



“Isaiah 7:14 “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (Meaning God is with us.) “ God with us, now this is what Christmas is really about for us who are believers. What a powerful and wonderful statement that impacts our lives. How wonderful and marvelous is the love of God that he would desire to come and be with us. This dear friends, is the very best Christmas present a person can receive. To know that God Himself loved us so much that he would give us his

only begotten son Jesus, and allow him to die on a cross for our sins, just so we could have a loving relationship with him is mind boggling to me. I cannot fathom that within my own mind. The true story of Christmas is all about giving us a way to come back to God and have a loving relationship with Him. God desires to come to us, live with us, and walk forever with us. Now that is an awesome thing and a wonderful gift. It is no wonder that John wrote these words, “Behold, what manner of love the Father bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God.”


These past few weeks have also brought great joy to me as a pastor as I watched you demonstrate what Christmas is really all about. My dear friends you are once again living out the true story of Christmas and I am as very proud of you as your pastor. I can certainly see that Immanuel (God is with us) is visible and demonstrated in the life of our church here at Calvary Baptist. I am so overwhelmed by seeing our church minister this year to those that are less fortunate. Once again you have shown yourselves true to the compelling mission and vision to minister to those who are in need regardless of who they are. I watched the excitement of those who bring and give and I watch the joy and smiles of those who experience a touch of something special as they minister in the name of the Lord. My dear friends this is the true meaning of Christmas. We celebrate the greatest gift from God to us by sharing and giving to others who do not have the blessings we have. We celebrate Christmas by sharing the good news (the gospel) that a savior was born that night in Bethlehem.

Finally, as I bring this article to a close, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for being such a wonderful group of people. Thank you for the gift of your love toward my wife and me, and the gift of prayers and understanding this past year as we, like so many of you, struggled with some difficult times. The Lord gifted us by bringing you into our lives at this time and you have been wonderful in your ministry to us. That is a precious gift that I will forever cherish. My prayer for you and your family is that Christ will bring you the gifts of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love this Christmas season and all year long next year.

MERRY CHRISTMAS DEAR FRIENDS.

Your Servant in Christ

Pastor David

 <p>HAPPY ANNIVERSARY</p>	<p>December 8th marks the 5th year anniversary of Tony Dalton as Contemporary Minister of Music. Tony's talents add much to our worship service. Thank you Tony for giving of your time to this ministry.</p>
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Prayer Concerns

The following people have been added to our prayer concern list since our last newsletter:

Tom Dancy, request from **Gaynell Dancy**; **Vera Forrest**; **Rosa Hauser**; **Lillian Hiatt**; **Harry and Debbie Marshall**, request from **Gaynell Dancy**; **Brooke Rahn**, grand-daughter of **Tim Gardner's** sister; **Clellan Ramey**; **Marvin Solum**, friend of **Pastor David**; **Jackson Wilmoth**, grandson of co-worker of **Lori Hiatt**

Remember the Bereaved

The Family of **Clancy Lyons** in his death, *Margaret Layman's* brother
The Family of **Reginald Sisk** in his death; *Lillie Mae Hayne's* grandchildren's grandfather

Recent Contributions

In honor of Bill Belton by Men's II Sunday School Class

In honor of Karissa Jasmine Berrier by Sunday School Nursery Workers

In honor of Howard Shelton by Men's II Sunday School Class

In honor of Johnny Surratt by Men's II Sunday School Class

Notes of Thanks

The family of **William J. Haynes** acknowledges with grateful appreciation the kind expression of your sympathy. Thank you for the donation to **Woltz Hospice Home** in memory of **William**.

Lillie Mae

To **Calvary Baptist Church Family** and my **Sunday School Class, Ladies 3:** We very much appreciate all of your kind and helpful words, deeds, and gestures during the time when these things mean so much. To those of you who kept us in your prayers, visited, sent cards, and brought food, to **Pastor David**, to **Calvary Baptist Church** for the donation to **Woltz Hospice Home** in memory of **William**; we thank you. It is very difficult to put my thoughts into words—to tell you from my heart how much you all mean to me.

Lillie Mae Haynes

Dear **David** and members of **Calvary Baptist Church**:

Thank you so much for your generous donation. This will provide wonderful supplies for our students at **White Plains**!

Bev Hembree

White Plains Elementary School

Thank you so much for the opportunity to showcase our students! We really appreciate all you do every year to benefit the music program at **Franklin**. We'll look forward to next year!

Amey King

Music Teacher Franklin Elementary

Thank you for the gracious reception your congregation extended to me on **Sunday, November 15** when I was privileged to present the **Gideon** ministry. On behalf of **The Gideons of the Mount Airy Camp** and the **Gideons International**, I want to express my sincere thanks to you and your congregation for your support.

Sincerely yours in Christ

Terry Hardy



THE YOKEFELLOW MINISTRY OF GREATER MOUNT AIRY:

SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR DECEMBER: CANNED MILK & CANNED PASTA

Collection baskets are located at church entrances for your donation of any non-perishable items.



⁴ Show me your ways, O LORD,
 teach me your paths;
⁵ guide me in your truth and teach me,
 for you are God my Savior,
 and my hope is in you all day long.
Psalm 25:4-5

Probably the best known landmark in Surry County is Pilot Mountain. It can be seen not only from all over Surry County, but also at various locations in surrounding counties. The Saura Indians knew Pilot Mountain as Jomeokee, the "Great Guide" or "Pilot." The summit was used by not only Native Americans, but also early settlers in the area to guide them in their travels. Anyone who has been in this region for any period of time knows that rock is there and has seen it numerous times. At times Pilot Mountain is very visible and can be seen for quite a distance. Other times, the mountain appears hazy while still other times, its view is completely blocked by the weather. Regardless of whether the mountain appears clearly or we cannot see it at all, we still know the mountain is there. If we were to need it to show us the way, we would have to wait until we had a view of it.

Sometimes we do not see God for various reasons. Different from Pilot Mountain, when we cannot see God, it is usually something we can do something about. Regardless of the cloud cover, we know (or should know) that God is still there and we can still seek Him and His way. We have to see God to use Him as our guide, just as early travelers had to see Pilot Mountain to use it as their guide. The "weather" will change, then we can see God, and we can be on our way but Sunday School is a tool to help bring the mountain into view. It does not matter if we can see God clearly or He is somewhat hazy or seems completely blocked from view, we can still seek His guidance and as He shows us the way, the view becomes clearer. There are two more Sundays in this calendar year and we all need guidance into the new year as well as throughout the year. Make Sunday School a way to seek direction. God is always there, all we have to do is clear the weather, not wait for the weather to clear.

*Bob McPherson
 Sunday School Director*

Helpful Reminders	December 20	December 27
Youth Snack Supper	No Youth Snack Supper	No Youth Snack Supper
Uplift Breakfast	Warren & Marie Conzone	Gerald & Angela Brown
Nursery Workers	Uplift	Uplift
	December 20	December 27
Bed Babies—4 years	Bob & Pam Peake	Emily Mauck, Andrea Phillips
Children's Church	Warren & Marie Conzone	Gerald & Angela Brown
	Traditional	Traditional
Bed Babies / Toddlers	Margaret Layman, Sandra Byrd	Janet McPherson, Thelma Shelton
2 & 3 Year Olds	Gloria, Sierra, & Sean Best	Julie Warren , JoAnn Surratt
Children's Church	Stephanie Hawks, Anita Greene	No Children's Church