

DECEMBER 2020

# The Messenger

## CURT'S CORNER

Dr. Curt Kruschwitz

This year feels different, doesn't it? Advent is upon us once again. We're finding Christmas trees, putting up lights, and hanging up the wreaths, but this year just feels filled with uncertainty. The past nine months have brought disruption that we never saw coming: school closures, economic challenges, and social unrest. Many of us are worn out from it all.

Perhaps Advent is just what we need. When you think about it, the disruption that we've experienced probably mirrors the disruption that Mary and Joseph felt in their lives more than any other year we've celebrated Christmas. Their lives were turned completely upside down for nine months, too. All their plans for married life, all their hopes for the future - they all vanished as soon as Gabriel appeared to Mary and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus." With that, Mary and Joseph's lives changed forever.

But their lives - and our world - changed for the better. Because the birth of Jesus brought new hope. He offered the world peace like it'd never experienced. He promised a joy that would transcend any circumstance. And he demonstrated love in a way that has changed the way we live today.

For Advent this year, I'll be preaching a sermon series entitled "Deck the Halls." We're accustomed to preparing

our homes each year for Christmas, but my hope is that with all that we've been through in 2020, we'll find ourselves better prepared than ever to receive the gifts that really matter: the hope, peace, joy, and love that Christ bring. Each week leading up to Christmas, we'll consider these gifts to us this Advent.

We have two other unique ways to help you prepare for Christ's birth this year. On Saturday, December 12 at 5:30 pm, we'll have an outdoor Christmas experience for you to walk through. *The Story of Angels* is a socially-distanced, guided experience in which members of our church family will re-enact the first Christmas. Everyone is asked to wear a face covering and to make a reservation to join at [www.goochlandchurch.org/calendar](http://www.goochlandchurch.org/calendar) or by calling 804-749-3522. In the event of rain, *The Story of Angels* will be rescheduled for Sunday, December 13.

In addition, our Christmas Eve service will be outdoors this year. On Thursday, December 24 at 5:00 pm, we'll meet outside the sanctuary for a short service to commemorate the night before Jesus' birth. You'll be invited to sit in your car or to bring a lawn chair and sit outside. Though different from past Christmas Eve services, it will be a memorable evening. (In the event of rain, or for those who don't feel comfortable coming outdoors, we'll have an online Christmas Eve meditation.) I hope you'll join us.

**CURT** | CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



**GOOCHLAND**  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
EST. 1771

### PRAYER MINISTRY:

If you would like to receive our weekly prayer requests, email [goochlandchurch@gmail.com](mailto:goochlandchurch@gmail.com).



### WEEKLY EMAILS:

If you are not receiving our weekly emails and Sunday sermons and would like to, email [goochlandchurch@gmail.com](mailto:goochlandchurch@gmail.com).

#### Address:

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

#### Email:

[Goochlandchurch@gmail.com](mailto:Goochlandchurch@gmail.com)

#### Website:

[www.goochlandchurch.org](http://www.goochlandchurch.org)

#### Facebook:

GoochlandBaptistChurch

**Dr. Curt Kruschwitz**  
Pastor

**Kelly Anderson**  
Minister to Students

## Deacon Minutes

Shannon Wilson

As we enter the holiday season we think of spending time with family/friends and giving gifts. We work tirelessly to shop for the perfect gift to give. The stress of searching for the gift outweighs the joy of giving the gift after all is said and done!

We always feel the need to offer a store bought, tangible gift to show our love or kindness toward someone. But this year and in all years to come why not give YOUR God-given gift or talent to those around you.

A talent is something that you are instinctually born with that gives you unique skills and abilities. Talent is set apart from knowledge in that it is not a learned behavior, although it can be strengthened and practiced.

The Bible tells us that we are all born with distinct talents and gifts that set us apart from each other. When you discover the talents that God has given you and you use them to glorify Him, you will experience a full life! Our loving Lord wants us to feel whole and complete, and it is through talents that we can find our unique calling in life!

As we read in 1 Peter 4:10, *Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.*

I encourage you to use this and other Bible verses about talents and gifts to encourage yourself and others who are seeking God's plan for their life. I found this quote that truly sums up this message: "Your talent is God's gift to you. What you do with it is your gift back to God."

I wish you all a very blessed Christmas and may Christ fill your hearts this holiday season!



### CURT | CONT. FROM PAGE 1

Christmas will look different this year, but I suspect that's just what we need. My prayer is that all the disruption, uncertainty, and challenge we've faced this year will put us in a position to receive the hope of the birth of Jesus in a way we never have before. The birth of Jesus, Emmanuel, is a reminder that God is with us. And that's just as true this year as any other. May God grant us all eyes to see that.

## GBC Student Ministry

Kelly Anderson

This is my favorite time of the year: Christmas is around the corner! While this Christmas season will certainly look and feel different from years past, I'm grateful that during this season we are reminded of God's faithfulness towards us. I will be the first to admit, this year at points it has been hard to recognize and feel that faithfulness and I'm sure some of you have felt that as well. This is a great time to reflect on the anticipation and hope that we cling to as we await the arrival of Christ during this season of Advent. I pray that during this season, God meets us where we are as we catch a glimpse of the Kingdom coming to earth.



### Sunday School @ 11:00 am-12:00 pm

In the Multipurpose Room after Indoor Worship Service. Please bring your own Bible and masks must be worn at all times while inside the church building. We will be reading and praying through the Psalms together.

### Wednesday Nights @ 6:00-7:00 pm

In the Multipurpose Room. Please bring your own Bible and masks must be worn at all times while inside the church building. We are journeying through the book of Luke as Jesus called his first disciples and finding out what it means to be a disciple of Jesus and to disciple each other in our faith journey.

### Youth & Family Christmas Party Saturday, Dec. 19 @ 5:30-7:30 pm

Come on out for a fun night of fellowship together as we compete in Christmas themed games such a Christmas movie trivia and a gingerbread house building competition. We will also have pizzas ordered for each individual family. Please RSVP to Kelly by Sunday December 13. We will have spaces designated for each family to ensure social distancing and masks will be required.

### We are on Instagram!

Follow us @GBCVASTUDENTS to keep up to date on what's happening in the life of our student ministry.

[www.goochlandchurch.org/students](http://www.goochlandchurch.org/students)

\*\*Please note that all of our youth ministry gatherings will adhere to CDC guidelines and rules that have been set forth by our GBC regathering team\*\*



Join us online **Wednesdays at 7:00 pm** for a real-time gathering for fellowship, prayer, and Bible study. Login info will be emailed out weekly. This fall, we'll be taking a look at what the Bible says about prayer: how it works, new ways to pray, and how to develop a deeper prayer life.

To be added to the email list or learn more, email [goochlandchurch@gmail.com](mailto:goochlandchurch@gmail.com) or call 804-749-3522.

## BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

- December 1** Rachel Keller
- December 2** C.J. Michels
- December 5** Greg Nuckols
- December 6** Luke Sale  
Maddy Sale  
Nicholas Sale
- December 7** Barbara Fillion
- December 8** Rick Denning
- December 9** Jim Fields
- December 11** Nancy Nelson
- December 14** Daniel Egolf  
Kevin French
- December 15** Barbara Orrock
- December 17** Christian Frank
- December 19** Emma Arnold  
Sandy Fisher  
Kendal Michels
- December 21** Brenda Allen
- December 25** Craig Melton  
Jackie Powell
- December 28** Marcialyn Ellis  
Lynn Hayes
- December 29** Denise Huff  
Bobby Townsend
- December 30** Michael Brooks
- December 31** Phyllis Henley  
Howard Padgett  
Brian Taylor

## CHRISTMAS CARD POST OFFICE

**Ends Friday 12/11/20**

Drop off your cards in the Christmas Card Post Office Box; no sorting this year.

Delivery will start 12/15/20 by method to be determined. No cards will be accepted after 12/11/20.

## Sunday Sermons Online

Facebook and Youtube  
Sundays @ 8:00 am.

Listen to past sermons at  
[www.goochlandchurch.org/sermons](http://www.goochlandchurch.org/sermons)



More ways to give at [www.goochlandchurch.org/give](http://www.goochlandchurch.org/give)



ONLINE



MAIL/MAIL SLOT



TEXT TO GIVE



BILL PAY

DECEMBER 2020

# Deck the Halls

WITH HOPE, PEACE,  
JOY & LOVE



GBC

**Advent  
Sermon Series  
Nov. 29-Dec. 20**

# Christmas Eve Service

**Thursday, Dec. 24  
5:00 pm  
Outside the Sanctuary**

Bring a lawn chair or join us from your car for a short service to commemorate the night. We will also have an online Christmas Eve Meditation if you do not feel comfortable attending.

A dark red background featuring white line-art illustrations of four angels in various poses, a church icon, and strings of white stars.

 GBC

# The Story of Angels

AN OUTDOOR CHRISTMAS EVENT  
**SATURDAY, DEC. 12 • 5:30-7:30PM**

This program will be outside and will require walking the premises of the church.  
Please register for your FREE tickets

**Register at [www.gochlandchurch.org/calendar](http://www.gochlandchurch.org/calendar) or call church office.**

# Guidelines for Indoor Worship

Established by the Goochland Baptist Church Regathering Team

## We will be doing the following in an effort to keep our church family safe:

- Sanitizing frequently touched surfaces (including doorknobs and bathroom fixtures)
- Offering hand sanitizer and face masks upon entrance to the church
- Refraining from passing things (bulletins, offering plate, Lord's Supper)

## Each person will be asked to do the following:

- Wear a facemask at all times while they're inside the church building. (Children under age 2 do not need facemasks.)
- Practice social distancing, remaining at least six feet apart from those outside your immediate family.
- Refrain from bringing food or drink into the church building.
- Use the bathroom before or after the service, but remain in your seat once you've been seated for worship. (Worship will be approximately 45 minutes long.)
- Visit with our church family outside of the church building after the service.

## Worship itself will look different.

- In an effort to reduce traffic, an usher will show every individual or family to their seats. (We will seat from the outside of the rows moving in.)
- Ushers will leave four seats between each individual or family unit to ensure over 6 feet of social distancing.
- At the conclusion of the service, ushers will dismiss the congregation by rows.
- We will not pass the offering plate, but there will be a box at the entrance of the Multipurpose Room for our church family to drop their offerings into.
- We'll have music, but there will be no congregational singing.
- Children may come forward for the children's sermon and sit on pre-arranged mats to ensure social distancing.
- We will not be printing out bulletins. Instead, we'll use the monitors to guide the service.
- Our pastor will preach behind a clear shield and exit the building immediately after the service, so he can greet you safely outside.

## Who shouldn't worship indoors?

- If you have a fever, cough, or sore throat, please stay home and worship with us online.
- If you or someone in your household has been exposed to COVID-19, please stay home and worship with us online.
- If for any reason, you're not comfortable with the guidelines the Regathering Team has established, please stay home and worship with us online!

*We will continue to monitor state and local guidance concerning COVID-19 and will make necessary adjustments to our worship guidelines as needed.*

## Goochland Baptist Church Regathering Team

*Kelly Anderson  
David Angel  
Susan Angel  
Angela Bassett  
Kristie Gee*

*Elizabeth Hobbs  
Curt Kruschwitz  
Erin Kruschwitz  
Jeff Parrish  
Mila Spaulding*

*Gayle Stanley  
Russ Starke  
John Webb  
Shannon Wilson*

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Allen Bowles**—health concerns

**Ann Bowles**—her cancer has spread and she has started chemo treatments.

**Doug Brandmahl**—health issues

**Debbie Dunlavey**—cancer

**Jackie Eby**—Brookdale

**Janet Faudree**—health concerns

**Barbara Fillion**

**Linda Gibbs**—home.

**Carolyn Heath**

**Selma Herweyer**—recovering from knee surgery at home.

**Lila Hicks**—recovering from knee replacement

**William Hicks**

**Scott Hobson**—continued prayers that his cancer remains low and continues to respond to treatment.

**Connie Long**

**Daphne Longenecker**

**Rebecca Michels**—Please pray that the cancer can be contained and eliminated. Please pray for CJ, Kendall, and Tanner as well.

**Linda Moore**

**Lee Proffitt**—home recovering from heart surgery.

**Bob & Adelaide Stanley**—Bob's health is quickly declining.

**Mary Stanley**—Beth Shalom

**Wanda Waldrop**

**Bob White**—health concerns

**Julia White**

### Family & Friends of GBC Members

**Lynne Andrako**—Janet Koch's friend, cancer treatment

**Breana**—daughter of Jordan Padgett's coworker who has a growth on her brain

**John Bartlett**—Linda Moore's brother.

**Evelyn Brightwell**—Jim Fields' sister, had a heart catheterization and a stint put in.

**Jim Crews**—(Carla Yuen's neighbor & friend) had a cancerous tumor removed from his neck.

**Roger Foster** (friend of Mike Nicholas and retired Henrico County police officer) has terminal cancer.

**Audrey Geraci** (Denise and Gerard Huff's niece) stage 4 metastatic melanoma. She is 36 years old and has three young children.

**Clarence Hall Jr. and Carol Hall, his wife;** kin to Willy Hall and Hazel Melton

**Janice Hanner**—undergoing treatment, pancreatic cancer

**Glenda Hite**—childhood friend of Diane Proctor, has Alzheimer's and has been diagnosed with Covid-19.

**Margaret Holland** (a member of the community) she suffered a stroke

**Christina Holleman** (John Webb's granddaughter) has both COVID-19 and pneumonia and is hospitalized at St Mary's.

**Nancy Kindervater**—(Jeff Parrish's brother's mother-in-law) has a brain tumor and was told she only has a month to live.

**Curt Kruschwitz's grandfather**—in Hospice Care.

**Mary Anne Lawson**—(Gwen Padgett's cousin) having trouble with shoulder that was repaired.

**Rebecca Michels' Mom**

**Roger**—Linda Moore's uncle.

**Darlene Morris** (Hazel Melton's sister) is in ICU at Memorial Regional Hospital

**Gwen Padgett's cousin Nancy**—multiple health concerns and her husband Eddie had a small stroke

**Wayne Parent (Hazel Melton's Brother in Law)**

**Mrs. Calvin Porter** diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

**Rhonda Powell**—friend of Daphne Longenecker, has esophageal cancer

**Lee Proffitt's sister in law, Pearl Turman,** bladder cancer

**Lee Proffitt's brother, Raiford Turman,** home

**Tami Ricketts Mom** had a fall

**Sue Snead** (friend of Ann Bowles)

**Brian Sweeney** (Kevin Dunne's nephew)—has completed all but a few tests prior to being put back on the list for another kidney transplant.

**Juliana Timmerman**—(Kevin Dunne's GREAT granddaughter) born premature

**Dolly Vopelak**—(Ken Stalls' mother in NC)

**Nell West**—(Aunt of Audrey Nuckols and Lois Lane) recovering from surgery

**Sharon Wood**—Hazel Melton's sister, health issues

Please email [goochlandchurch@gmail.com](mailto:goochlandchurch@gmail.com) with new prayer requests, changes to prayer requests, or to be added or removed from our Prayer Request Email List.