



From Pastor Lynwood and the Hilton Baptist Church Family

GOD BLESS YOU, AND HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16



“The Christ Candle Of Advent!”

Advent is about expectation and remembrance. We enter into the story of a world in need of a new start. It's as much about the journey as it is the destination. And as we travel on this Christmas journey we remember. We remember Christmases of joy and hardship. We remember people we love who aren't around our table anymore. Some memories are sweet. Others are difficult.

The Italian poet Cesare Pavese wrote, "We do not remember days; we remember moments." Another man at the end of his life said, "I've had my moments, but if I had my life to do over again, I would have more of them."

Can you imagine all the moments Mary had that first Christmas Eve? Luke tells us that she kept all these memories and treasured them in her heart. She saw and experienced things no one had before or will again. She wasn't selected because of her wealth, education, royal lineage or great deeds. In fact, the Bible is silent about the requirements for being the mother of the Messiah. We only know that God favored her highly among women. God's glory consumed her life from the moment Gabriel visited her.

It was a holy night. God's glory came to earth and wrote a love letter to the world in the form of a newborn baby. It was a moment of the supernatural.

Mary could've had bitter memories about the travel arrangements, the lack of planning, the constant need to improvise. But in a barn full of visiting animals, horses, mules, stray dogs, camels, splinters, hay and horse manure, Mary kept all these things treasured in her heart.

That night she had to contend with Joseph's snoring and the shepherds, loudly recounting the amazing appearance of angels. They probably woke the baby several times that night. But just before dawn, when everyone except Mary and a mule was still asleep, she gathered a tapestry of memories:

- the beautiful colors of Gabriel's clothes
- the look on Elizabeth's face when she turned and saw Mary
- the busyness of packing for the dreaded tax appointment
- the "No Vacancy" sign
- the nervous, frustrated father
- the tiny hands of the newborn king

I would imagine she wept and smiled. She experienced an orchestra of emotions in concert with the breeze that swept through the Bethlehem hills like a newly released Spirit.

We each have opportunities to capture memories of Christ when we follow Him. Knowing that He became our Savior gives us a reason for joy. It's Good News worth celebrating and joy worth finding.

On the grace journey to Christmas together with you, Lynwood

The Hilton Baptist Church Record

Lynwood Wells, Pastor

December 21, 2021

The money was not counted by the time this Forecast was printed. The report will be posted in our next Forecast.

Next week we will not be printing a Forecast. We hope that you have a Wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Many thanks to my HBC Family for all of your prayers with all the difficulty with my eyes. Best wishes to you all for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Karen Simpson



Serving our Community with the Love of Jesus!

Missions Outreach—Pam Cooke 660-4226

WMU Focus

The WMU Focus project for the month of December is money for the Chaplain's Fund.

Food Pantry at HBC

HBC gives food away on Tuesdays and Thursday. See Sue Monfalcone to volunteer and for more information on how you can help. Bring your non-perishable food to restock the pantry the last Sunday of every month.

Aluminum Cans

Recycle your cans at HBC and help Support missions! Bring them to HBC and place them in the gym or the church office. All money collected goes to missions!

Pray for our Missionaries

CC, NE, JR (Central Asian People) Haley Keatts, AM, Jacob Stevens (European People) MC, KJ (Northern African and Middle Eastern People) AS (Southeast Asian People) Adolfo Flores (CA) Kerry Jackson (GA) Callie Babcock (KY)

James McDonald (KY) Bryan Page (ME) David Nickerson (MD)

Sedgefield Elementary School Outreach

We are collecting individually wrapped sweet treats and snacks to present to the teachers and faculty of Sedgefield Elementary School when they return to school in January 2022. We also will have cards for you to fill out on the Mission Outreach table this Sunday. Make sure you pick up a few cards and write a note of encouragement to the staff/ faculty of Sedgefield School. Then return them to the Mission Outreach Table along with the snacks.

PORT Volunteers Needed— February 9-22, 2022

The sign up sheet to help will be near the Mission Outreach Table. Please sign up to help where you can. If any questions, Contact Pam Cooke



Collected to Date: \$2200.00

Calendar

Tuesday, December 21st

1:00pm-2:00pm Food Distribution

Wednesday, December 22nd

7:00pm Facebook Bible Study

Thursday, December 23

No Food Distribution

Friday, December 24th

Christmas Eve Service 5:00pm

Saturday, December 25th

Merry Christmas

Sunday, December 26th

10am Live Worship at HBC

Virtual Worship Online

Sonshine Kids

Tuesday, December 28th

1:00pm–2:00pm Food Distribution

Thursday, December 30th

1:00pm– 2:00pm Food Distribution

Friday, December 31st

5:30-6:30pm Community Dinner

Sunday, January 2nd

10am Live Worship at HBC

Virtual Worship Online

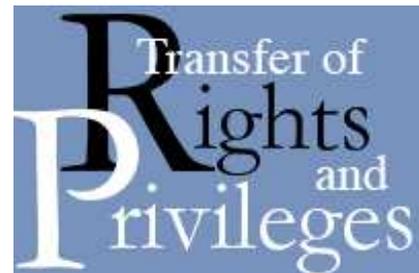
Sonshine Kids

*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:
and the government shall be upon his shoulder:
and his name shall be called*

*Wonderful, Counsellor,
the mighty God,
the everlasting Father,
the Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 9:6

Transfer of Rights and Privileges



Back in 1891, Robert Louis Stevenson, author of such classics as *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* and *Kidnapped*, gave a rather odd gift to the daughter of a friend of his. This friend, Henry Ide, once joked that Christmas was not the happiest day of the year in his household. His 14-year-old daughter, Annie, had been born on Christmas; she always complained she got cheated out of a separate birthday party.

So Robert Louis Stevenson came up with the idea of giving away his birthday. He drew up a legal document transferring all the "rights and privileges" of his birthday, which fell on Nov. 13, to Miss Annie H. Ide. From that day forward, Annie celebrated her birthday on Nov. 13.

Robert Louis Stevenson was not the first to transfer all his "rights and privileges" to someone else. In a sense, Jesus became mortal that He might transfer some of His immortality to us. Jesus became human that He might transfer the spark of divinity to us. Jesus became a servant that He might transfer us to the status of sons and daughters.

Or as the Apostle John put it, *"The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."* John 1:2



The Last Impression

There once was a czar in Russia whose name was Rudolph the Great.

He was standing in his house one day with his wife. He looked out the window and saw something happening.

He said to his wife, "Look honey. It's raining."

She, being the stubborn type, responded, "I don't think so, dear. I think it's snowing."

But Rudolph knew better. So he said to his wife, "Let's step outside and we'll find out."

Lo and behold, they stepped outside and discovered it was in fact rain.

And Rudolph turns to his wife and replies, *"I knew it was raining. Rudolph the Red knows rain, dear!"*



Is Hilton Baptist Church on Your 2021 Christmas Gift List?

As we come to the end of 2021, we have been blessed with both special provisions and special needs. To meet our budget projections, we are believing for a generous outpouring of offerings before December 31st.

As with any older building structure, we are now encountering special needs in our heating and air conditioning systems. Our current estimates for repair and needed replacement of one of our sanctuary AC units is around \$34,000. We need to replace both units in 2022.

But God has been good to us in 2021! Even when we were challenged to pay our regular budgetary needs, we never cut back in ministry and outreach. We continued to plant seed and trusted God for the harvest and He always came through!

Many folks in our HBC family have been hit hard by the economic consequences of the COVID 19 pandemic. Yet, overall, as a congregation we have been blessed! Christmas is a time when we remember how God poured His very best into the poverty of our humanity. Because He gave the very best gift He could give, we celebrate our salvation with joy today.

What would God have you do to honor Him as 2021 comes to an end? Ask God to show you, The faith we as a church are willing to demonstrate in December will help set the goals we can aim for in 2022. The harvest of our future is made possible by the seeds of our faith and financial gifts we sow now – Let's celebrate all God has done for us at Christmas by doing all we can for Him!

***Help us to
finish stronger than
ever financially in 2021!***

***Please consider
making a
special
year-end
gift before
December 31st***

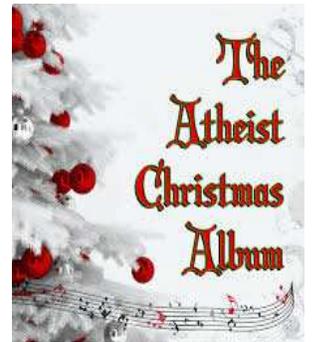
CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp





The Atheist & Christmas

In a recent interview, a well-known atheist was asked about his attitude toward Christmas. He admitted that he celebrated Christmas, but primarily “for family reasons.” Why? Because Christmas “has long since ceased to be a religious festival.” He observed that Christmas has become “divorced” from religion. He had no problem wishing people a Merry Christmas. Why? Because this phrase “retains zero religious’ significance.”



Every year, many in the culture around us make claims just like this. In fact, Christians face an avalanche of propaganda—pressure to ignore Christ and make Christmas a secular event. But for Believers, Christmas is a reminder of the *central* issues of our faith. Yes, it is a time for gifts and sharing, for family and holiday cheer. But we must not lose sight of the *primary* meaning.

Our focus must remain on *Jesus*. We must never fail to honor and worship Him, to proclaim Him as our Lord, and to realize He was God incarnate, “*born in the likeness of men.*” We must remember how He lived in perfect submission to the Father, how He became our perfect example, how He humbled Himself and died on the Cross for our sins, and how He rose from the dead.

Many in our culture may not understand the reason for His birth. This is why, as Believers, we must use every opportunity to talk about Jesus.

This Christmas, make sure that you are focused on Jesus. Worship Him. Honor Him. And use every opportunity to declare His name!