

DECEMBER 2023

The Messenger



CURT'S CORNER

Dr. Curt Kruschwitz

Waiting doesn't come naturally to us. Our preschool-aged boys remind us how difficult waiting is for them. "What, Daddy? 10 more minutes? But I don't want it to be 10 more minutes. Waiting is boring." And they're not alone. We may hide it better, but waiting for something you really want doesn't become easier as a person ages.

But the Bible would challenge my sons' notion about waiting: waiting does not have to be boring. According to the scriptures, waiting plays a vital role in our spiritual life. And that's why the church has historically observed Advent. Advent comes from the Latin word *Adventus*, which means, "to prepare." The season of Advent is designed to guide our waiting for the Christ, to help us prepare for his coming, and to help us prepare our hearts to receive Him. The Advent rituals we participate in, such as daily scripture reading and prayer, call us to pull back from the hustle and bustle of life and spend some time reflecting, so that we can prepare our hearts to truly receive the Christ.

We've got some of our own Advent rituals at Goochland Baptist that are designed to help you prepare your heart for Christmas. I'll be leading an Advent Bible study on Wednesdays entitled, "Sing We Now of Christmas." Each week, we'll look at a line from a popular Christmas carol and examine its biblical origins. As we do, we'll more fully appreciate the biblical themes that define Advent and Christmas.

Worship during Advent will look a little bit different, too.

We'll light the Advent candles each week and consider the great Advent themes of hope, peace, joy, and love. Community Table will also be Christmas-themed this month.

Another Advent tradition at GBC is giving back to those who need it most. Each year we give gifts to those we love, but Advent invites us to give to those who need help the most. To that end, our missions committee has put together Goochland Baptist's "Giving Map" - a map designed to help you give to those who need help most both in our community and around the world. You can read about it on page 7. I hope you'll consider giving as you're able, because there's something about giving in Christ's name that enriches both the recipient and the giver.

And there's a lot of other fun stuff happening, as well: Our children are having a Christmas party on December 9; Our youth are having one on Sunday, December 10; And of course, you won't want to miss our Christmas play coming up this Sunday, December 3. It's entitled *Make Room: The Innkeeper's Story*. Written by our own Jessica Stanley, it's a drama enacted by your church family designed to remind you of the meaning of Christmas. Join us for a night of laughter, song, and mystery as we celebrate Christmas together. We'll have hors d'oeuvres and a time of fellowship afterwards. Perhaps the most

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PRAYER MINISTRY:

If you would like to receive our weekly prayer requests, email goochlandchurch@gmail.com



WEEKLY EMAILS:

If you are not receiving our weekly emails and Sunday sermons and would like to, email goochlandchurch@gmail.com

Address:

2454 Manakin Road Manakin-Sabot, VA 23103

Church Office:

804-749-3522

Email:

Goochlandchurch@gmail.com

Website:

www.goochlandchurch.org

Facebook:

GoochlandBaptistChurch

Dr. Curt Kruschwitz

Pastor

Rev. Sharon Condrey

Minister to Families

SHARON'S UPDATES

Rev. Sharon Condrey

In Celtic Christian spirituality, the concept of "thin spaces" refers to places or moments where the boundary between the physical world and the spiritual realm becomes more permeable. In these spaces, individuals sense a heightened connection to the divine, experiencing a closeness to God and a deeper spiritual awareness, fostering a sense of the sacred.

A family's celebration of Christmas provides a unique opportunity for experiencing a "thin space"- an opportunity for a spiritual encounter with the divine. Establishing a spiritual practice within your family's Christmas celebration can help reinforce the true essence of this festive season: the commemoration of the most precious gift, Immanuel—God with us. While numerous ideas for family spiritual practices for Christmas are available online, one simple yet meaningful practice to incorporate into your Christmas season is a Christmas Tree Blessing.

Ideally performed before the tree is decorated, gather everyone together to share a blessing for the tree. Traci Smith, in her book, *Faithful Families: Creating Sacred Moments at Home*, suggests the following blessing: "God who created the birds in the air, the fish in the sea, the stars in the sky, and the trees in the ground, bless this tree as we decorate it and make it a joyful symbol in our home. May its branches remind us of the shade and shelter you provide for us and for many creatures. May its trunk remind us of your strength. May its lights bring us peace. May we remember your gift to us this season, the gift of the baby Jesus. Amen."

This tradition allows families to infuse a moment of spirituality into the tradition of decorating the tree, and might just allow for a "thin space" moment where the divine realm breaks into our earthly one. I pray that this Christmas season will bring many blessings to your family.

CURT | CONT. FROM PAGE 1

beloved Christmas tradition of all is our Candlelight Christmas Eve service. It's a short but powerful family-friendly service where we sing the old carols and celebrate the mystery and miracle of Christmas. You won't want to miss it.

Waiting isn't always easy, but it's meant to be purposeful. My hope is that you'll make this Advent a season of purpose, too - That you'll find ways you can use the next few weeks to prepare your heart to receive Christ anew.



Children will be learning the following "Need to Know" truths:

Dec 3 | I Can Believe God

Dec 10 | God Can Do Anything

Dec 17 | God Has a Plan

Dec 24 | I Can Celebrate Jesus

Dec 31 | Put on God's Armor

Memory Verse: "Thanks be to God for His gift that is too wonderful for words." 2 Corinthians 9:15

Youth Group!

SUNDAYS

December Schedule

12/3 – No Youth

Christmas Play @ 5:00 pm

12/10 – Youth Christmas Celebration

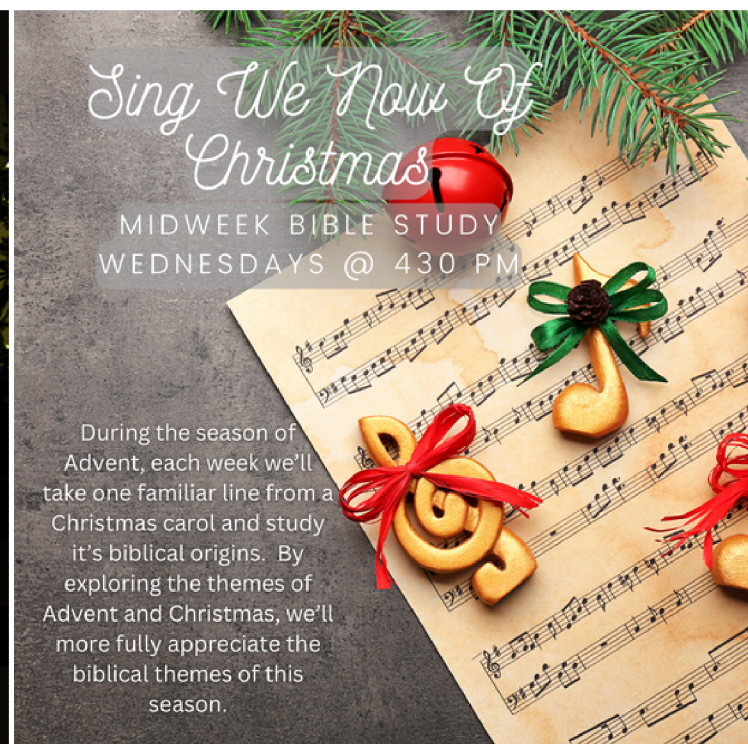
Leaving church @ 11:00 am

12/17 – Youth Group

The Spauldings' @ 6:00 pm

12/24 – No Youth

Christmas Eve Service @ 5:30 pm



Come Join Us! **Wednesdays Nights**

Dec 6th | Christmas Trivia

Get into the Christmas spirit with some friendly competition

Dec 13th | Christmas Packets Project

Assembling Christmas Packets for our homebound members

Dec 20th & 27th | NO Meetings

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

DECEMBER 2023



Parents, don your children in
their Xmas Pjs and drop them off
in the MPR for some holiday fun!
(Dinner included)

Saturday, December 9th
@ 5-8 pm

Children's Christmas
pajama
PARTY

*Youth Christmas
Celebration*

SUNDAY DECEMBER 10TH
(LEAVING CHURCH @ 11:00 AM)

LUNCH - ESCAPE ROOM - GIFT EXCHANGE!*

**Contact Pastor Sharon for more details.*

December Sunday Serving Schedule

GREETERS

- DEC 3** John Webb, Teresa Kessler , and Diane Proctor
- DEC 10** Gayle Stanley, Jim Fields, and Gale Chaisson
- DEC 17** Betty Meador, Justin Lingerfelt, and Betsy Alvis
- DEC 24** Steve Novak, Teresa Kessler, and Jessica Stanley
- DEC 31** George Koch & Janet Koch

USHERS

- DEC 3** Justin Lingerfelt, Hope Webb & Cameron Bassett
- DEC 10** Wayne Melton, Diane Proctor & Justin Lingerfelt
- DEC 17** John Webb, Elizabeth Bowers & Nicole Lingerfelt
- DEC 24** Gwen Padgett, Jean Fields & Gerry Nuckols
- DEC 31** Al Henley, Amy Robinson & George Koch

**GOOCHLAND
CARES**
Free Clinic and Family Services

2024

Volunteer Days:

**Starting Jan 27th, join
us the 4th Saturday of
each month, 8-11am!**

**Contact Shannon Wilson,
shannonwilson3@mac.com**

DEACON MINUTES

Teresa Kessler

In December, we focus on the story of the nativity, the birth of Christ Jesus, the Son of God, who became a human being with fleshly body, while remaining God. As we think about the story I want to focus on the angels in the story.

The word angel derives from the Greek *angelos*, meaning messenger. The word suggests goodness and is often used to refer to someone who offers comfort and aid to others in times of trouble.

In the book of Luke, we read the angel, Gabriel, appears to Mary, a virgin who is pledged to marry a man named Joseph. He announces that she is to give birth to a son and name him Jesus. At first Mary is troubled by the news but verse 30 says, "But the angel says to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God.'" Mary listens to the angel and then responds that she is the Lord's servant, believes that God is with her, and sings praises to God.

We also know that when Joseph, who was pledged to marry Mary, learned that she was pregnant, had decided to quietly divorce her. But again, God sent an angel to speak to Joseph. Matthew 1:20 tells us "But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.'"

And one other time during the nativity story God sends angels to announce his son's birth. Luke 2 gives the account of an angel appearing to the shepherds, announcing the birth of Christ, the Lord. And then a multitude of angels appeared and said, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace to men on whom his favor rests." (Luke 2:14 NIV)

I love how God used angels as messengers to Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds. Their focus was on relaying God's word and praising Him. We should learn a lesson from the angels. Although we are not spiritual beings, we can be God's messengers. In fact, we are instructed to go forth and spread the Good News. During this wonderful Christmas season look for ways that you can spread the Good News to others. Make time to study God's word and spend time praising Him for all your blessings. Help those around you. Give to those who are in need. Be compassionate to those around you. Share God's love. Have a blessed and joyful Christmas.



FAMILY FUN WITH A PURPOSE
Christmas Edition!

Saturday, December 16th

What: Assembling "Blessing Bags" for Goochland Cares

Who: Preschoolers, Children, Youth, and their Families

Where: The Spaulding's Home
18563 Willoughby Heights Lane, Rockville

HAPPY Birthday

December 2	C.J. Michels
December 8	Rick Denning
December 9	Jim Fields
December 11	Nancy Nelson
December 14	Pauline Toney
December 15	Barbara Orrock
December 19	Emma Arnold Kendal Michels
December 21	Brenda Allen
December 22	John Edwards
December 25	Jackie Powell
December 28	Marcialyn Ellis Lynn Hayes
December 29	Bobby Townsend
December 31	Phyllis Henley



**GBC Christmas Card
Post Office**

Open Nov 26 - Dec 24

The "Post Office" will be located in
the Foyer of the New Life Building.

The last day to drop-off is 12/24
and the last day to pick up is
12/31.*

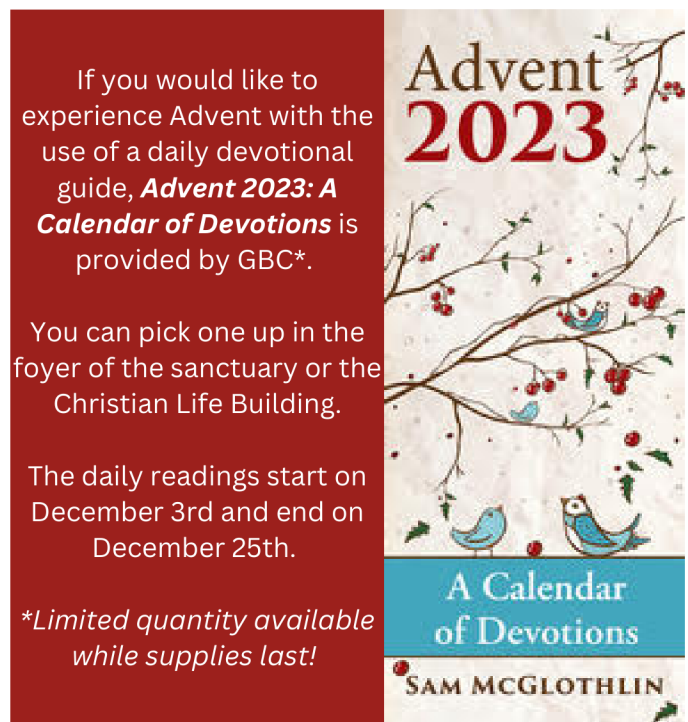
**NOTE: *No letters will be sent via the US
Postal System.
*Uncollected cards will be recycled on
Sun 12/31/23.**



*Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service*

*Join us as we celebrate the
mystery and miracle of Christmas!*

**Sunday, December 24th
5:30pm in the Sanctuary**



If you would like to
experience Advent with the
use of a daily devotional
guide, **Advent 2023: A
Calendar of Devotions** is
provided by GBC*.

You can pick one up in the
foyer of the sanctuary or the
Christian Life Building.

The daily readings start on
December 3rd and end on
December 25th.

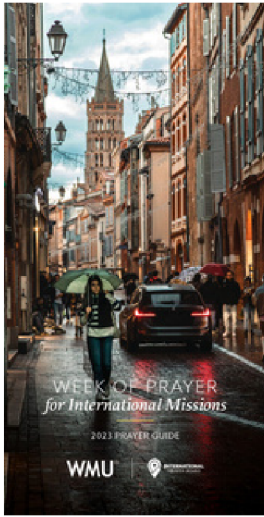
**Limited quantity available
while supplies last!*

**Advent
2023**

**A Calendar
of Devotions**

SAM MCGLOTHLIN

Season of Advent, Season of Giving



Week of Prayer for International Missions Dec 3-10, 2023

Southern Baptists observe a **Week of Prayer for International Missions** each year before the annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering emphasis. The 2023 Prayer Guide is provided in the foyer or the sanctuary and of the Christian Life Center.

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal for GBC is \$500.00. Offering envelopes designated for that offering are provided in the pews as well as in offering envelopes mailed to homes.

The "Giving Map"

"The Lord said to them...you will receive power...and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all of Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:7-8

Add extra joy to your celebration of Jesus' birth through this special opportunity to give to those in need — in His name! Whether it is giving to CARITAS to impact Richmond residents in need, to Central VA Health Services in Louisa, VA as they aid new mothers and their newborns, to VA Baptists disaster relief in Hawaii, or to one of the partnerships around the world established by Virginia Baptists, help yourself and family/friends focus on giving the gift of compassion this Christmas. During November and December, the "Giving Map" will allow our church family to choose from a variety of monetary gift options with a range of price points, each designed to meet a practical need around the world. As needs are "purchased", the ornament depicting that particular need will be moved from the map to a Christmas tree AND the "purchaser" will also be given an identical ornament for their personal tree OR to give as a gift in honor of someone else. The GBC Missions Development Committee will provide a giving guide that you can look over and prayerfully consider where your personal "...Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth" will be for Christmas 2023.



GBC Seniors



JOY CLUB

Annual Banquet

On Friday, December 1st, we began the Christmas season enjoying a wonderful meal and an Ol' fashion sing-along with

"The Christmas Goose & Gander"

By Paul & Lynn Muller

A big "Thank You" to those who made it possible!



▲ November Joy Club

We had a fun, fellowship & good food at Tanglewood Ordinary!

JOY CLUB

Will resume in January 2024!



Be on the lookout for next Month's Joy Club & Senior Outing!

Any questions please call John Webb at 804-334-9270.
www.goochlandchurch.org/senior-adults

DECEMBER 2023 PRAYER REQUESTS

Allen Bowles -- at home

Frances Bradshaw – living at the Laurels Convalescent Center

Linda Gibbs – Linda is in hospice at Beth Shalom.

Scott Hobson -- has multiple myeloma; recovering from foot surgery on November 16

Amos and Judy Johnson – have moved into Vitality Living Assisted Care.

Connie Jones -- heart and lung issues

Lois Lane – diagnosed with myelodysplastic syndrome (blood cancer). She'll be having regular blood transfusions. Feel free to reach out to Lois with cards and calls.

Connie Long

Hazel Melton -- recovering from stroke at home

Rebecca Michels— new trial drugs aren't working anymore. Rebecca is in contact with some others at the NIH about other drug trial options. Rebecca is grateful for the love and prayers of her church family.

Mike Nicholas – recovering from foot surgery at Parham Doctors Hospital on October 20

Morris and Audrey Nuckols – Morris is recovering from foot surgery and Audrey has had muscular problems. Audrey had an outpatient surgery to remove a carcinoma from her leg.

Robert Nuckols – resting at home

Don Powell – receiving in-home nursing care. They welcome prayers but kindly ask for no visitors.

Amy Richardson (Gwen Padgett's aunt) - got good results from her ultrasound last week; awaiting labs later this month

Family & Friends of GBC Members

Jaimie Algood (37 year old friend of Sherry Rosen, wife and mother of 3) – dealing with rare and serious form of cancer; is at MD Anderson in Houston for 31 days of chemo and radiation

Olivia Baker (10 yr old great niece of Betsy Alvis) – bone cancer. Is having skin graft surgery today as her leg isn't healing properly

John Bartlett -- Linda Moore's brother

Larry and Debbie Barrett (parents of Robert and Kitt Townsends' good friends) – both were diagnosed with cancer in the same week

Julia Beaver (friend of Janet Myers) -- has Crohn's Disease and significant weight loss

Travis Brown (Pastor Ken Stalls' good friend) - melanoma

Suzanne Coats - Recovering from back surgery

Marie Condrey (Wade Condrey's aunt) – on hospice

Barbara Cottrell (cousin of Amy Robinson) – health concerns

Megan Curry and family (Nicole Lingerfelt's cousin)

Ann Dalton (friend of Jackie Ford) – has cancer which isn't responding well to chemo

Jerry Fanning (friend of Willy Hall and John Webb) – health concerns

Jimmy Fincham (husband of former member, Sherry Fincham [Hughes]) – just started dialysis and is on a donor list for kidneys and pancreas

Ashley Harper (Wayne and Ellen Melton's daughter-in-law) – Pituitary macro adenoma

Bill and Virginia Hayden (Gayle Stanley's parents) -- health concerns

Kimberly Ann Hill (sister of Mike and Kathy Nicholas' good friends) – stage 2 cancer

Christina Holleman (John Webb's granddaughter) – pray that she continues to improve towards a full recovery, that her awaited brace will allow her safe mobility, that her stamina and pain levels continue to improve, and she's able to find a job to sustain her.

Jean Jearman (Gwen Padgett's cousin) – successful surgery on 11/3/23 and has a follow-up appointment with the surgeon tomorrow. Jean requests that we pray for her daughter who developed an infection after getting some teeth pulled.

Patti Jenkins (Brenda French's sister) – continuing to test to determine extent of cancer. She is weak.

James Jett (Jessica Jett-White's dad)-- has been diagnosed with lymphoma. He started chemo on 7/28. Please keep James, his medical team, Jessica (his daughter), Paul and Colter in your prayers.

Linda Kellum (Rebecca Michels' Mom) – went home at the end of April 2022

Maggie Vaughan Lawrence (Brenda French's friend, a wife/mother in her 30s) – continuing her ongoing cancer treatment.

Alice Miller (Brian Miller's mother) – aging at home, which requires a lot of care from her son, Brian, and his sister, Anita.

Jackie Morrisette (mother of friend of Mike and Kathy Nicholas) – has dementia and resides in Florida

Phillip Nicklas (husband of Brenda French's friend in Washington DC) – doing much better

Neal Purcell (David Purcell's brother) – health issues

Jay Ramsey (William and Lila Hicks' son-in-law) -- diagnosed with liver cancer. Please pray for Jay and his wife Kim, as well as the entire Hicks family.

Mary Rivera (Daisy Purcell's sister) – cancer has returned and is requesting prayers. She's beginning treatment this week.

Wilma Rushing (Brenda French's mother) – fell and broke her hip last Tuesday; had successful hip replacement surgery last Friday. Tested positive for COVID when transferred to rehab, but isn't showing symptoms.

Shirley (friend of a Joy Club member) – has very aggressive bone cancer

Sandra Survello (friend of Tami Ricketts) – Needs prayer while taking cancer radiation treatments everyday for 8 to 12 weeks.

Dolly Vopelak (Ken Stalls' mother in NC) – on hospice

Jackie Woods (family member of Brenda French) – continues immunotherapy. She is almost completely deaf from her brain radiation and struggles to adjust.

Mariam Egbal Yuen (Carla Yuen's daughter-in-law) – recovering from neuropathy

In Sympathy

Our sympathy to **Frankie Melton** on the passing of her mother **Mrs. Fannie Lou Melton**, who passed away on Tuesday, November 28, 2023.

In Congratulations

We give thanks for the birth of **Wesley Evan Palacio**, born to Erin Henley on Tuesday, November 21. We celebrate with Erin's parents, Mert and Phyllis Henley, and great-grandfathers, Al Henley and George Alvis.

We give thanks for the birth of **Knight Preston Roach**, born to Chasey (daughter of Steve & Sherry Rosen) & Elliot Roach (big brother and sister, Jed & Charlie) on Tuesday, November 28. We celebrate with Steve & Sherry on this newest addition.