



Goshen Messenger

December 2017

As we prepare for the Christmas season, my prayer is that we will take time to consider the first Christmas when our Savior was born. He truly is the reason for the season. As we think about that first Christmas, we should not overlook Mary's song of praise found in Luke 1:46-56. It is often referred to as Mary's Magnificat. Magnificat is a Latin word that means "magnifies." It is used as a title here because it is the first word in the Latin translation of Mary's song. It is a song of praise to the Lord. It is a song intended to magnify the Lord.

Protestants like us sometimes get a little nervous when someone starts talking about Mary. We don't want anyone to think that we idolize or worship Mary. But Mary is an example for us in many ways. And if we ignore Mary, we miss out on the things that she has to teach us.

Her song in Luke 1 is one of four nativity hymns recorded in Luke's Gospel. It gives us a glimpse of Mary's thoughts concerning the Christ Child in her womb. It should fill our hearts with worship to Mary's God, our God. I hope you find your heart rejoicing in God incarnate as you read this song.

Some have asked how Mary—a young teenager—could write such a spectacular song. The song is so theologically rich. It demonstrates such an impressive grasp of the person and work of God. The answer must be that Mary knew the Old Testament Scriptures. The song is not that unlike many of the songs we see throughout the Old Testament. It looks like something you might find in the Psalms, but it is also similar to Hannah's prayer in 1 Samuel 2.

"My heart exults in the Lord; my strength is exalted in the Lord.... The Lord makes poor and makes rich; he brings low and he exalts. He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor."

While the similarity with Hannah's prayer is striking, there are hints of other Scripture passages throughout the song. Mary knew that the baby in her womb was the promised Messiah. She knew that He was the one who would save His people from their sin. She knew what Jesus would say years later, that all the Scriptures testify concerning Him.

As you reflect upon that first Christmas, I hope you will remember that this is the message of Christmas. We were far from God. We were lost and dying in our sin. But God. He took on flesh and dwelt among us. He lived the perfect life we could not live. Then He died in our place to pay for our sin so we can be reconciled to God.

As you reflect upon the Christ child, don't leave Him in the manger. He died to pay for your sin and mine, and was raised from the grave three days later. Right now He is seated at the right hand of God, and will one day return to establish His kingdom, where all those who are in Christ will reside with Him forever. This is the hope of Christmas.

Pastor Adam

Operations Team... The Operations Team will NOT meet in December. The next meeting will be Monday, January 2 at 7pm.

Deacons... The deacons will meet Monday, November 27 at 7pm. Deacons will NOT meet in December. The next Deacons Meeting will be Monday, January 22 at 7pm.

Elders ... The Elders will meet on Monday, December 4 at 7pm.

Wednesday Night Prayer... Join us for a time of prayer on November 29 and December 6 and 13 from 6:30pm-7:30pm in the Seniors' Sunday School classroom. This time of prayer will be led by Pastor Adam.

Lord's Supper... We will observe the Lord's Supper on Sunday, Dec. 3.

Christmas Luminary... The music ministry along with some representatives from AHG will be participating in the Christmas Luminary on Sunday, December 3 at 4:45pm in front of the old Courthouse. Please come out and support this community event!

Hanging of the Greens... Workshop at 7-9pm on Friday, December 1. We need volunteers to help decorate our church and put our Christmas tree together.

Holiday Meal... We are hosting the Holiday Meal Saturday, December 2 at 4pm. If you are able to help, please contact Winnie Boyce at 540.847.9287. For those that are carving a turkey, if you have not yet picked up your pan, please do so in the foyer. Turkeys can be dropped off on Friday, December 1 from 5-8pm or on Saturday before noon.

Senior Luncheon... The Senior Sunday School class will be having their annual Senior Christmas Party on Thursday, December 7 from 11:30am to 2pm. Please bring a meat, veggie dish, and dessert. If you have further questions or need transportation please contact Joyce Perrin at 540.786.6108.

Upstairs S.S. Dinner... All of the upstairs Sunday School classes are invited to a Potluck Christmas Dinner at Mary Vakos house on December 9 at 6pm. Please bring a side dish or dessert.

Christmas Caroling... Want to spread some Christmas cheer and have a good time doing it? Join us at 5pm on Sunday, December 10. We will meet at the church, load up in the bus, and go out into one of the neighborhoods near the church. We will meet back at the church afterward for coffee, hot chocolate, and sweets. Please plan to bring a Christmas sweet to share. Please use the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the main hallway to let us know you are planning to come.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service... Our Christmas Eve candlelight service will take place on Sunday, December 24 at 5:30pm. We look forward to seeing you. Please invite family and friends!

Church Office... The church office will be closed Monday, December 25 through, Friday, December 29. Merry Christmas!

Wednesday Night Activities... There will be no activities Wed., Dec. 27.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering... We are now collecting our Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for international missions. 100% of the money given will go to support missionaries serving on the field through the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Last year we collected \$7,312. Our goal this year is \$8,000. Please consider giving your largest Christmas gift this year to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The things you can purchase for your friends and family will eventually be destroyed by moths and rust, but the money you give to the LMCO will store up treasures in heaven which moths and rust can never destroy. Please consider how you can give sacrificially to this very important offering.

Children's Church... Our children's church ministry has been suspended until we have volunteers who are willing to lead it. Please contact the church office if you are willing to help in this way.

Poinsettias... We are now taking orders for poinsettias to be placed in the sanctuary during the season of Christmas. The poinsettias will be \$7.50 each. Please contact the church office if you wish to purchase one. Payment needs to be made by Sunday, December 10. Thank you and we look forward to a church full of beautiful poinsettias!

New Deacons... Robert Daniel and Lee Brothers were both unanimously elected to serve our church as deacons at our 2017 Fall Ministry Conference.

2017 Fall Ministry Conference... Our 2018 Budget, 2018 Operations Team, and 2018 Church Officers were all approved unanimously at our 2017 Fall Ministry Conference. If you did not receive a copy of these documents and would like one, please contact the church office.

SECA Food Drive... There is a SECA container in the library to drop your food donations in. Thank you for your participation.

Church Custodian... The Personnel Committee is now looking to hire a church custodian. Those interested should contact the church office for the job description and application.

Treasurer... The Personnel Committee is now looking to hire a church treasurer. Those interested should contact the church office for the job description and application.

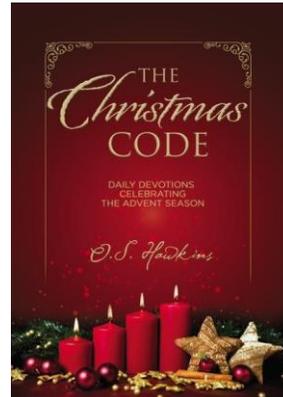
Attention Youth... (grades 6-12)

- Join us Sunday morning at 9:30am as we journey through the Book of Exodus/Leviticus & on Wednesday evening at 6:30pm for food, fellowship, games, & biblical life application!
- November 29 at 6:30pm: Mission Project. Come help us make blankets for the GBC homebound and some them some love!
- We will be doing a service project with the Heritage House of Virginia on Saturday, December 2 from 9:30am to 1pm. Residents of Heritage House suffer with mental illness from birth or brain injury and we get to love on them! Free lunch will be provided.
- December 2 at 2pm: GBC Holiday Meal Service Opportunity. Youth will return from Heritage House at 2pm to help prepare & serve the holiday meal.
- Save the date: Youth Evangelism Conference (YEC) is January 12-13 at London Bridge Baptist Church in VA Beach. Youth grades 6-12 are encouraged to attend. \$50 registration (price includes conference, t-shirt, 2 nights accommodations, & some meals). Sign-up on the bulletin board today!
- Save the date: Friday, December 10 – Youth Christmas Party!

AHG...

- Tuesday, Dec. 12, 6:30-8:30pm: Troop Night
- Saturday, Dec. 16, Wreath Across America Laying in Oak Hill Cemetery

Book of the Month... Our book of the month for December is



The Christmas Code by O.S. Hawkins. O.S. is president of Guidestone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. In the middle of the hectic rush that has become our Christmas season, we often feel ourselves drifting away from the sacred meaning at the heart of the holiday. *The Christmas Code*, a 25-day Advent devotional, reminds you that God's greatest gift – His precious Son – is at the very heart of Advent. This devotional is available at no cost to you. We do ask that you take one per family. We also have

additional copies that you can take to use as an outreach tool this Christmas season. You can find copies of the book in both the library and on the table in the foyer.

NURSERY WORKERS...

	S.S	Worship Svc.
DEC. 3	Kathy Brooks & Jennifer & Jenna Bareford	Lenora Brothers, Gena & Maren Williams & Donna Britton
DEC. 10	Kathy Brooks & Sunny Seay	Lenora Brothers, Renae & Ashley Chase, Sandra DuVal
DEC. 17	Kathy Brooks & Leanne Combs	Jennifer, Jenna, & Hanna Bareford
DEC. 24	Kathy Brooks & Winnie Boyce	Lenora Brothers, Dee Dee & Samantha Stevens & Becca Creed
DEC. 31	Kathy Brooks & Debbie Nissley	Lenora Brothers, Renae & Ashley Chase, Sandra DuVal

Sunday School Teachers

First Steps/Pre-K through Kindergarten:

Gay Britt & Katie Brooks

3rd through 5th Grade:

Jason Hoskins & Ryan Brothers

6th through High School:

Jason & Leann Thompson

John Smith & Renae Chase & Lee Brothers

GREETERS...

DEC. 3	Jeff Mason & Winnie Boyce
DEC. 10	Donald & Kelly Ashley
DEC. 17	Joe & Tracy Osborne
DEC. 24	Ollie & Jennifer Hoskins
DEC. 31	Ray & Joyce Perrin

TELLERS...

JoAnna Roberson; Ray McConchie; Joanne Goodin



**DECEMBER
BIRTHDAYS**

04 Michelle Burton
06 Laura Rowe
10 Barb Wolfe
12 Linda Thornton
13 Ian Smith
14 Waylon Brooks



Please visit or call and make their day special too!

1. Frank & Geri Truesdale
540.786.1450
12111 Meadow Branch Way
Fredericksburg, VA 22407
2. Turner Foster
540.786.8267
5931 Plank Road
Fredericksburg, VA 22407
3. James & Aurie McGee
540.582.2892
P.O. Box 539
Spotsylvania, VA 22551
4. Jeri Harper
252.558.1244
Spring Arbor of Greenville
2097 W. Arlington Blvd.
Greenville, NC 27834
5. Inez Jett
540.786.6917
8508 Brock Road
Spotsylvania, VA 22553
6. Jo Kuser
540.582.2854
9136 Pritchett Road
Spotsylvania, VA 22551
7. Christine Kimberlin
540.765.1548
Brookdale Senior Living
3500 Meekins Drive
Fredericksburg, VA 22407
8. Michelle Shepard
540.786.2342
9726 Herricks Ford Rd.
Spotsylvania, VA 22553
9. Betty Turnley
540.582.4001
9000 Judiciary Drive
Spotsylvania, VA 22553
10. Eddy Pritchett
540.582.5292
9154 Pritchett Road
Spotsylvania, VA 22551
11. Edith McLeod
540.735.0850
Greenfield Assisted Living
1001 Northside Drive
Fredericksburg, VA 22405
12. Robert (Bob) McCalley
540.765.1548
Brookdale Senior Living
3500 Meekins Drive
Fredericksburg, VA 22407
13. Lenore Raines
804.633.4839
Bowling Green Health & Rehabilitation Center
120 Anderson Ave.
Bowling Green, VA 22427
14. Betty Deanna Payne
540.775.4000
Heritage Hall
10051 Foxes Way
King George, VA 22485
15. Rose Rudd
540.786.6520
6355 Autumn Leaf Circle
Fredericksburg, VA 22407