



West Hampton Baptist Church

# Church Life

Welcome  
Home!

**December 2021**

Volume 64, Issue 12

## A New Thing

The year 2022 will be many things to many people, but one thing it will not be is the same old same old. Everyone will be a year older and hopefully wiser. Everyone will begin the year with new hopes and expectations of life being different and hopefully better. Many will begin the year with new “toys” and the hopes of new experiences with those new toys. Some will begin the year with a desperate hope that the new year will bring something better than the old one gave. One way or another, everyone will go into 2022 with a hopeful expectation of something new.

2022 holds many new things for WHBC. The beginning of ministry for a “new” pastor is one highlight for next year. The beginning of a new ministry season brings much excitement and expectation. A new ministry season, led by a “new” pastor, brings new or fresh eyes to lead the church to go where God would have it go and do what God would have it do. A new ministry season brings the opportunity for fresh, new experiences which can produce a fresh excitement in the present and for the future. One thing is certain, 2022 and the beginning of a new ministry season will be different than in years past and will prepare the church for a different future.

However, for many, the idea of new brings with it a sense of fear and trepidation. Although the potential for great new experiences exists, the uncertainty can and often does create a sense of foreboding which clouds one’s vision of what could be. For others, the idea of “new” creates an internal need to hold back and wait to see if this “new thing” works which produces a season of passive inactivity. For others, the idea of “new” is something to be resisted with great vehemence. For individuals who fall into these categories, the idea of “new” is not something they excitedly anticipate and embrace with great enthusiasm.

As WHBC sets its eyes on a new season and year let it be reminded that God is all about “NEW”. God made a new covenant with mankind through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. The result for those who would enter into that new covenant is that God makes them a new creation which produces a new love, new desires, new hope, a new life and a new eternity. The idea of “new” is in the DNA of Christ’s church and should be anticipated and embraced with great enthusiasm and excitement.

So, WHBC I challenge you to enter into this next year and ministry season with a great expectation that God is doing something new with you. I challenge you to chase after the “new” things God is doing in your community and beyond. I challenge you to encourage those who may fall victim to fear and gently draw them into God’s new thing. I challenge you to trust the God of the “NEW” to be who He said He would be and to do what He said He would do and experience the “new thing” God desires to do in you and through you! TGBTG!!!

Bryan Breland

Join us to say **Thank you, and God’s Blessings** on Sunday, December 19th as we gather in the foyer in front of the cafe to say thank you to Bryan Breland. We will have light finger food and refreshments. This time of fellowship will be right after the morning service.

God sent Bryan to us at a critical time and he has been very faithful to God and to West Hampton. I know you’ll want to wish him well in whatever God has planned for him in his next journey. Bryan’s last Sunday with us will be December 26th. There will be a giving tree for cards, and any green monetary gifts.

**West Hampton Baptist Church 631 Aberdeen Road, Hampton , VA 23661**

**www.whbcnow.org phone:757-826-5772**

## It's That Time of Year

For some people, the Christmas season is considered to be “the most wonderful time of the year.” It is a time of celebrating with family, friends and food. However, for others it is not so celebratory but a time of missing loved ones and reliving precious memories. Whatever your circumstances this December, let it be a time of reflection on God’s entrance into history through a small manger in Bethlehem.

A common term among Christians is the word “Advent”...which simply means “coming” and is used to help us remember the coming of Jesus. He came as a baby but He grew to die on a cross for you and me.

The *Advent* Sundays are the four Sundays leading up to Christmas Day. In our WHBC worship services, we will have a designated time to acknowledge and celebrate the coming of Jesus.

And on the first three Sundays of December we will have special celebration events to help us focus on Him. I hope you can connect with others for these celebrations:

**December 5, 5:00 pm – Christmas Jazz**

Join us in celebration as WHBC instrumentalists partner with other Hampton Roads musicians to present some fresh and inspirational arrangements of some of our favorite Christmas carols.

**December 12, 5:00 pm – Cora Armstrong Christmas Concert**

Cora will bring her own unique singing style to encourage our hearts and help us to focus on the true reason for the season.

**December 19, 5:00 pm – All Church Christmas Caroling**

What better way to celebrate Christmas than by *giving*. We will go by teams to local homes to share some Christmas cheer. Bundle up and join the fun!

Merry Christmas!

Craig

*Christmas Celebrations*  
*Wednesday, Dec. 8, 6:00-7:30pm*

*Church wide Christmas Party in the Fellowship Hall for all ages.*

*Wednesday, Dec. 15, 5:00—7:00pm*  
*Special dinner and a Christmas Movie*

*Friday, Dec. 24, 6:00 pm*  
*Christmas Eve Service with Communion, Carols and Candlelight*

# December 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Sunday, December 19</b> Join us for a farewell reception for Pastor Bryan Breland following the morning service.			1	2	3	4
5 Christmas Celebration Christmas Jazz Concert 5pm	6	7 Quilting Ministry 9am	8  Church wide Christmas party 6:00-7:30pm Light food, crafts, games, Christmas story	9	10	11  All Ladies Tea 2:00pm
**Week of Prayer for International Missions/Lottie Moon Offering**						
12 Christmas Celebration Cora Armstrong Concert 5pm	13	14	15 Church wide Christmas Dinner and A Movie 5-7pm Finance Committee Mtg. 7 pm	16	17 Scrapbooking 2pm	18 Scrapbooking 9am
19 Christmas Celebration Church Christmas Caroling 5pm	20	21	22 NO PM ACTIVITIES	23 NO THURSDAY LUNCH	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6:00pm  Church Office Closed	25 Christmas Day
26 Farewell Pastor Bryan Breland Thank you for your Blessings	27 Church Office Closed	28	29 NO PM ACTIVITIES	30 NO THURSDAY LUNCH	31 New Year's Eve Church Office Closed	

## Merry Christmas From the Staff at West Hampton Baptist Church

*Bryan Breland*

*Eula Parks*



*Sarah Wall*

*Craig Hughes*

*Debbie Ford*

*Frances Parks*

*Will Sweatt*

*Jan Harvell*

### An Early Gift From God

What a beautiful season Christmas is! This year I imagine many are looking forward to the holiday with renewed affections for the importance of time together with family and friends as we celebrate meaningful traditions. It is always such a joy to prepare our hearts to anticipate the coming of Christ. His entrance onto earth's stage some two thousand years ago was a humble one, but His impact on eternity was a profound and extravagant gift!



Your Pastor Search Committee is particularly excited because our Christmas gift seems to have come early. After two years of fervent prayer and diligent commitment, our church family has called its next senior pastor, Phil Richards! Phil, and his wife, Teresa, will be joining our congregation in January 2022! We expect you are as thrilled as we are to embark on this new journey with the man God has hand-picked for our church!

Just as we have anticipated Phil's arrival for some time, we want to be a gift to him and to his family as they come. Please let us encourage you to consider the following ways you can prepare for Phil and Teresa's first Sunday:

1. **Be there!** Plan to join us bright and early January 2, 2022, to experience a new chapter in West Hampton's kingdom journey. Pastor Phil is preparing a series on vision that you won't want to miss!
2. **Prepare to Party!** On January 9, 2022, we will be hosting a celebratory welcoming party for Pastor Phil and his family. Come join us as we shower blessings upon them with this unique opportunity!
3. **Make Yourself Known!** Take some time over the coming weeks to write a note of welcome to Pastor Phil that helps him get to know you and your history with West Hampton. Consider going a step further and hand deliver the letter by inviting them to eat a meal with you in your home or your favorite restaurant in the New Year!
4. **Buy a Stamp!** I know we are all grateful for the WMU's Lottie Moon Christmas Card Post Office, but since Pastor Phil won't be here until January, consider mailing a Christmas card directly to their home! (You can get their address from the church office.)
5. **Pray!** Pray for Pastor Phil and his family. There will be great change for them in the coming days. Packing, moving, leaving family and friends, and preparing to love us in ways we can't even imagine! Cover them in prayer this holiday season. They are a gift to us!

The Pastor Search Committee wants to thank you for your prayer and patience these past two years. God's timing is perfect, just as His gifts are! We anticipate the "best" things, as Pastor Phil calls them, this coming year because of the gift of Jesus that has so radically changed all of us.

Merry Christmas!

Carrie Rae Wiser

Last month I took a walk throughout our campus seeking additional classrooms for anticipated future growth. To say the least I was disappointed to see so many classrooms designated for storage but even more distraught to see so many used for personal use.

I need to remind us all that the the C in WHBC stands for Church, not to be confused with WHBC Self Storage.

If you have personal belongings stored in any of these rooms, please have them removed by the end of January.

If at that time the rooms are not cleaned out I will consider the items donated and take the appropriate action.

Thank you for understanding,  
Robert Wigglesworth  
Chairman of the Deacons

What better way to end your Thanksgiving and begin your Christmas season than with a focus on missions? That's what Christmas is all about – God sending His Son to redeem a lost world. As we participate in missions, we join God's mission. Please pray for our international missionaries sponsored by the International Mission Board as well as the upcoming international mission trips to Italy, Nicaragua, and Kenya sponsored by WMU of Virginia.

November 28-December 5 is the Week of Prayer for International Missions. Our goal for the Lottie Moon offering is \$5000. Please prayerfully consider how you will be a part of missions during this season of giving.

Margaret Langley



## LOTTIE MOON POST OFFICE

For the giving and receiving of cards for W.H.B.C. members who are able to attend church **during the pandemic**, all postage given goes to the Lottie Moon missions offering. ***Please remember these cards are not mailed out.***

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR  
INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS**  
November 28 — December 5  
WHBC Offering Goal \$5,000.



## Items for "A Nights Welcome" breakfast bags"

**\*Individual packaged Cereal or Fruit bars**

**\* Pop tarts \* fruit cups\* Boxed raisins**

**\* Juice boxes or pouches**



## 2021 END OF THE YEAR OFFERINGS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

End of the year contributions for 2021 must be in the church office or mailed and postmarked no later than midnight of December 31, 2021

*This would be a wonderful time to catch-up any offerings you may have missed during the year. You may call Debbie Ford on Tuesdays or Thursdays, in the church office, if you need to know what you have given so far this year.*

West Hampton Baptist Church  
 631 Aberdeen Rd  
 Hampton, VA 23661  
 Phone: 757-826-5772  
 E-mail: office@whbcnow.org  
 Web Site: www.whbcnow.org

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 You can also access this Newsletter on our website.



## 2021 GIVING BACK TO GOD

Date	Worship	Sunday School	Budget Received	Heart for the House Received
<b>Oct 17</b>	114	90	\$7,401.65	\$626.37
<b>Oct 24</b>	95	82	\$10,174.00	\$787.37
<b>Oct 31</b>	116	98	\$8,683.51	\$520.87
<b>Nov 7</b>	140	102	\$10,250.70	\$730.37
<b>Nov 14</b>	164	104	\$4,363.00	\$382.37



YTD 2021 Received (Budget): \$334,521.88  
 2021 Budgeted to date \$463,433.44  
 YTD 2021 Received (Heart for the House): \$29,598.22