



**Dough Holy Night**

**A deliciously family fun night!**  
**Friday, December 15 | 6 p.m.**  
**Ages: pre-K through 5th grade**

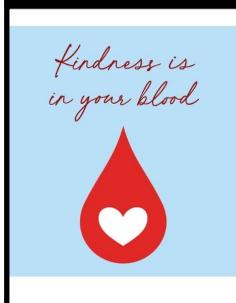
Sign up in the Fellowship Hall, Narthex,  
 or contact the NBC office.



*Items of the Month* **December**

- Soap
- Body Wash
- Shampoo

Advent Devotionals for the month of December are available.

*Kindness is in your blood*

**Blood Donor**  
**Tuesday, December 12, 2023 | 2 - 6 p.m.**  
[redcross.org/give-blood](http://redcross.org/give-blood)

**NBC Host Volunteers**  
**Tuesday, October 17, 2023**  
 Available shifts: 12:30-7 p.m.  
 Sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall

Help save a life.  
 Schedule your blood donation appointment today.



**LONGEST Night SERVICE**

**Thursday 12.21.23 6:00 p.m.**

**Christmas Eve Service**  
**Sunday, December 24, 2023 5:30 p.m.**



*The Nashville Baptist Church Music Ministry*  
*Presents the 3rd Annual*

**Christmas Worship Concert**

SUNDAY | 17 | AT 6:00 PM  
 DECEMBER

Join us for a night of worship through music as we celebrate Christ's birth. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.



**NBC OFFICE CHRISTMAS CLOSED**  
**12.26.23**

**NASHVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH**

# THE BYLINE

## DECEMBER 2023

 512 E. Washington Street  
 Nashville, NC 27856

 252.459.3403

 [nashvillebaptistchurch.org](http://nashvillebaptistchurch.org)

 [admin@nashvillebaptistchurch.org](mailto:admin@nashvillebaptistchurch.org)

# A Note from the Pastor

I still remember my eleventh-grade English teacher, Mrs. Shirly Jo Smith. She was a petite lady with a strong spirit with the look and sound of a traditional Southern lady. Mrs. Smith instilled an appreciation for the love of prose by challenging the class each week to learn a grouping of new words, such as sesquipedalian or bibliophile. Realizing these might not be everyday terms for most of society, the first indicates a tendency to use long words, and the second means a lover of books.

Mrs. Smith also assigned a junior year project centering on the song “Time In a Bottle” by Jim Croce. She challenged the class to create a booklet using the song as a guide. I still remember sitting in her class during my fourth period, right before lunch, listening to the song and hearing the lyrics for the first time:

*If I could save time in a bottle  
The first thing that I'd like to do  
Is to save every day 'til eternity passes away  
Just to spend them with you*

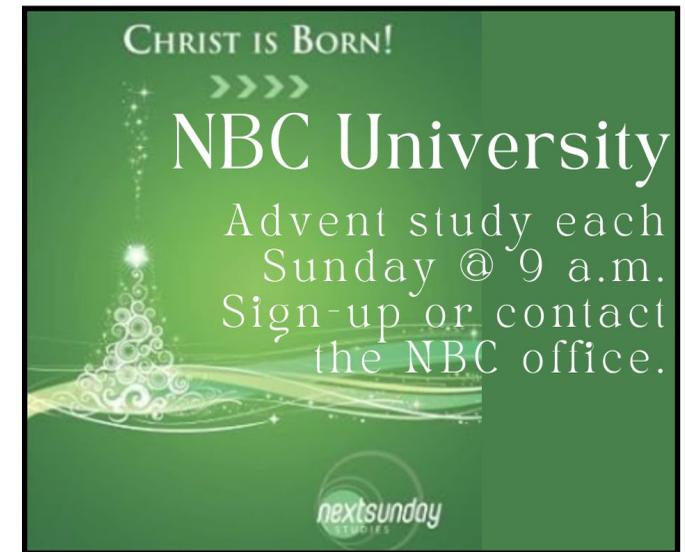
These beautiful lyrics, haunting instrumentation on the guitar, and Croce's unique voice drew me into deep thought. Even as a junior in High School, the song's meaning impacted me.

The lyrics call you to look at life and realize the fleeting existence of life and our wastefulness of the greatest gift provided by the Lord. Time dominates life, and often, the lack of this precious resource. However, time is not lacking; we misuse the resource, for each day provides each person the same gift of hours. What we put into the hours is entirely at our discretion.

As the Advent Season arrives, leading Christians through a time of preparation, there is no better opportunity to consider “Time.” Advent, derived from the Latin *adventus*, means coming or arrival and is not preparation for “Christmas” per se, at least not in the modern understanding. The Season of Advent calls Christians to look at “Time,” past, present, and future. Advent is a time of expectant waiting, looking back in preparation to celebrate the Nativity miracle, the reception of Christ in our hearts today, and looking to the future Second Coming of Christ.

I challenge you to prepare a “Bottle” this Advent Season and fill it with a precious commodity. Place in this bottle memories of past Advent/Christmas Seasons, desires for this present time, and hopes for the future. Center yourself upon the miracle of the Incarnation, God with us, in person, in human form, just like us. This miracle centers our Advent and Christmas worship and focuses the celebrations in a direction away from the secular kidnapping of our holiday.

Make your celebration different this year and turn from a simple holiday observance to a day and Season that is truly HOLY!



#### Office Hours:

Monday: 9 am - 2 pm  
Tuesday: 9 am - 2pm  
Wednesday: 9 am - 2pm  
Thursday: 9 am - 2pm  
Friday: Closed

#### Contact Info:

Main Office | (252) 459-3403  
Email | [admin@nashvillebaptistchurch.org](mailto:admin@nashvillebaptistchurch.org)  
Website | [www.nashvillebaptistchurch.org](http://www.nashvillebaptistchurch.org)



#### Service Times:

Sundays at 10:00am

Join us in worship either in-person or via livestream.

#### Find us Online:



NASHVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH  
512 E. WASHINGTON ST.  
NASHVILLE, NC 27856