



# From the Pastor's Desk

It was Christmas 1963, and this seven year old was excited about the prospects of a real "haul" come Christmas Day. My list complete, and the letter sent to Santa, I was ready to collect. My parents told me that this might be a small Christmas, because of the medical bills that they were dealing with. Regardless of all of that "grown-up stuff," I grew more excited, by the day. One of the highlights of every Christmas, was the present that I always received from my Uncle Marvin. He was like a second Daddy to me and he always gave the best gifts.

The day came and Uncle Marvin was due any minute, and my excitement was overflowing. I was apparently extremely annoying to my mother, because she told me to get still and sit down somewhere. No sooner had I dropped into a chair, I heard his truck. Could it be? Is he really here? This eleven months and 3 weeks wait would be worth it. Sure enough, Uncle Marvin bounds through the door bearing gifts for all. Mama got a beautiful scarf and some leather gloves and Daddy got a tie and socks. Wait a minute! Where is my present? His bag was empty. I knew that Mama would have a spell if I asked, "Where is my present?" So what! I was willing to risk it! "Uncle Marvin, where is my present?" "You know that I have not forgotten you! Come outside with me!" We went out to his truck and he pointed to the back, where there was a large red wooden box with a lid. What could he have gotten for me that required a strong wooden box to carry it in? He and Daddy took the box from the truck, and took it inside of the house. I was beside myself, wanting, speculating and anticipating the amazing gift that must be inside of this sturdy frame. We got inside, and I am jumping around like a bug on a hot rock, and Uncle Marvin said, "What do you think?" I said, "Can I open it?" "Sure!" So, the long awaited time had come; I slowly removed the wooden lid from this treasure box, only to find a box full of empty. Where was the present? Uncle Marvin said, "How do you like it?" Like what? I thought to myself. There is nothing inside. Then the reality became clear! This red wooden box with the heavy wooden lid was THE PRESENT!

Having been brought up to be grateful, or at least show it, I said "Thank you Uncle Marvin." Inside, I was saying, "Where are my toys that you always give?" Christmas passed, and the wooden disappointment sat in the corner of my room,

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## Memory Verse



*"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 (KJV)

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## Food For Thought-Where Is Your Bethlehem?

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*Joseph went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem...He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. Luke 2:4, 5*

As the crow flies, it was a journey of approximately 100 kilometers but traveling over hills, through villages and around rivers would likely have made the trip even longer. Christmas pictures always show Mary riding a donkey, but we really have no idea of their mode of travel. In any case, whether on foot or on the back of a swaying brown animal, it wasn't an easy journey, especially for a woman nearing the end of her pregnancy. Why did she go? True, government officialdom decreed a census and that everyone must go to one's "own city," the place their families called home, for this official registration and counting. Perhaps Mary was also quite ready to leave the village of Nazareth where tongues were wagging about her pregnancy and unmarried status. But Mary and Joseph knew they were going far from family and into a city whose streets would be clogged with traveling strangers. They were assured of no warm welcome, no cozy place to birth the expected child. Perhaps they *hoped* for a small house or a distant relative or a way for Joseph to earn money for their keep, but in almost every way, they were traveling into the unknown. The journey was long and hard, the destination uncertain. Nearly nine months before their arrival in Bethlehem, Mary spoke life-changing words to God, words that were to comfort her in the many uncertain years ahead. "I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have said." With those simple words of faith, she could endure the long journey on the back of a donkey, the cold streets of Bethlehem, the staring faces of strangers, and even the crude stable with its straw-lined manger. Where is your Bethlehem? Has the path been long, the people uncaring, the circumstances burdensome? When we submit ourselves as servants to a loving God, we can—in quietness and confidence—add "May it be to me as you have said" no matter the place or position in which we find ourselves. ([Marilyn Ehle](#) - © 2015 *Thoughts About God*)

Ponder God's love for us and how we are responding to His Amazing love. Are we truly faithful? Are we following His call? During this special season, may God's abundant mercy and His consuming love cover you all with JOY and PEACE and PROSPERITY, both spiritually and physically.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Pastor Glen & Annette

## From the Pastor's Desk-Continued

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next to my closet. On New Year's Day 1964, I was really bored, and I took the lid off and crawled inside of this empty box, only to discover that this might be fun. All of a sudden, I was sitting in the cockpit of a jet plane, then, without any stress, I was driving a tank across the riverbed. I discovered an amazing gift that day. Initially, what seemed to be an empty box, became a race car, a jet plane, a tractor trailer truck. My imagination was in overdrive. All of a sudden, I understood the gift from my Uncle Marvin. It wasn't a box full of empty, but a vehicle to put reality to my imagination. What I once thought was a nothing gift, became the best present that I had ever received, up to that date. Many Christmases have passed, Mama and Daddy and Uncle Marvin are now with Jesus, but each Christmas, I stop and think of that wooden box and it reminds me that we should never overlook the simple blessings, while seeking the "Big Deal!"

Uncle Marvin made that box with his own hands and every board and nail, were fashioned together with love. God loved us enough to send His Son, Jesus, to be born into an "empty" stable. From a human prospective, not much of a gift, however, He was the BEST GIFT EVER! This Christmas, please remember the reason for the season and rejoice for the gift of Grace!

Enjoy Family and make some special memories that will last forever!

Merry Christmas and a Prosperous and Blessed 2016...

Pastor Glen

## From the Administrative Team

The 2016 Baptist Tabernacle Church Missions Budget will be presented for approval in a Special called Church Conference on December 16, 2015.

Budget in this case is a noun, defined as

1. an estimate, often itemized, of expected income and expense for a given period in the future.
2. a plan of operations based on such an estimate.
3. an itemized allotment of funds, time, etc., for a given period.
4. the total sum of money set aside or needed for a purpose, i.e., budgeted items.



Earlier this year, we provided some detailed information relative to the responsibilities of the Administrative Team. One of these responsibilities is the preparation of the annual Church Budget. This is one of the most important activities of the Administrative Team and the Church. Without an effective budget, it is difficult to administer the finances of the Church. Preparing the Church budget is similar to a business preparing its budget and similar to families preparing their family budget. First of all, we ask the various Ministry Teams for their input on what they expect to spend and if they plan on having any fundraisers during the year. We then look at the current year expenses of the Church and estimate what they will be at the end of the year. We then begin the arduous task of estimating our budget. Although the Ministry Teams have requests for their expenses for the year, the Administrative Team has the responsibility to ensure the

Church remains fiscally responsible for the monies that the Church has to spend. As we all know, you can't spend more than you receive, so this is a very important task. Not only does the Administrative Team develop the budget, they also monitor it throughout the year to assure that the spending is within allowable limits so as not to overspend.

Since we do not have the Family Ministry Center Mortgage in the upcoming year, we still need to be careful with our spending. There are lots of wants within the Church for various projects so we must evaluate the wants and determine which are really needs and then prioritize those needs to ensure that we are spending the money wisely.

Let's keep these items in mind as the Administrative Team prepares the annual budget and as we meet and vote on the annual Church Budget in December. Please be in prayer for the Administrative Team as we prepare the budget and for the Church as we vote on the annual budget.

As usual, if you have any questions for the Administrative Team, please feel free to contact any of the members.

Thanks,

Administrative Team

Leaders: Ricky Watson and Paul Brown

Members: Allette Hale, Kelly Currie, David Hughes, Billie Faye Wilson, Joyce Creech (ex-officio)

*Youth Christmas Party*  
*Sunday, December 6*  
*5-8pm*  
*At the home of Carrie Sellers.*  
*Please bring a wrapped \$5 gift and 2*  
*liter drink.*



*Youth before leaving for Camp Caswell-November 6th*

## Missions

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Your Mission team would like to Thank Everyone that had anything to do with the Fall Fest on Nov 14. It was the most successful Fall Fest ever in the money that was raised and the overall experience of fellowship. We had a tremendous number of people come through our doors that day and they were all greeted with an outpour of kindness and hospitality from our church members. We not only raised well over \$15,000 dollars that day, but showed a community our Godly hearts and hopefully touched a few lives that day as well. Again, THANK YOU!!! From your Mission Team

This month our Missions focus is on the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. 100% of our offering is used to send and support missionaries. Currently there are 4700 missionaries spreading the Gospel international-

ly. In one year, they have shared His story with 1.75 million people, trained 21,000 nationals to start new churches, and helped start 14,000 churches. All the while they worked to rescue slaves, feed orphans and care for the needy.

As we are planning and preparing to celebrate Christ's birth this month, let us not forget those that have never heard of that glorious birth in Bethlehem. Be in prayer for those missionaries we support and send out to spread the word through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Our goal is set at \$1200. Prayer guides and envelopes are available in your bulletin and the Sanctuary vestibule throughout this month.

The Mission Team

## Sense of Humor

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Twas the week before Christmas and all through the school, Not a pupil was silent, no matter what rule. The children were busy with paper and paste; The mess that they made with it couldn't be faced. The teacher half frantic and almost in tears, Had just settled down to work with her dears, When out in the hall there arose such a clatter up sprang the kids to see what was the matter! Away to the door they all flew like a flash; The one who was leading went down with a crash. Then what to their wondering eyes did appear But a green Christmas tree! (To decorate I fear!) When the teacher saw this, she almost grew sick. She knew in a moment it must be (the janitor) Old Nick! She ran to the door (all her efforts were vain) But she shouted, and stamped, and she called them by name; "Now Tommy! Now Sandy, Now Judy and Harry! Stop Billy! Stop Robert! Stop Donny and Sherry! Now get to your places get away from the hall Now get away! Get away! Get away all! As leaves that before the wild hurricane fly, The pupils, pell mell, started scurrying by. They ran to the blackboard and skipped down the aisle; Their faces were shining and each had a smile. First came a basket of popcorn to string -Then came the Christmas

tree (menacing thing). As the tree was brought in there arose a great shout; The pupils were merrily romping about. The state they were in could lead to a riot; The teacher was sure, if allowed, they would try it. Her nerves how they jangled! Her temples were throbbing! The rush of her breath sounded almost like sobbing! The lines of her face were as fixed as a mask; It was plain that she didn't feel up to her task. The look in her eye would have tamed a wild steer, But the children ignored it; they did every year. A tear from her eye and a shake of her head, Soon led me to think that she wished she were dead. She spoke not a word but went straight to her work, Strung all the popcorn which broke with a jerk. But at last it was finished and placed on the tree; Then came the bell and the children were free! Their shrill little voices soon faded away And peace was restored at the end of the day. As she looked at the Christmas tree glistening and tall, She smiled as she whispered, **Merry Christmas to all!**



## Bible Reading Schedule

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Day 1 Daniel 4-6	Day 16 Micah 1-3
Day 2 Daniel 7-9	Day 17 Micah 4-7
Day 3 Daniel 10-12	Day 18 Nahum 1-3
Day 4 Hosea 1-3	Day 19 Habakkuk 1-3
Day 5 Hosea 4-6	Day 20 Zephaniah, Haggai
Day 6 Hosea 7-9	Day 21 Zechariah 1-3
Day 7 Hosea 10-12	Day 22 Zechariah 4-6
Day 8 Hosea 13-14	Day 23 Zechariah 7-9
Day 9 Joel 1-3	ay 24 Zechariah 10-14
Day 10 Amos 1-3	Day 25 Malachi 1-4
Day 11 Amos 4-6	Day 26 Revelation 1-3
Day 12 Amos 7-9	Day 27 Revelation 4-6
Day 13 Obadiah	Day 28 Revelation 7-10
Day 14 2 & 3 John, Jude	Day 29 Revelation 11-15
Day 15 Jonah 1-4	Day 30 Revelation 16-18
	Day 31 Revelation 19-22



## Character of the Bible-Joseph

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(Matthew 1:19-25) – Not much is said about Joseph in the gospels, but what is said shows that he was a righteous and obedient person. When Joseph got the news that Mary was pregnant he knew he wasn't the father and wanted to call off the wedding and separate. But he had a dream from God and was commanded to go on with his plans to marry Mary. If he did that it is natural that people would consider Joseph the father and he would likely face some shame and criticism as some people would assume that he slept with Mary before they got married. Also if Joseph married Mary Jesus, as the firstborn son, would be entitled to Joseph's estate, though Joseph wasn't really the father. Joseph may have to give his estate to someone who wasn't really his son. In history three other Israelites refused to marry a woman for just that reason (Ruth's closest relative,

and Judah's two oldest sons). The birthright was very important as was the family line and most fathers would want to protect that. However, Joseph put all those consequences aside and simply obeyed. Sometimes obedience comes at a price. But Joseph decided to please God rather than men. We also need to be obedient no matter the cost. (Source - Calligraphy for God)

# Bible Facts

On which day following his birth was Jesus formally given his name? Although the angel had told Joseph and Mary what He was to be called, His name was actually given to Him at the time of His circumcision, which according to Jewish Law was on the 8th day. (Luke 2. verse 21)

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1st	Elizabeth Hocutt	18th	Benjamin Hocutt
	Emma Maidon		Bobby Sellers
4th	Anna Koger	19th	Jon Carroll
	Layla Mack		Austin Himmel
5th	Bruce Whitley	20th	Linda Hammett
6th	Holly Hughes		Charle' Johnson
	Joette Oliver		Clay Lewis
	Kemp Moore	21st	Carolyn Stevens
7th	Patsy Coates	22nd	Rebecca Boykin
	Kelly Currie	23rd	Sean Melvin
	Lauren D. Wilson	24th	Margaret Andrews
	Craig Strickland	25th	Merry Hocutt
8th	Sean Bannon		Vickie Hocutt
	Glen Horton	26th	Benjamin Green
9th	William Hocutt		Chris White
10th	Wallace Bunn	27th	Jerry Richardson
	Matthew Lee		Brooke Scott
11th	Blair Driver	28th	Wendy D. Jeffreys
12th	Dena Brannan		Brandon Carroll
13th	Jimmy Lewis	29th	Nicole Batten
14th	Frances Carroll		Joan Privette
15th	Madison Adams	30th	Rose Godwin
	Adam Driver		
	John Nowell		
16th	Judy Davis		
17th	Billie Fay Wilson		

## Notable Quote

*"Christ was born in the first century, yet He belongs to all centuries. He was born a Jew, yet He belongs to all races. He was born in Bethlehem, yet He belongs to all countries."*

*-Rev. George W. Truett (Pastor of First Baptist -Dallas, Texas-1897-1944)*

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

### December

5th	Harold & Margaret Andrews
14th	Tracey & Cynthia Hudson
	David & Holly Hughes
	DJ & Kayla Scott
16th	Kim & Jamie Jeffreys
20th	Jimmy & Brenda Lewis
21st	Tommy & Rowena Perry
29th	Tracy & Angela Gilmore



Regular Schedule of Ministry Opportunities:

**Sunday** 10:00am Sunday School  
 11:00am Regular Worship

**Wednesday** 6:30-7:15pm Youth Meet  
 6:30-7:15pm RA's, GA's & Mission Friends  
 6:30-7:15pm Adult Bible Study  
 7:15pm Adult Choir Practice

**BAPTIST TABERNACLE CHURCH**

**December 2015**

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10am Triple L-prepare meal	2 Regular Schedule	3	4	5 6pm FMC Deacons Christmas Party
6 Regular Schedule 5-8pm Youth Christmas Party at Carrie's House	7 6:30pm Baptist Men No Kay Nowell BW	8 10am Judy Strickland prayer group/Sanct.	9 Regular Schedule	10	11 12pm-11pm Sanct. RSV-D-Annette Ragan	12 8am-7pm Sanct RSV-D-Annette Ragan	
13 Cantata 6pm Christmas Program 7pm Pastor Glen at Robinwood	14 7pm Leadership Tm mtg	15 10am Judy Strickland prayer group/Sanct. 7pm LDBW at Judy Davis'	16 Regular Schedule 6:30pm Special Church Conference/Budget	17	18	19	
20 Regular Schedule	21 12pm Vera Hocutt Circle at Allette Hale's 7pm Admin Tm mtg	22 10am Judy Strickland prayer group/Sanct.	23 No Children or Youth Services 6:30pm Christmas Svc	24 Christmas Eve Office Closed	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26	
27 Regular Schedule	28	29 10am Judy Strickland prayer group/Sanct.	30 Regular Schedule	31 New Year's Eve			

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***Pastor***

***Ricky Andrews***  
***Deacon Chairman***

***Carrie Sellers***  
***Youth Director***

***Lenore Strickland***  
***Secretary***

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***Christmas Cantata***  
***“He’s Still the  
King of Kings”***  
***Sunday, December 13***  
***During the worship Service***



***“Just a Little Christmas”***  
***Christmas Program***  
***Sunday, December 13***  
***6pm***  
***Don’t miss out on this special event as we  
give glory to Jesus Christ and celebrate His  
birth. Refreshments and a special guest will  
follow the program.***