



# Mathews Baptist Church's **GOOD NEWS GAZETTE**

VOL. 1 ISSUE 11 · DECEMBER 2025

## THE GIFT OF THE STABLE

It was a cold, quiet night in Bethlehem. The stars twinkled brightly, but the world seemed unaware of the miracle about to unfold. In a humble stable, surrounded by the soft sounds of animals, Mary and Joseph welcomed the Savior of the world into their arms. There was no grand celebration, no royal fanfare—just the warmth of love and the simplicity of God's plan.

The shepherds, ordinary people tending their flocks, were the first to hear the good news. An angel appeared, proclaiming, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11). They hurried to the stable, their hearts filled with awe, to witness the fulfillment of God's promise.

This story reminds us that God often works through the ordinary to accomplish the extraordinary. The King of Kings was born not in a palace but in a manger, showing us that His love reaches everyone, no matter their status or circumstance. This Christmas, may we find joy in the simplicity of His love and share it with others.

### REFLECTION:

Take a moment to reflect on the humility of Christ's birth. How can you embrace simplicity and share God's love with those around you this season?

### PRAYER:

Lord, thank You for the gift of Jesus, born in a humble stable to bring hope and salvation to the world. Help us to carry the light of Your love into our lives and share it with others. Amen.

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# WOMEN'S MISSIONARY UNION NOVEMBER UPDATE

What we aim to do: WMU's unwavering focus is

*making disciples of Jesus who live on mission.*

Thank you to all who contributed to Operation Christmas Child this year. Contributions included filled shoeboxes, empty shoeboxes, shoebox fillers, wrapping paper, time spent moving shoeboxes and filling shoeboxes, wrapping shoeboxes, loading buses and trucks. Amy is very thankful for every moment spent helping her with this giant task. In total 7,147 shoeboxes were donated by residents of Mathew's County.

Thank you to all of those who have already donated items for our Christmas Store at the Nursing Home on Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. We are continuing to collect items for the residents to select as gifts for their family members. If you have any new, or homemade gift items, as well as gift wrapping essentials you would like to contribute, we will have a table in the Fellowship Hall where you can leave them. If you'd prefer to donate money for us to use to shop for them that's great too. We will also need volunteers to set up our Christmas gifts on that Saturday, help residents with selecting items, and wrapping gifts. If you are available to volunteer on that Saturday between 8:30 am and about 12 noon, we would greatly appreciate your help. There is a sign up sheet on the Welcome Counter in the Fellowship Hall where you can volunteer in any of these areas, including baking some cookies!



## Some suggested gifts for our Nursing Home Christmas Store are:

- Tool kits/tool gadgets
- Car accessories (air fresheners)
- Perfume
- Candles
- Craft kits (child and adult ones)
- Science kits
- Kitchen gadgets
- Socks/gloves/scarves
- Toys (RC cars, monster trucks, hot wheels, dolls)
- Lotion
- Nail polish/Nail kit
- Legos (child and adult ones)
- Coloring books (child and adult ones)
- Sketch pads
- Markers/colored pencils
- Fantasy novels
- Cook books
- Card games/board games

This month the International Mission Board (IMB) is honoring Lottie Moon through our Christmas Offering. In 1873, Lottie Moon was appointed as a missionary to China. She spent nearly 40 years sharing the gospel with love, courage, and unwavering faith. Her letters home inspired churches to pray and give, leading to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. Today, this offering supports missionaries and helps take the life-transforming message of Jesus to the nations. Let's honor her legacy by praying and giving so others can hear the hope of the gospel. Our goal for December is \$5,000.

We continue to sing at the Nursing Home the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 10:30 am. It is a blessing to us who sing as much as it is for the residents of the home. We would love to have you join us! Please let us know if you plan to join us, as occasionally, we are unable to visit for various reasons.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm in the Welcome Center. We welcome all ages. We will be planning future projects. Our project to plan for January is for our annual Women on a Mission Brunch. Abby Hefner has been invited to speak to us. Join us to find out more!

Be sure and check out our bulletin board across the hall from the kitchen for more information. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me, Donna Frantz or our director, Judy Lowe.

In Christ,

Donna Frantz

# LOOKING BACK...

## *To Christmases Past!*

### Article from "The Lighthouse", December 1990

Excerpts from the Pastor's Column  
by Rev. Ed Inabinet:

"The Christmas season is noted for its music. You will hear music almost anywhere you go between Thanksgiving and Christmas Day . . . Most people come to the place of taking the words in music for granted. They lack any current meaning if ever they had meaning to begin with in people's lives. The same kind of things can happen to Christians.

The treadmill of familiarity and trying to meet unrealistic expectations while going through the forms of celebration take the fire, the joy, the wonder away from us. We know the words of the story, but we lose the music of the heart.

What can we do to make sure that we not only know the words of the story but also have the true music of Christmas ringing in our hearts? We can read the story in a different translation in the Bible. We can listen to a great musical composition like the Messiah or to some contemporary Christmas cantatas. We can renew our commitment to making the spirit of Christmas a reality for others. The spirit is found in the words, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten

Son." As we make conscious effort to give of ourselves, to love, encourage, help, and bless the lives of other people, the true music will return.

. . . One thing is for certain, Christmas is not outward activity so much as it is inward communion with the Savior . . . As with settled determination, we say to Him, "O come to my heart, Lord Jesus, there is room in my heart for thee," we will find that the words take on new meaning and we'll have the music singing within us.



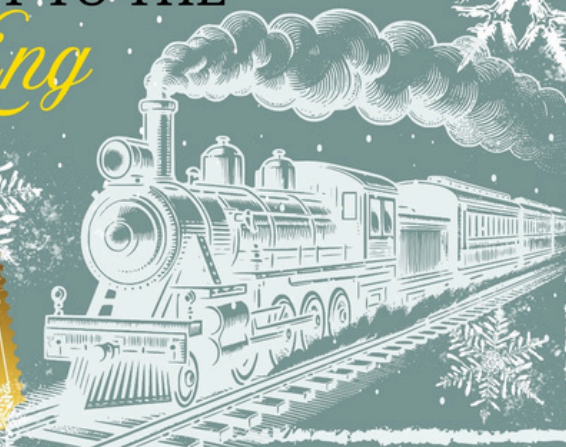
**PASTOR ED INABINET, CIRCA 2011**  
According to our history records, Reverend Edward Inabinet began his ministry at MBC on October 31, 1982 and served until his retirement on December 31, 2010 for a total of 28 years.

*For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him, shall not perish, but have eternal life.  
John 3:16*

# CHURCH NEWS

## *The Faith Express:* JOURNEY TO THE *King*

GOLDEN TICKET  
Date: 12/7/2025  
Time: 5 O'clock



## JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

Join our family as you take a 25 minute hayride journey that comes to life

DECEMBER 12 & 13  
6-9 PM

CAMP PIANKATANK  
1586 Stampers Bay Road, Hartfield, 23071

A free event, Registration required



**PAID IN FULL**

As of November 2025 our building loan is officially paid in full!!!

Donations to the Building Fund are still always welcome to help with maintenance and further renovations/expansion.

LOTTIE MOON

*Christmas*

OFFERING

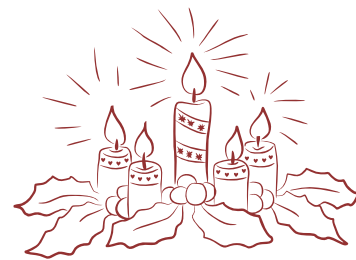
### Reaching the Nations, Together.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Goal—\$7,000. As of 11/29, we have received \$200.00

The Week of Prayer for International Missions is Nov. 30 - Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>. Prayer guides can be found at the entrance to worship.

## *Christmas Card Exchange*

Want a way to show love to your MBC family and to God's children throughout the world? Send your Christmas cards to your church family through our MBC Christmas mailbox and enhance your Lottie Moon Christmas Offering gift with the money you save in card postage. Mailboxes are located at entrance of sanctuary and multipurpose building.



**Candlelight/Communion  
Christmas Eve Service at  
6PM in the Sanctuary**

# REMINDERS...



Remember to pick up your 2026 offering envelopes in your classroom or entryway to worship. If there aren't envelopes for you & you would like a box, please call the church office.

College scholarship applications for the spring semester are available on the counter in the welcome area. Completed applications are due back no later than Monday, Dec. 8. If you have any questions, contact Phil Putnam at 804-815-3564.



**Tuesday, December 2nd**

Red Cross Blood Drive @

Piankatank Ruritan Club from 12:30-6PM. Sign up to donate by using your phone's camera to scan here or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or calling 1-800-RED-CROSS



**Mathews Men will meet for breakfast again on Saturday, December 20th at 8am, come join them if you can!**

*Pray for...*

Praise God...

- His indescribable gift of Jesus and for His mercy and love that never ceases.
- That Amy Ashberry collected and transported 7,147 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.
- For the gift of new life. Benjamin and Tara Rowe welcomed a baby boy, Conrad Alexander Rowe, early on November, 28<sup>th</sup> 2025.

Please be in prayer...

- For Stephanie Anthony, her cancer has returned and she had to have surgery in early December.
- For Ingrid Condon, who is scheduled for surgery on Dec.

Our Condolences...

- To Larry Stewart & family at the passing of Larry's mother.

## Riverside Convalescent Center Christmas Store



Help us revive this program that provides the residents an opportunity to give their family a gift this Christmas (at no cost to the residents).

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20TH @ 10AM**

**Ways you may help:**

- Shop for small gifts suitable for family (drop off at the church at the WMU table).
- Monetary donations and we will shop for you.
- Donate gift bags, wrapping paper, tape, bows, gift tags, etc.
- Join us on Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> to help the residents choose gifts for their loved ones, wrap, etc.

*HELLO January*

Coming up...

1<sup>st</sup> New Year's Day

3<sup>rd</sup> Grace Marriage Meeting

13<sup>th</sup> WMU Meeting

17<sup>th</sup> Men's Breakfast

19<sup>th</sup> MLK Jr. Day

21<sup>st</sup> Wednesday Meals resume/Quarterly Business Meeting



## CHURCH ATTENDANCE - NOVEMBER 2025

Date	9:00	10:00	11:00
11/02/2025	162	137	24
11/09/2025	220	157	26
11/16/2025	182	158	36
11/23/2025	186	132	27
11/30/2025	160	144	25

**Sunday Service Schedule**





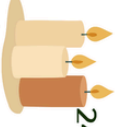

9:00 AM Contemporary Service (multipurpose building)  
also available on Youtube via our Facebook page.  
10:00 AM Sunday School (all ages)  
11:00 AM Traditional Service (sanctuary)

MATHEWS BAPTIST CHURCH  
P.O. BOX 8  
8284 Buckley Hall Rd  
Hudgins, VA 23076

804-725-3707  
mathewsbaptist@live.com

December 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Goal: \$5,000</b>	1 6PM - Exercise Class	2  12:30-6PM Blood Drive @ Ruritan Club	3 6PM - Exercise Class	4 6PM - Exercise Class	5 9am Grace Marriage Meeting	6
<b>Week of Prayer for International Missions</b>						
7 5PM Christmas Program 	8 MBC College Scholarship App. Due 6PM - Exercise Class 6:30PM - Trail Life Awards Ceremony	9 10AM-1PM HO HO Bingo (TRIAD Senior Event) @ Ruritan Club 1PM WMU Meeting	10	11 6PM - Exercise Class	12 6-9PM Journey To Bethlehem @ Camp Plankatank	13 1PM Parade 6-9PM Journey To Bethlehem @ Camp Plankatank
14 	15 6PM - Exercise Class 6:30PM - Trail Life Meeting	16	17	18 6PM - Exercise Class	19	20 8AM - Men's Breakfast 10AM - WMU Christmas Store @ Riverside Convalescent
21 11AM-2PM Children's Caroling Outing 	22 6PM - Exercise Class	23	24  6PM Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Service	25  Christmas Day Office Closed	26	27
28	29 6PM - Exercise Class	30	31 <b>NEW year's EVE</b>	<b>Counting Committee for December:</b> Alice & Larry Stewart <b>Counting Committee for January:</b> Bill & Cathy Nelson		

**9:00 Nursery Schedule (babies):**

(12/7) Joy Lowe, Stephanie Lowe  
(12/14) Delena Nelson, Megan Waddell  
(12/21) Hannah Yarkey, Becky Ethington, Austin Sadler  
(12/28) Melanie Miles, Teeny Hughes

**9:00 Nursery Schedule (toddlers):**

(12/7) Pat Taylor, Sherin Stewart  
(12/14) Bri Sadler, Bonnie Kramer  
(12/21) Nikki Spiers, Cathy Rowe  
(12/28) Mickey Ramer, Pat Taylor

**Birthdays**

**BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

2 Mike Pittman  
3 Rick Andrews, Adriana Gillberg  
4 Christopher Henry, Miles Haywood  
5 Mark Barrick, Waylon Waddell  
6 Nancy Higginbotham  
7 Susan Mangerchine, Jaelynn Morgan  
8 Lisa Brown  
9 Sharon Springer  
10 Gregory Morgan  
11 Kimberly Clark, Whitney Eriksen, Linda German, Sue Sherrill  
12 Rosemary Gayle  
13 Lorna Eriksen, Will Harrington, Jeanette Immel Bain, Dawn Miller  
15 Mikel Garrett, Dale Mitchem, Hannah Yarkey  
16 Jeff Immel  
18 Alan McBurney, David Condon Sr., Stephanie Anthony  
19 Bunny Foster  
21 Mary Clements, Kaitlin Parker  
22 Brian Kramer, Glenda Ramer, Cal Holaday  
24 Jathan Doane  
25 JESUS, Raymond Harris, Janah Stewart  
26 James Pine  
27 Michael McBurney  
28 Rosa Milby  
31 Gerry Clark, Ginger Inabinet

**Anniversaries**

23 Robbie & Tracy Whitehurst  
31 Mark & Michelle Denkinger

If your name is not listed above & you had a birthday or anniversary this month, please call the church office.