**

December 14th  
**MEATLOAF**

December 21st  
**NO MEAL**  
(CHRISTMAS CAROLING, TBA)

December 28th  
**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.

**REMEMBER!**

No Deacons Meeting for the month of December!





## PASTORAL PONDERINGS FOR DECEMBER BY PASTOR DAN

As I go on my morning prayer walk, I notice more and more houses are being decorated for the holiday season. I see lights, wreaths, lots of blow-up figures [although I wonder what some of those figures have to do with Christmas, like a moving stegosaurus!], and even an angel or two. As I walk past those houses, I am amazed what I do not see—where is Jesus in all the decorations?

For many years we have decorated our house with holiday finery, including angels and snow-people; but I realized in the past few years that we also were missing a manger scene. So, we looked in several stores but could not find a scene that we felt was suitable. This year, however, we did purchase a manger scene—very basic: the baby Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

When the scene arrived, of course it had to be assembled, which is not my forte! Fortunately, it came with assembly instructions. As we were struggling through the process, I thought about the original manger scene; it also came with instructions—to Joseph and Mary and the shepherds in the fields, not to mention the heavenly host. There wasn't any glitter or shining gold [The gold from one of the Magi came a few years later.], but only an animal stall, no doubt including animals!

So, as we look at our neighbors' decorations, let's remember something that we all heard years ago: keep Christ in Christmas. It is, after all, Jesus' birthday!

## Lottie Moon Tea Cake Cookie Recipe

2 cups of flour  
1/2 cup butter  
1 heaping cup of sugar  
1 well-beaten egg  
1 tablespoon cream

*(Adapted recipe for  
today's cooks)*

Cream the butter and sugar. Add the egg and mix well. Add the flour and cream. Dust a board with flour. Roll the dough very thin. Cut cookies with a round cookie cutter. Place on a buttered or nonstick cookie sheet. Bake at 475 degrees for about 5 minutes.

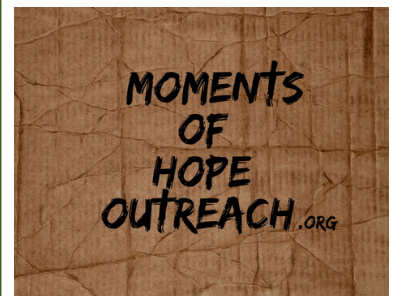






The Men's Ministry is joining the Children's Ministry on Saturday, December 10th, to build mangers with the children. Breakfast will be at 9:00 am and the manger build will follow. Please bring your hammer as we help create memories.

On Saturday, January 14, the Men's Ministry will have our annual dinner at Nanny's. We will leave Shalom at 4:45 pm for this time of fellowship and food. Plan to join us as we travel south of Petersburg for an awesome meal.



Moments of Hope would like to give a **BIG THANK YOU** for the **100 toiletry bags** the children's ministry put together and the **109 Thanksgiving Food Bags.**



### 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:**

**140**







*Christmas Eve Services*  
Saturday, December 24th  
4:00 pm & 6:00 pm

*Merry Christmas!*  
JOIN US FOR ONE WORSHIP SERVICE  
ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25TH AT 10:00 AM.



THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY SCHOOL!

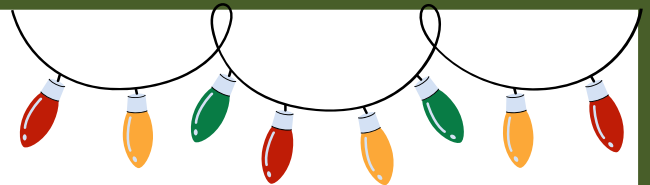
## KIDS CORNER

### Children's Christmas Party

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10TH**  
**9:00 AM FELLOWSHIP HALL**

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. Our Men's Ministry is leading a manger build for dads, and children, while moms will enjoy a special time together. Children will also have the opportunity to get their picture taken with Santa. To reserve your seats for this annual tradition, please call the church office at 804-746-7737.

There is still time to give for the Sticky Note Fundraiser. The fundraiser will run until Sunday, December 11th. We have raised half of our intended goal. Thank you to all those who have donated. All monies received will go towards Shalom Children's Ministry.







### From the Stewardship Committee

Hey Shalom, another year has almost come and gone again. Your stewardship committee has a couple reminders to help you maximize the remaining time this year and to help get us off to a great start next year. When planning your charitable giving for 2022 please remember that in order to be reflected for year 2022, all contributions that are made in person or by mail must be into the church by 12/25/22. If you are giving online, you have until 12/31/22 to

make your contribution. For those of you that give online we also wanted to make you aware of a way you can increase the value of your contribution. When you give online to Shalom using a credit card Shalom pays a 3.05% fee. However, if you use the new ACH feature on our website that fee is only 1.05%. That is a 2% increase that does not cost you a thing! Finally, remember that when you are doing your Christmas shopping you can use Amazon Smile and Shalom will receive a portion of what you spent. Just go to [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile) and choose Shalom Baptist Church Mechanicsville as your benefactor. Your Prime membership and everything else will still work the same. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Stewardship!



There's no better time of year for saying thank you. We appreciate you and all you do.

Happy Thanksgiving!

*Dear Shalom Baptist Church*

*Thank you for your support for Gingerbread Cottage Preschool  
Thank you for allowing us to provide a quality preschool program for  
our community. We couldn't do it without your help.*



*Sincerely,  
GBC Team*







Greetings from the Personnel Committee,

As we enter this holiday season, it is important that we take the time to reflect and focus on what the season represents. We should also remember that the holidays can be difficult for many people. A word of encouragement can make a big difference in changing someone's outlook. This is a perfect opportunity to encourage family members, co-workers and strangers. May I ask you to consider encouraging the staff and volunteers at Shalom. They need our support and encouragement just like many others around you. Here are six important principles to consider:

1. Start with encouragement. People who know we will encourage them will want to work with us.
2. Expect from others only what you expect from yourself. People resist being held to unfair standards.
3. Develop expectations of others with consideration for their skills, maturity and experience. Be patient with slow or distracted learners.
4. Changing circumstances require revised (or possibly reduced) expectations. Not everything is within an individual's control.
5. Clarify the expectations with the staff or the volunteer, not with others in the hallway. People are unlikely to hit a target that has not been identified.
6. End with encouragement. People liked to be thanked for a job well done.

I came across these principles in a commentary on Timothy. Timothy needed encouragement as a young leader in the church. It struck me that I need to take the time to encourage our staff and volunteers more often. I hope you find this information beneficial and can use the information to encourage those that help our church run smoothly.

Have a Merry Christmas!

*Ron Bowles*







BELOVED

WOMENS  
MINISTRY

Calling all ladies of Shalom-

Do you have a heart for social injustice issues or a passion for a certain worthy cause? Have you been wondering how you can PLUG IN at Shalom? We have a place for YOU! Beloved Women's Ministries and WMU have now combined to support the existing ministries of Shalom as well as promote other activities to share the love of Jesus with our community and the world. This is a great time to get on board and have a voice in the ministries and activities we will focus on in 2023.

#### Upcoming Events:

##### **December:**

- Lottie Moon **Week of Prayer-December 4th-11th**-Envelopes in your offering box or in the chair pockets. Prayer guides available on the front desk in the foyer. Lottie Moon offering goal is \$25,000.
- Remember to use the Lottie Moon Post office to send your Christmas cards to ACTIVE church members. The suggested donation is \$0.50 per card and all proceeds will go to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering.
- The WMU will meet **Tuesday, December 6th** from 10:00 am-12:00 pm to get the Lottie Moon Christmas store set up for the Children's Christmas breakfast.
- Beloved will meet **Thursday, December 8th** (NOTICE this is the second Thursday) at 6:30 pm to finish setting up the Lottie Moon Christmas Shop. We need all hands on deck
- WMU will meet **Monday, December 12th** at 10:00 am.

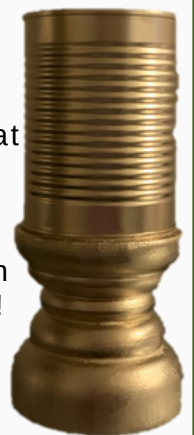
##### **January:**

Make sure you hear our guest speaker, Rick Thompson, Sunday, January 1st at both the 8:30 and 11:00 am worship services. Rick and his wife Jill are IMB missionaries to Brazil, sent from Fairmount Baptist Church. We will also kick off our Soup for MCEF campaign that day. We will have a friendly competition between Sunday School classes to see who can collect the most soup between January 1st and February 11th. The Golden Soup Can Trophy will be awarded!

##### **February:**

Women's Sunday at Shalom is Sunday, February 12th. How will you participate?

For questions regarding Beloved Women's Ministry or WMU, please contact Ann McFaden, Virginia Ryan or Mitzi Hubble.







# 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

- |      |                |      |                 |
|------|----------------|------|-----------------|
| 2nd  | Gina Ali       | 17th | Ron Bowles      |
| 3rd  | Chuck George   |      | Margene Secor   |
| 4th  | Kevin Kelly    | 18th | Cindy Clayton   |
|      | Burt Olsen     | 19th | Bryson Blake    |
|      | Rich Verbeeck  | 21st | Carolyn Boshier |
| 5th  | Carolyn Hufner | 25th | Buddy Kelly     |
| 7th  | Lehlia Hardy   | 26th | Adam Baker      |
|      | Dehlia Jackson |      | Gretchen West   |
| 8th  | Kathy Seay     | 27th | Karen Stokes    |
| 9th  | Lynn Crew      | 28th | Myrtle Shockley |
| 10th | Ethan Trice    | 29th | Anne Fowler     |
| 11th | Gayle Revere   |      |                 |
| 14th | Geoff Baldwin  |      |                 |
| 15th | Tiffany Miller |      |                 |

# Thank You

A word of thanks from Becky Johnson for all of the love, support and prayers she and her family received from Shalom in the passing of her sister Audrey. The love and prayers are greatly appreciated.  
Thank you!

# Thank You

Dear Friends:

Let me express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for the cards and gifts in celebration of my 35th anniversary at Shalom. I count it an honor to be able to have served as Church Musician here for these many years.

May the Lord bless you all abundantly this Christmas season, and in the New Year ahead.

Cordially In Christ,  
Jeff Farrier





# December 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>27</b> 8:30am Worship 9:20am He/Brews Cafe 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 3:00pm Christmas Cantata Rehearsal 7:00pm Hanging of the Greens Service	<b>28</b> 9:00am Feedmore Truck 11:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm EMT Meeting 7:00pm Just Breathe Caregiver Support Group	<b>29</b> 8:30am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Walking 7:00pm Personnel Meeting	<b>30</b> 5:30pm Supper 6:15pm Bible Study 6:15pm CA's/Truth Trackers 6:15pm Praise Team 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>1</b>      	<b>2</b> 6:00pm Indoor Soccer	<b>3</b>      
<b>4</b> Week of Prayer 8:30am Worship 9:20am He/Brews Cafe 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 3:00pm Christmas Cantata Rehearsal	<b>5</b> Week of Prayer 11:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Bible Study	<b>6</b> Week of Prayer 8:30am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Walking 10:00am WMU Meeting	<b>7</b> Week of Prayer 5:30pm Supper 6:15pm Bible Study 6:15pm CA's/Truth Trackers 6:15pm Praise Team 7:30pm Basketball 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>8</b> Week of Prayer 6:30pm WMU Meeting	<b>9</b> Week of Prayer 6:00pm Indoor Soccer	<b>10</b> Week of Prayer 9:00am Children's Christmas Breakfast
<b>11</b> Week of Prayer 8:30am Worship 9:20am He/Brews Cafe 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 1:30pm Deacon's Meeting 3:00pm Christmas Cantata Rehearsal	<b>12</b> 10:00am WMU Meeting 11:00am Staff Meeting	<b>13</b> 8:30am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Walking 7:00pm Personnel Meeting 7:00pm Stewardship Meeting	<b>14</b> 5:30pm Supper 6:15pm Bible Study 6:15pm CA's/Truth Trackers 6:15pm Praise Team 7:30pm Basketball 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>15</b> 6:00pm Indoor Soccer	<b>16</b> 5:00pm Koinonia SS Christmas Party	<b>17</b> 10:00am Cantata Dress Rehearsal
<b>18</b> 8:30am Worship 9:20am He/Brews Cafe 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 7:00pm Christmas Cantata	<b>19</b> 11:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Bible Study	<b>20</b> 8:30am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Walking 5:15pm LIVE Nativity at the Richmond Metro Zoo Trip	<b>21</b> Christmas Caroling (TBD) 6:15pm Praise Team	<b>22</b>      	<b>23</b>      	<b>24</b> 4:00pm Christmas Eve Service 6:00pm Christmas Eve Service
<b>25</b> Merry Christmas! 10:00am Worship	<b>26</b> Church Office Closed 9:00am Feedmore Truck	<b>27</b> 8:30am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Walking	<b>28</b> 6:15pm Praise Team 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>29</b>      	<b>30</b>      	<b>31</b>      





*Shalom Baptist Church*



8116 Walnut Grove Road  
Mechanicsville, VA 23111



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

*Merry  
Christmas*  
