

DECEMBER 2019

The Messenger

CURT'S CORNER

Dr. Curt Kruschwitz

It's that time of year again - Christmas trees are put up, candles are in the windows, and lights adorn houses and businesses. Maybe you're like us - one of our favorite traditions each Christmas is to put out a nativity scene. Mary, Joseph, the oxen and sheep, and of course, the baby Jesus, wrapped in swaddling clothes. The nativity scene is so central to the Christmas story that some of us can recite it without thinking.

Have you ever thought about it, though? It's a crazy story. An unwed couple, the virgin birth, the angels. But why was Jesus born? When we consider why Jesus was sent to earth, the nativity story takes on even greater significance. Jesus' birth isn't just an odd story about some difficult circumstances. It's a story about God's desire to transform our world - and every individual's life. For each of the four Sundays of Advent, we're going to take a look at Jesus' own words - why he came into our world. It will be a great way to prepare yourself spiritually for Christmas.

We'll also have several other ways you can prepare yourself for Christmas this month. On Wednesday, December 4, after our Wednesday night supper, children, youth, and adults will join together to make



“sock cupcakes” to give to shut-ins and nursing home residents. Then on Wednesday, December 18, after supper, we'll take those sock cupcakes with us as go Christmas caroling together at Lakewood Manor (Children and youth are encouraged to go caroling with us!). These are both ways to remind ourselves that giving is an essential part of the Christmas season.

Finally, our annual candlelight Christmas Eve service will be Tuesday, December 24 at 5:30 pm. We'll sing Christmas songs and reflect on God's gift to us in Jesus. Childcare will be provided. Be sure to come early to get a good seat!

My prayer for us all is that this Christmas will be a time when we don't just go through the motions - eat lots of food, buy lots of gifts - but instead, it will be a time when we draw closer to Jesus Christ and his life-changing grace in our lives. Know that I'm praying for each of you this season!



GOOCHLAND
BAPTIST CHURCH
EST. 1771

FLOWERS FOR NOVEMBER:

If you would like to donate flowers for the month of November, please contact **Lois Grissom** at **804-883-5532** or **Phyllis Henley** at **804-784-3433**.



PRAYER MINISTRY:

If you are not currently receiving prayer requests by email and would like to be a part of this ministry, email **Anne Henley** at **annechenley@msn.com**.

Address:

2454 Manakin Road
Manakin-Sabot, VA 23103
Church Office: 804-749-3522
Church Fax: 804-749-4510

Email:

Goochlandchurch@gmail.com

Website:

www.goochlandchurch.org

Facebook:

GoochlandBaptistChurch

Dr. Curt Kruschwitz
Pastor

Kelly Anderson
Student Minister

Deacon Minutes

Gale Stanley

Anyone who knows me will tell you that I often can't tell you the lyrics to a song, but I will know the tune. With any new song, I hear the instruments first and if the tune catches my ear, I'll begin to listen to the words. Many times Jessica will say "Mom, did you listen to those words?" and I will look at her with a blank stare, because I have been listening to the tune and the instruments, picturing the notes on a page but not paying any attention to the words. However, the other day, I heard a new Christmas song, *Make Room* by Casting Crowns and Matt Mahr, and almost immediately I started listening to the words to the chorus:

Is there room in your heart, Is there room in your heart, Is there room in your heart, For God to write His story

As I listened to those words, I realized at this Christmas season, that I needed to be sure to make room in my heart for God to write His story. There are so many fun things to do at Christmas and I want to take advantage of each one, but this year I want to make sure that I spend more time in His word, more time in prayer, and more time sharing the love of Christ with others. But even more, I want to make sure my heart is open to whatever He wants to do in my life, that I spend time being still, listening and waiting on Him to write His story in my heart. "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!" Psalm 46:10 ESV

GBC Student Ministry

Kelly Anderson

As I approach my second full month here at GBC, I am amazed at the ways God is working through our middle and high school students here. Over the past month, we have been talking about the ways we are able to see God in the midst of the ordinary, mundane moments of life. How do we see God at a Friday night football game? How do we see God in the teachers and classmates we have interactions with all the time? Asking ourselves these questions helps us to see ourselves in God's story through reading Scripture and seeing the ways God's story intersects with our own stories through everyday life. For our Wednesday night fellowship, we have been reading through the book of Exodus. In Exodus 3, God appears to Moses through the burning bush and calls Moses to go and set the Israelites free. In that moment, a random bush and the area where earlier sheep and cattle had been roaming became holy ground because of the presence of God. This

story has come to life for the student ministry over the past few weeks. We have been out in the community at football games, talking over meals at McDonalds and spending time together enjoying laughter over games of bowling. These are the moments where our faith becomes portable. The moments that we are being church, following God into the heart of our community where there is brokenness, hurting, and people longing for good news. In these places, we are able to see God breaking through into our world and making these ordinary places of our lives into Holy Ground because there He is present and active among us.

Upcoming Event:

Student Ministry Christmas Party

Friday, December 20 5:30pm
At the Bordewyk's home.

Students should bring a gift costing no more than \$10.00 for the white elephant gift exchange. RSVP by email at andersonkg96@gmail.com or text at 434-222-3522.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20 @ 5:30PM



student
MINISTRY

Missions Emphasis

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD

International Missions

In December we observe a season of prayer and giving for those who serve telling the story of Jesus to the world as directed in John 3:16. During this season of giving and praying we support the IMB Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and the CBF Global Mission Offering. Designated envelopes for both these offerings may be found in your financial packet or in the foyer. As we celebrate the birth of our Lord, let us give generously and pray without ceasing that all the nations of the world may come to know Jesus and His saving grace. Our goals for these offerings are:

IMB Lottie Moon Christmas Offering: \$5,500.00
CBF Global Missions: \$1,000.00

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Thank you for your continued support of the Neighbors Food Pantry. The pantry is housed at St. Matthews United Methodist Church, but you may leave your donations in the box provided under the coat hangers in the hallway just outside the Multipurpose Room in the New Building. These are taken to St. Matthews on Wednesday each week. Current needs are: canned meats (especially tuna), canned fruits and vegetables, pasta and pasta sauce and cereal. Your generous contributions to this effort have helped feed the hungry in our community and are greatly appreciated.



One of our GBC Children's Sunday School classes made these adorable turkeys. Some were taken to Our Lady of Hope to use on their dining tables and some were delivered to shut-in member of GBC.

GBC CHRISTMAS POST OFFICE



OPEN DEC. 1st-30th
Located inside the entrance
of the New Building.

ON THE WAY: WEDNESDAYS @ GBC

Join us **Wednesdays @ 5:30pm** for a home-cooked family dinner and our after dinner activities:

December 4

Intergenerational Mission Project:
 Sock Cupcake Craft.

December 11

Children's Music & Missions
 Student Ministry Bible Study
 Adult Bible Study

December 18

Intergenerational Mission Project:
 Caroling at Lakewood Manor.

[www.goochlandchurch.org/
 wednesday-nights](http://www.goochlandchurch.org/wednesday-nights)

Annual JOY CLUB Christmas Banquet

Friday, December 6th

Fellowship & hors d'oeuvres: 5:30pm

Dinner: 6:00pm

Entertainment:

Just Us Country Gospel Band

Meal: Salmon or Beef Fillet

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15th
5:30PM



The Christmas Choir

There are many different personalities that make up this Christmas Choir which creates a real challenge for Michael, the director to pull it all together! Will their new young pastor be able to help them find harmony and the true meaning of Christmas after all?

Join us for our presentations of this fast-paced Christmas comedy.

www.goochlandchurch.org/calendar

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24th
5:30PM



Christmas Eve

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Deacons will be providing transportation for members who would like to attend the Christmas Eve Service, but are unable to drive. Please contact your deacon for more information.

www.goochlandchurch.org/calendar

I Have Come

4 WEEK ADVENT SERIES



Mary, Joseph, the manger...many of us have known the story of Jesus' birth for as long as we can remember. Each December, nativity scenes remind us of the story. But why was Jesus born? When we consider why Jesus was sent to earth, the cute little nativity story takes on greater significance. Jesus' birth isn't just an odd birth story about some difficult circumstances. It's a story about God's desire to transform our world. Join us for the four weeks of Advent as we study why God sent Jesus.

Room At My Table

Thank you to everyone who helped and came out to our November 10th, "Room At My Table" event. Guest heard a devotion from "Room At My Table: Preparing Heart & Home for Christian Hospitality", by Evelyn Bence. They also learned how to make decorative bows and appetizers and desserts for entertaining. Each person who came got to make and take home "Soup In A Jar" for gift giving. Due to the success of this event and our Shutterfly Workshop, we look forward to planning more of these types of event in 2020.



UPCOMING EVENTS

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

SUNDAYS

Contemporary - 8:45am
 Sunday School - 10:00am
 Traditional - 11:00am
 Student Fellowship - 5:30pm

TUESDAYS

Meals on Wheels - 11:00am
 Exercise Class - 7:00pm

WEDNESDAYS

Family Dinner - 5:30pm
 Prayer - 6:10pm
 On The Way Activities - 6:15pm
 Praise Team - 7:00pm

THURSDAYS

Exercise Class - 7:00pm



ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Dec 1** Lord's Supper @ 8:45am & 11:00am
- Dec 6** JOY Club Annual Christmas Banquet @ 5:30pm
- Dec 9** Deacon Meeting @ 6:30pm
Church Council @ 7:00pm
- Dec 10** Olive Riddell Circle @ 2:00pm
- Dec 11** Children's Ministry Meeting @ 5:30pm
The Christmas Choir Dress Rehearsal @ 6:15pm
- Dec 15** The Christmas Choir Play @ 5:30pm
- Dec 20** Youth Christmas Party @ 5:30pm
- Dec 24** Christmas Eve Service @ 5:30pm

SUNDAY SERVING SCHEDULE

GREETERS

- 01** 8:45 Gayle Stanley
11:00 Shannon Wilson
- 08** 8:45 Betsy Alvis
11:00 Jim Allen
- 15** 8:45 Angela Bassett
11:00 Jim Fields
- 22** 8:45 Phil Egolf
11:00 Russ Starke
- 29** 8:45 Gayle Stanley
11:00 Chad Bordewyk

OFFERTORY PRAYER

- 01** 8:45 Wayne Melton
11:00 John Webb
- 08** 8:45 David Angel
11:00 Jim Fields
- 15** 8:45 James Melton
11:00 Jim Allen
- 22** 8:45 Youth
11:00 **NEED**
- 29** 8:45 **NEED**
11:00 Selma Herweyer

RESPONSIVE READING

- 29** 8:45 Daphne Longenecker
11:00 Michael Nicholas

USHERS

Contemporary 8:45am Service

- 01** Ralph Claytor, David Denton, Jeff Parrish, Raymon Roberts
- 08** Allen Bowles, David Denton, Keith Spaulding, George Koch
- 15** Dwight Grissom, Gerry Nuckols, Glenn Nuckols, Brie Roberts
- 22** Youth
- 29** Dwight Grissom, Janet Koch, George Koch, Jeff Parrish

USHERS

Traditional 11:00am Service

- 01** Robert Nuckols & Jim Fields
- 08** Jerry Anderson & Jim Allen
- 15** Kevin Richardson & Al Henley
- 22** Jean Fields & Betty Bowers
- 29** Hope Webb & Frankie White

NURSERY

- 01** 8:45 Maggie Arnold, Dee Parrish, **NEED**
Sunday School Betsy Alvis, Brett Alvis & Nancy Nelson
11:00 Susan Angel & Frankie White
- 08** 8:45 Dee Parrish, Crystal Waldrop, Cheryl Sale
Sunday School Betsy Alvis, Brett Alvis & Nancy Nelson
11:00 - Maggie Arnold & Hope Webb
- 15** 8:45 Cecilia Bowles, Sandy Fisher & Erin Kruschwitz
Sunday School Betsy Alvis, Brett Alvis & Nancy Nelson
11:00 Phyllis Henley, **NEED**
- 22** 8:45 Mila Spaulding, Kitt & Robert Townsend
Sunday School Betsy Alvis, Brett Alvis & Nancy Nelson
11:00 Erin Henley, Kitt & Robert Townsend
- 29** 8:45 Erin Henley, Lisa Smallwood & Mila Spaulding
Sunday School Betsy Alvis, Brett Alvis & Nancy Nelson
11:00 Sandy Fisher & Crystal Waldrop

SERVE @ GBC NEEDS

Nursery & Offertory Prayer & Responsive Reading. See NEEDS listed above.

OCTOBER 2019

Sunday School Average Attendance

Preschool	4
Children	8
Youth	6
Adults	66
Monthly Average	83

October Financial Report

General Fund: \$19,535.11
 Property Maintenance: \$140.00

Multipurpose Room Chair Schedule

The following class is scheduled to setup chairs in the Multipurpose Room before Sunday service.

December	January	February
Discovery Class	Fellowship Class	Senior Men