

Bethany Highlights

December 2014



Ben's Pen

December is an expensive month. In addition to our regular bills, our car taxes are due and Christmas crunches our bank accounts. But Christmas is the season of giving. We often obsess on the right gifts for the right people, but we miss Christmas when we do. God gave us His son. It had nothing to do with what we would give back or if it was what we wanted. God's gift of Jesus was all about His love for us, not about a gift swap. As you hear the Gospel proclaiming the birth of the Christ child be reminded of God's matchless love. December is an expensive month. Just ask God what it cost Him.

Susan, Elizabeth, William, Caroline, Jonathan and I invite each of you to our house on December 21st between 4 and 7 p.m. We are having our annual open house and would love for you to be a part of it. We live at 9808 Poplar Forest Road in Lee's Hill south. Just ask me if you need further directions. Merry Christmas!

In Christ's Love,

Ben

December is a month for missions giving at Bethany. Every year we focus on, pray for, and give to global missions in December. Our mission's board will be covered with information about specific mission's projects. Specially marked envelopes will be in each pew rack. You choose between the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and the CBF Global Missions offering. If you want to give specific items check out our food tree or the Angel Tree for a couple of local projects. Mission's giving is a great Christmas gift. Make sure you give something this year.

There are two terrific Christmas cantatas in store for us this month. On Sunday, December 7th our Children/Youth Choir will present *David's Dynasty* at 5:00 p.m. Then on the next Sunday, December 14th, our Adult Choir will present *Light of the World* during our morning worship service. Both of the cantatas promise to help us focus on the Christmas story. Make sure you are here for both of them.

Our budget year runs through December. If you have noticed we are behind in our annual giving. We have four Sundays this month and we need a generous offering each Sunday. Our stewardship directly affects the ministries of Bethany, both locally and through world missions. We each need to give to our church to insure our ongoing witness. Bethany will celebrate her 245th anniversary in 2015, let us start on a positive note.

Our regular business meeting is on December 9th at 7:00 p.m. The 2015 budget and the Nominating Committee report will be presented for consideration. There will be other business and reports also presented. We need every church member to be an active part of our church business.

On Christmas Eve at 5:30 p.m. we will gather in the sanctuary to worship the Christ as we sing, listen to and read the Christmas story. We will celebrate the lighting of the Christ candle together and fellowship with our brothers and sisters. Bring your family and guests as we focus on the reason that Christmas changed the world forever.

The January 2015 *Highlights* article deadline is December 16th.

BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Ben Thomas, Pastor

5001 Arcadia Road

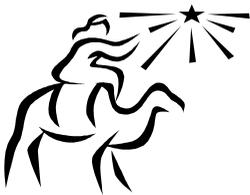
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Bethany Baptist Church
PO Box 408
Thornburg, VA 22565

December 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Men's Meeting w/ Spouses @ Angela's 6:00 pm	2	3 Bible Study 10:00 am	4	5 	6
7 Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Children's Cantata - <i>David's Dynasty</i> 5:00 pm Advent 2 PEACE		9 Business Meeting 7:00 pm	10 PRIME TIMERS 12:00 pm	11	12	13
14 Sunday School 10:00 am Worship w/ Adult Cantata 11:00 am <i>Light of the World</i> Advent 3 JOY	15	16 <i>Newsletter deadline</i>	17 <i>No Bible study</i>	18	19	20
21 Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Open House @ Pastor's 4 - 7 pm Advent 4 LOVE	22	23 	24 <i>No Bible Study</i> Christmas Eve Service 5:30 pm	25 CHRISTMAS	26	27
28 Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am	29	30	31 <i>No Bible Study</i>			

December Birthdays

1 – Janice Hockaday	15 – Beverly Gilbert
2 – Alberta Johnson	17 – Rose Thomas
6 – Sue Acors	18 – Maggie Steckler
12 – Polly Proffitt	19 – Mark Marshall
12 – Caleb Newberry	22 – Zachery Newman
14 – Stephen Morris	31 – Loretta Smith

December Anniversaries

None known

Healthcare Center Prayer List:

Grace Anderson	W.P Hockaday
Scarlett Blanton	Douglas Jones
Brenda Cannon	Violet Payne
Bobby Carnahan	Don Pitts
Nell Durrett	Frank Williams
Violet Henshaw	

Deacon of the Month

Danny Lee (540) 582-8213

The mission of Bethany Baptist Church is to make a positive impact for Jesus Christ with people who live in our community by sharing the message of eternal life through Jesus Christ and by growing together as the family of God.

Just a thought ... A prison cell, in which one waits, hopes, does various unessential things, and is completely dependent on the fact that the door of freedom has to be opened from the outside is not a bad picture of Advent.
-Dietrich Bonhoeffer *Letters and Papers from Prison*

