

The Messenger

HOLSTON BAPTIST
ASSOCIATION

December 2024

Gifts That Make a Difference

The anticipation of Christmas makes us think of gifts. When I was a child the arrival of the Sears Christmas Wish Book immediately set my mind to picking out things I wanted for Christmas. Many of those gifts have been long since forgotten or thrown in the trash. Although I occasionally come across an item and remember that I received it as a Christmas present in years past, my heart and mind think more and more of God's gifts that cannot be bought and sold, gifts that made a lasting difference in my life.

My Parents

Growing up I was blessed to have parents who loved Jesus, loved each other, and loved my sisters and me enough to provide for us, teach us life skills, take us to church every time the doors were open, and bring church home and weave it into every fiber of life. It never occurred to me then how many kids, including some I knew very well, had none of those blessings. Daddy was a deacon, but he preached to me more than any pastor I ever had. He was firm on discipline but I always knew he loved me. Times were usually hard financially, which caused Mama to take a job as a cafeteria worker when I was in the third grade. Daddy had always farmed, but made most of his living as a furniture builder and refinisher.

Our simple country life sheltered me from much of the world's evil, and taught me many skills I still use today. In February of my ninth-grade year Mama was diagnosed with terminal cancer. She died just over four months later, and Daddy finished the challenge of parenting alone. He often said, "I may not have much of this world's goods, but with my family and my God I'm a millionaire!" He lived to see all of his children marry believers and follow the path he had shown them long before the Lord took Him home in 2016.

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<p style="text-align: center;">December 2024</p>	<p>December 5</p> <p>Minister & Spouse Banquet Register online at holstonba.org/christmas</p>	<p>December 6</p> <p>JCBC Angel Tree Gifts due</p>	<p>December 14</p> <p>Housing Authority Winter Wonderland</p>
	<p>January 24</p> <p>Executive Board Meeting @ FBC Jonesborough</p>		<p>February 21-22</p> <p>Men's & Women's Conferences with Hershael & Tanya York</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">2025</p>			



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

December 11	December 14	December 22
Jaime Velasco	Mike Pope	Keith Malone
December 23	December 23	December 30
David Green	Tommy Pierce	Pete Tackett

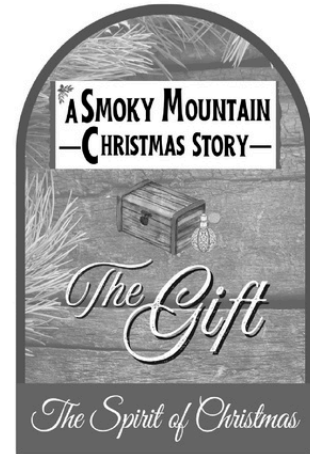
Churches Without Pastors:

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- Blountville First
 - Clifton View
 - Boone Trail
 - Friendship Chapel
 - Cherokee, Jonesborough
 - Muddy Creek
 - Colonial Heights
 - Tennessee Avenue

*First Baptist
Church
Blountville, TN*

Invites you to

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS 2024



Performance Information

December	6	7:00 PM
December	7	2:30 PM
December	8	5:00 PM

Prices

Dinner and Drama.....	\$20.00	Adults
.....	\$10.00	Children 12 years & under
Dessert and Drama.....	\$3.00	
Drama Only.....	Free	

Doors open 30 minutes prior to published starting time. Everyone is asked to enter through the doors to the Sanctuary (facing Bltv. UMChurch.). You will be escorted to your table from the Sanctuary.

Ticket Purchase Information

Tickets go on sale in person on FRIDAY, November 8 at 9:00 AM.

1. The welcome center will open at 8:30. (These are the main doors to the Sanctuary on the west side of the Sanctuary.)
 2. At 8:30 you may enter the building and take your place in the Sanctuary line for the tickets you want to purchase.
 3. If you need tickets for multiple performances, PLEASE BRING SOMEONE FOR EACH LINE.
 4. Signs in the Sanctuary will direct you to the correct line and seats.
 5. Purchase tickets when it is your turn.
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To purchase tickets by phone: Call the church office at 423-323-8033 (option 1) after 9 AM on Monday, November 11. All seats are reserved. All sales are final.



Christmas Dinner & Entertainment

This holiday season, we want to offer a free, catered dinner to your family, gifts for your children, and an opportunity to make Christmas memories!

To register, scan the QR code. Please fill out the form including your child's name, age, and how many people will attend. To receive your child's backpack, you must attend the event. Backpacks will not be delivered.

**Please register by Sunday, November 24th!*

Mountain View
BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday, December 8th, 5-7pm
150 Champions Ln, Johnson City, TN 37601

Backpacks will include:

- Hygiene products
- Food & Candy
- Age appropriate toys
- School supplies
- Clothes



Gifts That Make a Difference

Servants


When you're young, you take for granted that people serve the church in certain capacities. You don't realize till years later that many of them served faithfully for decades with no pay and little recognition. They served as Sunday School teachers, discipleship training teachers, music leaders, youth leaders, deacons, mission trip leaders, and more. Most of them prepared on a weekly basis to help numerous people know and serve their Savior and rarely received any gratitude.

When I became a pastor, I began to realize the importance of these people. When I got married, I REALLY learned the value of a servant, **my wife**. I just didn't realize it then. True servants give their time for the health of the church and the advancement of God's kingdom. They stand in sharp contrast to people who merely want to be powerful decision makers. Servants are givers. They understand the purpose God has given them, even if it seems ordinary, and they live to fulfill it. My wife has shown me that a servant doesn't just do a job to fill a slot. A servant sees the long game of where their work is headed. A mother works toward what her children will be one day; a serving church member looks to where the church needs to be in the years ahead. Both are driven by a heaven-sent calling.

My Savior

It's one thing to know that salvation is by grace through faith; it's another thing to wrap your heart and mind around this truth. Like many people raised in a conservative Christian home, my early years had plenty of legalism woven into them. I was influenced by the notion that God's approval is directly tied to my performance. When you become impressed with yourself you are less impressed with grace and quick to look down on others. It took several years to learn that I can live a holy life because I have God's approval, not as an effort to gain His approval. While the distinction may seem subtle, the heart and mind behind these two ideas are vastly different. When we read, "the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom 6:23b), we must see it as a real gift, not an honorarium. Many people who believe in salvation by grace still want to reserve some credit for their achievements, but the Bible makes it clear that we play no part in our salvation. When we understand that grace really is an undeserved gift, we are moved to humility and praise. Thank you, Jesus, for saving me by your grace and filling me with your Spirit so that I may live for your glory!

This Christmas take a moment to appreciate your parents, your spouse, and faithful servants as you celebrate the coming of eternal life through Jesus Christ!

Merry Christmas to you and yours! 

6
Nov
Pickup

6
Dec
Return

Johnson City
Baptist Center
2024

Angel Tree

Christmas

Return Wrapped Gifts
at our Offices no later
than December 6!

207 University Pkwy, Johnson City, TN



Classifieds: Our Job Board

See full Postings online at holstonba.org/jobs



Ministry Staff

TN Baptist Children's Homes Foster Care Case Manager Northeast TN

Full-Time
We are currently hiring a Foster Care Case Manager for our Kingsport office. This position will require travel to oversee foster families and placements in other areas of East Tennessee. Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution in social work, sociology, psychology, education, or related field and one (1) year of pertinent experience in the human services field with children or in a residential treatment setting is required. Please send inquiries or resumes to kmorgan@tennesseechildren.org.

Boone Trail Baptist Church Ministry Assistant Johnson City, TN

Part-Time
Boone Trail is hiring a ministry assistant who will serve the Pastor(s), staff and ministries of the church in a range of administrative and office tasks. Please email your resume to the BTBC Personnel Team at personnel@boonetrail.net

Pastor/Senior Pastor

Cherokee Baptist Church Bi-Vocational Pastor Jonesborough, TN

Please send resume, references and cover letter (experience and vision) to
Cherokee Baptist Church
143 Mayberry Rd.
Jonesborough, TN 37659.
ATTN: Pastor Search Committee
or via email:
cherokeepastorsearch@gmail.com.

Other Pastoral Positions

Doe River Baptist Church Music Director Elizabethton, TN

Part-Time
Please send a resume, references, and a letter of introduction describing your experiences and your vision for this position to: Doe River Baptist Church, Music Search Committee, 113 Avon Ave, Elizabethton, TN 37643, or doeriverbapt@hotmail.com.

Calvary Baptist Church of Erwin Youth Pastor Erwin, TN

Full-Time
Candidate needs to develop a program to grow and lead young people to be disciples and witnesses for Jesus. He must work alongside a senior pastor and staff. For more information, visit calvaryerwin.org.

Clark Street Baptist Church STUDENT MINISTER Johnson City, TN

PART-TIME
Resumes may be sent to clarkstreetbc@gmail.com

MEN'S CONFERENCE

Women's Conference

with Hershael & Tanya York

PARALLEL
CONFERENCES FOR
MEN & WOMEN



Holston
Baptists



February 21-22

We are pleased to announce an upcoming pair of conferences focused on God's good design for gender in a fallen world featuring Dr. Heshael and Tanya York!

COST: \$25 Per Person | Children 12-17 are FREE

Location: Southwestern Baptist Church

Friday

Dinner - 6:00 p.m.

Session - 7:00 p.m.

Saturday

Breakfast - 8:00 a.m.

Session - 9:00 a.m.

Breakouts - 10:00 a.m.

Session - 11:00 a.m.

Childcare available

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

HOLSTONBA.ORG/CONFERENCE