

The Forecast
Hilton Baptist Church
101 Main Street, Newport News, VA 23601
757-595-3300 / www.HiltonBaptistChurch.org



This Christmas, invite your church and community to experience the miracle of the gift of His presence—God With Us. During the season of Advent, the four weeks leading up to Christmas, let's dive into the meaning of hope, love, joy and peace. Because Jesus was born that night in the quiet hills of Bethlehem, everything changed on that unexpected first Christmas more than two thousand years ago.

The trajectory of history, the future, even infinity, was transformed when God became man. Jesus the Son of God became the Son of Man, fully divine yet fully human. As the prophet Isaiah foretold long before, Jesus came to earth as God with us (Isaiah 7:14).

Hope became personified in Jesus. When we see the fullness of God in the flesh as Jesus, when we hear his words and feel his touch, only then do we begin to understand the miracle and mystery of Christmas!

Let's celebrate the coming of Christmas together...

***Join us this Sunday as we continue our exciting new series,
"Holy Moments," and focus upon the four weeks of Advent, leading up
to Christmas eve. What a great time to invite your
friends and family members!***



“Christmas Hope”

For some people Christmas is only about Santa Claus and getting gifts. That perspective influenced two letters that children wrote Santa Claus. One said, “Dear Santa, you did not bring me anything good last year. You did not bring me anything good the year before that. This is your last chance. Signed, Alfred.”

Phillips Brooks captured the heart of Christmas with one line in the carol he wrote, *O Little Town of Bethlehem*. That line summarizes what Christmas means to us: “The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.” In the little town of Bethlehem, God met the hopes of all humanity by birth of His Son, Jesus.

There was the hope of the Gentiles who didn’t have the advantage of an Old Testament and its prophecies. The magi from Persia were eagerly looking for a Savior. Matthew described them in his Gospel.

“After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, ‘Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him’” (Matthew 2:1-2).

The star they saw was a sign from God designed to alert these Gentiles to an event in Bethlehem that was intended for them as well. Researchers have discovered tablets in Persia dating from Jesus’ day. Because they were Gentiles and pagans, we might not have invited them to participate in the birth of God’s Son. But, God responded to their hunger for truth. He still responds to spiritual hunger. One of my favorite bumper stickers is, “Wise men still seek Him.”

The good news of Christmas is that God brought hope to all people, regardless of their background. That included Jews and Gentiles and non-believers. The angel’s announcement to the shepherds made that clear.

“But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord’” (Luke 2:10-11).

Hope is a powerful force in our lives and Christmas brings hope. Christmas is also for those who have been longing for a Savior. They may have been devout in their religious observance, but still understand that their only hope is for God to come to them.

They have been waiting for God to show up. He has! This Christmas may God fill each of our hearts with hope. The angels expressed what that hope means: *“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests”* (Luke 2:14).

On the grace journey to Christmas together with you, Lynwood

The Hilton Baptist Church Record

Lynwood Wells, Pastor

November 28, 2023

Budget \$1500.00

Designated in Memory of Nick Caffacus for Music \$150.00

Cash in and Cash out- \$2.00 Coffee

PORT- Clothes Closet \$100.00

Total Deposit \$1752.00

Lottie Moon

Christmas Offering for International Missions



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 3rd– 10th.

The prayer guide for the week is included.

Kids Christmas Workshop

Saturday, December 9th

10am –2pm Ages 5– 12 years old



Invite kids now! Come look at Christmas through the eyes of Grinch! It is going to be a great time.

Volunteers are needed, please let Dreama know if you can help!

Fliers are located in the Connection Center!

Lock up/ Hall Monitor 12/3 Don Moore 12/10 Stan Langdon

Counter 12/4 Kathy Caskie 12/11 Sue Monfalcone

Kids Church 12/3 Kathy Caskie 12/10 Lisa York

Missions Outreach—Pam Cooke 660-4226

PORT - January 10th– 17th Your help is needed!

It's Time again to sign up to be the "Hands and Feet of Jesus" by volunteering your time at PORT. **The Sign up sheets are in the back so please stop by and sign up to help.**

Clothes Closet— Projects with a Purpose- There will be a workday on Wednesday, December 6th at 2:00pm to help finish getting the closet ready for our quests. If you would like to help please let Dreama know.

If you can donate any of the following it would be helpful. These are the items that are most needed at this time. We are fine with all the other items.

Jean (gently used are fine) Small and Medium Men's shirts Hoodies T shirts
Socks Thermals Bra's and panties Shoes

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

Kenny Morris (American People) JM (Asian Pacific Rim People) RK (Central Asian People)
Casey Jones, NM (European People) KS (South Asian People) DS (Sub-Saharan African People)
Munkh Baldandorj (CO) Claudio Costa, Michel Galeano, Matt Thomas (FL) Roberto Mancia Sandoval (MD) Jason Aaron (MI)

Serve the City

There are many opportunities to serve. See www.stcpeninsula.com or Pam

WMU December Missions—Grace Inside Chaplains Fund

Grace Inside's chaplains are dedicated to meeting the spiritual needs of all residents of Virginia's state prisons. The chaplains provide one-on-one pastoral care, conduct worship services and work with the Department of Corrections staff in offering rehabilitative programs. Chaplains are also responsible for scheduling all religious programs conducted by volunteers representing many faith traditions.

Operation Breakthrough It's time to go shopping and spread a little kindness! This volunteer opportunity involves buying a gift to share with families in need. Our friends at Operation Breaking Through will make sure your donated gifts get to just the right person :-)

Gift suggestions: ANYTHING really! Children - clothes, books, games, blankets, coats, toys, boots, etc Parents – winter wear, kitchen supplies, dish towels, gift cards, etc

Suggested spending: \$25 per item or 'bundle' \$25 worth of gifts
Bring your unwrapped gifts to church December 10.

HBC Christmas Dinner and Musical
Saturday, December 16th



Dinner will be at 6pm, musical Christmas Celebration to follow. The Church will be providing Chicken and Drinks. We are asking everyone to provide the side dishes and desserts. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy this special time of celebration.

There is a sign up sheet in Connection Center for Set up and Clean Up Crews. We need people to help with both . Please sign up.

The event will be held in Prior Hall. If you have any questions, contact the Church office.

Please contact the office or sign up in the Connection Center if you are coming not the dinner so we will know how much meat to purchase.

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.

We will be having our regular Sunday Morning service on Christmas Eve.

Happy Birthday in November

11/26 Ray Moody

11/27 Annabelle Stuart

11/30 Pam Cooke

Happy Birthday in December

12/03 Beverly Tawney

12/14 Diane Figuenick

12/18 Brittaney Hudgins

12/19 Jessica Surber

12/20 Joyce Spiers

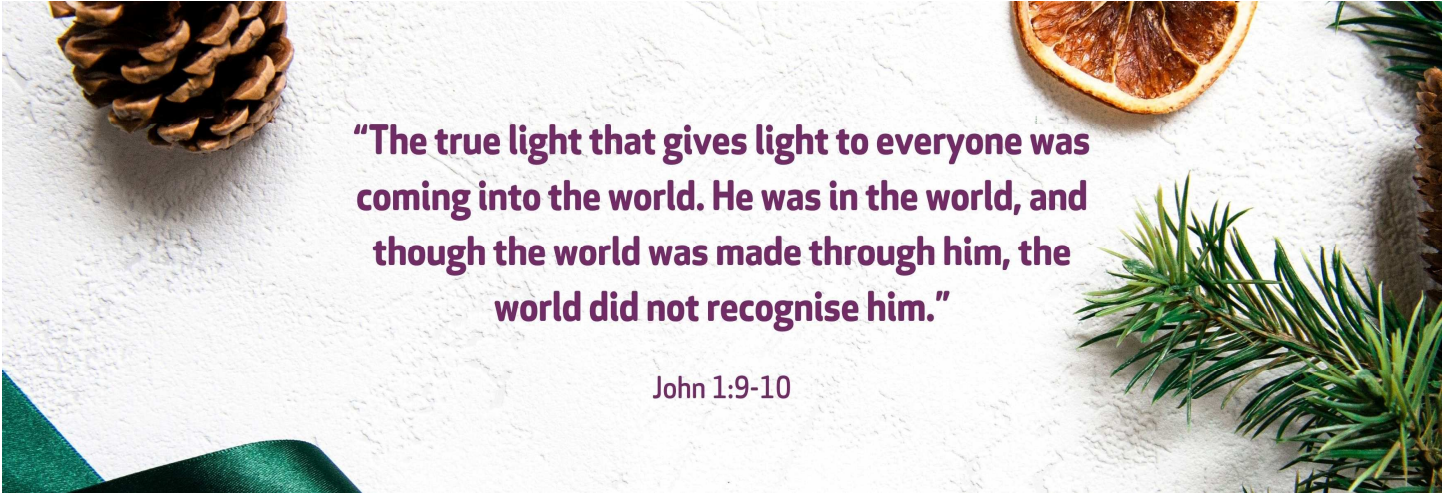
12/25 Karen Simpson

12/27 Myra– Leah Ntumngia

12/30 Brenda Egnot

*Therefore the Lord
himself will give
you a sign: The
virgin will conceive
and give birth to a
son, and will call
him Immanuel.*

Isaiah 7:14



"The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him."

John 1:9-10

Calendar

Tuesday, November 28th

1pm-2pm Food Distribution

Wednesday, November 29th

7pm Bible Study Facebook Live and in person at HBC

Thursday, November 30th

1pm-2pm Food Distribution

Sunday, December 2nd

World Mission Emphasis

Lottie Moon

9:00am Discipleship Class

10:00am Live Worship at HBC

10:00am Sonshine Kids

1st Sunday in Advent

Tuesday, December 5th

1pm-2pm Food Distribution

Wednesday, December 6th

2pm Project with a Purpose

Clothes Closet

7pm Bible Study Facebook Live and in person at HBC

Thursday, December 7th

1pm– 2pm Food Distribution

Sunday, December 10th

9:00am Discipleship Class

10:00am Live Worship at HBC

10:00am Sonshine Kids

2nd Sunday of Advent

Jesus Christ – The Hope Of David

When the angels appeared, delivering an important announcement, they were fulfilling a Messianic prophecy: *“The Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel,”* meaning *“God with us”* (Isa. 7:14).



As the gospels repeatedly point out, many aspects of the Christmas story fulfill Old Testament prophecies. How is this possible? Because we serve a God who plans and determines all of history.

“The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David.” Luke 1:32

This is yet another reason for us to trust Him! That’s what Mary did when confronted with the incredible message from Gabriel: She would be the mother of the Messiah, who would also be the Son of God. She was “greatly troubled” because she was a virgin, betrothed but not yet married to Joseph (vv. 29, 34). Gabriel answered by reassuring her that God would be with her (v. 35). For Mary, that was all she needed to know, but he also graciously communicated to her another sign: her relative Elizabeth’s pregnancy (v. 36).

More than one prophecy was being fulfilled in Gabriel’s words. Mary’s child, the long-awaited Messiah (see Luke 3:15), would sit on the throne of David (both Mary and Joseph were descendants) (vv. 31–33, 35).

“His kingdom will never end” fulfills 2 Samuel 7:16 from God’s covenant with David. Perhaps unexpectedly, the child would also be the *“Son of the Most High”* and the *“Son of God,”* that is, the Second Person of the Trinity (v. 35). Jesus, conceived in Mary by the Holy Spirit, would be fully man and fully God! Mary responded in faith, understanding that *“no word from God will ever fail,”* or as another translation says, *“nothing will be impossible with God”* (vv. 37–38).



As we approach the end of a tough financial year, would you prayerfully consider how you might help lessen the impact of our 2023 budget shortfall?

We are poised on the edge of some exciting plans for 2024 – But we need to first strengthen our financial resources and income especially for upcoming major repairs of our heating and cooling systems.

Ask God what He would have you give as a special year end offering. As we respond to His direction HBC’s needs will be met, God will be pleased, and you will be blessed beyond measure!

Jesus... The Center Of Our Christmas Hope

For millions of people, the Christmas season means nothing more than parties, gifts, decorations, and time off work. For Christians, however, this time of year is a happy reminder of the hope we have because of Jesus Christ.



*"May your unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD,
even as we put our hope in you." (Psalm 33-22)*

Before Jesus came, God seemed distant, hidden in the Holy of Holies in the temple, accessible only to the high priest. Worshipers wondered whether their sacrifices were acceptable. They doubted their salvation.

Christ means hope—to the person out of work, to the struggling single mother, to the dying believer. Even if you're just slogging your way through the disappointments of life, if you have Jesus, you have hope. And he is not a false hope, a childish fairy tale that we wish will have a happy ending. When Christ rose from the dead, that ended the argument. Period. Our hope in him is solid and it is real.

Hope has to do with trust and confidence. It is the resting of the human heart on God, with full trust that he will care for us and our salvation, and will give us the happiness he has promised. It is an eager expectation and anticipation of what is sure to come—an active, faith-infused waiting for God to fulfill that which he started by the power of the Holy Spirit:

And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. (Romans 8:23–25, ESV)

God wants us to live with hope and assurance that all his promises will come true for us and that our future is firmly and safely secure in his hand for our good.

Christmas is a renewal of hope. It reconfirms it for us if our vision has grown dim. It was settled long ago, so we don't have to doubt anymore. Jesus is the fulfillment of our hope, our deepest longings come true.

Jesus Our Hope - Inspirational Thought

"We have lasting hope through the salvation we have in Christ ... Hope means that even when it looks like it's all over, it's not all over yet. That's why the Bible says we can rejoice even in our tribulations. God is working in our hard times to produce proven character and hope in us."

--Dr. Tony Evans

Tree for Christmas

Admiring the Christmas trees displayed in his neighbor's windows, Nathan, who was a Jewish little boy) asks his father, 'Daddy, can we have a Hanukkah Tree?'

'What? No, of course not.' says his father.

'Why not?' asks Nathan again.

Bewildered, his father replies, 'Well, Nathan, because the last time we had dealings with a lighted bush we spent 40 years in the wilderness.'

Happy Hanukkah



Christmas Pardon

In 1864, during the intense days of the U.S. Civil War, Andrew Johnson, a Democrat from Tennessee, was chosen to be the Republican Vice Presidential candidate. He was selected in the hope that he might broaden the appeal of President Abraham Lincoln, a Republican.

When Lincoln was assassinated after the election, Johnson became President. He faced many stormy issues, complicated because he was not very popular.

As the Civil War ended, many in the North urged revenge on the South. But Johnson sought reconciliation instead. In May 1865, he proclaimed amnesty for any Confederate who would swear allegiance to the Union. And as Christmas approached that year, he felt it was appropriate to do something more. He realized that the Constitution gave him the power to pardon. So, on Christmas Day 1865, he issued a "Christmas pardon," pardoning all who had served the Confederacy (except high-ranking military and civil officials).

Although many Northerners were outraged, Johnson, who had been raised in a Christian home, felt it was the right thing to do. He commented, "It seems to me that the day on which Jesus Christ was born is just the right time to put a stop to the cry for blood."

This began a tradition of Christmas pardons. In fact, the U.S. Justice Department still has an Office of the Pardon Attorney, issuing pardons each year. Johnson's action reminds us that Jesus was born that all of us might be forgiven unconditionally, no matter what we have done, and that none of us deserves God's mercy.

Make sure that you have been forgiven, and accepted the finished work of Jesus. Be grateful that He came as a baby and died for your sins. Remember that His mercies are new today and every morning!