



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

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***December 2024 Edition***

## **O Holy Night! Jesus Came to Change the World**

As we draw closer to the Christmas season; Julie starts watching Christmas movies and listening to Christmas music in early November. Anyway, that is not my point. One of my wife’s favorite songs during Christmas is “O Holy Night.” Did you know that the Christmas hymn “O Holy Night” was composed by Adolph Charles Adam, a French composer? Ironically, the church authorities at that time criticized it for poor taste and a “total absence of the spirit of religion.”

In the first stanza, the writer invites us to imagine the world before Jesus’ birth. He describes it as a world “in sin and error pining,” where the human spirit withers through grief and pain. This paints a picture of darkness and despair. But then, the next three words, “till He appeared,” bring a glimmer of hope and change.

A president of a prominent theological seminary was at a meeting with the chairman of an accreditation committee when the committee asked him to define the purpose of his institution. Without hesitation, the seminary president declared, “The purpose of this institution is to change the world.”=

Surprised by this response, the committee members clarified, “You don’t understand. While influencing the world is the general purpose of education, I’m asking you specifically, ‘What is the purpose of this school?’” The seminary president reiterated, “The purpose of our school is to change the world.”

This is precisely why Jesus came into the world—to change it. At no time of the year are we more reminded of the profound impact He has had than during the Christmas season. Unlike the gospel writers, Paul never recounts the story of Christmas. However, in his words written to the church of Philippi, he illuminates the glory of Christmas and explains why the night of Jesus’ birth was such a Holy Night.

(Philippians 2:5-11) Paul says that Jesus, “... 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. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Merry Christmas!

In Christ Service,

Bro. Bobby





## DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 1-8– Lottie Moone Christmas Offering & Week of Prayer
- 2– Executive Team Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 2– Mission Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 12– Pastor/Staff Christmas Dinner, 6:00 p.m.
- Dec. 23– January 6 (Office Closed for Christmas Holidays)



**Beginning January 2025, the Baptist Center will be closed each Friday.**

**New Office hours  
Monday-Thursday  
8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.**

This was part of the 2025 Proposed Budget and was passed during our Annual Meeting, October 22, 2024

### FINANCIAL REPORT FOR NOVEMBER

	Regular	Special
Church		
Bethany	0	
Blue Spring	2,037.25	
Buffalo	0	
Cadiz	1,140.15	
Canton	822.50	250.00
Cerulean	491.00	
Crossroads	200.00	
Delmont	0	
Donaldson Creek	899.94	
East Cadiz	534.72	
Hurricane	400.00	
Liberty Point	837.89	
Locust Grove	925.00	
Maple Grove	400.00	
New Hope	434.16	
New Jerusalem	0	
New Light	50.00	
Oak Grove	233.40	
Ponderosa	459.64	
Rock Front	200.00	
Rocky Ridge	264.00	
South Union	200.65	
Wallonia	2,400.00	
Misc. Income	0	1,100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,930.30</b>	<b>1,350.00</b>
		<b>14,280.30</b>
Interest NOW Acc.	2.47	
Deaf Ministry		250.00
Mission Project (Mev Fredenburg)		1,100.00
<b>Subtotals</b>	<b>12,932.77</b>	<b>1,350.00</b>
<b>Total income</b>		<b>\$14,282.77</b>
<b>Monthly expense</b>		<b>\$15,926.02</b>
<b>Regular Fund</b>		
Beginning Balance		<b>24,920.80</b>
Interest Received		2.47
Gifts		<b>13,261.95</b>
Trans– Contingency Fund		<b>(100.00)</b>
Trans– Van Replacement Fund		
Trans– Building Maintenance Fund		<b>(200.00)</b>
Trans– Mev Fredenburg Fund		
Expense Checks Written		<b>(12,265.41)</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>		<b>\$25,619.81</b>
<b>Treasurer: Louise Fuller 11/25/24</b>		

