

# The Witness



Throughout this Advent season, we have been preparing for the celebration of Jesus' birth and of the upcoming new year.

We have found many ways to tell the story of Christmas.

The Living Nativity was beautifully done this year with Katherine Hawks and Lisa Smith serving as directors. Their job was a little more challenging this year as we had to relocate the stable scene and revision the logistics of each character's appearance as

the story of Jesus' birth was narrated. With many people's creative assistance and hard work, the nativity story was wonderfully portrayed.

The Christmas choir, under the leadership of Claudia Phillips, beautifully proclaimed Jesus' birth in music. Bless each person who sang, played, read, or provided audiovisual assistance for the cantata.

Our children and youth were helpful in telling the story of the Nativity through the readings associated with lighting the Advent Candles. Thanks to the good coaching of Felicia Taylor and Cindy Weston, children and youth did a remarkable job in reading Scripture and sharing a devotional thought for each of the worship services of Advent.

The church building has been beautifully adorned with trees, lights, flowers, and multiple decorations. The church could not have been prettier.

We have enjoyed multiple opportunities of fellowship with each other and our community at large. We thank all who have had a part in planning these events.

God is to be praised for the warmth of fellowship at Mt Olivet! As pastor, I am grateful for the loving, generous, hard working and sacrificial people who serve our Lord through this church.



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**Special points of interest:**

- Family Night Ministry begins again January 4, 2017.
- The children sing in the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service on January 8.
- Children stay in the Worship Service on December 25 and January 29—no Children's Worship.
- Monies are appreciated for the Vaughan Benevolence Fund on January 29.

## STILL TO COME

### Christmas Services

#### Christmas Eve

Saturday Evening, Dec 24  
7:00 pm and 11:00 pm

#### Christmas Day

Sunday Morning, Dec 25  
Only 11:00 am  
(Casual Dress)

Lottie Moon  
Offering For  
International  
Missions

Our Church Goal:  
\$14,550

You still have time to  
give.

### New Year's Day!

Sunday School – 9:45  
Worship – 11:00

Baptism &  
Communion Service

Worship will be in the  
Fellowship Hall – (Casual  
Dress)



## Anne Williamson Retiring

Mt Olivet is very fortunate to have so many wonderful musicians — singers as well as instrumentalists!

One of those musicians is Anne Williamson who has played the piano and/or organ at Mt Olivet for the past 58 years! For the past 23 years, she has faithfully served

as the organist for the 8:30 worship service.

As last Sunday, December 18th, was her last Sunday to play the organ, the group at the 8:30 worship service recognized Anne by presenting her a card of appreciation and a gift. The church will definitely miss her at the organ.

However, we look forward to Anne’s continued participation in the many facets of the church’s ministry.

Psalms 150 tells us to praise God in His sanctuary and to praise Him with many instruments! Anne has done well to help us praise the Lord’s Name!

## Words from the Administrative Committee to the Church Staff

On behalf of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, we extend a special thank you to our wonderful Church Staff for your sacrifice in service of our membership throughout the year. The countless hours that you give our church and the members is invaluable. Week after week, you take time out of your lives to ensure that our lives are a little brighter.

Whether it’s keeping our Church facilities free of mess and outside debris, in spite of how hard we try to drag it in, or its spending hours working in the kitchen to fill our bellies each Wednesday night with hot delicious food, we sincerely thank you.

From teaching our young children about our Lord and Savior and giving them the best start to a Godly life, to providing our students with the tools needed

to navigate a challenging world while remaining strong and steadfast in their faith, we sincerely thank you.

For utilizing an amazing musical talent to bring a group of independent souls together and patiently forging their voices into one unison concord singing in beautiful harmony, we sincerely thank you.

Helping to manage all of the activity swirling around Mt. Olivet is no easy task, so for spending hours sitting in meetings, scribing notes, handling schedules, keeping up with our Pastor and doing it with a kind, caring and generous heart, we sincerely thank you.

For leading your flock with an absolute unadulterated passion for teaching the Word of God, being kind and generous to all, challenging our thinking, easing

our minds, tempering our pain, lending an understanding ear and doing all these things with the grace and ease that can only come from a father, brother or a friend, we sincerely thank you.

To our Church Staff and all of the Mt. Olivet Baptist Church member volunteers who work tirelessly, performing selfless acts in an effort to support our Church family and expand God’s Kingdom all around the world, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others”.  
Philippians 2:3-4

*The church staff wishes  
the church a very  
Merry Christmas and a  
Happy New Year!*

## Felicia Taylor — Mission Immersion

Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond’s Mission Immersion Experience (MIE) is a significant, life changing, required component of the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) and Master in Christian Ministry (M.C.M.) degree programs.

Our Children’s Minister,

Felicia Taylor, will be leaving on December 29 for a “mission immersion” to the population in Appalachia and will return on January 9. She will be going “on mission” with a group from Wake Forest Divinity School. Please be praying for her and her team as they serve in a culture that

may be very different from what they have ever experienced. Please be praying for Ray while Felicia is away.

I look forward to having Felicia share some of her experiences one Wednesday evening soon after she returns home.

## Prayer Concerns

Johnny Axelle  
 Jim Barnard  
 Jessie Bayne  
 Don Beazley  
 Pat Bland  
 Ruby Bumpass  
 Lois Chenault  
 Dawn Dill  
 Betty Dye  
 Brandon Germon  
 Linda Hall  
 Martha Loving  
 Chris Morrison  
 Rachel Mothena  
 Linda Olson & family

Tim Pickle  
 Wayne Watson  
 Barbara Willis  
 Gayle Wingfield  
 Velma Wingfield  
  
**Assisted Living/  
 Convalescent/Homebound**  
 Dean Carter  
 Barbara Cosby  
 Peggy Gravely  
 Richey Jewell  
 Anne Puryear  
 Jack Rusher  
 Evelyn Seay

Elsa Stanley  
 Neesie Stearns  
 Kenneth Taylor  
 Betty Wallace

### In the Military

Austin Cook  
 Bernie Sipple  
 Michael Thurston

*Sympathy is extended to Janice, David & Rhey Igou in the loss of Damon.*

*Sympathy is expressed to Cheryl Puryear in the loss of her aunt, Betty Wickham.*

*Sympathy is extended to Wayne Nuckols in the loss of his mother, Elsie.*

*Congratulations to Nelson & Sara Eck on the birth of Emma-line Taber born December 11. Richard & Gwen Eck are the proud grandparents.*



## A Note of Appreciation

Dear Mt. Olivet,  
 There is a song in your hymnal that to me epitomizes the church and people of Mt. Olivet "There's A Sweet Sweet Spirit in This Place". Thank you for your continuing concern and care for me. Your cards, lunch plates from the Senior Citizens and

WMU and most of all your prayers. It's such a blessing to be part of a family who practices God's love so faithfully.

Thank you again, and may God's blessings be on each and every one of you.

Evelyn Seay



## Featuring Our Sunday School Teachers

Kristen Gilkey is our lead teacher for Middle School Youth on Sunday mornings. This is Kristen's third year teaching Sunday School. She is loved by all! Youth often say, "she has the funniest laugh"! Kristen brings lots of teaching experience as she is also a public school teacher in Henrico County Public Schools. This is her eleventh year teaching at Varina High School. I am so appreciative of Kristen for her love and dedication to our youth. She brings wonderful energy, fun, and Biblical knowledge each Sunday morning. Thank you, Kristen!

Jake Gilkey is the teacher for the Odd Fellows Class. Jake says "This class revolves around the idea that we are all a tad bit odd. Some of us are more so than others. In the Odd Fellows Class we embrace the fact that we haven't got it all figured out, but we know where to look for help. If you are looking for a welcoming, caring and understanding class, you will enjoy being an Odd Fellow. Currently, we are studying Timothy Keller's book entitled Counterfeit Gods. This study has been helping us see the modern day idols, which we do not always recognize, as replacement "gods" that we have set up in our lives. We meet every Sunday in the Odd Fellows' room."

MOUNT OLIVET  
BAPTIST CHURCH



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Return Service Requested

**Church Staff**

Dale F. Ashley, Minister  
Felicia G. Taylor, Children's Minister  
Claudia M. Phillips, Music Minister  
Cindy C. Weston, Youth Minister  
Shirley S. Mills, Secretary



Offering envelopes for 2017 are available in the fellowship hall. If you did not receive a box but would like one, please call the church office.  
  
Shirley

**S.O.S. Youth Group News**

Wednesday Bible Study

Beginning in January, the youth Wednesday night study group will begin the "Explore The Bible" student series, by Lifeway. Our series begins with the Gospel of Matthew. Our study is open to all youth in grades 6-12, from 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. each Wednesday evening.

This trip is open to both youth and adults. Youth must be entering the 9th grade in September in order to go on this mission trip. Youth commitment letter and deposit are due on or before February 1st.

Drumheller, Blake Mason, and Trevor Mason. Also, special thanks to Lisa McCrea, Megan Van Riper, and Jimmy Van Riper who helped to lead in our Advent celebration. Well done!

Great Job!

Thank you to all the youth who volunteered to help lead our Advent Candle lighting portion of the worship services this past month. Great job! Thank you to Madisyn Smith, Christian Adams, Cody Drumheller, Austin

Toronto Mission Trip  
July 22-29,  
2017

