

Ringgold Baptist Church

4620 Ringgold Church Road
PO Box 100
Ringgold, VA 24586
Phone: (434) 822-5959
E-mail: office@ringgoldbaptist.org

Return Service Requested



STAFF / SERVICE TIMES / MONTHLY SERVANTS

STAFF	
Pastor.....	Rev. Duane Caldwell
Administrative Secretary.....	Cheryl Hogg
Minister of Music.....	Daniel Wolfe
Minister to Children.....	Stephanie Barts
Minister to Youth.....	Brandon Barts
Organist.....	Ginger Collie
Pianist.....	Leslie Blair
Groundskeeper.....	Doug Motley
Maintenance.....	Kevin Barker

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
Monday - Friday
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

CHURCH SERVICES	
Sunday School	- 9:15 am
Sunday Morning	- 10:30 am
Sunday Evening	- 5:00 pm
Wednesday Evening	- 6:30 pm

Audio - Robby Parker—Larry Collie

Nursery Schedule
12/03 - Brooke and Carl Davis
12/10 - Ashlee and Aidan Hudgins
12/17 - Sherry Shively and Frankie Gilbert
12/24 - Nancy Adams and Mary Mills

Backpack Buddies
Week of December 03— Kitty Anderson and Rebecca Hughes
Week of December 10— Sandra and Mike Gauldin
Week of December 17— Lucy Adkins and Page Reynolds

Ushers - Lawrence Gilbert, Todd Fitts, Tommy Rowland

Bereavement Team
December - Ray and Sara McDowell
January - Sammy and Phyllis McCormick

THE RINGGOLD REFLECTOR

A WORD FROM PASTOR DUANE

Another Thanksgiving has come and gone and Christmas is on the way. Many of us are scurrying around trying to buy Christmas presents or at least trying to figure out what to buy for those special someones. What do you get for your children that they would really enjoy? Small children are easy to buy for. They will tell you what they want and will enjoy most anything you get them. But what do you get for adults? Most of the time if adults want something they go and buy it. So they already have what they want or at least what they think they want. Christmas is really tough sometimes when it comes to getting presents for those you love and really want to make happy because you just don’t know what to buy or just can’t afford what you think might make the recipient happy.

One kindly 90-year-old grandmother found buying presents for family and friends a bit much one Christmas, so she wrote out checks for all of them to put in their Christmas cards. In each card she carefully wrote, "Buy your own present" and then sent them off. After the Christmas festivities were over, she found the checks under a pile of papers on her desk! Everyone on her gift list had received a beautiful Christmas card from her with "Buy your own present" written inside, but without the checks!

For many this year, it will be harder financially to purchase presents for others because of the economic mess we are in due to inflation. When we begin to stress out over getting gifts and making sure we get just the right gift for the right person, we need to remember what Christmas is all about. It is about the gift God gave to us all. You see, God didn’t wonder about what we would want to make us happy. He knew we really didn’t know what we wanted or needed. God sent the very best present He had, and that present was His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus was born in humble circumstances to a poor young girl and her husband who was a carpenter. He was born in a stable with common farm animals because there was no room in the inn for this young pregnant girl to have her baby. The inn keeper did give her what he had. But Jesus was born into this world with a purpose in mind. That purpose was to die on a cross in order to pay the penalty for sins of those who would accept it as a free gift.

In order to receive the gift God offers, we simply have to accept it just like any gift we might be given at Christmas. There is nothing we have to do to earn or deserve it, we simply accept it as it is offered. God knew what we needed even when we didn’t. He knew we needed a Savior, and He gave us one. What a perfect gift! What a wonderful Savior! I am so glad God didn’t say “buy your own present.” We most likely wouldn’t have gotten what we need. Instead of stressing over gifts to buy for Christmas, let’s celebrate the gift we have been given. Have a Merry Christmas!

Pastor Duane

Deacon Moment

Are you making room for Christ in your home and, more importantly, in your heart?

The Innkeeper's Tale

They think I'm some kind of cruel, heartless landlord. Someone must have told them that. But they're wrong, just plain wrong, and it's time to set the record straight, once and for all.

People say I'm an innkeeper. I suppose you'd call it an inn. To us it's just a big house. My grandfather, Joshua ben-Yahoudi, built it back when his trading business was at a peak. And he built it big enough to fit all fourteen kids.

Well, a few years ago, the missus and I were just rattling around in that big house--kids grown up and all--and we were thinking, maybe we could take in a few travelers. Rachel has always been mighty good in the kitchen, so we just let out word that we'd take people in, and they started to come. Every night we'd have a person or two, sometimes more. People would always come back when they came to town again, intent on another bowl of Rachel's lamb stew.

Then came that blankety-blank census the governor thought up. Taxation, pure and simple! People from all over the province flooded into town that week. Filled us clean up. Rachel and I slept in the main room where we always do, and we started putting guests in the other three rooms. They kept coming. Then we doubled up two or three families to a room. They kept coming. Finally, when we had filled the main room with four families plus Rachel and me, we started turning people away.

I must have gotten in and out of bed ten times that night, stumbling over bodies to get to the door. "No more room, sorry folks. No more room. Come back in the morning. We have a couple of families leaving then." They'd mutter something and head back to their party, and sleep somewhere next to a house under the shelter of a blanket. I just couldn't make any more room. That's the honest truth.

But I did make room for one more couple. Joseph was a burly man with big arms and strong hands, down from Nazareth, I think he said. He wouldn't take "no" for an answer. I would say, "No, I'm sorry," and he'd tell me about his "little Mary." Well, when I saw "little Mary" she wasn't very little. She was just about as pregnant as a woman can get, and awfully pale. While Joseph was pleading, I saw her grab her tummy in pain, and I knew I couldn't let her have that baby outside in the wind and sleet.

The barn. That would just have to do, I told myself, and led them and their donkey out back. Now it was pretty crowded, so I shooed several animals into the pen outside to make room in one dry corner. Joseph said, "We sure are grateful, sir." Then with a serious look, he asked me, "Do you know where I can find a midwife in these parts? We might need her tomorrow or the next day."

That man didn't know much about having babies, it was plain enough to see. I ran to Aunt Sarah's house and pounded on the door until her husband came. "One of the travelers is having a baby," I told him. "I'll wait while Aunt Sarah gets dressed." I stopped a moment to catch my breath. "And tell her to hurry." By the time we got back to the barn, Joseph had "little Mary" settled on some soft, clean hay, wrapped up in a blanket, wiping the perspiration off her brow, and was speaking softly to her as she fought the waves of pain. Aunt Sarah sent me to get my Rachel, and then pushed Joseph and me out of the barn. "This ain't no place for men," she said.

We waited just outside in the shelter of the barn for hours, it seemed like. Well, all of a sudden, we hear a little cry. "You've got a baby boy," Aunt Sarah was saying as we peeped around the corner. She hands the young-un to Rachel, and she wraps it up in those swaddling bands she had saved. Cute little thing, I tell you.

Well, Joseph goes over to Mary and gives her a big hug, and a kiss on the cheek, and Rachel hands Mary the baby, and then comes over to me and takes my hand. "Remember when our Joshua was born?" she whispers.

The lantern was blowing almost out, the cattle were lowing softly, and baby Jesus was asleep in his mother's arms. That's how I left them as I walked Aunt Sarah home. Chilly wind, though the sleet had stopped.

By the time I got back, Rachel was in bed, and I was about ready to put out the light, step over sleeping bodies, and get under the warm covers, when I heard some murmuring out by the barn.

I'd better check, I told myself. When I peeped in, I saw shepherds. Raggedy, smelly old shepherds were kneeling down on the filthy barn floor as if they were praying. The oldest one was saying something to Joseph about angels and the Messiah. And the rest of them just knelt there with their heads bowed, some with tears running down their faces.

I coughed out loud, and Joseph looked up. I was almost ready to run those thieving shepherds off, when Joseph motioned to me with his hand. "It's okay," he whispered. "They've come to see the Christ-baby."

The Christ-baby? The Messiah? That was when I knelt, too. And watched, and prayed, and listened to the old shepherd recount his story of angels and heavenly glory, and the sign of a holy baby, wrapped in swaddling bands, to be found in a stable-manger.

My Lord, it was my stable where the Christ-baby was born. My manger he rested in. My straw, my lamp, my wife Rachel assisting at his birth. The shepherds left after a while. Some of them leaned over and kissed the sleeping Christ-child before they departed. I know I did.

I'll always be glad I made room in the barn for that family-- that holy family. You see, I'm not some mean inn-keeper. I was there. I saw him. And, you know, years later that boy came back to Bethlehem, this time telling about the Kingdom of God. Oh, I believe in him, I tell you. I was there. And, mark my words, if you'd seen what I've seen, you'd be a believer, too.



UPCOMING EVENT FOR CHILDREN
***Children will perform with the choir on Sunday, December 17, 2023 during regular service.**

We have really been having a great time during Children’s Church! We would love to have you attend with us on Sunday mornings during the church service at 10:30.

Just as a reminder we also meet on Sunday and Wednesday evenings at 7:00. This has been a wonderful time of learning and fellowship with the children. We are also starting to play Pickleball now and would love for families to join us!

If you need to reach out to me, please feel free to call or text me at 434-709-4709 with any questions you may have.
~Stephanie Barts


UPCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUTH
***Youth will go to pack boxes for OCC in Charlotte on Saturday, December 2.**
***Youth trip money is due by the END of December. The cost is \$75 per person.**

The Youth Group is enjoying learning the Bible from beginning to end every Sunday and Wednesday evening from 7pm-8pm. We also participate in mission outreach opportunities and will be heading to Charlotte, NC on December 2nd to help at the Samaritan’s Purse Processing Center. We look forward to seeing more youth. Youth Sunday School is 9:15-10:10 every Sunday Morning.

If you need to reach out to me, please feel free to call or text me at 434-251-8512 with any questions you may have.
~Brandon Barts







Our deepest Christian sympathy to:

The family and friends of Hazel Collie in her passing.

The family and friends of Larry Mays in his passing.

The family and friends of Rebekah Reynolds Owen in her passing.

The family and friends of Nancy Gallaher in her passing.

The family and friends of David Walton in his passing.

The family and friends of David Johnson in his passing.

The family and friends of Jesse Meadows, Jr. in his passing.




DRUM ROLL, PLEASE!! WE ARE EXCITED AND GRATEFUL TO ANNOUNCE

OUR NEW RECORD FOR OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD BOXES!

366


THANKS EVERYONE!



UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday, January 2	7:00 pm	Eva Walton Circle
Sunday, January 7	6:00 pm	Deacons
Tuesday, January 9	10:00 am	Morning Mission Circle
Wednesday, January 10	6:30 pm	Family Night Dinner & Devotions Hosts: RBC Staff
Sunday, January 14	5:00 pm	Committee Organizational Mtg
Sunday, January 28	6:00 pm	Church Council

During the month of December,
please join the J.O.Y. Club
in remembering each of our
Homebound Shut-ins
&
Nursing Home Residents
with cards, visits and
phone calls.



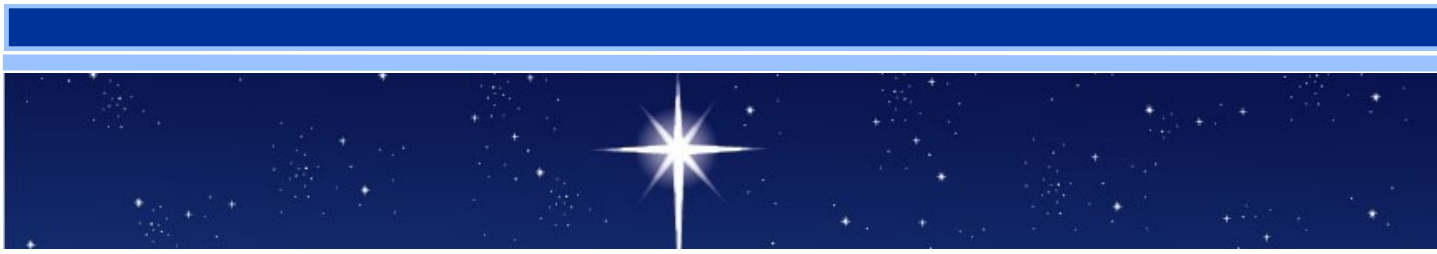
CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON


Tuesday, December 12 at Noon

Join us for fun & fellowship
—our lunch will be catered.

Bring a \$5.00 gift for
the exchange.

Don't forget to bring
canned food for God's Storehouse





To our family at RBC:

2023 has been a challenging year for Doug and I, as it has for many of you. We could not have made this journey without the presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus. We are also grateful that our RBC family acted as His hands and feet to us. Each card, note, visit, text and food and most of all your prayers-carried us through this walk.

I personally was grateful for the presence of Pastor Duane, Lawrence Gilbert ,and Ginger and Larry Collie during Doug's surgery. It was a very long day.

With all our hearts, we love and appreciate you.

Doug and Terri

~~~~~

*A heartfelt thank you to our wonderful church family. Grandmama would have been overwhelmed by all the love and caring that you showed us with her death. All of the cards, food, flowers and attendance at her service was so like Ringgold Baptist Church. We are blessed to be a part of it. A special thanks to Duane and Dena for your visits to her at home and RNC. She really enjoyed them.*

*We love all of you so much,*  
*Larry and Ginger*

~~~~~

Ringgold Church Family,

I would like to thank each one of you who brought food, sent cards. A special thank you to the ones who called and checked on me to see if I needed anything.

Thank you to Pastor Duane for your visit and bringing a delicious casserole from the casserole team.

Love In Christ.
Margaret Sneed

~~~~~

*"The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed"*  
*PROVERBS 11:24 The Message*

*I would like to express our appreciation to the Ringgold Church Family for so many acts of kindness during David's illness and death. Your prayers, cards, visits and food meant so much to me and the family.*

*Love you All,*  
*Peggy Johnson*



# Announcements, Events & Reminders

## December Business Meeting

Wednesday, December 13 at 6:30 p.m.



## CHURCH-WIDE CAROLING

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16  
AT 3:00 PM**

**HELP SPREAD CHEER TO  
OUR COMMUNITY!**



## BUDGET REVIEW

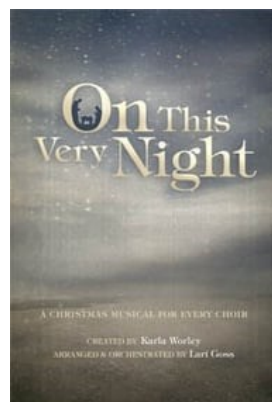
SUNDAY, DEC. 10

5:00 PM

## CHRISTMAS CANTATA

**SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 17**

**10:30 AM**



## LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS MAILBOX

The Ruth / T.E.L. Sunday School Class will again sponsor the "Lottie Moon" Christmas Mailbox for cards to your church family this year.

The **LAST DATE** to bring your cards will be **Wednesday, December 13** to the mailbox located behind the organ. The cards will then be sorted and available to Sunday School Classes and other church members on Sunday, December 17.

As always, we ask that money not used for Christmas card postage be donated to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. You may put your donations in a separate envelope in the box with the cards.

## CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE

*Sunday, December 24th  
5:00 pm*

## 2024 Offering Envelopes

Envelopes will be available in late December in the hallway of the Family Life Center.

The envelopes will be arranged alphabetically by family for your convenience.

If you are participating in Online Giving and do not want to continue to receive envelopes **OR** If you did not receive envelopes last year and would like to have them for this coming year, please notify the church office at 822-5959 or

e-mail: [office@ringgoldbaptist.org](mailto:office@ringgoldbaptist.org)



Lottie Moon Christmas Offering will be ongoing for the month of December. Tracey and James Watson related that this one offering for international missionaries is what all missionaries depend upon for contributing to their annual livelihood. \$4,000 is the goal for Ringgold Baptist Church.



## NEEDED!

"Bless This Food" Ministry needs dishes of food that could serve as a meal by itself. Dishes for 1 or 2 people are needed more than large ones. Please sign in your dish and date that you bring it. **Whoever takes a dish out to someone needs to sign their name and the date they delivered it to someone.**

## House of Hope (homeless shelter):

Meal provided on October 21, 2023.

Meal provided on November 8, 2023.

Thanksgiving Day dinner provided on November 23, 2023.

## Bereavement Meals:

Provided to Hazel Collie Family on October 22, 2023.

Provided to David Johnson Family on November 9, 2023.

Join a mission group – First Tuesday at 7:00 pm at RBC or Second Tuesday at 10:00 am at RBC. Thank you for your continuing support of all mission endeavors at RBC.

Suzanne Emerson – WMU Director

Dan River Food  
Distribution  
October 17th



Packing OCC  
boxers at PBA  
November 14th



"Blessing Our  
Neighbors" at  
Piggly Wiggly  
Collecting for  
God's Storehouse  
and House of Hope  
October 21st



RBC Youth taking  
items collected to  
House of Hope  
October 21st



PIC•COLLAGE