

The Forecast
Hilton Baptist Church. www.HiltonBaptistChurch.org
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Let's face it...Whatever gifts we give each other this Christmas of 2023, none comes close to the gift God gave us on the first Christmas Day some 2,000 years ago—the gift of his Son, the Lord Jesus. It's a gift too wonderful for words.

God's gift to us is the costliest gift ever given. It's the gift not only of the birth but also of the death of his Son, our Lord Jesus. It's a gift we don't own, because we belong to him, and we can't keep this gift for ourselves. Most important, Jesus is the gift that each one of us needs desperately. Without him there is no hope, no life, no future.

***God's gift of Jesus Christ to us on that first
Christmas calls us to celebrate and worship.
This is why we will have 2 services on Christmas Eve
this year at 10:00 am and 5:00 pm.
Plan now to honor God by attending both services...
You, your family, and loved ones will be blessed!***



The Best News We Could Ever Imagine!

“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.” Luke 2:10-11

According to a recent survey, seven in ten Americans suffer from “bad news fatigue.” It’s well documented that consuming negative news stories increases feelings of anger, anxiety, and fear. Yet, negative news headlines have a sixty percent higher click through rate than positive news headlines. We say we’re overwhelmed by bad news, but we can’t stop clicking on it!

Good news, on the other hand, has been shown to lift our spirits and make us more hopeful. Bottom line? We need good news. Really, really, good news! So did God’s people in the first century AD. Living under Roman oppression had stripped them of their hope. Life was hard and the presence of the Romans was a constant reminder that what God had promised His people wasn’t yet a reality. Everyone longed for change and most believed that only their promised Messiah could bring that change. But when? “How long, O Lord?” was their constant refrain.

Therefore, when an angel announced to a group of shepherds in the fields outside of Bethlehem, *“I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord,”* (Luke 2:10-11) they heard the good news they had waited to hear for generations. Perhaps, the angel’s announcement brought Isaiah’s words to mind:

“How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring glad tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, ‘Your God reigns!’ Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the LORD returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes. Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.” (Isaiah 52:7-10)

Notice how Isaiah’s promise and the angel’s proclamation lay out the scope of this good news. It’s good news for everyone. That’s one of the reasons this good news is better than all other good news. One of the tragic consequences of human depravity is that good news is typically good for some, but not for everyone. That’s not the case, however, with news of the coming of the Savior. The news of his coming is good news for everyone because Jesus will defeat the three enemies that plague every human being: sin, death, and evil. That’s really, really good news! And that’s why celebrating Christmas means so much to us. The coming of Jesus, the Savior, is the best news we could ever imagine.

On the grace journey together with you, Lynwood

The Hilton Baptist Church Record

Lynwood Wells, Pastor

December 19, 2023



12/10/2023

Budget \$4399.00

Lottie Moon Missions \$1009.00

Food Pantry \$30.00

Total Deposit \$5438.00

Money Market \$95,781.83

Building Fund \$46,300.36

Savings \$38,813.58

Outreach \$10,667.39

12/17/2023

Budget \$2032.00

Lottie Moon Mission \$550.00

Chaplains Fund \$9.00

Food Pantry \$100.00

Total Deposit \$2691.00

PDF/RR \$16,177.00

PDF \$4,300.31

RR \$11,500.15

Deacons \$376.41

November Recap

Budget Deposits \$17,775.81

Budget Expenses \$19,864.00

Designated Deposits \$2,707.14

Designated Expenses \$8,214.14

Designated Account \$32,840.05

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.

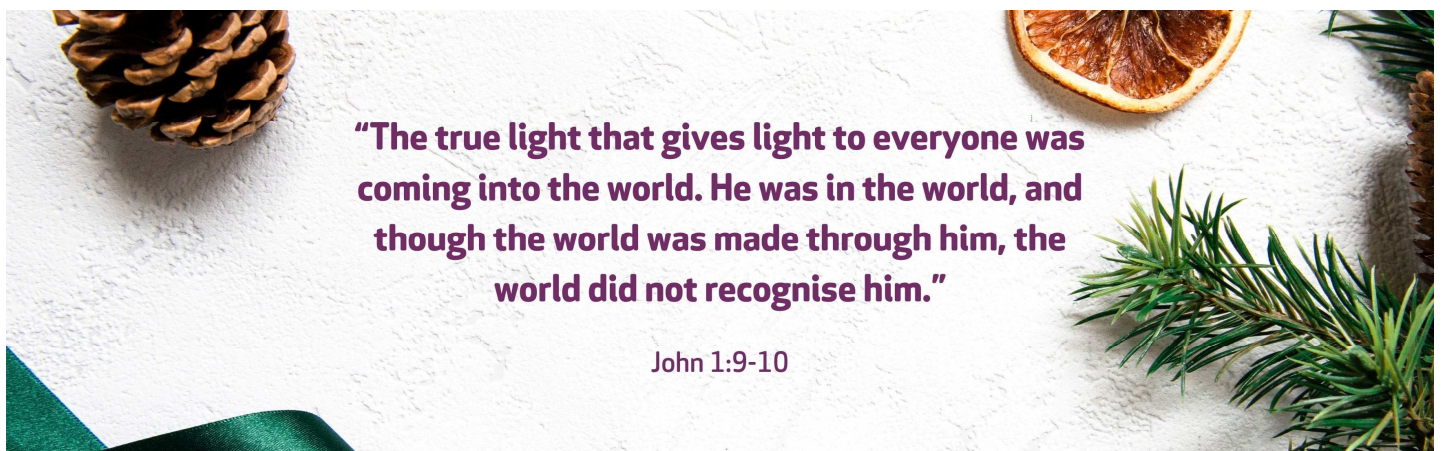


Lottie Moon

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.

Total collected to date \$2244.00



Calendar

Tuesday, December 19th

1pm-2pm Food Distribution

Wednesday, December 20th

7pm Bible Study Facebook Live and
in person at HBC

Thursday, December 21st

1pm– 2pm Food Distribution

Sunday, December 24th

9:00am Discipleship Class
10:00am Live Worship at HBC
10:00am Sonshine Kids
4th Sunday of Advent
5:00pm Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service

Tuesday, December 26th

Church Office Closed

No Food Distribution

Wednesday, December 27th

No Bible Study

Thursday, December 28th

No Food Distribution

Sunday, December 31st

9:00am Discipleship Class
10:00am Live Worship at HBC
10:00am Sonshine Kids

The church office will be closed on Tuesday, December 26th

Happy Birthday in December

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

Happy Birthday in January

1/8 Lynn Prillaman
1/9 Debbie Greene
1/9 Matt Jordan
1/10 Mia Kuhlne
1/10 Ngwa Ntumngia
1/13 Cathy Childs
1/13 Dreama Johnson
1/18 Al Dillon
1/23 Barbara Michie
1/30 Carolyn Schaubach

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.**

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

JB, EC, SK, JM (Asian Pacific Rim People) RJ (Central Asian People) PK (European People) LM (Northern African and Middle Eastern People) ME (South Asian People) Rachael Durham , Matthew Hirt (Sub– Saharan African People) Meguru Mitcham (British Columba) Kenneth Dean , Carlos Garcia, Scott Liddell (CA) Hector Rivera (FL) John Andrade (ME) Mark Thomas (MD)

Serve the City

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

Or Pam Cooke and she will send you in the right direction.

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.

Will You Let Him In?

The signs of Christmas are all around us. However, amidst all the sights and sounds of Christmas, there continues to be an increase in this world's attempts to remove Christ from Christmas. Each year we witness growing attempts to eliminate Christ out of Christmas, out of everyday life, out of government, out of schools, and out of the marketplace.



But, in spite of it all, He just won't go away!

Despite our efforts to keep Him out, God intrudes. The life of Jesus is bracketed by two impossibilities – a virgin's womb and an empty tomb. Jesus entered our world through a door marked "No Entrance" and left through a door marked "No Exit."

That first Christmas, there was no room for Him in the inn. The world never wants to make room for Christ at Christmas and in everyday life.

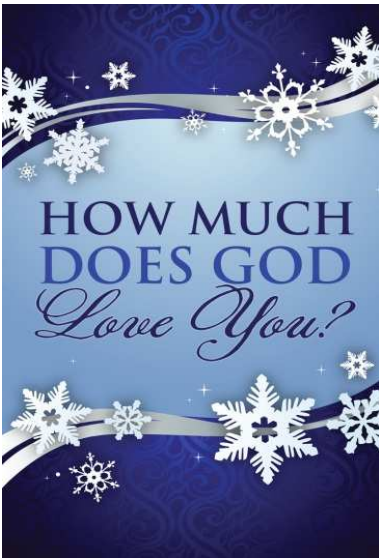
Man killed Him and sealed the tomb with a huge stone to shut Him out of our lives once and for all. But God removed the stone to prove Jesus will not be shut up or shut out of His plans.

One day Jesus will intrude on history again. The way to be ready is to invite Him into your life today. This Christmas, will you shut Him out or let Him in?

Are You a Scrooge?



- If you turn on the lawn sprinklers on Christmas Eve to keep carolers away – you might be a Scrooge.
- If you buy all your Christmas gifts at a store that also sells gas – you just might be a Scrooge.
- If you get your Christmas tree at a rest stop at night – you just might be a Scrooge.
- If you give bathroom fixtures as Christmas gifts – you just might be a Scrooge.
- If your favorite Christmas movie is Jurassic Park – you just might be a Scrooge.
- If your best Christmas tradition involves a fire and reindeer meat – you just might be a Scrooge.
- If you use your Christmas Club money to buy wrestling tickets – you just might be a Scrooge.
- If your favorite pastime is putting defective bulbs in your neighbors' string of Christmas lights or defacing Christmas lawn caricatures with eggnog – you just might be a Scrooge.
- If your only holiday decoration is a rotting pumpkin – you just might be a Scrooge.



Christmas: God Is Love

“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?



Is Hilton Baptist Church on Your Christmas Gift List?

As we come to the end of 2023, we have been blessed with both special provision 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 had special needs in our heating and air conditioning systems this past year. Our repairs and needed replacement of several units will cost around \$36,000.

Through careful budgeting and increased giving we are hoping to make and pay for these extraordinary, but necessary repairs.

Yet, even facing such daunting financial challenges, the light of this truth still shines brightly. 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 with joy today.

What would God have you do to honor Him as 2023 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 2024. 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 this Christmas by doing all we can for Him!

***Help us to
finish stronger than
ever financially in 2023***

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

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(See Luke 2:1-16)

12-26-2011

HERE'S A GIFT RECEIPT FOR THE MYRRH
IN CASE YOU HAD WANTED OTHER PERFUME