



THE VISION

December 2023

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them and...teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...”
Amen. Matthew 28:19-20*



As we enter the Advent season, a time of joyous anticipation and reflection, I am grateful for the journey we've undertaken together.

Since my arrival, the privilege of praying and collaborating with our church leadership and the Vision 2000 Team has been transformative. Gloucester Point Baptist Church has undeniably been a blessing to the community, yet we humbly acknowledge a decline. In this season of expectant waiting, we seek God's guidance to embrace a new vision.

A Living, Active Body in Advent

Our vision is rooted in Christ, aiming to transform Gloucester Point Baptist Church into a vibrant missional beacon. As we reflect on the Advent season, we are reminded of the anticipation and preparation that marked the arrival of our Savior. In this spirit, we aspire to be a living, active body, echoing God's love and serving His purpose with renewed vigor.

Embracing the Great Commission with Christmas Hope

Embracing the Great Commission as our enduring mission, our purpose becomes clear: to love God, love others, and serve in the world. This purpose fuels our vision for what lies ahead—a future where we live out our faith with dynamic action and heartfelt service, reminiscent of the Christmas story itself.

This New Years Eve, I will begin a sermon series to unfold the Vision, but till then, here are some elements for you to begin to pray about.

Tangibles of the Vision: Unwrapping God's Love

1. **Authentic Missionary Living:** Just as the Magi sought the Christ child, we aspire to be authentic missionaries in our communities, intentionally engaging people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
2. **Disciple Making:** In the spirit of the shepherds who spread the good news, we commit to making disciples who, in turn, make other disciples, teaching them all that Christ has commanded.
3. **Giving Ourselves Away:** As the season of giving unfolds, we pledge to be a church that actively engages the community's needs and raises our children to be missionaries, mirroring the selfless gift of Christ.

(cont'd on page 3)

***IF YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES
PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AT
804-642-2555 OR office@gpbc.church***

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

GLoucester Point Baptist Church
7741 Terrapin Cove Rd, PO Box 305
Gloucester Point, VA 23062



Deacon's Devotional

What if we did not have Christmas



Christmas means many different things depending on who you talk to. Some may think it is just a holiday that allows them a day off from work; while others may stress that the work is piling up while they are off. Christmas can be a happy, joyous time or it can be a time of great sadness; a time to celebrate or a time to feel great loneliness.

How would all these people react if we did not have a Christmas this year? What if it was just an ordinary day toward the end of the calendar year? They might have opposite feelings compared to their feeling about having a Christmas. I imagine the retail market would have a major meltdown if we suddenly did not have a Christmas—that would cause a great commotion.

But, what about us (Christians); what would we do? It seems to me that Christians get caught up in all the Christmas hype just like anyone else. But, I think we would adjust better and more quickly when we think about it. Our ability to adjust might depend on why we suddenly did not have Christmas and assuming we are not prohibited from Christian worship. Christmas initially involved the celebration of the birth of our Savior; therefore, Christians should realize that not having the secular part of Christmas would not stop the celebration of Jesus Christ.

Even though Jesus Christ was born as a man a little over 2000 years ago; He was involved from the beginning of all creation. “Then God said, let us make man...Genesis 1:26”. Us may reference the Holy Trinity. Mark 14:62, “I am, said Jesus...”; Jesus’ answer to the high priest asking Jesus if He was the Christ. So, if the reason for the season is Jesus, then we have had Christmas since before creation and will never be without Christmas.

Our job, as Christians, is to make sure others in our family, community or throughout the world come to know our Christ Jesus so that, even without the holiday, we still celebrate the eternal hope of salvation and an eternity of paradise.

Merry Christmas and Happy Birthday Jesus Christ,
Stewart Wood

CHURCH WORKERS

Sun. Sch.
Nursery
TBD

Nursery Workers

12.3—Tim Owens
12.10—Lynn Walton
12.17—TBD
12.24—TBD
12.31—B. West & C. West

December Ushers

Sonya Anthony
Stan Gandee
Jamie Moore
Stewart Wood



December Tellers

Tommy Ashe
Gail Mongold

Deacon of the Week

12.3—Bill Breeden
12.10—David Crummett
12.17—Barry Milligan
12.24—Brian Stewart
12.31—Sonya Anthony

Younger Children's Church

12.3—Nancy Dyson
12.10—Sonya Anthony
12.17—Joyce Marshall
12.24—R. Wells / M. Wagner
12.31—T. Greggs & Youth Helper

Older Children's Church

12.3—Connie Stewart
12.10—J. Sanford / B. Sanford
12.17—D. Gandee / M. McNeil
12.24—C. West / S. West
12.31—Connie Stewart

Christmas Eve Service

Invite your family and friends to join us for a beautiful candlelight
Christmas Eve Service on December 24 at 5:00 pm.

There will be Christmas music, scriptures, and the Lord's Supper.



Thank you

Dear Church Family,
Words are inadequate to express the gratitude I have for all your many acts of love and care during the time of Howard's illness and passing. Thank you for every prayer because they carried me on the hardest days. I'm grateful for all your texts, calls, visits and cards; they encouraged me in the darkness of this journey. We appreciated the food that sustained us when we were too weary to prepare it. The Home Going Service, special music and fellowship meal was a blessing as are each of you. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ.
We love you all, *Sharon Warren and Family*



Hanging of the Greens Service

Mark your calendars for December 3rd, to join us at 11am for a special morning service which will include beautiful Christmas music with readings to explain the meaning of the traditional decorations. The decorations include wreaths, garland, poinsettias, the Advent wreath, and the Christmas tree with Chrismons.



Christmas Cantata and Dinner

Please make plans to join us Sunday, December 17th at 11am

as our chancel choir presents our Annual Christmas Cantata.

All are invited to worship and celebrate with us!

The Annual Christmas Dinner will follow the Choir's Cantata. Please sign up in the Narthex by December 10, 2023 with your name and number attending. The meal will be provided.

We look forward to seeing you!



Christmas Doves

"...and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove..." Matthew 3:16



Would you like to place a Dove on the tree in memory or in honor of a loved one? A dove can be placed for a minimum of a \$5.00 donation, but more will gladly be accepted. Donations will go to support benevolence. The deadline is Wednesday 12.20 and doves will be placed on the tree as donations are received.

A dove contributors list will be included in the Christmas bulletin. Place your form and payment in the labeled box in the Narthex. If you have any questions, contact Paulette Ashe at 804.642.3251.

Thank you for your generosity!



The Angel Tree is filled with names of children in need! Our GOAL is for each child listed on a tag to receive ALL listed items. Please purchase ALL items OR if you cannot, please PARTNER WITH SOMEONE TO PURCHASE ALL of the items.

- ◆ Select an Angel Tree Tag (you may select more than one)
- ◆ Sign the "Sign Out Sheet" child's Name & I.D.# & your phone #
- ◆ All items must be brand new. Gifts based on the info on the tag.
- ◆ Do not wrap gifts! Place them under tree in large plastic kitchen bag & securely attach Angel Tree I.D. tag

Gifts due NO LATER than Sunday, 10 December!

Most Importantly, PRAY!

Pray for our Angels & their families. Pray that the Angel Tree Ministry will show GOD'S LOVE & that lives will be changed!

Any Questions Contact—Leslie Belvin 804.815.7510

- Leadership Development:** Like Joseph and Mary, we will nurture and train leaders, developing pastors, missionaries, deacons, and lay leaders who will strengthen our church and extend its impact.
 - Passionate Prayer:** In the hope of a spiritual revival akin to the awe-filled moments in the Nativity story, we commit to being a church of passionate prayer warriors, seeking God's glory in all things.
 - Faithfulness to Scripture:** Reflecting on the faithful obedience of the Wisemen, we will go beyond tradition, seeking faithfulness to the teachings of Scripture, providing God with spirit-filled orthodox worship.
 - Transforming Communities:** Just as the birth of Christ transformed the world, we aim to be a transforming factor in the communities we exist in, known for grace and truth inside and outside the church.
- Gospel-Driven:** Inspired by the extraordinary gift of Christ, we will be a people driven by the gospel to reach the lost, reflecting on the great price at which we have been redeemed, and always focused on community.
- As we embark on this journey and celebrate the season of Advent, may our vision be a guiding light, shaping a legacy of faith that endures until we rejoice together in His eternal glory. May the spirit of Christmas infuse our efforts with renewed hope, love, and joy.

For His Glory—Pastor Dillon Evans

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

At this time of year, we are called to pray for our missionaries who are spreading the Gospel all over the world and to support them with the Lottie Moon Christmas offering. Our goal this year is \$2,800.00. The Week of Prayer for International Missionaries is December 3–10.

What Do You Know About Charlotte 'Lottie' Moon?



- 1840**—Born into a wealthy southern USA family
- 1858**—Became a Christian after a trip to the Holy Land
- 1861**—One of the first American women to earn a college degree in Master of Arts
- 1862-1865**—Teacher and nurse during the Civil War
- 1873**—Sailed September 1st to China as a missionary, to teach, plant churches and care for women and children—winning many over with her shortbread cookies,
- 1888**—Challenged WMU to financially support international missionaries. This became our annual Christmas offering.
- 1912**—Starved to death with her Chinese people weighing only 50 lbs. (Fellow missionaries were taking Lottie to America at that time)

Lottie Moon was only 4 feet 3 inches tall—BUT WHAT A GLORY TO GOD!!

In Honor of Lottie Moon,

WMU will be handing out cookies on Sunday, Dec. 3 after the Worship Service

Sunday Schedule

Sunday School (All Ages)- 9:40am
Worship Service— 11:00am
C.A.R.E. Ministry—2:00pm

December 2023



Wednesday Schedule

6:00pm: Youth Bible Study
6:00pm: Children's Choir & Bible Study
6:30pm: Bible Study & Prayer Meeting
7:30pm: Choir Practice

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|--|---|
| | | | 29 | 30 | 1 6:30p Men's Bible Study 7p Serenity Grp | 2 |
| 3 <i>1st Sunday Advent</i> 11a COMMUNION Hanging of the Greens 2p C.A.R.E. 3p Deacons' Mtg. | 4 6:30p AHG | 5 6:30p B&G Mtg. | 6 6p Children's Choir 6p Advent Bible Sch. Youth-In-Action REGULAR ACTIVITIES | 7 | 8 6:30p Men's Bible Study 7p Serenity Grp | 9 10a Daniel Plan |
| 10 <i>2nd Sunday Advent</i> NO S.S. BREAKFAST 2p C.A.R.E. Angel Tree Due | 11 6:30p AHG— Christmas Party | 12 9a Community Morning Out | 13 6p Children's Choir 6p Advent Bible Sch. Youth-In-Action REGULAR ACTIVITIES Christmas Doves Due | 14 | 15 6:30p Men's Bible Study 7p Serenity Grp VISION ARTICLES DUE | 16 9a Quilting 10a Daniel Plan 12p AHG & Trail Life Wreath Laying Yorktown Nat'l Cemetery |
| 17 <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i> 11a Christmas Cantata 12p Christmas Dinner | 18 | 19 6:30p Armstrong Circle | 20 6p Advent Bible Sch. Youth-In-Action REGULAR ACTIVITIES | 21 10a Acree Circle | 22 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30p Men's Bible Study 7p Serenity Grp | 23 |
| 24 CHRISTMAS EVE. <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i> 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship Service NO C.A.R.E. 5p Candlelight Service | 25 CHRISTMAS DAY OFFICE CLOSED <i>Happy Birthday Jesus!!</i> | 26 | 27 NO CHURCH ACTIVITIES | 28 | 29 6:30p Men's Bible Study 7p Serenity Grp | 30 |
| 31 NO C.A.R.E. 6p New Year's Eve @ Pastor's House | | | | | | |

December Birthdays:

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Brad Burgess | 12.4 |
| Sue Magowan | 12.7 |
| J.E.B. Hutson | 12.11 |
| Daniel Eifes | 12.14 |
| Sarah Starkey | 12.15 |
| Beverly West | 12.15 |
| Ella Evans | 12.17 |
| Kyle Jenkins | 12.19 |
| Kaleb Coates | 12.21 |
| Charlene Diggs | 12.27 |
| Bob Tayman | 12.27 |
| Madalyn Arquette | 12.29 |
| Alyssa Owens | 12.30 |
| Murielene Swindeck | 12.30 |
| Taylor Burgess | 12.31 |
| Aaron Cirillo | 12.31 |



Anniversaries:

| | |
|---------------------|-------|
| Bill & Ruth Sapp | 12.19 |
| Ricky & Amy Green | 12.24 |
| Bob & Anne Tayman | 12.29 |
| Chris & Hope Hutson | 12.30 |