



The Messenger



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Upcoming Events

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- December 24 Candlelight Service

Join us Christmas Eve for a special Candlelight Service

For centuries, Christmas was celebrated not as a single day, but as a whole season in parts of the world, beginning with this day, December 24, Christmas Eve. Perhaps the practice of celebrating the evening before the big day is an echo from ancient Jewish reckoning. Among earlier Jews, a day began at six in the evening and ran until six the following evening. Had not Moses written: "An evening and a morning were the first day"?

Christmas means "Christ-mass." Although the date is a guess, the tradition of observing it goes back to at least the fourth century. Under the influence of the church, Christian traditions replaced pagan solstice festivals throughout Europe. Often the more innocent pagan practices (such as bringing in a Yule log, decorating with holly and the like) were carried over into the Christmas observance, transfigured with new meaning.

The Christian Meaning Behind Ancient Traditions

Evergreen Trees were the symbol of eternal life. Martin Luther introduced them to the Reformation Church as a picture of our endless life in Christ, by bringing in a tree to his family on Christmas Eve lit with candles ([Isaiah 60:13](#)). **Candles** are a picture that Christ is the Light of the world ([John 8](#)). **Holly** speaks of the thorns in His crown ([Matthew 27:29](#)). **Red** is a color of Christmas that speaks of Christ's blood and death. **Gifts** are a reminder of the gifts of the Magi to baby Jesus. Each of them speak to a component of His incarnation: Majesty in life, Bitterest Agony in Death and He as God's Perfect gift to us ([Matthew 2](#)). Excerpt taken from crosswalk.com



Stitching with Love Ministry

meets every 1st Thursday
December 2 at 9am –12pm.

Men's Prayer Breakfast

Every 2nd Saturday of each month.
December 11 at 8 am

Extension Homemakers Club

meets every 3rd Wednesday
Not Meeting in December

From the Pastor's Desk

What is your favorite Christmas song?

This is a tough question for some people. I know my own answer has changed several times during my life. When I was young, I loved hearing Jingle Bells and Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer. Yes, these two songs are classics, even as an adult I add the extra phrases between the normal lyrics.

I do have a favorite Christmas song now. This song was recorded in 1977 and wasn't released until 1982 and the name of it is...Peace on Earth/The Little Drummer Boy. The Duo that sang this song was David Bowie and Bing Crosby.

The song came about when Crosby, a traditional singer, was putting together a Christmas Special that was to be broadcast in 1977. CBS was hoping to attract a younger audience, and David Bowie was contacted. It would be hard to think of two singers with a greater difference in style, Bowie was very modern, they even dressed very differently. Bing wore suits, and a matching Bailey hat. David wore what was called gender-bending fashions. But the two agreed to sing together. They were originally scheduled to sing the Little Drummer Boy, but neither one cared much for how that sounded. At the last-minute, composers wrote an original song, "Peace on Earth." When they combined it with "Little Drummer Boy" both singers said they would sing it. With only one hour of rehearsal the Duo of Crosby and Bowie recorded the song for broadcast. The traditional and the modern come together to sing to honor Christ.

It would be the last song Bing Crosby ever recorded.

In November 1977 he had a heart attack while playing golf. He did not recover. The CBS Bing Crosby Christmas Special was broadcast the following month. In 1982 David Bowie released the song as a single. It has become a Christmas classic.

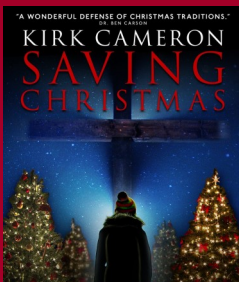
We are now being told that this Christmas is going to be different. The shipping and supply shortages will make it hard to afford our traditions or get our gifts. Many loved ones will be missed and the Covid 19 issues are still with us. I also know that on December 19 in the morning service the Adult Choir will sing Christmas Songs, and our children will present their Christmas Play. On Christmas Eve, we will come together and celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. We will hear the stories of that baby who was born in the stable, we will sing the songs of Angels singing and of Shepherds watching over their flocks. We will find ways to be with our families even if it's via a phone call, or Face message or Zoom. But what I do ask of you this season is if you can find a place once again in your heart for the joy of that Christ Child. Remember the traditions even if the times are different for the second year.

You see, Christmas isn't about "boxes and bags" or even about how many gifts you receive. It is about how we can serve that Child lying in the manger, wrapped in swaddling clothes.

I ask that you consider joining us in person, or online. Remember to make time for the Lord whose birth we are celebrating. I pray that all of you find Joy in the season ahead.

Merry Christmas, Terry Fortner

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!



GROWTH GROUP

SAVING CHRISTMAS is an engaging story that provides a biblical basis for our time-honored traditions and celebrations, and the inspiration to stand strongly against a culture that wants to trivialize and eliminate the faith elements of this holy season.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

This month we'll be taking up our annual Lottie Moon offering. So who or what is Lottie Moon? Well over 100 years ago, a single missionary named Lottie Moon, while serving in China, began writing letters challenging the American church to send and support more workers to go there. After her death on the field, her challenge was heeded in the formalization of an offering in her name. Even if you're not a Southern Baptist who has given to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, her life is a reminder of why we must give to send and support missionaries serving among unreached peoples in unreached places.

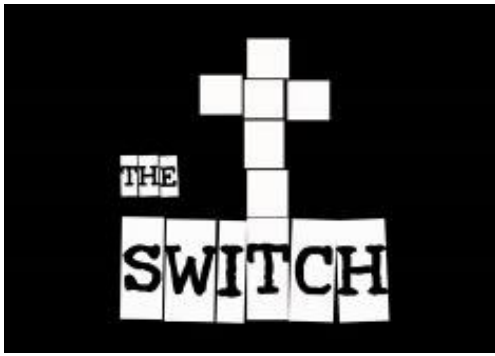
When she set sail for China, Lottie was 32 years old. She had turned down a marriage proposal and left her job, home and family to follow God's lead. Her path wasn't typical for an educated woman from a wealthy Southern family. God had gripped her with the Chinese peoples' need for a Savior.

For 39 years Lottie labored, chiefly in Tengchow and P'ingtu. People feared and rejected her, but she refused to leave. The aroma of fresh-baked cookies drew people to her house. She adopted traditional Chinese dress, and she learned China's language and customs. Lottie didn't just serve the people of China; she identified with them. Many eventually accepted her. And some accepted her Savior.

Lottie frequently sent letters back home detailing Chinese culture, missionary life and the physical and spiritual needs of the Chinese people. Additionally, she challenged Southern Baptists to go to China or give so that others could go. By 1888, Southern Baptist women had organized and helped collect \$3,315 to send workers needed in China.

In 1918, Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) named the annual Christmas offering for international missions after the woman who had urged them to start it. Our church goal for this offering is \$10,000.

Youth, Children & Other Happenings



Weekly Youth Gatherings

- **Sunday Night**
Bible Study at 6:00
- **Wednesday Night**
Switch Services
Music and a devotion from
6:30-7:30pm.

School's Out

- JNP—Dec. 20 to Jan 4
- PCSSD—Dec. 21 to Jan 4
- Cabot—Dec. 20 to Jan 3

Update from Brother Rich

Come join us!

Dear Zion Hill family,

Thanksgiving is over but that doesn't mean we can't be thankful still! There is plenty to still be thankful for but mostly the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ which we will be celebrating this month!

There will be several Christmas parties this month for Sunday School classes, and different bible studies. On December 11th, the children will have their Christmas party from 10am-12pm, and the youth will have their party December 15th at 6:30pm! Also, December 19th will be our Children's Christmas play along with the Christmas Cantata, and that night Christmas Caroling! Then we have our Candlelight Christmas Eve Service then Christmas! I'm excited to spend my second Christmas at Zion Hill!

Another big event happening is my wedding on December 4th! I am beyond excited and blessed to be marrying Haley. God truly blessed me with her! We thank each of you for your gifts and support and your congratulatory messages! We are excited to serve Zion Hill!

I hope each of you have a wonderful time celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, and I pray for safe travels and sweet memories! Talk of Jesus this holiday season!

~Your brother in Christ, Rich

**Choir Practice for Christmas
Cantata each Wednesday at 7 pm
Children's Christmas Play
Practice each Sunday at 6 pm**
**Be sure not to miss the
Christmas Program December 19
during the morning worship**

**A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS
and Happy New Year!**

CHRISTMAS PARTY CORNER

Dorcas Class—December 8 at 11:00 am
Searchers Class - December 9 at 11:00 am
Children's - December 11 at 10:00 am
Youth - December 15 at 6:30 pm
Co-Ed Classes - December 18 at 5:30 pm

WHAT ARE YOU CARRYING?



Zion Hill Baptist Church Service Times

Sunday

9:45 am Sunday School
 11:00 am Morning Worship
 11:30 am Children's Worship (in the Fellowship Hall)
 6:00 pm Growth Group (Sanctuary)
 6:00 pm Youth Bible Study (Basement)

Tuesday

10:00 am Tuesday Bible Study

Wednesday

6:30 pm Mid-Week Services
 Bible Study & Prayer Meeting
 (3rd Wed. Business Meeting)

December

1	6:30 pm Midweek Services
2	9:00 am Stitching with Love Ministry
4	2:00 pm Richard & Haley's Wedding in Hope, AR
5	3:00 pm Jon & Amanda's Wedding in Vivian, LA
5	8:00 am Deacon's Meeting
5	Sunday Services
8	11:00 am Dorcas Sunday School Christmas Party
8	Midweek Services
9	11:00 am Searchers Sunday School Christmas Party
11	8:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
11	10:00 am Children's Christmas Party
12	Sunday Services / Lord's Supper
12	12:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting
15	9:30 am Extension Homemakers Club Meeting
15	Midweek Services / Business Meeting
15	6:30 pm Youth Christmas Party
17	7:00 pm Chamblee Wedding
18	5:30 pm Co-Ed Christmas Party
19	Sunday Services
19	5:00 pm Caregiver Meeting
22	Midweek Services—No Switch Service
24	Christmas Eve—Office will be Closed
24	6:00 pm Candlelight Service
25	Christmas Day
26	Sunday AM Services—No PM Services
29	No Midweek Services
31	New Years Eve

December Activities



Zion Hill Baptist Church

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 Cabot, AR 72023

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 870.833.0175

Recent videos of Zion Hill's Sunday services can be viewed at www.zionhillcabot.com/sermons

UPCOMING WEDDINGS

Richard Barkhimer & Haley Woodfield

Saturday, December 4, 2021 at 2:00 pm You can view their gift registry at www.theknot.com. Wedding will be at The Venue & Twelve Oaks in Hope, AR.

Jonathan Fortner & Amanda Beard

Sunday, December 5, 2021 at 3:00 pm They are registered at Wal-Mart, Bed Bath & Beyond, and also at Amazon. Wedding will be at Willoughby's Piney Woods in Vivian, LA.

Jana Chamblee & Adam Teague

Friday, December 17, 2021 at 7:00 pm. You can view their gift registry at Dillards, Amazon, Bed, Bath & Beyond. Wedding will be at The Venue at Oakdale in North Little Rock, AR.



If you're not currently receiving email prayer requests and information updates and you would like to be added to the list, please let Karla know. You can email me at zionhillbc@gmail.com to be added to the list.