

**DECEMBER 2022**

## What's inside.....

### 1 A Word from Our Pastor

Welcome New Member

Christmas Box Ministry

Backpack Ministry

### 2 Lottie Moon Offering

2023 Offering Envelopes

2023 Directory Changes

December Birthdays

### 3 Financial Results



**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

**6:00 P.M.**

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**11:00 A.M.**

**WORSHIP SERVICE ONLY**

## **A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR**

Gifts are not always put in a box or wrapped in beautiful wrapping paper, albeit we do these things at Christmas in a big way. Nothing wrong with that. Here are a few other ways however that we might give or receive gifts. There is the simple phone call. iPhones have made this gift much more feasible than years ago. I have not always been in Georgia when Christmas arrived, but I always had a phone to use to call relatives and chat a few minutes. A simple phone call is wonderful when absent from family on special days, holidays.

Something tied to iPhone use is Facetime. With Facetime, we can see each other as we talk. I do not use Facetime too much nonetheless it is nice.

How about a handwritten letter? The art of letter writing may be waning yet it is still a warm, nice touch in a world where everything moves faster than the speed of light. When I mention letter writing, that is what I mean. I am not referencing writing a letter in Word with a keyboard on a computer where we peck out and craft letters. Letter writing in this instant means picking up a pen and putting ink on paper.

My handwriting is not very good, never has been. And, honestly, I do not remember the last time I wrote a handwritten letter to anyone. Yet, a handwritten letter adds a personal touch to the letter

that is otherwise missing. And when we receive a handwritten letter from someone, whom we had no idea was even thinking about us, well this is serendipity at its finest. It is pure grace.

What about gifts that are incarnate? I am not alluding to some lofty theological concept or abstraction here; just something simple that we all can relate to. A smile from someone warms the heart. A hug, a pat on the back, and eye contact are loaded with those incarnate moments too.

When the Magi found Jesus and gave gifts to him, they gave expensive, tangible gifts fit for royalty. It is a gesture we remember and practice when we exchange gifts at Christmas today. The incarnate side to the birth of Jesus is that theologically we understand the birth event as God entering in the usual way into the life of all humanity. In other words, God became incarnate to show flawed, broken humanity the way back to the Divine, to God. And Jesus was the intermediary. Still is.

So, give gifts at Christmas that delight the child-heart in us all, and reflect upon the incarnate gift God gave to us all.

Peace on Earth (please!),  
Clarke

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBER**

Desean Cecil-Tribbey\* 2-17  
15167 Route Drive  
Ashland, VA 23005  
Brittany cell: 804-564-9261

## **CHRISTMAS BOX MINISTRY**

December has arrived and the countdown to delivery day is on. December 17<sup>th</sup> is the day all thirty families will receive their Christmas boxes. One person from Hillcrest has volunteered but there are openings for more volunteers. Delivering these gifts is a rewarding experience. Contact me if you are interested. (804-839-7012).

We began our Christmas Box Ministry Workshops on Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. If you have not already volunteered, please consider doing so. If you have already volunteered, we would love to have you continue. We will need to wrap and fill approximately 120-150 boxes for thirty local families that we will deliver on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is invited to participate in this churchwide ministry.

The approximate cost per family averages \$180.00. We encourage you to prayerfully consider financially donating to the ministry. Please be sure to mark your envelope "Designated Christmas Box Ministry."

Thank you, Tyler Shelhorse who helped with the shopping for all the many items Hillcrest puts in the boxes. It took two days and two full pickup truck loads to get these items on site.

Jerry Edwards

## **BACKPACK MINISTRY**

Each week the Backpack Ministry provides food for a weekend to 43 students. We continue to resupply the food inventory on a monthly basis. Some items, mostly soups and shelf stable milks are very challenging to procure. Thus far we have been able to get enough of each by the weeks they are needed.

Everyone is experiencing the astronomical food prices. Especially when you are providing for 41 students a week. It takes all of us to accomplish the goal so please consider donating financially to this ministry. Grocery bags with handles are needed as well. Thank you to everyone who brings in bags and has graciously supported this ministry.

Jerry Edwards

## **LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING**

We will be collecting Lottie Moon Christmas Offering donations beginning Sunday, November 27 through January 1, 2023.

All donations will be forwarded to the Baptist General Association of Virginia the first week in 2023. Thank you for your generosity.

Jerry Edwards  
Treasurer

## **2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Please remember to pick up your offering envelopes for next year. They are on a table in the atrium. If you give through EasyTithe, you will not receive envelopes unless you request them.

2022 Offering Statements will be delivered in January. We will hand them out in church on a Sunday morning and then mail the rest. Hillcrest appreciates all your donations and volunteer time. The church functions because of your generosity and God's grace. Thank you for all your support throughout this year.

Jerry Edwards  
Treasurer

## **2023 DIRECTORY CHANGES**

The roster for our 2023 directory will be on a table in the atrium on Sunday, December 4. Please review your listing and indicate your approval with a check mark or make any changes to your listing that are needed. Thank you.

Debra Edwards

## **BIRTHDAYS**

Danny Wiesner (12-1)  
Morgan Painter (12-2)  
Ann Marie Regensburg (12-2)  
Joan Duszynski (12-4)  
Daniel Burkard (12-4)  
Courtney Frasier (12-5)  
Gabe Lipinski (12-6)  
Lane Griffith (12-6)  
Sharon Duling (12-7)  
Shane Duszynski (12-10)  
Linda Painter (12-12)  
Chris Mahanes (12-12)  
Jacque Althizer (12-13)  
Justin Payne (12-14)  
Ken Jones (12-21)  
Martha Adams (12-21)  
H.O. Tyree (12-24)  
Joshua Seal (12-26)  
Angela Miller (12-27)  
Charlie Crisp (12-29)  
Clarke Hawkins (12-29)

## **GENERAL FUND RESULTS**

General Fund Balance as of October 1	\$32,582.79
October Receipts (Online giving and regular)	\$16,632.09
October Expenditures	\$10,306.15
Balance as of November 1	\$38,908.73