

Here to Serve

IOTLA

BAPTIST CHURCH

Volume 7 Issue 6
December 1, 2023

Knowing God
Growing in relationship
to Him
Going into the world in
His name and with his
message
Showing others how
they can do the same.

SPECIAL DATES:

Dec 4th

Christmas Shopping

Dec 5th

JOY Group

Dec 7 - Deacon's Meeting

Dec 10 - Church Conference

Dec 14 Christmas

Committee's Dinner

Dec 17 Children's Program

Dec 20 Wednesday Night

Finger Food Feast

Dec 24 Christmas Cantata

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR

In the two thousand plus years and many generations that have passed since God sent His Son into the world to be born of a virgin, most of us adults have heard the "Christmas story" so familiarly that it holds little wonder for us as we hear it now. I enjoy hearing Patrick retell me each Sunday afternoon what he's learned about that first Christmas in Children's Church. It's a reminder to me that it isn't just old hat to him. As I read about the possibility of partnership with our IMB missionaries which we'll have throughout the month of December, so that the good news of great joy might go out to all people, I'm reminded that it isn't taken for granted by many of the 67 new people groups around the world who were engaged by Southern Baptist missionaries in 2022 or the 178,177 people who became Christians last year as a result of these divine engagements. The same good news of great joy which the angels heralded to the shepherds just outside the little town of Bethlehem in 4-6 BC is still transforming lives now and for eternity, all over the world. May the Lord grant us ears to hear the gospel of Jesus with fresh, unspeakable joy, and may He compel us by that same joy to go, as did those shepherds, and make known the statement (message) which has been told us about this child (Jesus).

For His Glory: Pastor Brandon



**"You can see the world standing tall,
but to witness the Savior, you have
to get on your knees. So at the birth
of Jesus, while the theologians
were sleeping and the elite
were dreaming and the successful
were snoring, the meek
were kneeling."**

~Max Lucado

JOY Group

The JOY Group is busy preparing for Christmas. On Tuesday, December 5th at 1:00 PM they will meet to decorate mini (18") Christmas trees to take to the Nursing Homes. They will also take to the Nursing homes small (3") nativity scenes to those who would like to have a reminder of Jesus' birth all year long. Treat baskets will be made for others who are shut-in. It is the season of giving and the JOY Group is hard at work. Come and join them on December 5th. Your help will be appreciated.

**"The measure of a life, after all, is not its
duration but its donation."**

~Corrie Ten Boom

Let's Celebrate

Anniversaries

◆ Jack & Gloria Zimmerman	12/06	◆ Steve Norton	12/12
◆ Tommy & Pat Bennett	2/07	◆ Connie Walton	12/14
◆ Sam & Lisa SanGregory	12/12	◆ Bennie Sanders	12/18
◆ Hugh & Gaye Blaine	12/15	◆ Pat Smith	12/20
◆ Jim & Sue Hedden	12/24	◆ Addie Bleckley	12/21
◆ Wayne & Barbara Lynch	12/28	◆ Benjamin Bleckley	12/22

Birthdays

◆ Debbie Shuler	12/02	◆ Beverly PanInd	12/27
◆ Trevor Trammel	12/04	◆ John Tippet	12/27
◆ Margaret Willoughby	12/08	◆ Tammy Dills	12/31
◆ Nancy Krag	12/09	◆ Sam SanGregory	12/31
◆ Charlie Leatherman	12/09	◆ Geneva Shuler	12/31

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CHRISTMAS FINGER FOOD FEAST

On Wednesday, December 20th, we will celebrate Christmas with a "Finger Food Feast". Come and bring your favorite finger food. We will eat, fellowship and have a devotion. We will remain in the Fellowship Hall for the prayer time. The children will have their regular program and Choir practice will follow at 7:00 PM. Everyone...come and joins us .

Christmas Committee

The Christmas committee is busy working on plans for the holiday. Our shopping day will be December 4th at 5pm, meet at Walmart! Our dinner for our families we are sponsoring will be on December 14th at 5pm.

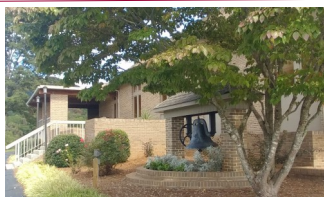
If there is anyone in our community that needs assistance please do not hesitate to reach out.

Please continue to fill our food baskets, we appreciate your help!

Tammy Dills - Christmas Comm.

IOTLA BAPTIST CHURCH

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Upcoming Mission and Prayer Opportunities

- Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
- Pray for and participate in the plans the Christmas Committee has made to serve and show love to some adults in our community. If you have not brought food or gift cards there is still time! The Christmas Dinner is scheduled for December 14th with food, a devotion and singing of Christmas carols.
- Continue to pray for pastors and churches located in Usantan, Guatemala.

YOUTH NEWS

During November, we had the honor and privilege of honoring our Lord in a very special way. One of our students, Christian Christy, was baptized on November 19. We want to praise Jesus for His amazing work in this young man's life and continue to pray for him as he walks with the Lord.

Looking forward, there are two dates to keep in mind. Wednesday, December 20, we will be having a Christmas meal as a church family. During that time the students will have the option to enjoy movie night in the youth room as a time of fellowship and fun together as a ministry unit. Also, on Wednesday January 10, there will be a parent meeting in the youth room. The meeting will be held during the Wednesday evening meal time, parents/guardians are encouraged to bring their meal to the youth room where we will discuss several important topics and events that involve the future of our student ministry.

Please continue to pray for our students, remember that our students look to older generations as an example of Godly living. Your prayers, support, encouragement, and example are greatly valued and appreciated.

Many blessings, Trevor Trammel

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Impacting Lostness Together

As we enter the Christmas season and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ it is also the month that Southern Baptists join in prayer and financial support for IMB missionaries. This is accomplished through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering!

Lottie Moon was sent as a Southern Baptist missionary to China from 1873 to 1912. She saw firsthand the world's greatest problem — LOSTNESS. Meeting so many people who had never heard the gospel compelled her to write letters to American churches describing the need for a greater missionary presence.

She pleaded for increased prayer and financial support to send and sustain more missionaries. This challenge became known as the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

Iotla Baptist members know the importance of praying for and financially supporting missionaries. Your prayers and your gifts are what enables the International Mission Board to send thousands all over the world to reach the lost.

How can you participate in the offering?

- Pray for Missionaries during the Week of Prayer – December 3 – 10 (Use the Prayer Guide provided in your church bulletin).
- Pray for Iotla Baptist goal of \$5,500 and your part in the offering.
- Bring your spare change and place in the **Lottie Moon Bank** during the month of December! The bank is exactly 4' 3" in size which was Lottie Moon's height.
- Check out materials at the display located in the vestibule. Go to www.imb.org and read about the missionaries and their work to reach the lost that **you** are helping to support.

Melissa Leatherman — CoChair MS/CI Team



CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

Sunday, December 17th, the morning service will be turned over to our children to bring the news of the birth of Jesus and then on Christmas Eve Sunday the choir will perform the cantata, *What Christmas Really Means*. Come and support our choir. They spend many weeks getting ready for a cantata.



Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to each and every one who contributed to our Operation Christmas Child shoe box collection. Each of these boxes will touch the life of a child. Thank you to Geneva Shuler for once again providing the beautiful toboggans for our boxes. We had a total of 144 boxes which included those brought in and the ones completed online. Thank you, thank you!

Tammy Dills - OCC Coordinator

PRAYER LIST

Church Members

Mildred Asby
 Hugh & Gaye Blaine
 Branch Buchanan Family
 Raleigh Buchanan
 Mary Jo Campbell
 Elka Gibbs
 Jonathan Gibson Family
 Charlie Leatherman
 Emma Lovett
 David Pangle
 Joyce, Richie and Family
 Barbara Wilson
 Janis Wilson

Family and Friends

Marcia Crawford
 Chris Dove
 Tony Free
 Johnny Galliher
 Fred & Pam Goldsmith
 Chelsea Heaton
 Johnny & Caralee Henson
 Carson Ilhardt
 Stanley Jacobs
 Dina Jones
 Mildred McSwain
 Bill O'Connor
 Linda Parker
 Richard & Bea Perry
 Carson Rowland
 JoAnn Runyon
 Sonya Shook
 Ron Slagle Family
 June Sorrells
 Mary Stockton
 Morris Stockton
 Linda Straufe
 Welch Family
 Bruce Wilson, Jr.
 Ann Wood

