



**Little River**  
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION  
Serving The Church. Serving The Kingdom.

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**December 2022 Edition**



*Wrapped Especially for You*

It seems hard to imagine that another Christmas is just around the corner. My wife, Julie loves Christmas, it's her favorite time of the year. On the other hand, she says I am more like an Ebenezer Scrooge at Christmas. It is not that I don't like Christmas, I just don't like what Christmas has become. The materialistic view and of course the "Politically Correct" view. If you accept the opinion of some, we should change, "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" to, "We Wish You a Merry Non-Religious-Specific Day-Off in Winter." Since we cannot let any covert references to race be interjected, "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas" should be, "I'm Dreaming of a Race Immaterial Non-Religious Specific Day-Off in Winter." However, you cannot stereotype overweight people as happy, nor make references to a person's age, or apply religious terms. Therefore, "Jolly Old Saint Nicholas" should be, "Happy, Plus-sized, Chronologically Gifted, Highly Virtuous Nicholas." WHERE DOES IT END??

One fellow noticed some interesting facts about the gifts that the Wise Men brought to Jesus. He suggested that if one carefully analyzed the story there is an often-overlooked theological fact in the story. There is no mention of wrapping paper. Why? My thoughts would be... First, they were wise. Secondly, they were men.

Wrapping gifts is not a talent I have... ask Julie. However, I believe most men seem to lack the necessary skills in this area. You can always tell which gifts under the tree were wrapped by men. The best thing for men that has come along in a long time is gift bags. All they need to do is put a name card on the gift bag and their work is done.

Did you know each year an estimated 4.6 million tons of Christmas wrapping paper is used each year? Christmas wrap sales is expected to exceed \$24.85 billion annually by 2025. Fifty percent of all the paper consumed in the U.S. is used for gift wrapping and decoration. Christmas wrapping paper was first sold by Hallmark in 1917.

Sorry for going back to my Ebenezer Scrooge, Christmas over-priced humbug view but, while a world is searching the malls for the perfect gift... it has already been purchased. The perfect gift was found not at the mall but in a manger in Bethlehem. "God so loved the world and gave His only begotten Son" (John 3:16). I don't think we could put a number on all the gifts that have been given at Christmas, but there is no question that of all gifts ever given, God's gift was the greatest.

One last point about the gift wrapping... Did you realize that God's great gift was also wrapped? The Bible tells us that when Mary *"brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes"* (Luke 2:7). The message of the angel to the shepherds was, *"And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes"* (Luke 2:12).

Why not, this year, give the greatest gift to a family member, a friend, a neighbor, or a co-worker? One that has already been wrapped "especially" for you... Jesus Christ.

In Christ Service.

Bro. Bobby

**Mission Opportunity**  
**New England Mission Trip**  
**April 1-7, 2023**

We will have an informational meeting on **Tuesday, December 13, 7 p.m.**, at the Baptist Center. All interested are encouraged to attend, or please call the office (270) 522-7066 to sign-up!

*Merry Christmas*  
Shari  
Julie  
Bro. Bobby



## December Calendar of Events

- 3– The Way Cookie Bazaar (Cadiz Baptist Annex) 12:00 Noon
- 5– Mission Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 8– Pastor/Staff Christmas Dinner, 6:30 p.m. (RSVP by 12/1)
- 13– New England Mission Trip Informational Meeting
- 23-30– Office Closed for Christmas Holidays
- 24– Christmas Eve
- 25– Christmas Day

*Merry Christmas!*



## **FINANCIAL REPORT FOR NOVEMBER**

Church	Regular	Special
Bethany	0	
Blue Spring	2,079.00	
Buffalo	0	
Cadiz	936.95	
Canton	759.76	250.00
Cerulean	491.00	
Crossroads	200.00	
Delmont	446.83	
Donaldson Creek	698.34	
East Cadiz	823.38	
Hurricane	400.00	500.00
Liberty Point	1,074.98	
Locust Grove	730.00	
Maple Grove	400.00	
New Hope	211.28	
New Jerusalem	0	
New Light	50.00	
Oak Grove	0	
Ponderosa	381.04	
Rock Front	0	
Rocky Ridge	354.00	
South Union	228.90	
Wallonia	600.00	
Misc. Income	400.00	
Total	11,265.46	750.00
		12,015.46
Interest NOW Acc.	3.49	
Deaf Ministry		250.00
Van Replacement		500.00

Subtotals	11,268.95	750.00
Total income		<b>\$12,018.95</b>
Monthly expense		<b>\$13,238.79</b>

<b>Regular Fund</b>	
Beginning Balance	<b>39,833.47</b>
Interest Received	<b>3.49</b>
Gifts	<b>11,322.14</b>
Trans– Contingency Fund	<b>(100.00)</b>
Trans– Van Replacement Fund	
Trans– Building Maintenance Fund	<b>(100.00)</b>
Trans– Mev Fredenburg Fund	
Expense Checks Written	<b>(11,309.69)</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$39,649.41</b>
<b>Treasurer: Louise Fuller 11/25/22</b>	

**LOTTIE  
MOON**

**Christmas  
Offering**

*Providing financial support for missionaries  
as they share the gospel overseas*

*Happy Birthday!*

Lindsey Carter– 12/1  
 Gary Lambert– 12/1  
 Bobby Sellers– 12/4  
 Jeff Boone– 12/4  
 John Mitchell– 12/7  
 Leah Chalfin– 12/12