

The Tidings

Antioch Baptist Church

Serving God and our Community since 1776

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight

When I see these words from the *O Little Town of Bethlehem* I am struck by their expression of the tension of faith. There is always in our faith as believers a tension between what it is, that we hope for and also the fear that our faith won't meet our hopes. At the time of Jesus' birth there had been nearly four hundred years since the last word from God through a prophet. Then the first word was not actually a word, but *the Word*, become flesh. There was not a word by cries and coos. God sent *the Word*.

I can only imagine the hopes of the people deferred for centuries. The fears that maybe God had grown silent, distant, or unconcerned. While this tension is real, God was doing just the opposite. God was not becoming silent, distant, or unconcerned, rather God was writing the story in the stars, becoming personal in Jesus, and showing love through God's great gift of Jesus. The place of this humble miraculous birth was the town of Bethlehem. The name of the town Bethlehem means "House of Bread." God has provided the Bread of Life, in Jesus.

The name Immanuel means *God with Us*, and Jesus means *He will Save*. The hopes and fears, the tension of all of creation, human longing, and faith are found in Jesus. As we are in the season of Advent now two thousand years since Jesus' was physically on earth. Are there hopes of his return? Yes! Are there fears that our faith is unfounded, and Jesus is not coming back? Yes! When we look to this little town of Bethlehem, we are able to see in that quite unexpected place, the hopes and fears of all the years were met in thee tonight.

Hold on dear friend God sent His Son and we know that God is faithful. God did it before and promises to send Jesus back again. We are hopeful and fearful, but let's always remain faithful. In God's time Christ will return and the hopes and fears of all the years will be realized. There will no longer be a deferred hope or fear of God's silence, distance, or unconcern. There will be hope realized and fears relinquished as the hopes and fears of all of the years will be met in Christ. Remain faithful through the tension of hopes and fears, for God *is* with us.

Blessings, Pastor Greg Soult

ANTIOCH SENIORS HOLIDAY CELEBRATION!

You will not want to miss this one! Monday, December 9, 2019 @ 10:30 a.m.



Dominion 4, of Loudon County, VA, will provide entertainment from Gospel to Doo-Wop, Barbershop to Broadway! Having fun and delivering great harmony are the key ingredients to D4's popularity and success.

- ❖ Wear your holiday gear for your photo with Santa!
- ❖ If you choose to participate in a gift exchange, bring a \$5.00 gift! (man for a man, woman for a woman)
- ❖ Covered dish luncheon follows!



ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH
3868 ANTIOCH CHURCH ROAD
SANDSTON, VIRGINIA 23150

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Happy Birthday to everyone celebrating in the month of DECEMBER: Ashley Cottrell(1), Bonnie Forstner(1), Ronald Wilder(4), Lucy Burton(9), Lewis Bendle(13), Dot Mann(15), Sandi Weller(19), Maryanna Soult(24), Starlet Knight(25), Niki Wilder(25), Sue Hall(27), Rita Johnson(27), Noah C. Boggs(28)

(If your birthday has been inadvertently left off the birthday list or entered incorrectly, please contact the Church Office.)

WMU – WOMEN’S MISSIONARY UNION

WATCHWORD: “My dear friends, stand firm and don’t be shaken. Always keep busy working for the Lord. You know that everything you do for him is worthwhile” (1 Cor. 15:58, CEV)

OUR MISSION: to inform and inspire Christians to influence their world for Christ

WMU will be observing the Week of Prayer for International Missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering December 1-8. Each day will be observed with a meeting. The preview: Day 1 “Here to Serve”; Day 2 “A Season of Change”; Day 3 “Gospel on the Move”; Day 4 “Catching a Vision”; Day 5 “A New Beginning”; Day 6 “Sowing Seeds”; Day 7 :Answering Life’s Questions”; and Day 8 “Sidewalk Chapel”. A copy of the meeting places will be on an insert in the bulletin the First Sunday in December. We invite you to attend one or more of these meetings. The scripture verse for this week is from Revelation 7:9 and our church goal is \$1700.00. Let us all keep this week in our prayers.

We will have as a guest speaker on Sunday, December 1, Mrs. Sally Cline. She and her husband, Paul, served as missionaries in Botswana, South Africa. You will not want to miss her. She is a dynamic speaker.

Our January mission project has not been decided yet.

“The Lord is Good and His love endures forever.” Psalm 100:5

Joyce Adams, Reporting for WMU

A Word of Thanks,

Our family would like to thank you for your kind words, cards, and gifts in October as we celebrated Pastor Appreciation Month. Our family was affirmed, encouraged, and uplifted. Hannah and I celebrated our birthdays and your generosity and thoughtfulness was so kind. Thank you for thinking of us.

Love in Christ,

The Soult Family
Greg, Maryanna, Josiah, and Hannah

December Calendar of Events

December 15 – Worship w/ Christmas Cantata
December 22 – No Sunday School, Christmas Breakfast, Ornament Exchange and visit from Santa
December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5:00pm
December 24 and 25 – Church Office Closed
December 29 – Guest Speaker-Pastor Claude Evans

Merry Christmas