



HOLY TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 3

DECEMBER 25, 2024



Pastor's Reflections PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

Remembering the Meeting of Christmas

To truly remember the meaning of Christmas, let us hold fast to 2 Corinthians 9:15: "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."

As the holiday season approaches, it's easy to get swept up in the rush of shopping, decorating, and celebrating. But let's take a moment to remember what Christmas is truly about—the birth of Jesus Christ, our Savior. His arrival changed the course of history and offers us the greatest gift of all: eternal life.





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PASTOR REFLECTIONS cont'd

The Bible reminds us of the profound meaning of Christmas in Luke 2:10-11: "And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." This announcement was a declaration of hope, joy, and redemption for the entire world.

Isaiah 9:6 proclaims, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." This verse reminds us that Jesus came to bring peace and restoration, qualities much needed in today's world.

Christmas is also about reflecting God's love through our actions. John 3:16 reminds us, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Just as God gave us His Son, we are called to share love, compassion, and kindness with others.

In addition to celebrating the birth of Christ, Christmas is a time for gratitude and reflection. Psalm 95:2 encourages us, "Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms." Gratitude for God's blessings and the miracle of Jesus' birth should fill our hearts and homes during this season.

Christmas is also a time to embrace the spirit of giving, not just through material gifts but by giving our time, encouragement, and love to those in need. Acts 20:35 reminds us, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Following Jesus' example of selflessness, we can make the season brighter for others and honor the true meaning of His coming.

As we gather with family and friends, let's prioritize the message of Christmas—the message of God's immeasurable love. Philippians 2:7-8 speaks of Christ's humility: "But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." His birth was the beginning of the ultimate sacrifice for our salvation.

May this Christmas season draw us closer to God and remind us of the hope, joy, and peace that Jesus brings. Beyond the presents and festive lights, let us remember the miracle of His birth and carry its meaning in our hearts all year long. Let's celebrate with hearts full of gratitude and lives that reflect the love of Christ.





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Cindy's Korner



CINDY'S KORNER



HAPPY NEWYEAR TO ALL

As we welcome a brand-new year, it's a perfect time to reflect on the past year while embracing the opportunities and hope of what lies ahead. The start of a new year is more than just a change in the calendar; it's a chance to set new goals, deepen relationships, and grow in faith.

Reflecting on the old year gives us the opportunity to evaluate our experiences and learn from them. What challenges did we face? What successes did we achieve? Both moments of difficulty and triumph contribute to shaping who we are.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 reminds us, "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." This perspective helps us appreciate the lessons of each season of life, whether joyous or challenging.

The new year is also a time to renew our faith and strengthen our trust in God's plan. Isaiah 43:18-19 encourages us: "Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it?" With this promise in mind, we can enter the new year with confidence, knowing God is working to bring about new blessings and opportunities.

Bringing in the new year is about celebrating life and the hope of a fresh start. It's a time to focus on gratitude for the past and anticipation for the future. Let us step into the new year with hearts full of joy, faith, and determination to make the most of the opportunities ahead. May this year bring growth, peace, and the assurance that God's love will guide us through every moment of the journey.





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MOVING FORWARD

Moving forward as a Christian is a journey of faith, resilience, and purpose. Life isn't always easy, and the path forward isn't always clear, but with God leading the way, every step becomes an opportunity to grow and trust in Him.

Moving forward as a Christian means learning to let go of the past—the mistakes, the hurts, and even the things we didn't understand. Philippians 3:13-14 speaks to this truth: "...forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark

for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Letting go doesn't mean forgetting—it means refusing to let the past hold us back from the future God has planned.

Faith is key to moving forward. Hebrews 11:1 reminds us, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Sometimes, moving forward requires walking into the unknown, trusting that God's plan is greater than anything we could imagine.

Resilience is also important. Life will have its challenges, but Romans 8:28 assures us, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Even when things seem uncertain, God is working behind the scenes for our good.

Finally, moving forward as a Christian means living with purpose. We are called to reflect God's love, share His Word, and walk in obedience to His will. As we move forward, let's do so with confidence, knowing that God's grace is sufficient, and His promises never fail. Every step we take is a step closer to becoming who He has called us to be.





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THE GIFT OF GIVING

"Giving is the purest expression of God's love, for when we give to others, we become His hands and heart, bringing hope and healing to those in need."



The gift of giving to the sick and shut-in is a powerful expression of love and compassion. Acts 20:35 reminds us, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." When we extend our time, resources, or simply a kind word to those who are unable to leave their homes or are battling illness, we reflect God's love in action. Giving to the sick and shut-in not only lifts their spirits but also reminds them they are not forgotten. Through acts of kindness, we bring light into their lives, offering comfort, hope, and a reminder of God's unfailing care.

Each Year our congregation collects and shares hundreds of baskets of fruit for the sick and shut in. We would like to thank everyone who participated in this event





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CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

Guided by God's Divine Hands

Holy Trinity Baptist Church celebrated its 133rd church anniversary. As we look back over the years and reflect, we can see the mysterious hands of God guiding this church through every season. His divine touch has shaped our path in ways we could never have imagined.

We all have felt the mysterious hands of God guiding our lives in ways we couldn't always see or understand. Just like He's led this church through seasons of triumph and challenge,

Those same hands are at work in our personal lives. Life doesn't unfold according to our plans—it's shaped by God's divine touch. We might not always know where He's taking us, but His hands are steady and sure. Proverbs 3:5-6 reminds us, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." That's the mystery—trusting even when we can't see the full picture.

For the past 133 years, this church has been guided by God's unseen hands, weaving together a story of faith, hope, and love. And while we can't predict what the next years will hold, we can trust that His hands will still be leading us—through every storm, every blessing, and every new season.

In my life, I've learned that surrendering to God's will brings peace. His ways are higher than ours, and even when the path is unclear, His hands are never uncertain. Isaiah 55:8-9 reminds us, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

The journey ahead may be unknown, but with faith, we can walk forward knowing that God's mysterious hands will continue to guide us with love, grace, and purpose—just as they always have.





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WORSHIP

Sunday School

Adult Sunday School at
9:30am Children Sunday
School at 9:30 am

Worship Service

Sunday worship service @
10:45am

Church Office Hours

The office is open
Tuesday's from 10:00am-
3:00pm

Phone message and emails
will continue to be checked
regularly.

Bible Study & Praying Time

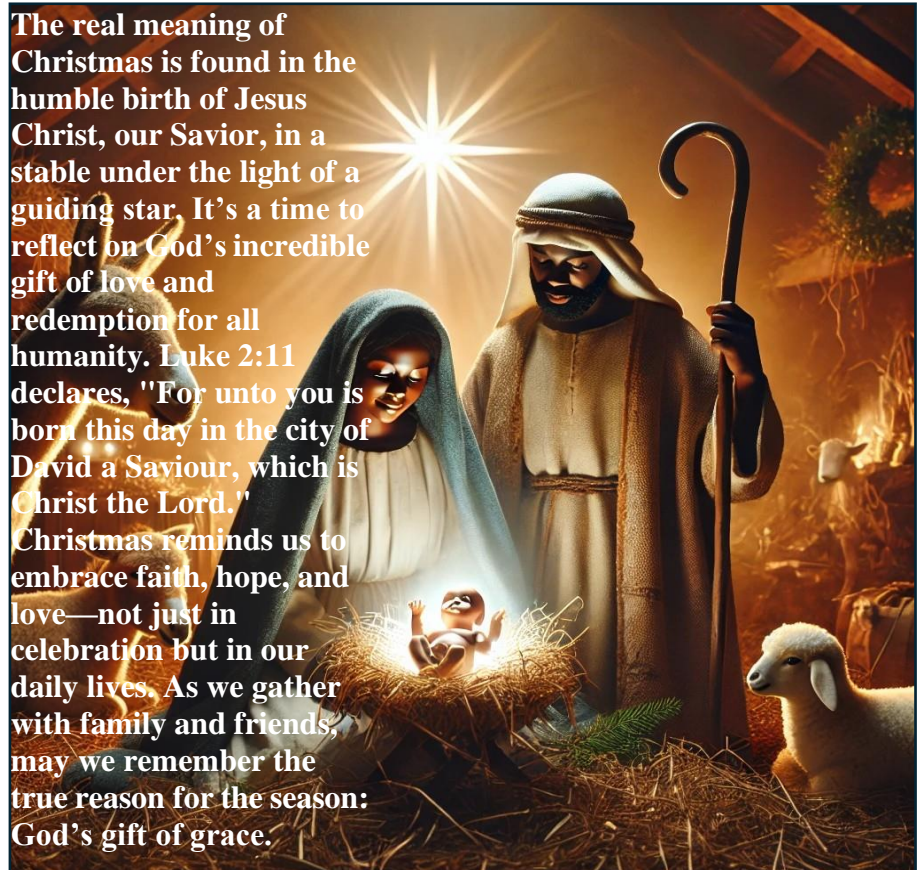
Thursday's
6:00pm - 6:30pm
Praying Time

6:30pm - 7:30
Bible Study

Zoom - 4466578160
Password: 1818

Giving

If you would like to make your
gifts and offering online, you
can by using our cash app:
\$2020HTBC



The real meaning of Christmas is found in the humble birth of Jesus Christ, our Savior, in a stable under the light of a guiding star. It's a time to reflect on God's incredible gift of love and redemption for all humanity. Luke 2:11 declares, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Christmas reminds us to embrace faith, hope, and love—not just in celebration but in our daily lives. As we gather with family and friends, may we remember the true reason for the season: God's gift of grace.





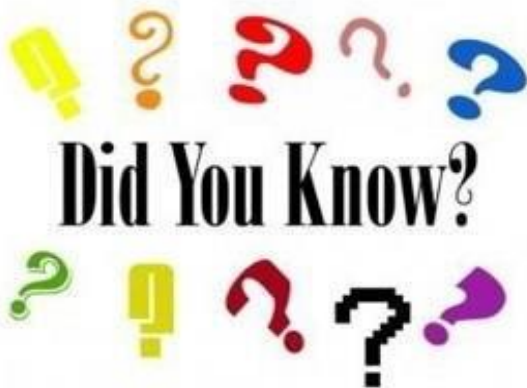
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WHO'S WHO

- ❖ Senior Pastor
- ❖ Minister
- ❖ Minister
- ❖ Chairman Deacon's Ministry
- ❖ Evangelist
- ❖ Assistant Church Clerk
- ❖ Administrator
- ❖ Office Assistant
- ❖ HTBC Editor/Webmaster
- ❖ Pastor's Email Address
- ❖ Church Office Email Address
- ❖ Holy Trinity Email Address
- ❖ HTBC Newsletter
- ❖ Pastor David McIlwaine
- ❖ Terrance D. Green
- ❖ Engracia McIlwaine
- ❖ Deacon Anthony Ferguson
- ❖ Linda Dougherty
- ❖ Minister/Deacon Terrance D. Green
- ❖ Ms. Dee Peters
- ❖ Ms. Annette Johnson
- ❖ Mrs. Cindy McNeil
- ❖ pastordmcilwaine@gmail.com
- ❖ Holytrinitybaptistchurch611@gmail.com
- ❖ Holytrinitybc2@gmail.com
- ❖ htbcmedia@gmail.com



Podcast of *Pastor David McIlwaine* Sunday morning service is now available for your listening pleasure. These Podcast are free and you do not need any special equipment, just a computer with speakers. If you would like to take your podcast with you on the road, you can transfer them to your iPod or any MP3 player. You can access the podcast via our website: <http://www.holytrinitybaptist.org> by clicking on the media icon in podcast.





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It is with our deepest regrets to inform you of the passing of *Mother Deaconess Bettie Roundtree*, who departed on December 7, 2024.

Today, we grieve the loss of an incredible woman, a true pioneer of our church, who gave so much of herself to build and strengthen this community. I feel her loss deeply because she was not just a pillar of our congregation but a reflection of the resilience, faith, and love that defines us. Her steadfast belief in God, her compassion, and her tireless work inspired us all. She was always there to lend a helping hand, encourage others in their faith, and ensure that everyone felt included and valued. Her smile, wisdom, and prayers carried many of us through our most challenging times. Proverbs 31:31 reminds us, "Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates." Her works do praise her, in every corner of our church and in every life she touched. Though her absence leaves a profound void, her legacy will continue to guide us. She will be greatly missed, but we take comfort knowing she is now resting in God's eternal peace.





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KIDS PAGE

Faith #1

Find the words in the puzzle below. These are words you find by working on Faith Experience #1! Be sure to find two conference talks on faith and write your thoughts on the included journal pages.

Y	Q	U	X	U	C	D	D	Z	A	G	Z	B	T	M	B	Q	J	M	D
M	M	W	C	R	L	O	J	L	J	S	C	U	E	C	I	W	X	S	M
B	O	I	I	U	O	O	P	Y	E	K	N	O	W	L	E	D	G	E	G
T	S	V	J	X	P	T	G	M	R	O	I	V	A	S	I	Q	L	N	P
V	E	C	W	Q	L	E	A	L	H	H	B	N	I	Y	U	E	L	Q	D
D	S	A	R	D	R	J	Z	C	F	F	S	Y	Z	X	J	A	V	X	K
G	J	L	A	I	R	T	I	H	H	C	M	L	K	O	L	B	M	E	Y
L	L	B	S	K	P	R	Z	I	A	E	R	U	S	A	E	R	T	V	V
Z	B	E	M	R	E	T	Z	L	B	F	R	E	H	M	N	A	E	T	D
X	D	S	A	J	O	Y	U	D	I	R	P	S	T	O	U	H	S	S	L
J	T	Y	M	X	K	N	G	R	T	H	B	H	I	I	B	A	T	R	C
C	E	F	L	V	Q	M	C	B	E	M	R	S	M	T	R	M	I	I	Y
R	P	Y	A	X	E	I	T	E	H	S	I	B	S	S	X	J	M	F	A
D	N	U	O	F	N	O	C	L	H	V	M	H	T	I	A	F	O	F	Q
G	F	K	L	O	V	B	B	R	Y	E	I	E	Q	G	F	V	N	K	O
E	Q	E	R	A	S	K	K	X	Q	G	U	D	X	W	J	E	Y	A	P
V	X	O	I	S	A	A	C	N	N	R	C	M	Q	R	N	H	V	U	S
J	M	B	E	I	S	K	H	W	T	A	B	K	K	O	O	O	A	G	J
D	W	I	S	D	O	M	B	Q	C	X	C	A	C	P	G	N	E	D	Z
T	D	R	Z	R	R	G	S	A	R	A	S	H	E	A	T	M	N	I	F

FAITH
HABIT
SMITH
SAVIOR
TRIAL
TESTIMONY
BELIEVE
FIRST
SCRIPTURES
ISAAC

MOSES
ABRAHAM
HOPE
JAMES
KNOWLEDGE
JERICO
CHILD
VISION
ENOCH
MORONI

PRAYER
JOSEPH
TREASURE
SARA
WISDOM
TRUE
CONFOUND
DESIRE
ALMA





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ANNIVERSARIES



11TH Wedding Anniversary
9th Wedding Anniversary
40th Wedding Anniversary

Brother Moses & Deaconess /Trustee Argnel Cotton
Minister Terrance D. & Deaconess Shameka Green
Deacon Anthony & Deaconesses Cora Ferguson

November 2,
November 24
December 29



Two hearts unite, a sacred vow,
A love that blossoms, here and
now.
With faith as anchor, strong and
true,
A journey starts for both of you.
Through joy and trials, hand in
hand,
Together you'll forever stand.
A bond divine, a blessing bright,
Your love will shine, pure and
light.



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BIRTHDAY'S

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Sharon Samuel -November 4th
Cynthia McNeil – November 6
Amearah Guy – November 17th

Darcelle Comer – December 2nd
James Smith – December 2nd
Ashlyn Sky Comer – December 4th
Deaconess/Trustee - Ardgnel Cotton – December 5th
Joshua Green – December 22nd
Deacon Anthony Ferguson – December 31st
Christiana Ferguson – December 31st

Pastor David McIlwaine – January 2nd
Doretha McIlwaine – January 2nd
Alaina Samuel – January 4th
Trustee – Patricia Whack – January 6th
Deaconess Cora Ferguson – January 17th
Carol Taylor – January 25th





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WORDS OF WISDOM

Words of Wisdom

“Teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.” – **Psalm 90:12**

“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.” – **James 1:5**

“Blessed is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.” – **Proverbs 3:13**

“Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil.” – **Proverbs 3:7**

“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.” – **James 3:17**

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.” – **Proverbs 9:10**



If you have an article or any Ideas you would like included in the next issue of the Newsletter please submit it to Cindy at

htbcmmedia@gmail.com. Please

note that as editor of the

newsletter *Cindy McNeil* will

have final say as to what will and will not appear in each issue. The

December issue will be available for online reading and printing on

or about **December 30, 2024** and

will be available to those who have no internet service can pick up their copies in the Sanctuary.



If you need to reach the Pastor and wish to contact him by email, please send your concerns or questions to:

pastordmcilwaine@gmail.com





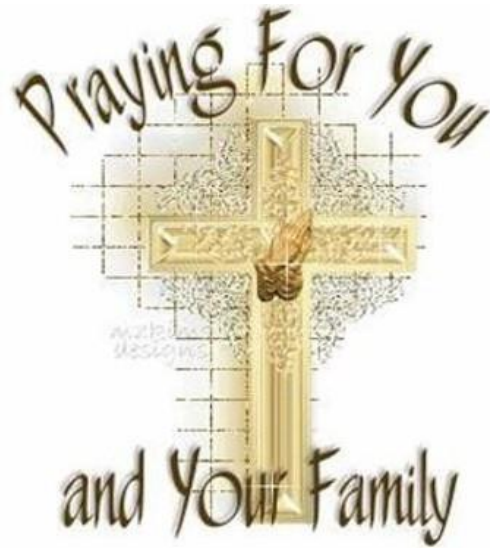
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SICK AND SHUT IN

LET US PRAY FOR THE SICK AND SHUT IN



Mother Helen Waters
Mrs. Charlene Brooks
Ms. Beverly Stevenson
Mrs. Sharon Samuel
Ms. Fredia Frazier



Please notify the Church Office at 215-546-5400 upon entering the hospital, home confinement or in the case of death. Also, contact us following discharge from the hospital.

