

DECEMBER 2025

THE MESSENGER.

Talbot Park Baptist Church
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DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Barbara Mostiler – 05
Cheryl Casper – 13
Michael Cooper – 16
Kevin Meade – 17
Kayla Brody – 23
Michelle Brody - 30

KEITH MARTIN, INTERIM

As we step into December together, I look back, first, to Sunday, November 16th. That date marks the final day of Aaron Brittain's ministry amongst us. It was a tender day. It was a day filled with gratitude: Aaron's farewell sermon and gracious words, a reception in his and his family's honor that could not have been better, and a love offering of \$10,100.

We were blessed to have Aaron, Molly, Amos and Ellie with us for over 14 years. Yes, we are now without their weekly presence. But we are not without their love, nor their gratitude, nor the memories of wonderful times together. I, with you, thank God for those years we shared.

Where are we now? We are without a full-time pastor. Or said another way, we are in an interim, a time marked by the departure of one pastor and the arrival of another.

I'm writing this column because I have been invited and I have agreed to serve as the first interim pastor of two interim pastors. I will be the bridge between Aaron and the calling of the 2nd interim pastor. How long that will take is not known. We should expect it to be a few months. I am responsible for preaching, worship leadership, pastoral care and administration.

The Deacon Body, as church by-laws prescribe, has nominated, approved and enlisted an Interim Pastor Search Committee. It consists of five people. All five have been contacted and have agreed to serve. In alphabetical order they are: Evelyn Cooper, Buzz Foster, Harleigh Henderson, Clifton Stowe, Ed Woodard. This committee will be taking steps this month to meet and begin its work. Each person serving covets your prayers.

An interim is a valuable time in the life of a congregation for many reasons. And an interim pastor can be an invaluable resource to a church family in its worship experiences and in its daily servanthood and service. One of the key contributions an interim pastor makes is in helping a church family take a thorough and candid look at where it is and what it has to offer at this time in its life and calling in Christ.

So, pray. Attend. Contribute. Care for each other. Live Christ's love toward every person who crosses your path.



LIVING NATIVITY

Mark your calendars: This year the Living Nativity will be December 13 and 14 from 6-8pm. The Preschool children will be singing at 6:30pm on the 13th. Please volunteer by reaching out to Ariana Bowe.

This year we are especially looking for additional help before and after the Nativity each night to set up and take down the sound equipment, tent, and additional props.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Our church books will remain open through Sunday, January 4th, 2026. Checks must be dated no later than December 31st, 2025 in order to receive financial credit for 2025. Our Year to Date income for 2025 is currently \$302,766, with the Year to Date expenses totaling \$345,330. To date, 31 pledge cards have been received totaling \$132,414 towards the 2026 budget of \$355,221. Also, 22 individuals and families have pledged to pray for our ministries and 16 have pledged to contribute their time and talents. If you have not returned your pledge card, there is still time. Extra cards are available on the hallway table.

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE REPORT

We were able to collect 20 complete Thanksgiving meals with turkeys and had additional canned items donated to The Storehouse as well. All of your generous donations were deeply appreciated. What a joy it was to be able to share Christ's love in such a tangible way! Thank you for supporting the Mission's ministry.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Our Christmas Eve service will take place at 5pm again this year. This will be a time of familiar music and Scripture reading, as well as observing the Lord's Supper. **Please note: No nursery will be provided.** Come join us for this annual event as we celebrate the Lord's birth together.

BIG TEN CHALLENGE

As we near the end of the year, everyone is encouraged to give an extra \$10 in offering each week and on into 2026 if they can. If everyone who currently comes to worship gave just \$10 a week more, we would easily meet our current obligations and our proposed budget for next year. Please consider how your contribution can help us fund ministry here at Talbot Park.

WOMEN'S GROUP

The Talbot Park women will continue to meet the first Sunday of each month after Sunday School in the Social Hall for a pot luck and discussion. Come and get to know each other. Bring a get to know you question and a dish. Neither is required for entry.

In 2026 Talbot Park Women's first meeting will be February 1st because of the church-wide breakfast on January 4, 2026. See you there!

THANK YOU

Thank you for the lovely reception and the love offering. It was a very nice day. We are grateful for your support.

- The Britains



NEW YEAR'S SUNDAY SCHOOL BREAKFAST

On Sunday, January 4th, during our regular Sunday School hour (11:00-12:00), instead of meeting in our individual classes, we will meet for a fellowship breakfast in the Social Hall.

Everyone is asked to bring a fruit, pastry, or covered dish and the church will provide drinks. The 2026 sheets for the Deacon-Led Teams will be available for sign-up. Come join us as we ring in the New Year together!

DECEMBER OFFICE UPDATES

The Church Office will be closed December 22-December 26 for Christmas Break. We will be open on Monday and Tuesday, December 29th and 30th and closed December 31st and January 1st. All messages will be responded to when we reopen.

WINTER MISSION OFFERING

This year we have a goal to collect at least \$1,500 for the Winter Mission Offering. This offering supports CBF personnel here and around the world. Envelopes are in your boxes or in the pew racks.

Preschool News



We are so excited to be invited to sing at the Living Nativity again this year! We hope to see many of you out there! Our 1 & ½ - Pre-K 4 classes will put on our Annual Christmas Program in the sanctuary at 11:00am Friday, December 19th. We invite you to come watch the children put on a performance of the first Christmas and sing the songs they have worked so hard to learn! We hope that your Christmas is Merry and spent with family, wrapped in love. Merry Christmas, and as always, thank you for your continued support!

Holly Costas

PRESCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

On December 19th at 11:00am, we invite you to join us in the sanctuary for our Christmas Program performed by children in the Beavers, Owls, Pooh Bears, Squirrels, and Eagles classes. There will be a special reenactment of the First Christmas, sweet jingles from our earliest learners, and beautiful music performed by our wonderful preschoolers. There will be a social to follow in the social hall. Please contact the office if you would like to bring a treat to share!



December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 10:00am Communion 12:00pm Women's Group	8	9 6:00pm Deacons Christmas Party at Fishin' Pig 119 W. 25 th St. Norfolk	10	11	12	13 6:00-8:00 Living Nativity
14 6:00-8:00 Living Nativity	15	16	17	18 No Church Council	19 11:00am Preschool Christmas Program 12:00pm Office Closed for Christmas Break	20
21 First Day of Winter 	22 Office Closed for Christmas Break	23 Office Closed for Christmas Break	24 Office Closed for Christmas Break 5:00pm Christmas Eve Service	25 	26 Office Closed for Christmas Break	27
28	29	30	31 Office Closed New Years Eve 	New Years Day Office Closed		