

— SPBC Newsletter —



WMU Newsletter

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ: Merry Christmas. I am praying each one of you have a blessed and safe Christmas, filled with the wonder of Joy which only comes from Jesus Christ as Savior.

At Christmas we always collect for our Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. I believe Ms. Lottie is one of my favorite missionaries we speak about. She was born on December 12, 1840, to a very well to do parents who were staunch Baptists, Anna Marie Barclay, and Edward Harris Moon. She was raised on her family's ancestral 1500-acre tobacco farm called Viewmont near Scottsville, Virginia. She was the fourth in a family of 5 girls and 2 boys. She was only 13 when her father died in a riverboat accident.

Ms. Lottie was well educated. She was one of the first women to receive a master of arts degree from a Southern Baptist institution. She had a personality that was outspoken, and mischievous. One day the Lord took a hold of her, and changed her life. She became a missionary to China, and she knew to reach the people she must understand and be like the people in their customs. She gave her all to reach the people in China. Her financial resources, her food, and even her life. At the age of 72, on December 24, 1912, in the harbor of Kobe, Japan, she passed on to be with her Savior. She weighed a mere 50 pounds. What a testimony! This month please remember to pray for our foreign missionaries, who give so much to reach others for Christ in far away lands. Pray for your offering, every penny you give goes to support their mission for Christ. Our church goal this year is \$2200.00.

We are continuing to collect groceries this month to be made into grocery bags to be given to Seniors in our area. I am very pleased to say, that the AWANA clubbers will be the ones packing the bags this year as a mission project for them. It is never too young to start a young heart to learn the importance of missions and the blessings that come from freely giving of ourselves as Christ gave for us.

I pray you start singing those Christmas songs, that we love to sing, Silent Night, Away in the Manger, O Holy Night, they will bring your heart a little closer to the true meaning of Christmas. It is wonderful to know that God loved me so much that He sent His Son in the form of a little bitty baby to grow up to a man that lived a perfect life to save me and make me a joint heir to His throne. Keep Jesus in your heart!



Dear Family –

I want to thank each of you for making AWANA Christmas Shoe Box packing so successful this year. The kids packed over 220 boxes in roughly 45 minutes. The clubbers had a method down and did one box after the other. They were choosy about what they put in each box as they did a boy or girl and of which age they picked. Our next mission project to share with the AWANA clubbers is packing Senior grocery bags for the community.

Thanksgiving Dinner with the clubbers was well received. The AWANA teachers can really cook and those clubbers can really eat. It was a feast pleasing to the eye and filling to the belly. I thank each of the teachers for going above and beyond and a special thank you to Charlene Robbins for her excellent mac and cheese. The clubbers have always loved her mac and cheese and even though she is not teaching this year, she did us the honor of providing one of the kids' favorites.

We will be hosting the AWANA Soup Sunday on December 3, 2023. I hope you will join us. The Soups and fellowship are always special

The clubbers will be having their Christmas Party on December 17, 2023. The night will include an ugly sweater contest, Charlie's Browns Christmas Special, Craft and food. As always you are invited to share the evening with us.

Please continue to pray for our AWANA Ministry and the teachers that so willingly give of their time and resources. We are always looking for new kids, so if you meet someone who has a child, we would love to have them as a clubber in our AWANA Ministry. Merry Christmas and God Bless each of you.

Mike Durham,
AWANA Director



Shell Point
BAPTIST CHURCH
sharing Jesus, one person at a time!

ISSUE 12

From the Pastor's Desk

DECEMBER 2023



Fear Not Christ-follower, For You Are Known and Redeemed

"But now, this is what the Lord says, He who is your Creator, Jacob, and He who formed you, Israel: 'Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine!'"

--- Isaiah 43:1 ---

Merry Christmas Church:

Isaiah 43:1 speaks resoundingly to the hearts of believers, offering profound reassurance in moments of doubt and fear. It begins with a powerful statement: "But now, this is what the Lord says, He who is your Creator, Jacob, and He who formed you, Israel: 'Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine!'"

The context of this verse is pivotal. Israel was in a tumultuous period, facing numerous uncertainties, and experiencing the painful consequences of their choices. In the midst of their struggle, God reminds them of their identity and His faithfulness. The assurance given in these words extends beyond Israel's historical context; it resonates through time and space, reaching every believer today in Christ Jesus.

The verse initiates with God's creative power—a reminder that our existence is intentional. It echoes the very act of God sculpting humanity in His image, with purpose and precision. This foundational truth dismantles any notion of insignificance or abandonment. We are not products of chance but deliberate craftsmanship, designed by the hands of a loving Creator.

The call to "not fear" stems from the assurance of redemption. God acknowledges our brokenness and extends His hand of salvation. He doesn't merely offer deliverance from external troubles but grants redemption from sin, a restoration that surpasses any worldly comfort. In this redemption, He reveals His intimacy—calling us by name, signifying a personal relationship with each of us.

The declaration "you are mine" embodies a profound sense of ownership and belonging. It signifies an unbreakable bond between God and His people Israel. It's a covenantal claim that instills security, despite life's uncertainties. We who are under the New Covenant are not adrift or forgotten; we belong to the Almighty, who safeguards and cherishes us.

In our modern lives, surrounded by chaos and uncertainty, this verse echoes a timeless truth—a resounding declaration of God's intimate knowledge and unwavering love for His people. It serves as a beacon of hope, assuring us that we are not alone in our struggles.

Let this verse serve as a reminder in moments of doubt or fear. You are not a product of chance, but a deliberate creation. You are not abandoned but redeemed and called by name. You are not adrift, but securely held by the One who claims you as His own. Fear not, for you are known and redeemed by the Almighty God.

In Christ Alone,
Pastor D.A. Jones

December Calendar

- Sat, Dec. 2—Men's Breakfast at SPBC, 8am
- Sun, Dec. 3—AWANA Soup Sunday
- Tues, Dec. 5—Church Council Meeting, 7pm
- Tues, Dec. 5—Deacons Meeting, 8pm
- Wed, Dec. 6—WMU Ladies Meeting/Lunch 12pm
- Tues, Dec. 12—Ladies Sunday School Christmas Party, 6pm
- Sat, Dec. 16—Church Christmas Party/Ornament Exchange Game, 5pm
- Wed, Dec. 20—Christmas Caroling 6pm
- Sun, Dec. 24—Christmas Eve Service, 6pm
- Mon, Dec. 25—Church Office Closed
- Sun, Dec. 31—No AWANA

Every week:

- Sunday: AWANA 5pm
- Wednesday: Men's Bible Study at Chick-fil-A, 8am

Season of Prayer for International Missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
December 3 — December 10
Church Goal \$2200



We collected 430 shoeboxes. Thanks for everyone's help in making this possible



December Birthday's

- 12/13 Ted Baker
- 12/19 Kelsey Baker
- 12/21 Jessica Lawson
- 12/22 Conner Harmon
- 12/24 Darren Jones



Our church Christmas party and ornament exchange game is on Saturday, December 16th at 5pm. The main course will be provided by the church. Please bring a side item to share and a wrapped ornament so that you can participate in our ornament exchange game. This is a great opportunity to invite friends and family so that they can get to know our church family!



All members are invited to come go Christmas caroling Wednesday, December 20th. We will meet at the church at 6pm and go visit our shut-in members. Let's go out and share some Christmas joy to those who are not able to come to church.



Sunday, December 24th
6pm

Coming in January

- Mon, Jan. 1—Church Office Closed for New year's Day
- Tues, Jan. 2—Deacons Meeting, 7pm
- Wed, Jan. 3—WMU Ladies Meeting/Lunch, 12pm
- Sat, Jan. 6—Men's Breakfast at church, 8am
- Sun, Jan. 7—AWANA Soup Sunday
- Mon, Jan. 15—Church Office Closed (Holiday)
- Wed, Jan. 17—Quarterly Family Meeting, 6:30pm
- Sat, Jan. 20—AWANA Chili Cook-Off, 5pm
- Fri. & Sat, Jan. 26 & 27—Men's Retreat at Camp Jackson



Friday, January 12
12PM



Wednesday, January 17
6:30PM

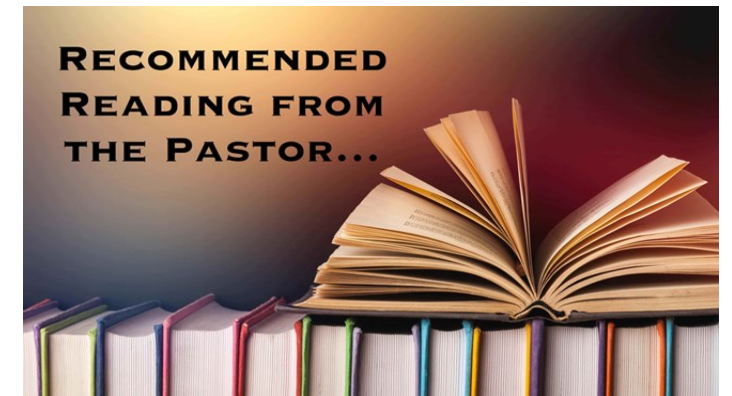


AWANA Chili Cook Off
Saturday, January 20th
5pm



Men's Retreat
January 26th & 27th
Camp Jackson,
Allendale, SC

Plan on great fellowship, a time of devotions, wonderful food, and time to relax and enjoy the camp. See Mike Richard for more information.



"He That Is Spiritual: A Classic Study on the Doctrine of Spirituality"

by Lewis Sperry Chafer

Few books have been more warmly received by Bible teachers and students. *He That Is Spiritual* defines true Christian living and unfolds the biblical teaching concerning spirituality - what it is, and how it is secured.

Nothing could be more important to Christians than the theme of this book. Its sound teaching corrects many false impressions and presents a scriptural pattern for the full life in Christ.

* New softcover copies of this work are available for \$10.99 on amazon.com, and a copy is available to borrow in our church library!

