



God's Country Tidings

Blackwater Baptist Church

www.blackwaterbaptist.org

December 2008

Christmas Thoughts

Stores have been playing Christmas songs for weeks and neighbors are already draping their homes with lights and the new enormous blow up ornaments. Some of us are feeling the pressure of traveling, buying gifts for loved ones, and preparing for one of our favorite holidays of the year. I sometimes wonder if we miss the point of this over-commercialized holiday.

One particular story that I love during the holidays is the classic, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* by Dr. Seuss. I love the transformation that happens in his heart. Here is my favorite part of the story: "And the Grinch, with his Grinch-feet ice cold in the snow, stood puzzling and puzzling, how could it be so? It came without ribbons. It came without tags. It came without packages, boxes or bags. And he puzzled and puzzled 'till his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before. "What if Christmas," he thought, "doesn't come from a store? What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more?"

Christmas means a whole lot more! The greatest gift did not come in a package, a box, or from a store. It came from God who sent His Son in the person of Jesus Christ to give us eternal life. The best part of

this gift is that it is for everyone who will accept Him. The Bible tells us that God "wants all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth." (1 Tim 2:4) Who would deny such an awesome gift? Who would neglect such an offering? Who would keep this gift for themselves and not share it with others?

Do not let the buzz of Christmas overwhelm and distract from cherishing the most amazing gift of all. It is my prayer that Christ transforms your heart this Christmas as you recognize the hope, joy, and love the Savior brings.

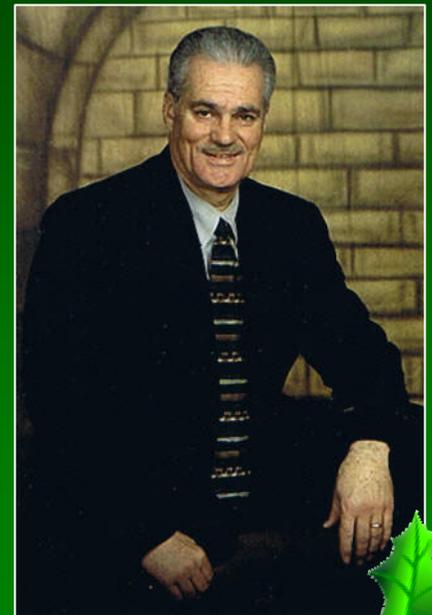
Share Him this Christmas!
Pastor Bill

Try something new this Christmas...

- Secretly plant a large blow up ornament in a friend's yard
- Volunteer to be a Salvation Army Bell Ringer
- Create your own white Christmas by renting a snow maker
- Exchange gifts after Christmas to save lots of money
- Wear a Santa hat every time you shop
- Invite your neighbor to church
- Eat a bowl of oyster stew for breakfast Christmas morning (*Mandy's recommendation*)



Royce Williams
Christmas Concert
December 7th, 6:30 pm



Christmas Play
December 14th, 6:30 pm

See inside for more details.



Christmas Play!

This year's Christmas Play will be something you won't want to miss. It is filled with heartfelt moments in which the Christmas Spirit will escalate in the performers and audience.

The play, "Christmas in Iraq" is about a young boy who struggles with his Dad being sent off to Iraq at Christmas time and at the same time he struggles with the fact he hasn't been saved or baptized. First he turns away from the Lord, blaming Him as humans often do. But something changes and as he grows closer to the Lord, he realizes how much he really wants to place the safety of his spiritual life and his Dad's physical life into the hands of Jesus.

The cast, children's choir, adult choir, and stage crew are filled with very talented members of Blackwater Baptist Church! Everyone is working so hard and with the right spirit it is sure to be a success and a testimony to Christ and the true meaning of Christmas.

The play will take place at 6:30 pm on Sunday, December 14. Please come join us for the performance!

Wednesday Night Child Care

Child care is now offered every Wednesday during the Adult's Prayer & Bible Study at 6:30 pm for infants through 6th grade, so come out and bring the whole family. This will be a semi-structured time including songs, a Bible lesson, games, and free play. Our vision is that this will be a bridge to developing a more organized children's ministry with separate classes for each age group.

Opportunities are also available for adults interested in serving in this area. If you are interested, see Pastor Greg or Pastor Bill.

Altar Flowers

Anyone who is interested in placing flowers at the altar may do so by putting their name on the Altar Flower Calendar in the back hallway on the bulletin board. If you would like to place them in honor or memory of someone to be put in the church bulletin please contact Judy Burns. Her phone number is 757-635-0925. If you have any questions, please contact Alice Savage at 757-421-2284 or e-mail alicesavage@cox.net.

Business Meeting

January 25th
Fellowship meal @ 6 pm
Meeting @ 6:30 pm





Operation Christmas Child
A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE

We collected 44 Christmas shoe boxes! That's 44 children getting a Christmas present this year! Thank you Blackwater!!



You also raised \$803.85 for the Life's Christmas Shoes!! That's 241 pairs of shoes!! Life's total goal was 200,000! What a great help!

A LITTLE CHURCH WITH A BIG HEART!!

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Every year around this time, we have poinsettia sales and the Christmas card distribution where the proceeds go to support the Lottie Moon Christmas offering. Thank you for your contributions to help this mission offering.

Have you ever wondered, "just who is Lottie Moon?" Read on. . .

Lottie Moon was born Charlotte Diggs on December 12, 1840 in Albemarle County, Virginia.



Her schooling took place at the Virginia Female Seminary mastering the languages of Greek, Latin, Italian, French, and Spanish. Knowing God's calling her to missions at a very young age she could not get appointed because only wives of missionaries were accepted. Her sister, Edmonia, was appointed to Tengchow, China in 1872 so Lottie was able to join her in 1873 at age 33.

She served as a missionary to Tengchow and P'ingtu for 39 years. Her nicknames, besides Lottie,

WMUTM

News

were "foreign devil," "foreign lady teacher," "heavenly book lady," and "the cookie lady." The cookies were to gain trust of children and their parents even with warnings she may poison them!

Lottie was described as a tireless, fearless, forceful but very human missionary. Her writings to home told of China's hunger for the truth and the need for more missionaries to spread the word of Jesus. The choice of starvation so others could eat during the 1912 war caused her health to fail. She died on a ship that was to take her home on December 24, 1912 in the Japanese harbor of Kobe.

Her accomplishments include leading the campaign to end the Chinese practice of binding feet. The Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) was inspired by her and the Southern Baptist offerings for this mission later name it after her.

Centennial-Jenny McClain Circle

We held our September meeting at Angie's restaurant with six members present. We enjoyed a nice lunch. Opening the meeting, our President had a scripture from the Bible and had prayer.

We discussed our missions for the month. We each filled a baby bottle for Life Change and we also made a donation to the Alma Hunt fund. We made a donation to the Smith family for the loss of their home. Cards, visits and calls were made to shut ins.



Ruth Walden Circle

The Ruth Walden Circle is still small in number but carrying on our mission work as usual.

Doris McClain sends several cards each month to the sick and shut-ins. We are taking turns to take meals to Joyce Meiggs since she returned home.

We participated with WMU projects, including filling baby bottles, the Christmas shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child, and we gave to Life's Christmas "Croc shoe" mission project. We also made a donation to the MS Society in honor of Joyce Meiggs.

We will be having our Christmas luncheon at The Lucky Oyster. In January we will feed the Ruritans.

Christmas blessings to all of our friends!



December 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Anne Askew Don Horsley Robert & Susan Kovacs	2 Violet Jensen Anne Stone	3 Prayer Service, 6:30 pm Praise Team, 7:30 Mack & Bonnie Satterthwaite	4	5 Robert & Martha Goodman	6 Steve Jones
7 ROYCE WILLIAMS CHRISTMAS CONCERT, 6:30 pm Services: 8:45 & 11 am Sunday School: 10 am Adabelle Riddick Don Talbott	8 Nancy Jones	9 Phyllis Arth Matthew Lopes Kenneth & Gladys Brown	10 Prayer Service, 6:30 pm Praise Team, 7:30	11	12 Ricky Askew Sue Shirley Sheilah Walker Kenneth Washington	13
14 CHRISTMAS PLAY, 6:30 pm Services: 8:45 & 11 am Sunday School: 10 am Twylla Williams	15	16 Walter Cardwell Jimmy & Shirley Falls	17 Prayer Service, 6:30 pm Praise Team, 7:30 Corinne McClain	18	19 Mary Cardwell Vivian Tucker	20 Jake Wesson Barbee
21 Services: 8:45 & 11 am Sunday School: 10 am	22 Shirley Cardwell	23 Matthew Dailey	24 Prayer Service, 6:30 pm Praise Team, 7:30 Kenneth & Pat Washington	25 Merry Christmas! Allison Cole John & Helen Swan	26 Diane Crawford Michael & Pam Ives	27 J.W. Askew Pat Riddick Hollie Schratwieser
28 Services: 8:45 & 11 am Sunday School: 10 am Dave & Ethel Bryant Charlie & Marie Hughes	29	30 Bill Cole Kathy Gibbs	31 Prayer Service, 6:30 pm Angela & Gary Gregory			

January 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Pete Dozier Ella Silverthorne Greg & Gaye Hammer	2 Lana Murphy	3 Shane Horsley
4 Services: 8:45 & 11 am Sunday School: 10 am	5 Laura Tebault	6	7 Prayer Service, 6:30 pm Praise Team, 7:30	8 Parker Hammer Judy Scott	9	10 Austin & Alice Savage Archie & Ella Silverthorne
11 Services: 8:45 & 11 am Sunday School: 10 am Catherine Dailey Sherry Luchs	12	13	14 Prayer Service, 6:30 pm Praise Team, 7:30 Lindsey Frazier	15 Richard & Connie Dailey	16	17 Jean Siebert
18 Services: 8:45 & 11 am Sunday School: 10 am Susan Parsons Cathy Sales	19 Fred Barcroft Ralph Frost Joan Hoening Suzanne Whitehurst	20	21 Prayer Service, 6:30 pm Praise Team, 7:30 Royce & Nancy Leary	22 Earl Walker	23 Diane Horsley Ronnie Parsons Joyce Sherman Randolph Whitehurst	24
25 Services: 8:45 & 11 am Sunday School: 10 am Business Meeting: Fellowship Meal, 6 pm, Mtg, 6:30 pm	26	27 Gary & Susan (Highsmith) Barbee	28 Prayer Service, 6:30 pm Praise Team, 7:30 Billy Shirley	29	30	31 New Year's Eve John Swan

**IDENTIFICATON
STATEMENT**

**God's Country Tidings
Newsletter**

December 2008

www.blackwaterbaptist.org

Published monthly by:

Blackwater Baptist Church

6000 Blackwater Road

Virginia Beach, VA 23457



**Get the Newsletter
Via E-mail!**

Email jenriddle@cox.net to receive the newsletter via email.

Sending the newsletter via email helps defray the cost of printing and postage.

If you do not wish to receive the newsletter, please send an email (to jenriddle@cox.net) or send a letter to the church address.

Blackwater Baptist Church

6000 Blackwater Road

Virginia Beach, VA 23457