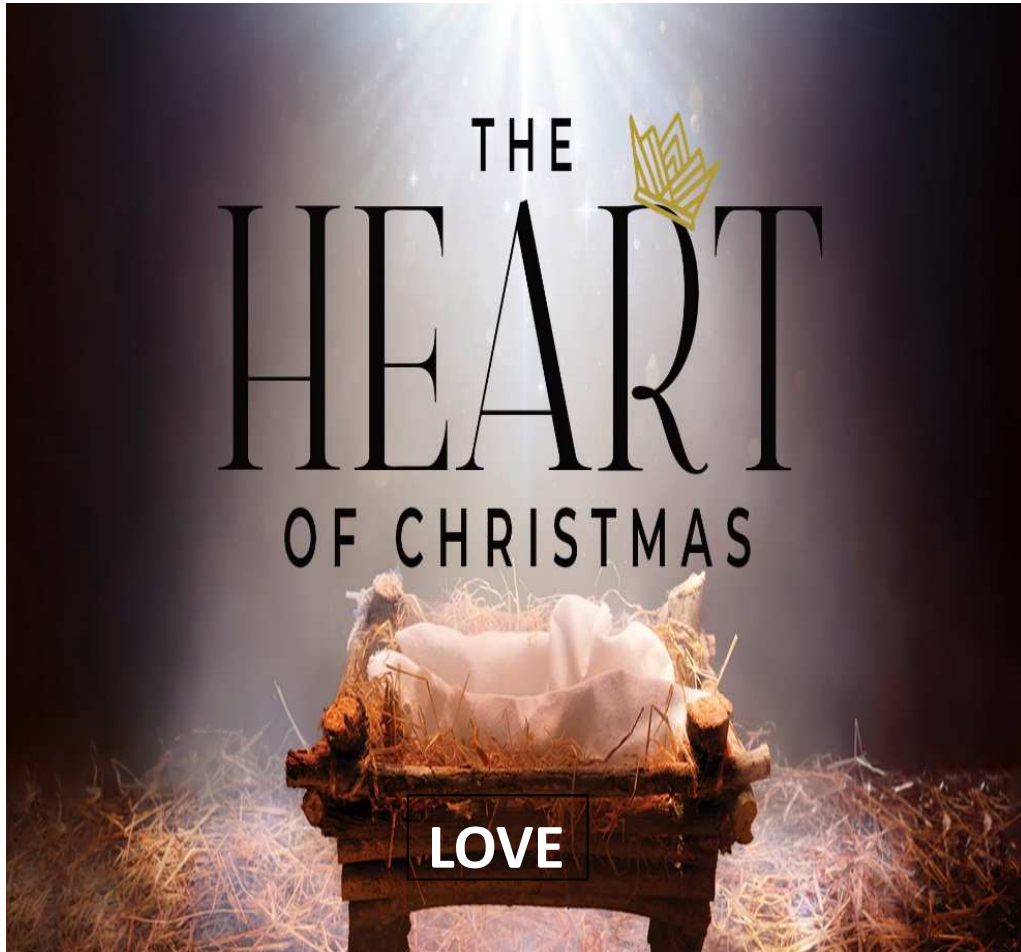


The Forecast
Hilton Baptist Church. www.HiltonBaptistChurch.org
101 Main Street, Newport News, VA 23601



Over the past few weeks, we have been in a sermon series where we have discovered the heart of Christmas. Often, we get lost in all the gifts, decorations, and parties and miss the central focus of the Christmas season. Jesus was born to bring the gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love, which is the real reason for Christmas.

The first week we learned that we are offered hope in the middle of our circumstances. The second week we looked at the wonderful gift of peace that Jesus's sacrifice makes available to us. Last week we learned that joy is ours no matter the circumstances. This final week, we will look at the great love of God for each and every one of us.

**Join Us This Sunday 10:00 am for an exciting new message in our series,
"THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS."**

**Let's discover the good news that Jesus Christ was born
and brought us God's LOVE in a way we can
experience every moment of our lives!**



“Christmas LOVE!”

During the past three weeks, we have been building up to the celebration of Christ’s birth. I have really appreciated being able to share “The Heart Of Christmas,” series and all it means to us as we wait in anticipation of our Savior. As we continue this journey of advent, let’s look at how God’s love truly fits into our celebration.

It’s hard to comprehend what that really looks like in the Christmas story. We all know the story... even a child understands the baby in a manger, but do we really understand? Really? Can we actually process the idea of the God of the universe coming to us as a baby? Because of ...Love?

Yes, simply because of love... God can’t stay away. This is the love story that has been coming for you since the beginning. The God who walked with us in the Garden in the cool of the evening before the Fall shattered our closeness with Him. He’s the God who came to His people in the pillar of cloud, of fire, because he could not bear to let them wander alone. He is the God who loves us and likes us and isn’t merely 50 percent or 72.3 percent for us, but the God who is always, unequivocally, 100 percent for us- the God who is so for us that He is the God who chooses to be with us.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son. That whosoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life. For God did NOT send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save it through Him.”

John 3:16 & 17.

And now over Bethlehem, in the Nativity according to Luke, the star hangs high, victorious on a silent night, a holy night. Now all is calm. God comes... In the quietness and lowliness of His birth into a manger....

This night a battle has been waged and won for you. Love had to come back for you. Love had to get to you. The Love that has been coming for you since the beginning. This is the truest love story of history, and it’s His-Story, and it’s for you. This is love you can’t comprehend. You can only feel and touch this kind. There, in the place where you feel rejected, you can be touched by God. There, in the places you feel small, you can touch God. He came in the flesh.

As we continue to prepare for Advent this week, pause to reflect on how immense and incredible God’s Love really is. How can we show this kind of love to our family, neighbors, co-workers? Pray and ask God to put people in your path who need to be loved, and then go the extra mile and put your faith into action. Praying we all shine His Light brightly into a world who desperately needs a Savior.

On the grace journey to Christmas together with you, Lynwood

Hilton Baptist Church

Lynwood Wells, Pastor

December 13 , 2022

Budget \$2419.00

Lottie Moon \$395.00

Cash in Cash out– Coffee Fund \$3.00

Cash In Cash out– from recycling cans– Shoeboxes \$30.00

Total Deposit \$2846.00



PORT Sign Up– Your help is needed!

It is that time of year where you have the opportunity to help in the PORT homeless program. Our dates to serve are January 11th–25th, 2023. Please visit the back of the sanctuary to sign up for how you can serve.

We can use you!

Upcoming December HBC Activities

Church Christmas Dinner and Musical– Saturday, December 17th

Dinner will be at 6pm. The Church will be providing Chicken and Drinks. We are asking everyone to provide the side dishes and desserts. Please remember that we will be having the Band eat with us before the concert, so please make a little extra as the band are our guests and we will not be asking them to bring anything. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy this special time of celebration.

The Higher Ground Jazz Band will be our guests that night.

The concert will begin at 7pm.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Communion Service December 24th 5pm

This will be a special service to include music, media, candlelight and communion. Ask your family to come and be a part.

Christmas Day Worship Service- We will be having Worship Service,

Sunday, December 25th Christmas Day at 10am

PORT Sign Up– Your help is needed!

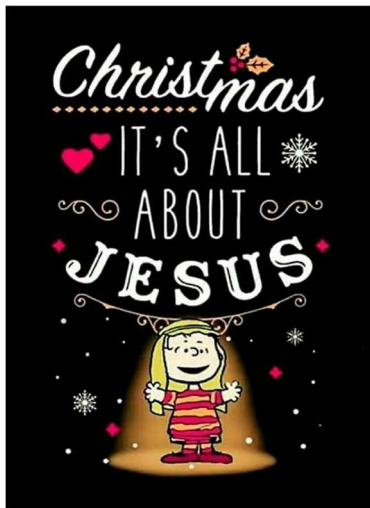
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Southern Baptist churches collect the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for the sole purpose of supporting International Missions. Every penny of the offering goes to the International Mission Board's overseas budget, thus supporting our missionaries and their work.

Week of Prayer for International Missions is December 4th– 10th. The prayer guide for the week is included.

Collected to Date: \$1895.00



**Hilton Baptist Church Children's
Christmas Workshop**

Thanks to all who helped make the Christmas Workshop a great success.

Everyone had a great time as we looked at Christmas through the eyes of Charlie Brown.

A good reminder for all Jesus "Christmas is all about Jesus"

Don't Get Stressed

The Wrapping Ministry wants to bless you with your gift-wrapping needs. Saturday, December 17, 2022 Here at HBC.

*All supplies are provided at any site at no cost, *Services are performed at location of your choice, *Fellowship and prayer are always encouraged There isn't anything that can't be wrapped. We are flexible with requests. Call to schedule a personalized session or reserve a time slot at the event.

For more information or to reserve a time slot contact:

Pepper Savoy @ 757-236-3027

Happy Birthday in December

12/14 Diane Figuenick

12/20 Joyce Spiers

12/25 Karen Simpson

12/30 Brenda Egnot

Lock up/ Hall Monitor

12/18 Charles Vassar

12/25 Robbie Ayscue

Counter

12/19 Joe Wircenski

Tuesday 12/27 Margaret Upole

Kids Church Helper

12/18 Tracy Venable

12/25 Nadine Stephenson



Calendar

Tuesday, December 13th

1pm-2pm Food Distribution

Wednesday, December 14th

7pm Facebook Bible Study

Thursday, December 15th

1pm-2pm Food Distribution

Saturday, December 17th

6pm Church Christmas Dinner

7pm High Ground Jazz Band

Sunday, December 18th

Fourth Sunday of Advent

10am Live Worship at HBC

Virtual Worship Online

10am Sonshine Kids

Tuesday, December 20th

1pm-2pm Food Distribution

Wednesday, December 21st

10am Betty Powell's Funeral

Thursday, December 22nd

1pm- 2pm Food Distribution

Sunday, December 25th

10am Live Worship at HBC

Virtual Worship Online

10am Sonshine Kids

**The Church office will be closed on
Monday, December 26th for the
Christmas Holiday**

Missions Outreach—Pam Cooke 660-4226

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.

We have given out a lot of food recently so any donations would be appreciated. Next collection is December 25th

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! This week \$29.00 was given for Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

Pray for our Missionaries

TH, KK, TK, NS (Asian South Pacific Rim People) AA (Central Asian People) RH (Northern African and Middle Eastern People) CC, WV (South Asian People) Holli Davila (CA) Maxime Kawonda (IL) Timothy Watts (KS) Chris Wallace (ND) Peter Copeland (SC) Grayson Gilber (WI)

Serve the City Peninsula

Serve the City Peninsula has many exciting ways in which you can serve. Visit their website and check it out, <https://www.stcpeninsula.com> or contact Pam and she will be able to put you in the right direction.

WMU December Project

The December Missions is Grace Inside Chaplains Fund

Donations for PORT

Collecting New and gently used underclothes for men and women, Boxer Briefs for Men, Bras, panties, undershirts, jeans, hoodies, book bags, Hygiene kit items: washcloths, toothbrushes, travel size toothpaste, travel size soap, Travel size shampoo and conditioner, travel size lotion, deodorant— travel size if possible, but not necessary) Qtips— a box of 500 will fill 50 hygiene kits. Gallon size and snack size bags. Please place your items in the mission outreach corner.

We have a place for you in Missions Outreach!

Samaritan Purse Operation Christmas Child Boxes

Thanks to all who helped pack the Shoeboxes for OCC. Below is where your boxes went:

Kizzy Moriah– 2 Hard to Reach Areas, 2 Madagascar

Brenda Egnot– 3 Hard to Reach Areas, 1 Madagascar

Lisa York– 2 Hard to Reach Areas, 1 Madagascar

David York– 3 Hard to Reach Areas

Nadine Stephenson– 1 Hard to Reach Area, 1 Madagascar

Kathy Caskie– 2 Hard to Reach Areas, 1– Madagascar, 1 Malawi

HBC Family you had a part in these shoeboxes. It was because of you that we were able to send 20 boxes to children that may have never had a gift.

There are testimonies that shoeboxes have lead children to Jesus which has changed their families and even the village that they live in. Because of the shoeboxes, the Village Witch Doctors even see the difference that Jesus makes, in the kids of the village and being moved by the Holy Spirit , they come to know the Lord. A small shoebox can make a great difference in many people's lives.

13 of our boxes are headed to "Hard to Reach Areas"

This means that the boxes are going into deep jungles, city slums, steep mountainsides or one of the 1000 Pacific Islands. These areas are resistant to the Gospel because of cultural or remote reasons and are home to numerous unreached people groups who some have NEVER heard the name of Jesus.

6 of our boxes are headed to Madagascar- Madagascar is an island in the Indian Ocean off East Africa. It is know for lemurs, baobab trees, vanilla and pepper.

At least 1 of our boxes is headed to Malawi- Malawi is located in Southeast Africa. It has a 350 mile lake that contains more species of fish other than any other lake in the world. The people there are from different ethnic groups and are know for their friendliness to strangers.

Now, it is our responsibility and privilege to pray. That one shoebox can change the child, family and country where it get delivered .

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 2022 Christmas Gift List?

As we come to the end of 2022, 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 two of our AC units is around \$34,000. Heating for our sanctuary is running at less than 50% and will soon need replacement, We expect significant expenditures to be made before the summer of 2023.

But God has been good to us in 2022! 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.

Many in our HBC family have been hit by the consequences of inflation and a resurgent pandemic. Yet, overall, we have been blessed! Christmas is a time when we remember how God poured His very best into the poverty of our humanity. And because He gave the very best gift He could give; we celebrate our salvation and rejoice today!

What would God have you do to honor Him as 2022 comes to an end? The faith we as a church are willing to demonstrate in December will help set the goals we can aim for in 2023. 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 2022!***

***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!

Our Greatest Need

If our greatest need had been information... God would have sent us an educator;

If our greatest need had been technology... God would have sent us a scientist;

If our greatest need had been money, ...God would have sent us an economist;

If our greatest need had been pleasure, ...God would have sent us an entertainer;

But our greatest need was forgiveness, .So God sent us a Savior.



One Solitary Life

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another obscure village where he worked in a carpenter shop until he was thirty,

He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never went to college. He never visited a big city. He never traveled more than two hundred miles from the place where he was born.

He did none of the things usually associated with greatness. He had no credentials but himself. He was only thirty-three. His friends ran away. One of them denied him. He was turned over to his enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While dying, his executioners gambled for his clothing the only property he had on earth. When he was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen centuries have come and gone, and today Jesus is the central figure of the human race. And the leader of mankind's progress all the armies that have ever marched, all the navies that have ever sailed, all the parliaments that have ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned put together, have not affected the life of mankind on earth as powerfully as that *one solitary life*.....

One Solitary Life was adapted from a sermon by Dr James Allan Francis in "The Real Jesus and Other Sermons"

© 1926 by the Judson Press of Philadelphia

Believing And Acting On God's Word

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

“Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” (Luke 2:15)



For those who demand more formality and reserve in their worship encounters, they find themselves strangers to the true Christmas story. If man were to script the Son of God’s birth, Jesus would have been born in a palace or a mansion. The news of His birth would have first been sent to one of the power brokers of the day, King Herod or Caesar Augustus.

But God’s script was completely different: no palace, but a manger surrounded by animals... no power brokers, but the social outcasts of the day, a band of shepherds. They were considered not trustworthy and their work made them ceremonially unclean and as a result they could not participate in worship.

After being surprised (and terrified) by a visit from the angel of the Lord, and then a large group of angels, the shepherds were confronted with what to do with the message they heard: *“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord”* (Luke 2:11).

What did the shepherds do with the first announcement of the Gospel? They believed!

Their immediate response was: *“Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about”* (Luke 2:15). They don’t stop to discuss whether it’s exactly according to what was written in Daniel. They don’t question if they really saw angels or if they’re just imagining things because they’re overworked. They don’t get a religious leader to accompany them. They don’t even get cleaned up! They hurry off to Bethlehem to find Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. They believed all that God had told them!

What are you doing with what God has told you? Are you acting and reacting with faith? Or are you discussing logistics? Bargaining with God? Nit-picking the assignment? Putting out a fleece or getting another interpretation? Demanding more scripted traditions?

What is God asking you to do today in faith? Just believe! If you will prioritize your faith over formalities, you will be amazed at how the Spirit of God will begin to work in your life... how He will work through you to reach a hurting world... and how He will spread His message, love and power through your surrendered life to expand His Kingdom!

Top “Bad Christmas Gifts” for Your Pastor!

You can file this under the “no one asked for it, but here it is” category – the worst-ever Christmas gifts for your pastor!

- The Left Behind Series “Practical Survivors Guide.”
- A Monopoly Acts 16 “Get out of jail free” card.
- A “Begats” Family Tree Chart.
- A Christian Supply House “Woman At the Well” water cooler.
- A Gospeland Bookstore Fourth Watch Baptistry swimsuit
- Golf Club Covers with the 12 Disciples’ Faces on Them
- The Damascas Road auto fog Light (It’ll blind ya).
- A bobble-head statue of the apostle Paul for the back of his car.
- A LifeWay Dead Sea Bathroom Deodorizer
- An Official Cokesbury Hellfire and Brimstone Backyard Grill
- A half- size replica of the Popemobile
A rooftop hot tub.



And the absolute worst Christmas gift for your pastor...

Frankincense Aftershave

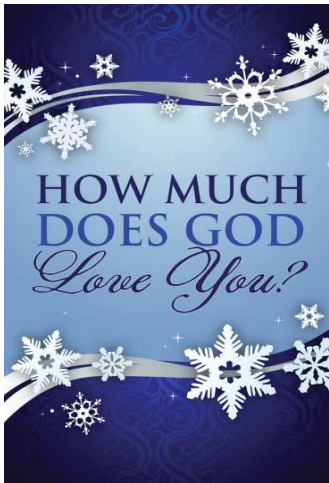


The Last Laugh...

In a small Southern town there was a “Nativity Scene” that showed great skill and talent had gone into creating it. One small feature bothered me. The three wise men were wearing firemen’s helmets. Totally unable to come up with a reason or explanation, I left.

At a “Quick Stop” on the edge of town, I asked the lady behind the counter about the helmets. She exploded into a rage, yelling at me, “You Yankees never do read the Bible!” I assured her that I did, but simply couldn’t recall anything about firemen in the Bible. She jerked her Bible from behind the counter and ruffled through some pages, and finally jabbed her finger at a passage. Sticking it in my face she said

“See, it says right here, “The three wise men came from afar.””



How Much Does God Love You?

“For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

God loves you so much that he sent Jesus on a mission of love with a message of love. Christmas is a yearly reminder that God loves you. The Bible says God is love. It doesn't say God *has* love; it says God *is* love. Love is his nature; *God is love*.

God created the entire universe. He created this planet; he created the human race; then, he created you because he *loves* you.

It could be said the reason you're alive is because God created you as an object of his love. God made you so he could love you and so that you could love him. God's love for you is the reason your heart is beating right now; it's the reason you're breathing.

God's good news is that he loves you on your good days as much as he loves you on your bad days. He loves you when you can feel his love, and he loves you when you can't seem to feel his love. He loves you regardless of whether or not you think you deserve his love.

There is nothing you can do that will make God stop loving you. You could try, but you simply can't do it – because his love for you is based upon his character and not on anything you do or say or feel.

God loves you so much that he sent his only Son, Jesus, into this world. Hear those words again, *“so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16 NLT)*.

When the baby Jesus grows into a man, he will stretch his arms out as wide as the cross, saying, “I love you this much! I love you so much it hurts. I love you so much I'll die for you so that I won't have to live without you.”

God's love surpasses all human knowledge, and it is difficult for any of us to grasp the width and length and height and depth of God's love for each one of us (Ephesians 3:17-19).

How would your life change if you deeply believed God loved you?

Ask God to help you in your unbelief. Then believe and be ready to receive His answer. It will make this Christmas Day the best one you could ever ask for!