

New Bethesda Baptist Church
9019 New Bethesda Road
Mechanicsville, Va. 23116

Being the Hands and Feet of Jesus

The Lamplighter

December


2021



Sunday Services:

9:30 am Sunday School
10:45 am Worship Service

Monday - Friday

"Daily devotions" by Caleb on our
Facebook page

Wednesday Services:

6:30 Prayer Meeting
6:30 Youth, Mission Friends, CA's
7:30 Choir Practice

Church Staff

Rev. Tom Gaskins	Interim Pastor
Rev. Caleb Bittler	Minister to Students
Tiffany Talley	Minister of Music
Steve LaCombe	Accompanist
Shirley Mitchell	Ministry Assistant

Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday	8:00 am - 12:00 pm
Phone	804 - 779-2101

From My Heart to Yours . . .

A woman was out Christmas shopping with her two children. After many hours of looking at row after row of toys and everything else imaginable; and after hours of hearing both her children asking for everything they saw on those many shelves, she finally made it to the elevator with her two kids.

She was feeling what so many of us feel during the holiday season time of the year. Overwhelming pressure to go to every party, every house warming, taste all the holiday food and treats, getting that perfect gift for every single person on our shopping list, making sure we don't forget anyone on our card list, and the pressure of making sure we respond to everyone who sent us a card.

Finally the elevator doors opened and there was already a crowd in the car. She pushed her way into the car and dragged her two kids in with her and all the bags of stuff. When the doors closed she couldn't take it anymore and stated, "Whoever started this whole Christmas thing should be found, strung up and shot."

From the back of the car, everyone heard a quiet calm voice respond, "Don't worry, we already crucified Him." For the rest of the trip down the elevator it was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop.

Remember to keep Christ in your every thought, deed, purchase, and word. If we all did it, just think of how different this whole world would be. Without "HIM" there would be no Happiness or Holidays!!!!

Christmas is a time of giving. And that means Christmas is a time of shopping. Ever since the wise men from the east showed up at the stable carrying gold, frankincense, and myrrh, people have been exchanging gifts at Christmas. Of course, it's much more complicated today than it was for the wise men. For one thing, they didn't have to contend with shopping malls, Amazon and all kinds of on-line buying, all packed full of people searching for the perfect gift. The magi didn't have to worry about sizes, or colors, or return policies or slow delivery people. In those days there was one "perfect gift" and the wisemen brought him plain old gold, frankincense and myrrh.

This year, just like every year, millions of people, both children and adults, will open millions of gifts. Some won't fit. Some will be the wrong color. Many will be returned or exchanged. But there's one gift that meets everyone's need, one gift that will never wear out, never break or need repairing. A gift that is appropriate for a small child, or a teenager, or an adult, or a senior adult. Boy or girl, man or woman, it makes no difference. The gift we all need, the most valuable gift of all, is that baby in the manger. The One that this whole season is about. On Christmas, we celebrate the fact that God gave us the gift of His own Son, Jesus Christ, so that through faith in Him we could be forgiven of our sins and have eternal life.

I pray this Christmas brings a renewed spirit in your life and in our church. Open your heart to the gift that God gives . . . the gift that is like no other . . . the gift that will bless you for all eternity. Why not choose this time to become more consistent in your faith walk. If you've strayed away from the Lord what better time than now to return to Him who will never leave nor forsake you!

As 2021 draws to a close and another year is before us find ways to practice your faith on a daily basis. Smile more. Be kind. Seek ways to encourage others. Do something good without expecting anything in return. Give the gift of love to those who need it most. Let the One who was crucified for you be the one who lives through you . . . all day . . . every day.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your interim pastor. We have served together throughout this year and I'm grateful for every opportunity to ministry to and with each of you. I have been impressed and blessed with your mission emphasis and involvement. Congratulations on a super successful OCC . . . you are most generous and hardworking! I'm praying for our Lottie Moon Christmas offering and hoping it is the best ever! I pray this will be your best Christmas ever and I pray that this next year will be a super one for all of us!!! ***Merry Christmas and a happy New Year from Susan and Pastor Tom. We love you and are thankful for each of you!***

I am joyfully His...Yours,

Pastor Tom



If you look for me at Christmas,
you won't need a special star;
I'm no longer just in Bethlehem,
I'm right there where you are.

You may not be aware of Me
amid the celebrations.
You'll have to look beyond the stores
and all the decorations.

But if you take a moment
from your list of things to do,
and listen to your heart, you'll find
I'm waiting there for you.

You're the one I want to be with,
you're the reason that I came,
and you'll find Me in the stillness,
as I'm whispering your name.

Love, Jesus

Author: Unknown

Wishing you and your family a Merry Christmas and praying that you will remember the most precious gift that was ever given, our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Your Sister In Christ, *Tiffany*

**You are invited to attend the Christmas Cantata
Go Tell It!**

**Sunday, December 19
6:00pm**

Presented by the New Bethesda Choir, Children, and Youth



We have two winter events planned for the month of December. First, we'll go to King's Dominion for WinterFest on December 11. For those without a pass, cost is \$30 + money for food if desired. We'll meet at the church at 4:30pm and return to the church around 7:30pm.

Then, on December 22, we'll take a trip to Meadow Event Park to drive through the Illuminate Light Show. We'll return to the church for some refreshments and games. Families of our students are invited to join us for food and games as well! We'll meet at church at 5:30pm.

Some other things to make note of for the month of December for youth: December 8 we will not have our normal youth meeting. We will take part in the Lottie Moon Cookie Auction. Also, December 19 at 6pm is our Christmas Cantata. Our students have been working on a song on Wednesday nights that we are looking forward to sharing.

Blessings, Caleb

Opportunities for December

Little Bible Learners

Dec.5 Melody Clarke
Dec 12 Ann Loving
Dec.19 Rae Duke
Dec.26 Melody Clarke

Deacon of the
Month

Jim Lehman



If you would like to place a poinsettia in the sanctuary in honor or in memory of someone, please fill out an order form and place it in the offering plate or return to the church office no later than December 6. Poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary December 12th through Christmas Eve.



6 Erin Capece
6 Nellie Mundy
8 Leroy Crowder
10 Sarah Tranka
12 Mike Duke
15 Mitchell Brown
16 Bernie Marshall, Jr.
17 Marna Seal,
17 Ricky Reed
18 Angela Layne
21 Chase Garnett
23 Jessica Sagraves
24 Steve Frazier
25 Allison Winslow
27 Mike Lohr
27 Dorothy Petree
27 Carolyn Stowers
28 Charlie Litchford
28 Heather Alvarz



Financial Report

Offerings through November, 2021



Oct. 31	7,280.00
Nov. 7	9,319.00
Nov. 14	6,798.50
Nov. 21	3,802.00
Nov. 28	<u>7,017.38</u>
	34,215.88

Weekly Needs: \$ 6,467.75

2021 Offerings	289,598
2021 Budget Needs	<u>310,452</u>
	(20,854)

Homebound/Nursing Home

Jackie Barnette - Heritage Green

Sandy Pohnert - 10766 Ashcake Station Place
Mechanicsville, Virginia 23116

Shirley Schools - 8267 Little Florida Road
Mechanicsville, VA 23111

Jeanette Sings -7478 Lexington Drive
Mechanicsville, VA 23111

Library Committee

"There are lots of great "holiday" books and "holiday" movies for all ages in the church library located in the ministry center that will surely put you in the holiday spirit!

With the weather beginning to have a "chill in the air," we can't think of a better thing to do than to curl up with a great holiday book or enjoy a "family holiday movie night"! Stop by and check the Library out! It won't mind!

"Merry Christmas"

"And the angel said unto them, "fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:10-11



MEN'S MINISTRY BREAKFAST

The Men's breakfast for December 11th at Shalom Baptist church has been re-scheduled for January 8th. If you would like to attend, please contact Caleb Bittler.

Opportunities for December



“LOTTIE MOON POST OFFICE”

Simply bring your *un-stamped* cards to the LM Post Office and contribute .25 for each card you would like delivered to a church member. So don't go buy stamps for Christmas cards - use that money here for guaranteed delivery and to help earn money for this year's Lottie Moon Offering!

The Lottie Moon Post Office will be in operation on Sundays from November 21st to December 30th.

HYMN SING AT HILLCREST

The Hymn Sing is held on the first Thursday of every month at 10:00am. We are excited and look forward to seeing everyone. Lunch will be served and donations are appreciated.



Week of Prayer For International Missions

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

November 28 – December 5, 2021

The Week of Prayer for International Missions is a special, focused time of prayer for Southern Baptist missionaries serving through the International Mission Board and the people whom they serve.

We **invite you to join us** in this season of prayer, November 28-December 5, 2021.

In addition to prayer, your generosity in giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering can make an eternal impact. When you give directly to this offering, 100% of your gifts support missionaries around the world.

This offering is unique from other mission offerings in that 100% of gifts provide for missionaries all over the world. It is a valuable part of Southern Baptists' 175-year history of reaching the nations with the gospel and vital to reaching the vision of a multitude from every language, people, tribe and nation knowing and worshiping our Lord Jesus Christ ([Revelation 7:9](#)).

Our 2021 goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is \$3500.00

Cookies for Lottie

On Wednesday evening, December 8th, we will be having an auction of homemade cookies to support the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Show off your baking skills and bring a plate full of cookies and our own Glen Muse will be the auctioneer.





Christmas At New Bethesda 2021

<i>November 28</i>	<i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>
<i>10:45 am</i>	<i>Candle of Hope</i>
<i>December 5</i>	<i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>
<i>10:45 am</i>	<i>Candle of Peace</i>
<i>December 12</i>	<i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>
<i>10:45 am</i>	<i>Candle of Joy</i>
<i>December 19</i>	<i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>
<i>10:45 am</i>	<i>Candle of Love</i>
<i>6:00 pm</i>	<i>Christmas Cantata</i> <i>Refreshments in the Ministry Center</i> <i>following the cantata furnished by the</i> <i>church.</i>
<i>Dec. 24</i>	
<i>5:00 pm</i>	<i>Christmas Eve Candle Light Service</i> <i>Christ Candle/Light</i>

May you know the comfort & joy of God's presence this
Christmas season & always!

Merry Christmas

Tom, Caleb, Tiffany, Steve, Shirley