



# From the Pastor's Desk

It is hard to believe that December is already here. It seems as if we just celebrated the New Year and we are about to usher in another. This will be the ninth Christmas that Annette and I celebrate with our Baptist Tabernacle Family, and we are more excited, about our future service, than we were the very first day. During this special time of year with the tinsel and glitter and carols and “hohoho’s” and all of the busy activities associated with Christmas, please do not forget the reason for this season! It is so easy to get caught up in the “I must get this done” mentality and completely overlook the unique and precious message of Christmas. Please take time to reflect on the Love of God, for us, and His amazing gift of His Son and the complete life-changing blessing it is! “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord (Luke 2:11).” Remember—This is the reason for this season! May you be blessed with Spiritual bounty and with the generosity of His Spirit as you celebrate the birth of our Redeemer! MERRY CHRISTMAS....We love you all!

Pastor Glen & Annette



## 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)*

### Inside this issue:

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Food for Thought                             | 2         |
| From the Administrative Team, Sense of Humor | 3         |
| Quote, Youth Happenings                      | 4         |
| Did You Know, Missions Team                  | 5         |
| Birthday's & Anniversaries                   | 6         |
| Calendar                                     | 7         |
| Merry Christmas                              | Back Page |

## Food For Thought

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It was a tradition, at my house, that my Daddy would read the story of Christmas on Christmas Eve and I have attempted to continue this special tradition. I always looked forward to hearing my Daddy read from God's word. He didn't "preach" that night; he simply read about the birth of Jesus. What a precious memory!

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. <sup>2</sup>(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup>And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) <sup>5</sup>To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. <sup>6</sup>And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. <sup>7</sup>And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup>And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, <sup>14</sup>Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. Luke 2:1-14 (KJV)



# From the Administrative Team

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The 2017 Baptist Tabernacle Church Missions Budget will be presented for approval in a Special called Church Conference on December 14, 2016.

Budget in this case is a noun 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 that 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.

Although we have not had the Family Ministry Center Mortgage in the past 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 they 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.

The Administrative Team would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We hope that everyone has an enjoyable Christmas Holiday with your families and friends!

Thanks,

Administrative Team

Leaders: Ricky Watson and Kelly Currie

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

## Sense of Humor "Rules For Dieting"

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(During this Christmas Season, with every imaginable food available, we often think about dieting, at some point, so think about these rules for dieting and just enjoy!)

If you eat something and no one sees you eat it, it has no calories. If you drink diet soda with candy bars, the calories in the candy bar are cancelled out by the diet soda. When you eat with someone else, calories don't count as long as you don't eat more than they do. Food used for medicinal purposes never counts, such as hot chocolate, toast, and Sara Lee cheesecake. If you fatten up the people around you, then you look thinner. Movie-related foods do not have additional calories because they are part of the entire entertainment package and are not part of one's personal intake. Examples are Milk Duds, buttered popcorn, Junior Mints, Red Hots and Tootsie Rolls. Cookie pieces contain no calories. The process of breaking cookies causes caloric leakage. Things licked off knives and spoons have no calories if you are in the process of preparing something. Examples are peanut butter on a knife while making a sandwich, or ice cream on a spoon while making a sundae. Foods that have the same color have the same number of calories. For instance, spinach and pistachio ice cream, cauliflower and whipped cream. Note" Chocolate is a universal substitute and may be used in place of any other food.

-Author Unknown-

## Quote:

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“Peace on earth will come to stay, when we live Christmas every day.” Helen Steiner Rice



## Youth Happenings

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### Missions Update:

The youth delivered several frozen meals and provided a fresh meal to the girls at House of Hope last month! We got a chance to briefly meet the girls that live there and the house mom. They were so very appreciative of the meals and they were excited to meet all of our youth. Please continue to be in prayer for the girls and leaders at House of Hope. If you would like more info on how to help House of Hope please visit their website for immediate needs! Thank You !!

### Camp Deposit:

Summer camp has been booked for 18 of us with Team Effort Missions group. Camp is scheduled for June 18-24, 2017 at the Virginia Beach, VA site. **If you have signed up to attend camp please send in your \$50 deposit by November 30th.**

### Youth Christmas Party:

The annual Youth Christmas party will be held Saturday, December 10th from 5:00—9:00 at the home of Bobby and Carrie Sellers. All youth are to bring a 2 liter drink and a \$5 wrapped gift for the gift exchange game. The youth advisory team will be providing the rest of the food, but any other youth parents willing to send other items are appreciated. If you would like to help please let me know what you will provide. **If you are planning on attending the party please RSVP by November 30th** so we can get a count for food!!! Hope to see you all there!!

Thank you again for all your prayers & Support! God Bless. Carrie

## Did You Know!

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The baby Jesus was wrapped in Swaddling clothes. This was a practice in Roman times when clothing and strips of fabric were wrapped about a baby to hold its arms and legs immobile, straightening and strengthening the body.



## Missions Team

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THANK YOU!!! THANK YOU!! THANK YOU! TO EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED IN ANY WAY DURING OUR ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL THIS YEAR!

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!! THAT IS HOW WE WANTED TO START OUT THIS MISSION TEAM REPORT.

We hope all of you had a wonderful day of fun and fellowship on November 12th at our annual Fall Fest.. God so blessed that day! We raised over \$13,000 (with more still coming in). Your Mission Team wants you to know that 50% of this money raised has been designated to go to the N.C. Baptist Men's Organization for flood victim relief from Hurricane Matthew. The remaining portion of monies raised will be distributed to multiple mission projects in Johnston County, such as Clayton area Ministries, House of Hope, Smithfield Rescue Mission and Women's Shelter, and the Angel Tree of Johnston County, just to name a few. Please be in prayer for your Mission Team as we make decisions and for the lives of all the people that this money will help and may it change their situation for the better, as well as open their eyes to God's true love through your generosity.

Everyone, please remember that first and foremost, God wants us to love one another as he has loved us!! Bless someone today, if it is just with a smile and a "God loves you!"

Again, THANK YOU from your Mission Team for all of your support and, remember, it is never too late to join us in spreading God's blessings!!

# Interesting Bible Facts

The word "Lord" appears 1855 times in the Bible. The word "God" appears in every book except Esther and Song of Solomon.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**



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

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

*December*

|      |                           |
|------|---------------------------|
| 5th  | Harold & Margaret Andrews |
| 9th  | Ryan & Brooke Hargreaves  |
| 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 2016

|                                  | Sun  | Mon   | Tue                                 | Wed | Thu | Fri  | Sat  |
|----------------------------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|--|--|
|                                  |  |   |                                     |     | 1   | 2  | 3<br><i>6 pm Deacons<br/>Christmas party</i> |
| 4 Regular Service                | 5 6:30 pm Baptist Men  | 6 10 am Triple L-<br>Prepare meal                             | 7 Regular Service                   | 8   | 9   | 10   |  |
| 11 Pastor Glen @<br>Robinwood    | 12 7 pm Leadership<br>Team Meeting   | 13 10 am Judy Strick-<br>land Prayer Group                    | 14 Regular Service                  | 15  | 16  | 17 7 pm Children's<br>Christmas play/party<br>with special guest |  |
| 18 Christmas Cantata             | 19 1 pm Vera Hocutt<br>Prayer Group<br>7 pm Administrative<br>Team Meeting | 20 10 am Triple L-<br>Fun, Games, Lunch<br>7 pm Levada Driver | 21 Regular Service<br>Winter Begins | 22  | 23  | 24   |  |
| 25 10 am Worship<br>Service only | 26 7 pm Deacons<br>meeting   | 27 Judy Strickland<br>Prayer Group                            | 28 Regular Service                  | 29  | 30  | 31 New Years Eve   |  |

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## What is Christmas

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For many, Christmas is the time to think of Jesus Christ as a baby in a manger. While the birth of Christ is a special and miraculous event, it isn't the primary focus. The central truth of the Christmas story is this: **"The Child of Christmas is God."**

It's that time of year again. December has come and with it all the joys of Christmas. But what is the real meaning of Christmas? Is it the gifts under the tree, the lights in the windows, the cards in the mail, turkey dinners with family and friends, snow in the yard, stockings hanging in the living room, and shouts of "Merry Christmas" to those who pass us in the streets? Is this really Christmas?

For many people, Christmas is a time of sorrow. They don't have the extra money to buy presents for their children, family, and friends. Many are saddened at Christmas time when they think of their loved ones who will not be able to come home for various reasons. Turkey dinners may be only a wish and not a reality for some.

Yet, Christmas can be a season of great joy. It is a time of God showing His great love for us. It can be a time of healing and renewed strength. You see, Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of the Christ child. God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to be born. His birth brought great joy to the world. Shepherds, wise men, and angels all shared in the excitement of knowing about this great event. They knew this was no ordinary baby. The prophets had told of His coming hundreds of years before. The star stopped over Bethlehem just to mark the way for those who were looking for this special child.

