



Pastor's Heart



December is filled with tremendous opportunities for our church family. Please be sure to read the entire newsletter and make the special dates and events a priority for you and your family this month.

Of course December brings to our minds and hearts the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. "Birth of our Savior" is also a phrase that announces God's love in bringing salvation of our souls through Jesus. God, our Heavenly Father, desires that people all over the world will have the greatest opportunity to hear and receive His gift of salvation. There are so many missionaries who have dedicated their lives to God's desire for all people to be saved. How can the Okatee Baptist Church family help?

1. Pray for our missionaries and the people they share Jesus with every day. You will receive a special Prayer Guide in your bulletin on Sunday, December 3rd. Please use this guide to pray for the needs of our missionaries.
2. Let's support our missionaries and their special needs financially. Every penny given to the Lottie Moon Offering for International Missions goes to the missionaries on the field. Our Cooperative Program takes care of the financial needs of administration. You will receive a special offering envelope in your bulletin on Sunday, December 10th. Our church's goal is \$5,000.00. Please help us reach and surpass this goal.
3. Pray about going on a mission trip to help the missionaries already on the field. The International Missions Board will assist us in getting to the right place to help. Please let me know if you are interested in going on a mission trip to serve the Lord.

"Birth of our Savior" also brings to mind the Nativity scene and story. December 8-10 our church will have about 165+ Nativity scenes displayed for the community to come and see. Please read the article inside, on page 3, about this event.

There are so many more things to talk about and experience this month. So continue reading, planning, and participating in the activities of our church. Invite your neighbors and friends.

"Good News,"

Pastor Tim

December 2017

Pastor's Heart	1
Christmas Eve Service	1
Mens' & Ladies' Prayer Breakfast	2
Deacon Family Ministry	2
Covered Dish Christmas Dinner	2
Called Business Mtg.	2
Book Fair for Preschool	2
Preschool Christmas Program	2
Preschool Ministry	2
WMU Meeting	3
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering	3
Coed III Christmas Party	3
Christmas Cantata	3
Celebration of the Nativity Displays	3
Lottie Moon Post Office	3
Dates to Note	4



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

On Sunday evening, December 24th, we will have a wonderful Christmas Eve Service. The service will start at 6:00 p.m. and include special music, candlelight, the Lord's Supper, and a Christmas message. This is always a blessed event each year for our church family as their family, friends, and special guests attend. Celebrate the true meaning of Christmas this year by coming to this Christmas Eve Service.

MEN'S AND LADIES' PRAYER BREAKFAST

All men and ladies of the church are invited and encouraged to come to breakfast at the church on Saturday, December 2nd, at 8:00 a.m. We will begin with a breakfast that will strengthen and energize you for the day. We will have an inspiring devotional to help you in your day with the Lord. Then we will get directions from our Decorating Team to help them decorate the church for the Christmas season. Everything should be completed by 11:31 a.m.! Please come and help..

DEACON FAMILY MINISTRY

Philip Imhoff grew up and lived in the Mansfield, Ohio area and has been retired since 2007. He spent most of his working years at the Tappan Stove Company and the City of Ontario. Over the years he has enjoyed classic car shows, and had a show truck. He and Mary have been married for 53 years. They have two daughters and five grandchildren. He came to know Jesus as Lord and Savior when he was a teenager; and was a member of the Brethren and Grace Brethren churches for over 40 years. He served where needed as part of the usher/greeter teams and helped to run the food pantry services. Phil and Mary moved to South Carolina two years ago and found Okatee Baptist Church to be their home church. Phil looks forward to helping in any area needed. He serves the following families in our church through the Deacon Family Ministry:

Alan Bell	Arthur & Deanna Cramer
George & Lois Campbell	Lori Lewis
Marty & Marilyn Capriellan	Ervin & Shirley Floyd
Marion Cramer	Richard & Gloria Patrick

COVERED DISH CHRISTMAS DINNER

Our Christmas Covered Dish Dinner will be on Sunday, December 17th at 6:00 p.m. The church will provide drinks, utensils, and plates. Everyone is asked to *go-all-out* in bringing plenty of food for all of our church family and their guests. This will be a great time of fellowship. We will also have a time of singing and a devotional. Plan to invite everyone you can; but bring food for them, too.

CALLED BUSINESS MEETING

A Called Business Meeting is set for Sunday, December 3rd at 6:00pm. The 2018 Church Budget will be presented and brought to the church floor for discussion and vote. Following the Called Business Meeting we will have our Bible study.

BOOK FAIR FOR PRESCHOOL

Our Preschool will be having a Book Fair Monday, December 4th through Friday, December 8th. Hundreds of new books will be displayed in the foyer of our education building. You can purchase these new books to give as Christmas presents to your family and loved ones. This will be a fundraiser to help our school purchase new books and supplies. Please come and purchase books or make a donation to our Preschool. The church family will have a special opportunity on Sunday, December 3rd to see and buy the books first.

PRESCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Our Preschool children will be presenting their special Christmas Program on Tuesday, December 12th. The program will start at 5:30 p.m. Arrive early. There will be refreshments after the program for all the preschoolers and their families. Preschoolers will receive a bag of treats and a special gift from the church. Please come and invite your friends to attend.

PRESCHOOL MINISTRY

NOAH'S NEIGHBORHOOD DECEMBER NEWS

IMPORTANT DATES:

Dec. 4th-8th - Preschool Book Fair in the Education Building Foyer — 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Dec. 12th - Christmas Program at 5:30 p.m. After our program, light refreshments will be served to preschoolers and their families in the Fellowship Hall.
Dec. 21st - Winter Begins – Christmas Celebration
Dec. 22nd - School Closed
Dec. 24th - Christmas Eve
Dec. 25th - Jesus' Birthday! School Closed
Dec. 26th - School Closed
Dec. 31st - New Year's Eve
Jan. 1st - New Year's Day – School Closed
Have a blessed and wonderful Christmas! *Marci*

WMU MEETING

Ladies, please mark your calendars for our upcoming meeting on Monday afternoon, January 8th, at 1:00 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. We hope this day and time will be convenient for all of our ladies. Please plan to come.

LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

December 3 — 10

Our church goal is \$5,000.00

"It's the Best Value of the year!" "Give a gift that will last a lifetime!" These phrases are used in ads, especially this time of the year. A gift to the Lottie Moon offering will be the best value of all and will last for eternity. As Southern Baptists give together we are helping support 3,612 missionaries who are working with 872 different people groups. As some of these people believe in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, your lifetime gift has been activated.

The Week of Prayer for International Missions begins on December 3th. On December 10th we'll have an ingathering to receive offerings, of which every cent goes to missionaries serving on the Mission field.

COED III CLASS CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Saturday, December 16th, at 4:00 p.m., the Coed III Sunday School Class will have their Christmas Party in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a lot of other things going on as they celebrate together. There is still time to join their class and attend this special party.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

The church choir will present the Christmas Cantata *"Bethlehem Morning,"* Sunday, December 17th, at 11:00 a.m. in the Morning Worship service.

Invite your neighbors, family, and friends to come worship with us as the choir exalts our Savior and Lord with blended voices.

CELEBRATION OF THE NATIVITY AT OKATEE BAPTIST CHURCH

December 8, 9, and 10, 2017

We're excited about being able to bring this beautiful Nativities Display from around the world to our church, with viewing times available on three different days which are listed below. Please make homemade Christmas cookies to be served to our guests, then come, and bring someone with you. We hope you will invite your friends and neighbors to come to this event.

December 8 ~ open 3:00pm to 7:00pm

December 9 ~ open 11:00am to 7:00pm

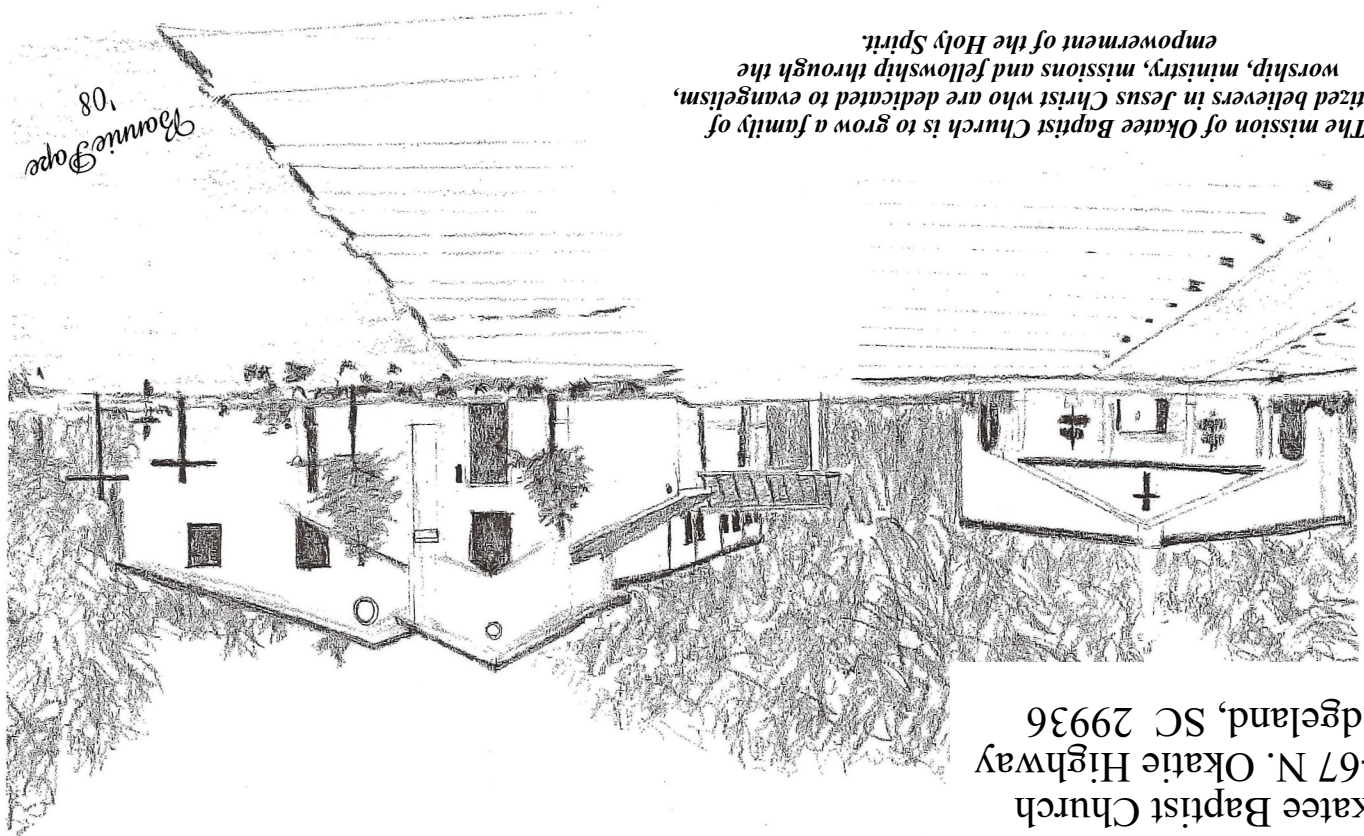
December 10 ~ open 12:30pm to 5:00pm

*100+ Nativities on Display from
Around the World—Admission is Free,
Refreshments served*

Our special thanks to Lisa Gravil for the time and labor of love she has so generously shared with us through her privately-owned Nativities Display.

LOTTIE MOON POST OFFICE

The Lottie Moon Post Office will be open this year in the Education Building foyer to help you share Christmas cards with other active church members. Place your addressed cards in the slot [designated by initial of last name] for each person you're giving a card. Also check your slot for cards sent to you. Please add up the *otherwise postage* for the number of cards you are exchanging and place the appropriate amount in the box beside the Post Office. Lottie Moon was a missionary to China from our Southern Baptist Convention. She was very diligent in writing to people in the United States to let them know of the needs in serving as a missionary to the people of China. Thus, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions is named for her.



DECEMBER 2017 DATES TO NOTE

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| 2 ND | - 8:00 a.m. Men's & Ladies Prayer Breakfast |
| 3 RD -10 TH | - Week of Prayer for International Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering |
| | - 6:00 p.m. Called Business Meeting to adopt the 2018 Budget |
| 4 TH -8 TH | - 7:30 a.m. — 5:00 p.m. Preschool Book Fair
held in the Education Building Foyer |
| 8 TH | - 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. Celebration of the Nativity in the church |
| 9 TH | - 11:00 a.m.- 7:00 p.m. Celebration of the Nativity in the church |
| 10 TH | - Ingathering for Lottie Moon Offerings |
| | - 12:30 p.m.—5:00 p.m. Celebration of the Nativity in the church |
| 12 TH | - 5:30 p.m. Preschool Program and Christmas Fellowship. |
| 16 TH | - 4:00 p.m. Coed III Sunday School Class Christmas Party |
| 17 TH | - 11:00 a.m. Christmas Cantata |
| | - 6:00 p.m. Churchwide Covered Dish Christmas Party |
| 24 TH | - 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship Service |
| | - 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service with The Lord's Supper |
| 31 ST | - New Year's Eve |
| | - No Evening Activities |