

THE PARABLES

PARAMOUNT BAPTIST CHURCH 13234 MARSH PIKE HAGERSTOWN MD

VOLUME 43, NO 12

DECEMBER 2011

"And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary; for you have found favor with God. And, behold, you will conceive in your womb, and bring forth a son and will call his name Jesus. He will be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord shall give to Him the throne of his father, David. And he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there will be no end."
Luke 1:30-33

The angel announced the birth of a baby. Our choir's Christmas musical this year reminds us that a baby changes everything. Everyone who has children knows the truth of that statement. Once a baby is born into a family, things are different from that point forward.

In this season of giving and receiving gifts, we need to remember that a child is God's gift to us. Psalm 127 tells us that children are "a heritage from the Lord" and "like arrows in the hand of a warrior.... Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them." We, as a nation, need to be reminded that babies are God's gift to mankind and that they are precious in His sight.

This is on my mind because, as I write this article, I just heard on the news (WJEL) that one of our southern states voted down a measure that would legally have made a baby a person from the time of conception. I also have before me a letter from the Maryland Right to Life telling me that Maryland is now home to one of the most notorious late term abortionists in the nation. "Doctor" LeRoy Carhart was forced to stop performing late term abortions in Nebraska after the state passed a law which prevented him from performing abortions on unborn children old enough to feel pain. "Dr." Carhart has now set up his bloody late abortion business in Germantown, MD. He came here because Maryland has some of the weakest abortion laws in the country. This whole situation demands our prayers, our voices and our votes.

A baby does change everything. In this Christmas holiday season we're reminded of one very special baby who changed the course of human history. We're reminded of that special baby who, through not only His birth but also His death and resurrection, made it possible for each one of us to accept the greatest gift of all; the gift of eternal life in heaven. The angel told Joseph, "you will call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sin." Matthew 1:21

On behalf of Kathy and myself, let me wish each of you a merry and blessed Christmas and a new year filled with God's blessings.

Pastor's Corner



Dr. Larry Rickard
Pastor

COUNTDOWN TO...

- | | | | |
|-----|----------------------------------|----|--|
| 2-4 | Youth ReBOOT retreat | 17 | Youth Christmas Cookie Bake and Party 6-9p |
| 3 | Church Christmas Dinner 5p | 18 | Christmas Musical 10:30a |
| 4 | Christmas Carol Sing Along 6p | | Western MD Service 1:30p |
| 5 | Youth Skate Night 6:30-8:30p | 20 | Daycare Assoc Mtg 6p |
| 7 | Wednesday evening programs | | Trustee Mtg 7p |
| 8 | Adults on Mission 7p | 21 | Wednesday evening programs |
| 10 | Adult choir practice 9a-12p | | Youth/AWANA Christmas |
| | Deaf church Christmas Party | | Caroling 6:30p |
| 11 | Quarterly Business Mtg after svc | 24 | Christmas Eve Candlelight Svc 7p |
| 13 | Deacons Mtg 7p | 25 | Regularly scheduled services 9a |
| 14 | Wednesday evening programs | 28 | No Wednesday activities |
| 15 | Adult 3 luncheon 12p | | ~ <i>Merry Christmas!</i> ~ |
| 17 | Adult choir practice 9a-12p | | |

It's A Simple Story...

Hosea 2:19 (NIV)

I will betroth you to me forever; I will betroth you in righteousness and justice, in love and compassion.

For some; well, actually for most, the Bible seems to be a book of complicated grammar, peculiarities, and a complex series of Books. However, the Bible has a very simple story...

God makes man... Man rejects God... God won't give up until He wins man back

God will whisper; God will shout to win us back

God will touch; God will tug to win us back

God will take away burdens; God will even take away blessings to win us back

You could feel like there are a million steps between you and God; God will take all those steps – except one. The final step God leaves for us to take.

Now, God won't give up until He wins us back does not mean God's goal is to make us happy. God's goal is to make us His. God's goal is not to give us what we want; rather God's goal is to give us what we need, when you take that final step to return to Him, eternal life with a personal relationship with Him.

Hebrews 10:23 (NLT)

Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise.

Until He returns

Niel Augustine, Interim Youth Director

DEC. YOUTH EVENTS

December 2-4 - youth Winter Retreat "re-BOOT". Will be leaving PBC at 4:00pm Friday and returning by 1:00pm Sunday. Please be in prayer for our youth during this weekend.

December 5 - Christian Fellowship at Turner's Skate Palace. 1733 Virginia Avenue Hagerstown. Admission is FREE! Money needed for skate rental and snacks. Van leaves PBC at 6:00pm. Returning 9-9:15pm.

December 7 - New Bible study begins... "Who is God?" The six personality traits. Who is God? God is knowable. Genesis 1:24-31; Genesis 3:8-9

December 17 - Youth Christmas Cookie Bake and Christmas Party! The youth will be gathering at PBC to bake cookies we will use for the Christmas caroling with the AWANA program. Then enjoy a time of fellowship, games and Christian videos.

December 21 - Christmas Caroling with the AWANA program and handing out Christmas cookies. 6:30-9pm
Check out Paramount's Youth Ministry on Facebook...

THANK YOU PBC FROM THE YOUTH AND AWANA PROGRAMS!



We want to thank everyone from the church who brought in items to fill the "Operation Christmas Child" shoe boxes.

With your support and giving of materials and money, the youth and AWANA program were able to fill 100 shoe boxes to be sent to underprivileged children around the world. We also had enough to send extra items to the distribution center to stuff more boxes!

*"Your gift of love may open the door God uses to open a child's heart to Jesus Christ".
Franklin Graham*

THANK YOU

On behalf of Kathy and myself, I want to thank everyone for the wonderful Pastor Appreciation Dinner. We had a great time. Thank you too for all the cards and gifts.
Pastor Rickard

Thanks to all of my church family for the cards, prayers and phone calls during and after my recent surgery. Also, special thanks to Pastor Rickard, Niel Augustine and Alan Clingan for their hospital visits.
God Bless You All, Ken Carbaugh

Dear Pastor and Church:

Thank you so much for the great time at Paramount Baptist Church. I appreciate all you did to make my stay so enjoyable. Your graciousness to me and fellowship mean more than you will ever know. Thank you also for the wonderful love offering. This will certainly help us in our efforts of taking the Gospel of Christ back to my people. Your receptiveness to my ministry is very encouraging. Our ministry is not possible apart from churches such as Paramount Baptist partnering with us. It is only by your sharing in this urgency with me that my people will ever hear the Gospel and have any hope of eternal life.
Dr. Al Reichman, Chosen People Ministries

The Western Maryland Hospital Center's Pastoral Care Department extends our appreciation to you for your faithful service to this facility. We would like to remind you of this encouraging word from the Bible. "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward His name, in that ye have ministered to the saints and do minister." Hebrews 6:10
We thank you for your invaluable service to our residents!

Sitting at the piano in the dining hall at Grace College, IN was a very pretty lady whom I had seen earlier on campus. I asked a friend who knew her to introduce me. After much contemplation and my persuasion, she accepted.

As the days passed, we found an interest in singing together. We were then asked to sing in chapel in front of the student body. It was a captive audience as attendance was mandatory. The president of the college, Dr. Herman Hoyt, liked our ministry and invited us to join him on various preaching engagements. Nancy and I continued to sing together over these many years as God has blessed this ministry. Occasionally, we are asked to sing at PBC. Several people have asked why we are not singing anymore and would like us to do so. Rather than repeatedly being asked, an explanation is in order. In June 2000, Nancy was put on dialysis and in 2001 was diagnosed with scleroderma; a very crippling disease and given five years to live. We have struggled through many trials these eleven years. Due to the continued progress and debilitating nature of this disease, her ability to sing the way in which she is accustomed is no longer possible. From now on when I sing, I'll be thinking of her beside me as she has been for forty-seven years.
In His Service, Ned and Nancy Weirich

Dear Friends of the Hungry,

Your gift to Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry is greatly appreciated by the men, women and children who will eat nutritious meals because of your support! In the Bible, God says, *Feed the hungry and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as day. The Lord will guide you continually, watering your life when you are dry and keeping you healthy too. You will be like a well-watered garden, like an ever-flowing spring, (Isaiah 58:10-11NLT)*. Jesus embodied the light of God shining into a broken and hurting world and His light continues to shine today! Thank you for shining this light into a dark world by helping us feed hungry people.
Josh Wilson, Director of Operations

PRAYER LIST

- Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
- The hungry and poor
- Our church—spiritual growth
- Children's AWANA Programs
- Children's program workers
- Adults on Mission program
- Newly elected church officers, teachers and workers
- Deacons
- Trustees
- Pastor Larry Rickard
- Niel Augustine
- Leslie Keefer
- Pastoral search committee
- Western Maryland services
- NMS services
- Adult choir
- Eglise Baptiste Haitienne du Calvaire
- Deaf church services
- Blue Ridge Baptist Association
- Md/Del Baptist Convention
- International Missions
- North American Missions
- Local Christian missions
- Help in reaching people for Christ
- Persecuted Christians around the world
- Revival in our church
- Revival in America
- The President of the United States
- Upcoming presidential elections
- Members and their families
- Children of PBC
- Youth of PBC
- PBC shut-ins and nursing home members
- The nation's economic status
- Safety for our troops
- New church starts
- PBC radio program
- Local Bible believing church stability
- Member relationships
- Remember to thank God for His rich blessings!
- _____
- _____

Join us December 4th for....

On Sunday evening, December 4th at 6:00pm, we will be having the Annual Paramount Community Christmas Carol Sing Along.

All of the Paramount area churches will be participating.

There will be soloists, choirs, quartets from the various churches and an opportunity for you to sing many traditional Christmas favorites.

Cookies and fellowship will follow. So plan to make this a part of your Christmas holiday and bring a friend!

Join us December 18th for....



On December 18th in our 10:30am worship service, the choir will be presenting a musical entitled "A Baby Changes Everything".

Truly the birth of Jesus changed the course of mankind forever.

You'll be blessed as you listen to the Christmas message told in song and you'll be reminded once again of God's love toward us shown in His Son Jesus.

SPOTLIGHT ON MEMBERS

Nicole Holloman

This month we spotlight Nicole Holloman. Nicole was born in St. Paul, Minnesota. The family moved to the Atlanta area where she graduated from North Clayton High School in College Park, GA. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education from Berry College in Rome, GA.

Nicole taught kindergarten and first grade for 7 years in Forrest Park but stopped teaching when her oldest daughter was born. This year, after an 11 year break, she began substitute teaching. The Holloman's have been married for 17 years and have 2 daughters, Dara and Ella.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Brian Hose
- 2 Jessie Unger, Dustin Unger, Ink Bowers
- 3 Michelle Haden, Eileen Wiggins, Merv Yeagle
- 4 Doris Akers
- 8 Robin Shriner
- 9 Jane Hixson
- 11 Jason Blubaugh, Denise Hose, Jenny Chandler
- 15 Nancy Weirich
- 16 Charles Kunkleman
- 18 Ann Ebersole
- 19 Doris Ebersole
- 22 Joyce Staples
- 26 Hannah Robinson
- 28 Chuck Schroer
- 29 Tom Ingram, Alan Hendershot

MISSION CORNER

Adults on Mission

December 8 ~ 7:00 p.m.

Anderson Hall at Paramount
Baptist Church

Theme: *His Heart, His Hands, His
Voice*

All adults are invited to learn the work of our Southern Baptist missionaries around the word. The evening will include Bible reading, praying, and a time of fellowship. Plan to be in attendance for this special program.

Host & Hostess: Tom & Karen Ingram

Preschoolers... In December, preschoolers will hear about Lottie Moon as they learn how David and Rebecca Jackson tell people in London, England, that Jesus loves all people. Mission Friends meet during extended session in PS II. Preschoolers are welcomed

Workers... If you would be interested in being a worker in any of the children's classes or need more information, please call the church office.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Don't Forget!... The church Christmas Dinner will be on Saturday, December 3rd at 5:00pm in the church fellowship hall. Tickets are required. The children will be providing a musical program for the entertainment. See you there!

Thank you's ...

Toys for Tots drive.... As a continuation and in cooperation with the United States Marine Corps, from the Ox Roast toy drive. There is a box for the collection of new, unwrapped toys for underprivileged children in Washington and Frederick Counties.

Salvation Army Stockings... Thank you to everyone who was willing to give of their time and money to fill a Salvation Army stocking this year. As always, we appreciate the overwhelming support you provide to make a happy Christmas for many local needy children. Thank you to Ned and Nancy Weirich who always deliver the stockings each week to the Salvation Army.

December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Each Sunday: 9am SS Bible Study 10am Fellowship 10:30am Worship Svc				1	2 Youth ReBOOT Winter Retreat	3 Christmas Dinner 5p
4 Communion NO COVERED DISH Community Christmas Carol Sing Along 6p	5 Youth Skate Night 6-9p	6 CBS 9a	7 6:00 AWANA 6:15 Youth Group 6:50 Adult Bible Study 8:00 Adult Choir Practice	8 Adult on Mission 7p Anderson Hall	9	10 Choir Practice 9a-12p Deaf Church Christmas Party
11 Quarterly church business meeting after service	12	13 Deacon Mtg 7p	14 6:00 AWANA 6:15 Youth Group 6:50 Adult Bible Study 8:00 Adult Choir Practice	15 Adult 3 luncheon 12p	16	17 Choir practice 9a-12p
18 Cantata 10:30a Western MD Service 1:30p	19	20 Daycare Assoc 6:30p Trustee Mtg 7p	21 6:00 AWANA 6:15 Youth Group 6:50 Adult Bible Study 8:00 Adult Choir Practice/ Christmas Party	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7p
25 We WILL have church service as usual Merry Christmas!	26	27	28 No Activities	29	30	31
						

LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Who was Lottie Moon?

Lottie Moon - the namesake of the [international missions offering](#) - has become something of a legend to us. But in her time Lottie was anything but an untouchable hero. In fact, she was like today's missionaries. She was a hard-working, deep-loving Southern Baptist who labored tirelessly so her people group could know Jesus.

Why was the offering named for this early China missionary?

Throughout her career, Lottie Moon wrote numerous letters home, urging Southern Baptists to greater missions involvement and support. One of those letters triggered Southern Baptists' first Christmas offering for international missions - enough to send three new missionaries to China.

What is the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering®?

Southern Baptist churches collect the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for the sole purpose of supporting international missions. Every penny of the offering goes to the International Mission Board's overseas budget, thus supporting our missionaries and their work.

What is the goal for this year's offering?
The goal for the 2011 offering is \$175 million.
Paramount Baptist's Goal is \$10,000

What is the 2011 theme?

The 2011 theme is "[His heart, His hands, His voice - I am Southern Baptist missions.](#)"

Jesus has commissioned us to be His heart, His hands, His voice. Through praying, giving and going, Southern Baptists have fulfilled this legacy for more than 160 years. Yet billions remain lost and time may be running out for them. Our churches must take direct responsibility for helping reach the nearly 3,800 unengaged, unreached people groups that missionaries may never be able to get to.

Individually and together, we *are* Southern Baptist missions! Pray about what God would have you to give.

Join us December 24th for....



**Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion
Service will be celebrated at 7:00pm.**

**This service has really grown in numbers
over the years and is a real blessing to
everyone who attends.**

Plan to be with us!

“Visions of Faith”

PBC's Sunday Morning Radio Ministry

at 9:06am

WJEJ 1240AM

Newsletter Articles -

Articles need to be submitted by the 15th of each month. You may place the articles in the newsletter mailbox, leave a phone message, fax to 301-739-0500 or email to jm.hilton@hotmail.com

Bulletin Articles -

Articles need to be submitted to the church office on or before the preceding Wednesday. You may place written articles in the Office Administrator's box, leave a phone message, fax to 301-739-0500, or email to paramountbaptist@hotmail.com

CHURCH STAFF:

Dr. Larry Rickard, Pastor
Niel Augustine,
Interim Youth Director
Leslie Keefer,
Office Administrator

Sundays:

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
9:30 a.m. Deaf Ministry
10:00 a.m. Fellowship Time
10:30 a.m. Worship
10:45 a.m. ..Deaf Ministry Worship

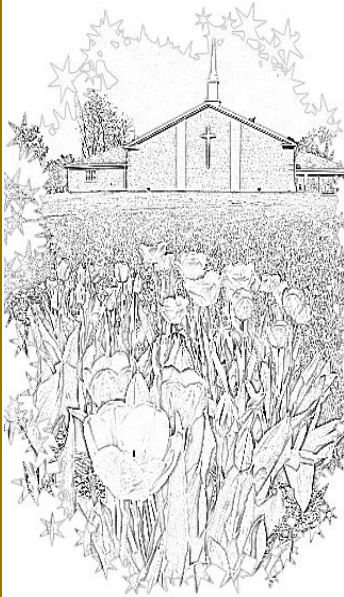
Wednesdays:

9:00 a.m. Women’s Bible Study
(no WBS May thru Aug)
6:00 p.m. Youth Group
6:00 p.m. Children’s Program
6:50 p.m. Adult Prayer / Bible
..... Study
8:00 p.m. Adult Choir Practice

Fridays:

..... Church Office Closed

“Where you’ll always find a warm welcome”



Church Office Hours:
Monday—Thursday
8:30am - 2:00pm

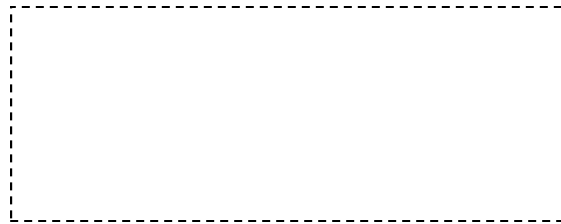
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www.paramountbaptist.com

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OR



Merry Christmas!

Moving?

Please notify the church office of your new address

THE SCHOLAR’S PEN

What does *Christmas* really mean to you?

I know it’s a time to celebrate our Savior, Jesus Christ’s birth. What about after that? After you go to Church and sing a few Christmas carols to celebrate Jesus’ birth, what does Christmas really mean to you? Beyond the gifts, beyond the celebrations, beyond the family gatherings and the overabundance of food. Once all that is over, what does Christmas really mean to you?

Have you ever wondered what Christmas means to a family less fortunate than you? Are you aware that the United States is the wealthiest nation in the world and yet 15% or 46.2 million Americans live below the poverty line? Too many of these individuals there are no gifts, no celebrations, no Christmas turkey or family gatherings. To many of these individuals Christmas is just another day in the struggle to survive. Nothing special.

This year I challenge you to make Christmas special for someone or some family less fortunate than you. Show them the same love that God showed us when he gave his only Son to us on that first Christmas morning. He showed us how to give from the heart. Now it’s your turn to give from your heart as Jesus taught us to do. Trust me, it will make you feel warm and fuzzy all over and give new meaning to the question, what does Christmas really mean to you.

Steve Hose
PBC Deacon Chairman, teacher, worker and long time member