



CELEBRATE *Christmas*

May Memorial Baptist Church

December 21, 2020 Newsletter

Reaching...Teaching...Touching...in the Heart of Powhatan

3922 Old Buckingham Rd. (804) 598-3098

From the Pastor...

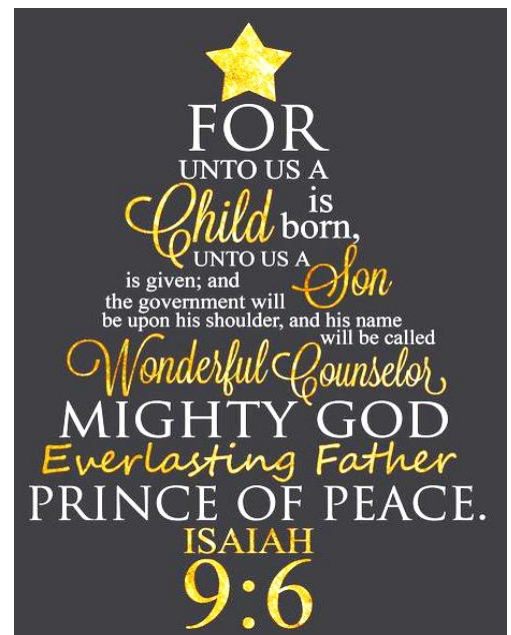
Darkest Day

We have no reason to believe that Jesus was born on December 25. And while the Church has been celebrating "Christ Mass" on December 25 since the fourth century, it is not done so because the Church believes it got the birth date right. Some have tied the date of Christmas to Mary's Annunciation on March 25, and nine months later would be December 25. But most likely the Annunciation Day

celebration on March 25 was derived from the already set Christmas Day celebration on December 25.

The more likely story of a late December celebration of Jesus' birth is a much more complicated story, involving pagan festivals and the tilting of the earth at the winter solstice. This morning, just after four a.m., the Northern Hemisphere reach its farthest distance from the sun. Today is the darkest day of the year, the day with the least amount of time between sunrise and sunset. Today is the winter solstice. And the ancients knew that today is the day, even in its darkness, that the sun would start to "win the battle" over the darkness. Because starting today, each day little by little, the sun will begin to shine a little longer. This was cause for celebration. (continued on page 2)

***Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year!***



From the Pastor (continued from page 1)...

The ancients would take their beverages that had been fermenting since Autumn and drink them in celebration. They would slaughter the animals they didn't want to have to feed and tend through the remaining months of winter. It was a celebration.

Early Christians, noticing these "heathen" celebrations, probably made the decision influenced by these existing customs. Some modern-day Christians are bothered by this story, that the celebration day of our Savior's birth is tied to pagan or "heathen" customs. Some modern-day Christians even reject the celebration of Christmas with its carry-overs because they want nothing to do with a celebration that is a blending of pagan and Christian. But to me, especially this year, it makes perfect sense.

John tells us that "the light shines in the darkness," and celebrating Christ's birth on the darkest day (they didn't get it exactly right, but December 25 is close enough) is a near-perfect picture of exactly what God does in Jesus Christ. Jesus comes to us when things are dark, and the light of Christ shines in the darkness.

We have lived through a dark year, and Christ has continually showed up to share light in the midst of the darkness. The light has not completely overcome the darkness, as John mentions, but the light has been shining all through it.

In the midst of today's darkness, remember that Christ is born. The light is shining in today's darkness, and the darkness cannot and will not overcome the light.

Merry Christmas, the thing for which we have been waiting is already come.

Connecting to Each Other...Fellowship

Join Us for Sunday School on Zoom

Please join in the Zoom Sunday School class each Sunday morning at 9:15 a.m., or view it afterwards online through the May Memorial YouTube channel.

To join by phone: Call (312) 626-6799 Enter: 871 7487 0259



Bible Study on Zoom at 6:30 p.m.

(will resume after the new year)

To join us with any phone: Call (312) 626-6799

Enter this code: 286 978 612



Kingdom Kids Zoom Meeting

(will resume after the new year)

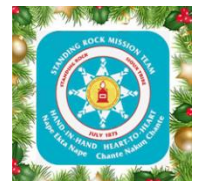
Every Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. we meet online for our Kingdom Kids program and fun!

To join with any phone: Call (312) 626-6799

Enter the meeting code: 277 032 1474

Connecting to the World...Missions

Thank you for your contributions to the Christmas Mission for Standing Rock Indian Reservation! A total of \$1,145.00 was collected.



Announcements and Thank you

Thank You for Your Prayers

Our grandson, Kris Curtis, has been on the prayer list since February when his reserve Navy unit was reactivated and deployed to the Mediterranean Sea for active duty. Kris served as Lieutenant Commander of a fast transport ship and was based in Greece. He returned in November and is now in Alexandria, VA where he will return to his work as a civilian for the Navy in January following some well-earned leave.

Thank you for your prayers during his deployment...they were greatly appreciated.

Best wishes for a blessed Christmas.

Paul and Jackie Lindsey

Office Holiday Hours and Newsletter - In addition to Christmas Day and New Year's Day holidays, the church office will be closed on Wednesday/Thursday December 23 and 24, as well as Tuesday/Wednesday December 29 and 30. Also, there will not be a Newsletter sent on the week between the holidays'.

2021 Offering Envelopes will be placed on a table in the Commons Area. You are welcome to come by the church during office hours to pick them up. The only days the church office is open during Christmas break will be Monday & Tuesday, December 21, 22 and Monday and Thursday, December 28, 31. Office hours are Monday to Thursday 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (doors are locked during lunch 12:00 to 12:30).

December/January Birthdays



22 – Robin Mead
22 – Lisa O'Donnell
25 – Tyler Bilthuis
30 - Bob Wood
30 – Vicki Kruschwitz

2 – Linda Dail
2 – Gwen Hagen
4 – Linda Daniels
6 – Audrey Johnston
6 – Beth Goodwyn

Financial Information Week of December 20, 2020

Regular Offering	\$ 5,145.00
Building Fund	300.00
Lottie Moon	25.00
Memorials	75.00
Special Offering	800.00

Total	\$ 6,345.00
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Building Fund in Memory of Gail DeNoon
Snead DeNoon

Memorials in Memory of Bob Cosby

May Memorial's Prayer List 12/21/20

CHURCH FAMILY:

Barbara Barden
Susie Brock
Joann Cole
Bob Cox
Snead DeNoon
Lee Duncan
Nick Elam
Ester Fitch and Family
Bea & Rick Gallier
Bill Ketron
Bernice Koelzer
Paul Lindsey
Fran O'Donnell
Jim Pinkley
Shirley Stephens
David & Susan Terry
Nancy Wilkinson
Earl & Janice Worsham

MILITARY:

Danny Myers, Brent Templeton, Quint Sutton, David Brizendine, Jeremiah Clift, Nelson Sutton, Justin Donnavon, Austin, Breeden, Caleb Hammer, Adam and Hunter Mitchell, Conner Terrell

HOMEBOUND PRAYER AND CONTACT LIST:

- Janice and Earl Worsham, Auburn Hill Senior Living, 5800 Harbour Ln, Midlothian, VA 23112
- Audrey Johnston, 3901 S. Fairway Drive, Powhatan, VA 23139
- Audrey Mann, The Laurels of Willow Oaks, 11611 Robious Road, Midlothian, 23113
- Jim Pinkley, Currently with Billy and Marlis Kruschwitz
- Jean Hall, 1748 Old Powhatan Estates

FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Estelle Davis, Debbie Elam's mother
Lacie Baggett
Libby Gregg, daughter-in-law of Carol Gregg
Stuart Yeorge
Ben Spoon, Juli Spoon's son-in-law
Matthew Berger, friend of Joy & Juston Sanudo
Clyde Martin, brother of Esther Fitch
Jeff Crews, Susie Brock's brother-in-law
Sheri Sadie, Nancy Flower's Daughter
Bill Casper, Bill Karnolt's brother-in-law
Justin Yancey, Grandson of Irma Alvis
Stephanie Hay, Karen and Ray's daughter-in-law
Janie Dean
Phyllis Lester, Ed Utt's sister
Shawn Neugent, friend of the Sheltons
Lennox Family
Helen Fitzgerald, friend of Diana and B.J. Smith
Chloe, granddaughter of Amy&Bill Karnolt
Nurses, Erin and Melissa, relatives of the Karnolt's
Pam Polk Mottley, Ed Mottley's sister
Randy Kope, grandson of Les and Dianne Miller
Brian Sullivan, nephew of Mike & Bernice Koelzer
Mary, Annie Sparrow's Aunt
Mary Ann David, Debbie Elam's sister-in-law
Teresa Fields
Patricia Vermillion, Jon Flower's sister
Emily, Gene & Sandy Parker's daughter
Chuck Karnolt
Kathy Kuhn, friend of Vicki and Bob Kruschwitz
Davin Ericson, friend of the Cox's
Stephanie Prentice, Nancy Flower's granddaughter
Stuart Howard and Bre
Sue Ellen Hresan, Nancy Richard's sister
Fred Boatwright, Amy Potter's father
Mike Davidson
Randy Blackwell
Family of Bob Cosby
Family of Nelson Richards, Scott Richards' Father