

Ash Avenue Baptist Dispatch

ISSUE # 148

DECEMBER 2009

This Month:

- **Lottie Moon Offering for International Missions**
- **Christmas caroling**
- **Christmas Cantata**
- **Children's Program**
- **Deacons, Wives, & Widows Christmas Dinner**
- **WMU Christmas get-together**
- **J.Taylor Class Party**
- **Christmas Eve Service**

From Eure Pastor's Desk

by John D. Eure

Santa may come down the chimney, but I'll be going up into the attic soon. There I'll find an abundance of Christmas decorations and other goods related to the coming holiday. Not least of all will be the artificial Christmas tree (which for some reason still sheds like a real one).



As the tree goes up, Joy and I will decorate it with ornaments collected over the years that have special memories of our past.

There's one particular fragile antique ornament that belonged to my mother that I always place on last. It's probably the oldest ornament in our box. This one and the others are special because they're attached to stories within our families.

When you read about a different tree, Jesus' family tree, there are many stories within His lineage you wouldn't expect to be there. None of Jesus' ancestors were perfect or without sin, however, there are some of His kin who were involved in pure wickedness, trickery, or from an undesirable nationality.

Matthew 1:1-17 (and Luke 3) records a list of Jesus' genealogy. In it we find Jacob, later called *Israel* by God. He tricked his older brother and father into giving him the larger amount of inheritance (Genesis 25, 27).

Don't forget Boaz who married a Moabite widow, Ruth. She was Gentile and it was against the law to marry anyone from Moab (Deuteronomy 23:3).

Jesus came through the line of the beloved King David. Though he was a man after God's heart, his heart became prideful and arrogant to the point he committed adultery. Failing to cover up the illegitimate pregnancy from the affair, he had the woman's husband sent on a death mission.

The godly king Hezekiah had a wicked son named Manasseh. He ruled for 55 years in Judah. During most of his reign he terrorized the nation. He led practices of idol worship which included heinous acts of human sacrifice (including his children). It's no surprise then that Manasseh was involved in witchcraft and sorcery, too.

Though Manasseh repented later, as read in 2 Chronicles 33, we see much damage had already been done.

Though we could examine the others, these few are reminders of the sad human condition. Yet Jesus, the Son of God, became flesh and was placed in an ancestry common to all humankind - flawed and failed. He certainly did come to live *with us*, not just *around us*. And though He endured hardships and the earthly limitations He imposed upon Himself, He never sinned! (**see Hebrews 4:15**). That made Him the perfect sacrifice to pay the costs of our disobedience to God.

As you gather around the Christmas tree, remember Jesus' family tree on earth. And as you think about your imperfections and that of the family you love, thank Jesus for willingly giving His life on another tree, *the cross*, which makes us His descendants for eternity.



This year's **Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions** will be collected all through the month of December.

Week of Prayer for International Missions: November 29—December 6.

National Goal: \$175,000,000.00.

Ash Avenue's Goal: \$2,100.00.



This offering is named in honor of Charlotte "Lottie" Moon who gave up a life of privilege to live among the impoverished people of China during the 1800's, spreading God's love and sharing her meager food supplies with the Chinese for over 37 years. Unfortunately, poverty and hunger are still widespread. Each December, the Lottie Moon Offering allows us an opportunity to assist in the Southern Baptist effort to spread the word of God, along with medical and food assistance, to all corners of the globe, with particular emphasis this year on Asia and Africa.

Last month's Newsletter article contained some printing glitches. Click on this link to read the Corrected article: http://www.aabc900.org/Media_2009/Newsletters/Nov2009.pdf



DECEMBER

- 12/6** Don Williams
Gene Comer
Don Gainey
Mike Harris
- 12/13** Jim Chandler
Jerry Crenshaw
Fred Flinn
Randy Hupp
- 12/20** Randy Guill
Wes Bosiger
Tom Hahn
Daniel Wilborn
- 12/27** Dennis Stewart
Jimmy Allen
Rick Brogden
Victor Crump



ABC Offering Report

as of: 11/23/09:

**Budget offering
received...**

\$177,158.82

**Budget offering
needed...**

\$186,436.31

Budget deficit:

(9,277.49)



This year, we will once again go Christmas caroling. If you would like to participate, we'll gather at the church at 6:15pm sharp on Wednesday, December 23rd.



Thank you to our **Hospitality Committee** for their hard work and excellent meals throughout the year, and especially during the holiday season.
You are all truly a blessing!

**Friday, December 11th
6:30pm**



**Jeanne Taylor Sunday School Class
Christmas Party at the home
of Nancy Crews**

WMU News



**The Nonie Gravitt,
Eva Saunders,
and Sisters Serving Christ
groups will have a
combined get-together
in church Fellowship Hall
at 6PM on Tuesday,
December 8th.**

The Holiday Season is here!

Please remember our less fortunate neighbors who will benefit from your contributions to our **Little Church Fund.**

Donations may be placed into the little wooden church in lobby.

Thank you!

During Worship in December

- 12/6 - Becky Whitt & Leann Henderson
- 12/13 - Rick & Sharon Brogden
- 12/20 - John Lewandowski & Betty Redd
- 12/27 - Joy Eure & Linda Parker

Judy Meeler is the Nursery Coordinator for Worship.

Please contact her for any changes.



During Sunday School in December

- 12/6 - Roger & Sheila Henderson
- 12/13 - Andrea & Allyson Sizemore
- 12/20 - Cynthia Camp & Jessica Snead
- 12/27 - Becky Whitt & Isis Woody

If you find that you will not be able to be in the Sunday School Nursery on your scheduled date please call Cora Cliborne—575-8100

Church Office CLOSED
December 24th & December 25th



Ash Avenue Baptist Church Worship Choir will perform

“It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year”

by Sue C. Smith & Russell Mauldin

Join us at 7PM Sunday, December 20th

You’re invited to join us at 7:00pm
Sunday, December 6th.

Our Children’s Choir will present
“Shepherds, Sheep, and a Savior”.



Christmas Social follows their performance. It is requested that you bring finger foods to the Social and stay to see our special guest, Santa!



6PM Thursday, December 24, 2009



Christmas Dinner

Deacons, Wives, & Widows
Annual dinner
Saturday, December 12, 2009
6PM
at The Lodge Restaurant

Dutch Treat

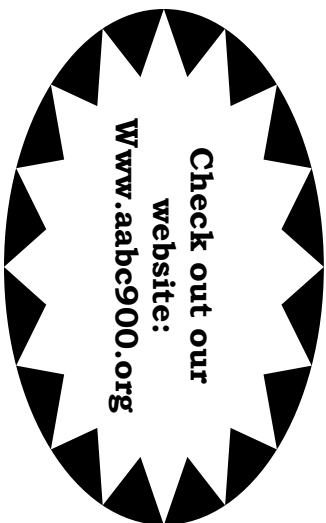




**Properties Contacts for December
are Mike Harris & Norman Patterson**

**Deacons of the Month for December
are Ernest Morris & Jim Chandler**

**Need to use the church van this month?
If so, contact Mike Harris for availability.**



**Ash Avenue Baptist Church
900 Ash Avenue
South Boston, VA 24592
(434) 572-2006**

**NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SOUTH BOSTON, VA
PERMIT NO. 44**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED