



Piedmont Baptist Witness

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Serving the Churches of the Piedmont Baptist Association

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December 2016

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The "Real" Christmas Story

"But when the fullness of time was come, God sent forth His Son..." This is what Paul said in Galatians 4. "In the fullness of time" means when the time was right. God first promised the Messiah in Gen. 3:15. Isaac asked Abraham, "Where is the lamb?" The rest of the Old Testament is a search for the answer to that question. When we get to the New Testament, we find the answer on the lips of John the Baptist. "Behold, The Lamb of God," as he points to Jesus. In the fullness of time, God kept His word.

On that hillside the angels made the great announcement. "There is born unto you...a Savior, which is Christ, the Lord." So, as we know, Christmas is not about trees and lights, and snowmen and reindeer. Christmas is about God keeping His word to provide a Savior for the sins of the world. I can't imagine what emotions the shepherds had that night. "Good tidings" "Great joy" "All people" "Glory to God" "Peace on Earth" "Good will toward men." WOW! What a story. And it's our story to tell. Let's not settle for a watered-down, hijacked story. Let's tell the real story of Christmas. After all, it's His story we tell.

Robert



Let me begin by saying THANK YOU for all of your support for the first responders serving at the wildfire on Pinnacle Mountain.



Our churches stepped up in a tremendous way to meet the needs of these men and women fighting this fire. Thank you for all the donations, for those who provided meal, and those who served on our laundry unit. It was wonderful to see the family of believers come together to meet that need in our community.

Mark your calendars for the 2017 training dates for the Block Party units. We need to do an updated safety training **each year** and the 2017 dates are January 28, February 28, and March 25. Plan to pick a day and bring a group from your church to the training. If you have any questions please give me a call.

Finally, allow me to wish you a very Merry Christmas! I hope that your Christmas season is blessed beyond measure!

Merry Christmas:
Chris



**Week of Prayer
for International Missions
and the
Lottie Moon Christmas
Offering
December 4-11, 2016**



Offering Goal: \$155 million

**Don't
Forget**

Mobile Unit Changes for 2017

* Any church that uses the units in 2017 **must** have members trained before using the units. Please send as many as possible for training.

* Training Dates:

Saturday, January 28, 10am, PBA Office
Tuesday, February 28, 7pm, PBA Office
Saturday, March 25, 10am, PBA Office
(Pick one)

* \$50 deposit required before unit is picked up. It is refunded if unit is returned clean, contents in order and contents unbroken.

* Church must provide proof of insurance before unit leaves Associational property.



Beginning January 2017 we will no longer mail our newsletter. One copy will be mailed to each of our PBA churches. If you are now receiving our newsletter by mail and wish to continue, please call the PBA office at 859-9906 or email joyce@piedmontbaptist.com. You may subscribe to our e-news by going to www.piedmontbaptist.com and click News and enter the required information. This action is taken in an effort to cut costs and be good stewards of our budget money.

Treasurer's Report October 2016

Contributions from Churches 32,227.43
Other 500.88
Total 32,728.31

Monthly Budget Required 26,344.28
Budget Required thru October 263,442.80
Receipts to date 237,299.12
Total Spent to date 235,226.05
Difference 2,073.07
Budget Deficit -26,143.68

Contributions from Churches
(Note: Some churches give quarterly)

	Jan-Oct 2016	Jan-Oct 2015
Agape	2,640.46	2,803.45
Arial	3,471.00	3,653.00
Bishop Branch	7,708.69	7,834.73
Brushy Creek	9,000.00	9,000.00
Calumet	1,222.00	1,313.00
Calvary Hill	5,315.05	4,952.97
Cannon Memorial	3,707.08	3,322.04
Cateechee	2,224.00	2,229.05
Cedar Rock	2,869.96	3,688.84
Central First	3,009.00	3,639.10
Corinth	3,155.78	3,815.13
Crosswell First	800.00	2,014.08
Easley First	7,883.33	7,253.28
East Clemson	2,141.91	3,313.21
East Side	2,750.00	2,500.00
Elljean	1,407.02	1,023.45
Enon	3,695.00	3,633.35
Esperanza	.00	.00
Faith	450.00	500.00
Flat Rock	6,952.00	6,105.82
Geer Mem.	3,428.94	3,627.12
Georges Creek	2,083.29	2,616.31
Glenwood	2,319.48	2,734.26
Graceway	69.72	.00
Hunt's Mem.	3,000.00	3,000.00
Indian Upstate	.00	100.00
Jones Ave.	7,487.41	9,249.65
Liberty First	5,000.00	5,113.83
Mountain Springs	3,886.05	6,588.81
Mt. Airy	8,000.00	8,000.00
Mt. Carmel	6,569.94	7,005.34
Mt. Moriah	2,500.00	2,250.00
Mt. Pisgah	24,442.40	20,692.35
Mt. Tabor	348.00	261.00
My Father's House	.00	.00
Norris First	8,750.00	8,750.00
Park Street	322.00	246.00
Pendleton St.	2,525.71	4,187.59
Powdersville First	9,752.68	9,369.09
Refuge	1,683.30	1,666.60
Rice's Creek	1,908.56	700.00
River Road	996.71	996.34
Rock Springs	47,464.71	43,508.67
Ruhamah	.00	.00
Siloam	10,558.20	9,755.53
Six & Twenty	1,992.69	2,486.05
Slabtown	1,750.00	2,221.00
Smith Grove	1,000.00	300.00
The Neighborhood	500.00	652.24
Trinity Point	.00	193.67
*Warehouse	.00	600.00
Wren	1,048.47	1,030.55
Total	229,790.54	230,496.50

*No longer affiliated with PBA.

**The PBA
Office will be
closed December
26 - January 2 for
the Christmas
holidays and New
Year 2017.**

**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
to everyone from your PBA Staff!**



December Prayer Calendar

Birthdays:

7 Paul Turner, Pastor, Mt. Carmel
7 Jeffrey Harris, Pastor, Calumet
11 Gene Gilliam, Pastor, East Clemson
13 Loretta Dover, wife of PBA Education Team Leader
23 Heath Bowie, Pastor, Refuge
28 Johnny Touchet, Pastor, Mt. Moriah

Wedding Anniversaries:

7 Brad & Hayley Atkins, Pastor, Powdersville First
15 Miles & Christy Bridges, Asst. Pastor, Powdersville First
17 Walt & Debbie Sweet, Min. of Education, Rock Springs
18 Dave & Cathy Shorter, Pastor, Calvary Hill
21 Danny & Jean Parton, Pastor, Arial
21 Paul & Beth Turner, Pastor, Mt. Carmel
29 Wayne & Evelyn Garmon, Pastor, Cedar Rock
30 George & Wanda Tate, Pastor, Slabtown
31 John & Donna Adams, Pastor, Easley First

Staff Anniversaries:

2001 - Danny Parton, Pastor, Arial
2005 - Chris Meadors, Missions Minister, Mt. Airy
2008 - Phil McAlister, Pastor, Geer Memorial
2015 - Brandon Wimpey, Pastor, Elljean



Ministry Assistants to Meet

Join us Tuesday, Dec. 13, 11:45
for lunch at OJ's Café in Easley.
Please bring a wrapped \$5-\$10
Christmas ornament to exchange.
Lunch will be provided.



Bishop Branch has called Jeff Smoak as pastor beginning in February 2017.

Congratulations to Dr. Keith Shorter, Pastor of Mt. Airy. He was elected President of the South Carolina Baptist Convention for 2016-2017.



Son of Man

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." Mark 10:45

Here's a side to the Christmas story that isn't often told: those soft little hands, fashioned by the Holy Spirit in Mary's womb, were made so that nails might be driven through them. Those baby feet, pink and unable to walk, would one day walk up a dusty hill to be nailed to a cross. That sweet infant's head with sparkling eyes and eager mouth was formed so that someday men might force a crown of thorns onto it. That tender body, warm and soft, wrapped in swaddling clothes, would one day be ripped open by a spear.

Jesus was born to die.

Don't think I'm trying to put a damper on your Christmas spirit. Far from it - for Jesus' death, though devised and carried out by men with evil intentions, was in no sense a tragedy. In fact, it represents the greatest victory over evil anyone has ever accomplished.



THE STAR OF
BETHLEHEM