



***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



THE VISION

December 2025

***“Rooted in Christ, we equip disciples and leaders
For tomorrow’s challenges with grace and truth.”***



Years of Silence

The promise that God would send a Savior (Messiah) occurs throughout the Old Testament until about 400 B.C. when the prophet Malachi’s voice fell silent.

Silence for 400 years! Where was God? Had He given up on us and abandoned us to our sin. We had disobeyed Him and rebelled against Him. We had turned to other gods, giving them our worship instead of

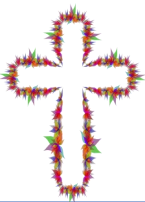
YHWH, the one true God. Had God said enough or was He still at work in preparing the world for His plan of redemption?

Silence from God, 400-0 B.C.? While this was a time of no new scripture, many significant events occurred, including the translation of the Old Testament into the common language of Greek (the Septuagint), development of new religious and social structures like synagogues. The political and social changes led to the emergence of different religious and political groups, such as the Sadducees and the Pharisees. Just because we don’t hear God, it doesn’t mean He is silent. Today, we can see that during this 400-year period God was preparing the world for the arrival of Jesus. Instead of silence, God was working “behind the scenes” to set the stage for His coming.

Then God spoke! *“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.”* ... Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, *“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”* Luke 2:10-14

Don’t be discouraged this Christmas when it appears God is not active (silent). Maybe you are discouraged by relationships, by the direction of the world’s culture, or even by the church’s lack of faith. We have the certain Hope that God loves us and is not silent. Be confident, God’s plan of redemption and restoration is happening right now. His kingdom on earth began with the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Silent Night, Holy Night ... Keith Belvin, Servant



Deacon's Devotional

Hide and Seek

Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and
He will give you everything you need. Luke 12:31

“8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” 13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” 15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” 16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child.” Luke 2:8-17

It makes me smile when I remember the fun I had playing Hide and Seek as a child, and more so as I have played it as a parent and grandparent. The game originated in ancient Greece by Julius Pollux in the 2nd century AD, and was originally called *Apodidraskinda*. It was played then in a similar way to how it is played today. While this is a fun game to play with children, it's not so with God.

When it comes to our relationship with God, when we want to hide from God's plan for us and we seek joy from worldly relationships, we are doomed for a disappointing and lonely life. What do you think will happen when we attend a church service only to seek our friends, only wanting to hear good things, not desiring to hear what God is trying to tell us? Do you think we can hide from God? That He doesn't know where we are and what we are doing and saying?

Instead of playing games with our spiritual relationship, let's respond like the shepherds did thousands of years ago as in Luke 2. Let us leave the world behind as we run seeking God and then we share the good news of Jesus with others. We cannot have Christmas without Christ.

Merry Christmas—Martha West



Advent Bible School

Please join us!

Who: Children ages 5—5th grade
Where: Gloucester Point Baptist Church
When: Wednesdays, Dec. 3, 10, & 17
Time: 5:30p—7:30p

Please join us each week for the
Advent Christmas story and fun
crafts. Hope to see you there!



Christmas Eve Service December 24 @ 5p

Please make plans to join us for a
Christmas Eve Service on December 24 at 5p.
Our Director of Music, Margaret Sarratori, is
planning the program and Pastor Mike Mines will
be bringing the message.

GPBC Deacons





Christmas Cantata and Dinner

Please make plans to join us
Sunday, December 14th
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 10th** with your name
and number attending.

The meal will be provided—

Fried Chicken, Ham, bread and beverage.
Bring a salad, vegetable, or dessert (enough
for 10-12 people).

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 12.17** 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.

Contact: **Paulette Ashe at 804.642.3251.**

Thank you for your generosity!



LOOK FOR the **Angel Tree** that will
be filled with names of a
GPBC family elder Angels!

Our GOAL is for each **Angel** to
receive ALL listed items on the tag.
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"** in the
Narthex (write your Angel's Name,
Your name & Your phone #).
- ♦ **Purchase New Gifts** based on the
info on the tag.
- ♦ **Place them under tree** in a gift
bag & securely attach Angel Tree
I.D. tag.

Do not wrap gifts!

Gifts due NO LATER than
Sunday, 14 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:
Barry Milligan 805.902.0066

WMU—MISSIONS MOMENT

Please pray for missionaries, their families and the communities they serve as they spread the gospel of Jesus.

Week of Prayer for International Missions-

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® for International Missions supports the many International Mission Board missionaries serving around the globe by providing the resources they need to give help and hope to a lost world. Pray Southern Baptists will give generously and sacrificially to spread the good news of Jesus throughout the world.

J.M. and B.M. - Church Planter - Fort Wayne, IN

"Pray for the residents of Park Place to continue growing stronger in their faith as the end of life nears. Pray for the church in America to continue reaching out to seniors and planting churches among this forgotten people group."

T.P. and L.P - Church Planter - Pocomoke City, MD

"Pray that God would use us to create a healthy atmosphere within our city to make disciples who will in turn make more disciples and churches that point people to Jesus."

P.T. and L.T. - Church Planter - Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

"Pray as we seek to reach families and young adults in South Edmonton. Pray for wisdom and guidance in building relationships in the community and that God would draw people to our church who seek connection, hope, and purpose."

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 \$2,500.00.
The Week of Prayer for International Missionaries is December 7–14.



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!!**

Sunday Schedule

Sunday School (All Ages)—9:45a
Worship Service—11a
C.A.R.E. Ministry—2p

December 2025



Wednesday Schedule

6p—Children’s Choir
6:30p—Children & Youth Bible Study
6:30p—Bible Study & Prayer Meeting
7:30p—Choir Practice

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 1p Deacons’ Mtg. 6:30p B&G Mtg.	3 10a GWBS 5:30p Advent Bible Sch. Supper 6:30p Advent Bible Sch. REGULAR ACTIVITIES	4	5 6:30p Men’s Bible Study 7p Serenity Grp	6
7 2 nd Sunday Advent Lottie Moon Offering 11a COMMUNION 2p C.A.R.E.	8	9 9a Community Morning Out	10 10a GWBS 5:30p Advent Bible Sch. Supper 6:30p Advent Bible Sch. REGULAR ACTIVITIES	11	12 6:30p Men’s Bible Study 7p Serenity Grp	13
14 3 rd Sunday Advent Lottie Moon Offering 11a Christmas Cantata 12p Christmas Dinner Angel Tree Due	15	16 VISION ARTICLES DUE	17 10a GWBS 5:30p Advent Bible Sch. Supper 6p Qtrly. Business Mtg. 6p Advent Bible Sch. NO ADULT ACTIVITIES CHRISTMAS DOVES DUE	18	19 6:30p Men’s Bible Study 7p Serenity Grp	20
21 4 th Sunday of Advent 2p C.A.R.E.	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE. 5p Christmas Eve. Service	25 CHRISTMAS DAY OFFICE CLOSED Happy Birthday Jesus!!	26 6:30p Men’s Bible Study 7p Serenity Grp	27
28 2p C.A.R.E.	29	30	31 NO CHURCH ACTIVITIES			

December Birthdays:

Brad Burgess	12.4
Gemma Riedel	12.4
Justin Cox	12.6
Sue Magowan	12.7
J.E.B. Hutson	12.11
Beverly West	12.15
Kyle Jenkins	12.19
Kaleb Coates	12.21
Charlene Diggs	12.27
Bob Tayman	12.27
Madalyn Arquette	12.29
Alyssa Owens	12.30
Taylor Burgess	12.31
Aaron Cirillo	12.31



Anniversaries:

Bill & Ruth Sapp	12.19
Ricky & Amy Green	12.24
Logan T & Madison Hawkins	12.28
Chris & Hope Hutson	12.30