



Christmas Happenings!

Living Nativity

Friday, December 14 & Saturday, December 15

6:00 & 7:00 p.m.

(Rehearsal Sunday, December 8 at 12:00 p.m.)



Christmas Caroling to Homebound

Wednesday, December 18

6:15 p.m.



Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 22

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Christmas Eve Services

7:00 & 11:00 p.m.



Special points of interest:

- *Advent Season begins Sunday, December 1.*
- *Children's Ministry is planning a trip to the "Bethlehem Walk" on Thursday, December 5. Contact Lisa Smith at 928-9151 to reserve a spot on the bus. Arrive at church at 5:15 to leave promptly at 5:30 p.m.*
- *Church-wide Work Day: Saturday, December 7 beginning at 8:30 a.m.*
- *"Body & Soul" Exercise Class "pot-luck" dinner on Thursday, December 12 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Bring a dish to share.*
- *Monies are being collected for World Hunger through February 9, 2014.*
- *The Children's Choir continues to meet at 9:30 in room 102-A each Sunday morning. They sing at the 11:00 a.m. worship service each second Sunday of the month.*

Week of Prayer for International Missions: December 1-8

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering to support international missions begins December 1 through January 12. Mt Olivet's goal this year is \$12,750. This is the equivalent of approximately 3 months support

for a missionary. On Wednesday night, December 4th, our International Mission Emphasis Study will focus on Peru. On Sunday, December 8th, our guest speaker for both services will be Steve

Battaglia of Proclaim and Train International. Please make plans to join us on December 4th and 8th for our international missions emphasis.

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Looking Back at the Year with Thanksgiving!

How has this year so quickly evaporated into thin air?!? As I review the monthly calendars for 2013, I see proof that these days have actually come and gone. I constantly wonder how so much has been packed into such tiny squares representing the days of the year. Then I realize that so much has been accomplished because of all the ministers that we have!

No, I'm not talking solely about the paid "ministers" (as important as each one is)! But I'm thinking of all the volunteers who are diligent in their desire to fulfill the will of God as ministers of the Lord.

Mt Olivet has been blessed in so many ways.

- God has blessed us

with a growing number of young families with children whose voices fill the hallways with sounds of delightful laughter and music and with scenes of young friends enjoying spending time together at the "church house!"

- God has surprised us when we were nearly ready to quit our almost 3 year search for a part-time children's minister. At just the last moment, God led a wonderfully gifted person to apply for the position. We have welcomed Mrs. Felicia Taylor to join the other members of our dedicated church staff.
 - God has enriched us with people of service who have supported and/or ventured

to do "hands-on" mission projects starting in Beaverdam and extending all the way to Haiti and Belize.

- God has encouraged us with His strength as many of our faith community have dealt with significant struggles and grief from the loss of loved ones during the past year.
- God has gifted us with a people of vision who work diligently to keep the church facilities updated and inviting and who give generously to support the varied ministries of the church.
- I wonder what you would include on your list of blessings here at the church! I know that I am omitting many things that could have been mentioned. I'd love to see your list of God's blessings here at the church. Email me at dale@mtolivetbaptist.org.

**"Every Member, ...
a Minister"**

Where are the Church Directories?

Just in case you are wondering, the church directories are supposed to be shipped on December 5, 2013. We will be distributing one to each of the 104 families who were photographed as soon as we receive them!

We have already received an updated brochure about the church. Look in the Welcome Center for a copy. Maybe your

picture is included! You never know!!! 😊

A team of people have invested many hours in the design and development of a new website that will provide information to our members as well as outreach to those in the community who wish to know us better. This website will be launched in the near future!



Poinsettias for the Christmas Season

Again this year you will have the opportunity to give a poinsettia in memory or in honor of someone to decorate the sanctuary during the Christmas season. Poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 22 to be picked up following the 11:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. The cost of a plant is \$14.00. Fill out a form in one of the

Sunday bulletins with memory and honor information. Checks should be written to Mt. Olivet. Deadline to order the poinsettias is Sunday, December 15.



Read the Bible in a Year

Contact Brittany Henley (752-2101) if you are interested in being part of a Bible study which will take place on Tuesday evenings from 6-7:00 p.m. beginning in January 2014.

The study will consist of reading the Bible from Genesis to Revelation over the course of the year.

Please contact Brittany by December 28th with your interest in participat-



Prayer Concerns

Jessie Bayne
Lois Chenault
Dawn Dill
Gwen Eck
Brandon Germon
Brenda McAllister
Brittany Melton
Brenda Morrison
Beverly Parrish
Mike Parrish
Evelyn Seay

Rick Slater
Ruby Stilwell
Betty Jo Taylor
Gayle Wingfield

Assisted Living/Convalescent/ Homebound

Bob Campbell
Barbara Cosby
Betty Dye
Ilene Henderson

Richey Jewell
Martha Loving
Neesie Stearns

In the Military

Michael Thurston

Operation Christmas Child

A group will be traveling from the church to Charlotte, N.C. on December 6 and 7 to work in the OCC warehouse. Please pray for them as they travel.

Christmas Gatherings

The "Young At Heart" Senior Group will be meeting at Debbie's Kitchen on Monday, December 2 at 11:30 a.m. for their Christmas party. Contact Velma Wingfield for information.

The Carrie Rose Ellen Circle is gathering on Tuesday, December 17 at 10:30 a.m. for their Christmas meeting. Anne Williamson has details on the location, etc.

The Ruth Evening Circle is meeting

for their Christmas party on Tuesday, December 17 at 6:15 p.m. at the home of Beverley Hockaday. Janice Igou can provide additional information.



WHEAT Open Food Pantry

Hotline calls for help with our neighbor's bills have been heavy, and the fund to provide monetary assistance has become very low.

Please consider monetary donations to WHEAT to assist with this ministry. Their address is P. O. Box 171, Beaverdam, 23015.

From the Children's Minister

Dear Families,

As Christmas draws closer our children will be bombarded by sale ads, wrapped packages and visions of Santa on their roof. All of this is part of the excitement of the season. This year the Children's Ministry Committee would like to partner with you in teaching our children to place their real focus on Christ.

On Sunday, November 24th we

signed up for the children's Christmas Eve Skit to be held at the 7:00 p.m. service. We will hold practices on December 1, 15, and 22 right after the 11:00 worship service. This will be a fun skit full of songs, giggles and the true gift of Christmas. (All children preschool through fifth grade are invited.)

Also on Friday, December 20th from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. the Chil-

dren's Ministry Committee will be hosting "Parents Night Out." This year children are invited to come in pajamas and journey along "One Starry Night" where they will experience for themselves the night of Christ's birth.

May your family experience the true gift of Christ's birth. I'm very excited to journey this Christmas with you,

Felicia G. Taylor

+ **Children's**

Children's Choir meets every Sunday at 9:30am in room 102-A.

All children preschool through fifth grade are encouraged to Children will sing during worship on second Sundays.

Merry Christmas!
May your family celebrate the birth of God's only Son!



Wednesday Family Night Dinner & Activities for all Ages.
5:30 to 7:30pm

Upcoming Events

Dec.3 Children's Ministry Committee Meets in the Parlor at 7:00pm Practice for Children's Christmas Eve. Skit In the Sanctuary at 12:00pm

Dec. 1, 15 & 22

Dec. 20 Parents Night Out 6:00-10:00pm

Dec.24 Christmas Eve Service

Books of the Month:
The Bible
Tiny Baby Jesus
 by: Dandi Daley Mackall
Mortimer's Christmas Manger
 by: Karma Wilson

+ **Children's Church**

Verse of the Month:
"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son"
 John 3:16

12/1 The Journey
 12/8 The Night
 12/15 His Name is Jesus
 12/22 The Gift
 12/29 No Batteries Needed

The Best Gift Ever!

When my sons were little they loved to sit near the Christmas tree in our living room and marvel at its twinkling lights and dangling ornaments. So, I was not surprised when they asked if they could each have a tree for their own rooms. At first this idea seemed a little silly, but then one day I found a little desk top Christmas tree about 12 inches tall. I came home much to their delight with two little trees, some little ornaments and some lights to help them twinkle.

The trees were a gift of the season and on Christmas Eve they sat lit beside their beds. Never did they imagine when they woke up that underneath them they would find the Best Gift Ever. That year under those trees each boy discovered a gift wrapped in beautiful gold paper with a big purple bow on it. What was the gift? I thought you would never ask...it was a Bible! As you make your list and check it twice have you included the Best Gift Ever on it for every child you know?

Mount Olivet Baptist Church

15583 Coatesville Road
Beaverdam, VA. 23015
Phone: 804-883-5950
Fax: 804-883-5958
Website: www.mtolivetbaptist.org

Church Staff

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


**Every Member A
Minister**



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**Christmas Eve Services:
7:00 & 11:00 p.m.**

The staff at Mt. Olivet wishes you a blessed Christmas and a happy, healthy year in 2014. Thank you for your love and support in 2013!

Dale Cindy
Claudia Felicia
Shirley



Welcome New Members

We are pleased to welcome Taylor and Tenille Nuckols to the Mt. Olivet Church family. They transferred their membership on November 3.

We are also excited to welcome Karly Hobbs to Mt. Olivet. She joined Mt. Olivet by profession of faith on November 17 and will be baptized.

Welcome Sunday School Members

Jonathan & Niki Hall—Café Class

Lisa Powers—Café Class

Brooke Powers—Children's Kindergarten

Leah Hall—Preschool 4

Youth News

RAM Interest Meeting

If you are interested in going to RAM in July 2014, you are invited to attend a meeting at the church on Sunday, December 1 at 12:00 p.m.

Shadow Worship

I'm proud of the way our youth have worked towards our "Shadow Worship" presentations! Our Christmas Nativity Shadow Worship will take place twice this Christmas season. Our first one will be Wednesday night, December 11th at church in the fellowship hall at 6:30 p.m.(all children's classes are invited), and then again Monday, December 23rd at 10:00 a.m. for area children and day-care facilities. If you know of a day-care facility that would like to bring their children to our performance, please let me know.

December 31st "Mini-Retreat"!

December 31st from 12:00 noon until 12:00 midnight, youth are invited to a "mini" retreat! We will begin our retreat with a fellowship event (bowling), followed by a mission outreach project (preparing and delivering goody bags for our shut-in's and the folks at the Ashland Convalescent Center), followed by our progressive dinner. This is a dinner experience that takes place in stages and in the homes of different families and also involves a devotional experience. We will return to the church for parent pick-up on or before midnight.

If you would like to help with our mini-retreat, please contact Cindy or any member of the Youth Committee. Youth can bring a friend. Sign-up for this retreat is required by Wednesday, December 11th.

Cindy Weston

Cookies Needed!

Volunteers are needed to make cookies for refreshments for the Living Nativity on December 14 and 15. Sign up sheets will be located in your Sunday School classroom to indicate your interest in providing cookies. You may also sign up in the fellowship hall by the Living Nativity posters. Russell Bumpass has additional information.



"Young At Heart" Trip

Thursday, December 12 the group is going to the Riverside Dinner Theater to see "White Christmas". Cost of the dinner and show is \$50.00. See Russell Bumpass for details.