



# The Beacon



“Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.” – Is. 60:1

December 2025

Merry Christmas

**Christmas Card Mailbox** - If you'd like to give a Christmas card to anyone at church, save your postage and place your cards (alphabetically by last name) in the mailbox cubicle in the Welcome Center. Please be mindful and only place cards to those that attend in person, as the church will not mail your cards to the intended member.



**Christmas Caroling** - Wednesday, December 10th ~ 6:30pm

Come help us spread a little cheer to some of our members who are not able to come to church. We'll meet at the church and go out on the bus. If you plan to go, please sign up in the Welcome Center.

**Church Choir Christmas Celebration** - Sunday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> ~ 8:45am & 11:00am

Join us as our choir will lead us in a time of worship and praise during both services, as we celebrate and proclaim the birth of Christ.

**Children's Christmas Play** - Sunday Evening, December 14<sup>th</sup> ~ 6:00pm

*“Christmas Comes to Lone Star Gulch.”* The year is 1894 in the western town of Lone Star Gulch. The grumpy storekeeper is busy snoring in his rocking chair as the town's folks prepare for Christmas. When the town grump adopts a baby abandoned on his doorstep, he is transformed, and the whole town sees Christmas in a new light.

**\*\*A Finger-Food Fellowship following the play, with a 'special guest' for the children.\*\***

**Family Christmas Service** - Sunday, December 21st ~ 8:45am & 11:00am

Both services will enjoy a special time of the telling of Christ's birth and the meaning of Christmas, as our children gather 'round Pastors' Dave and Cameron, to hear the greatest story ever told.



**Pastor Dave's  
Message  
for the  
Month**

Have you made your Christmas list yet? People want all sorts of different things for Christmas. This Christmas you will hear people asking for a phone, toys, jewelry, money, tools, clothing, a car and so much more. Some of the things we get for Christmas come with an owner's manual or you at least have to look for the owner's manual online. When we get something new it is a good idea to read the owner's manual so we can train ourselves to use this item. If we don't read the owner's manual then we might not get all the benefits out of the item, or we might do something wrong and break it.

As Christians, we have an owner's manual. It is the Bible. If we want to properly live the Christian life then we need to read the owner's manual and apply it to our lives. In 1 Timothy 4:7 Paul said, "But reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness." We are called to exercise or train ourselves toward godliness. One of the best ways to do this is by reading and applying the Bible. So, let me encourage this Christmas as you are reading the owner's manuals for the new items you got, don't forget to read and apply the best owner's manual out there.

I hope you have a wonderful Christmas as you celebrate the birth of our Savior!

For His glory,

*Pastor Dave*

*Welcome*  
**New Member**

**Sara Albert**  
(by profession of faith)



**We Received a**

**Thank You Note From:**

-  **Dan Carpenter**
-  **Dave & Laura Pryor**



"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."  
1 Thess. 5:11

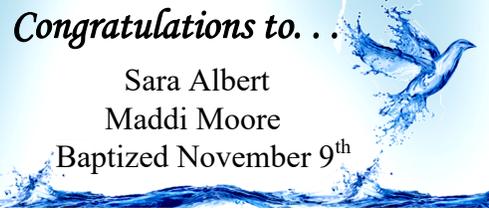
**Women's Bible Study**  
**Monday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> ~ 7:00p ~ FLC**  
*'Forward'* by Dr. David Jeremiah

**Women of Joy**  
May 1-3, 2026

Ladies, it's time to sign up for the 2026 Women of Joy Conference.

A sign up sheet and more information is available in the Welcome Center. A non-refundable \$25 deposit is due by Dec. 29th. If you pay with a check, check please make it out to Red Mountain Baptist Church and give to Jenn Shull.

<https://womenofjoy.org/events/>



**Congratulations to Cody and Crystal Ellis and their families on the birth of their son Brooks, who was born on November 12<sup>th</sup>.**

 Congratulations also to big sister Wren, great-grandmother Shirley Ellis, grandmother Cindy Ellis, and Uncle Lance Ellis.

**Operation Christmas Child Shoebox**

'Thank You' to everyone that packed a shoebox or donated items for the shoeboxes. We collected 222 shoeboxes to impact a child and their families with the love of God.



"As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend."  
Proverbs 27:17

**MEN OF IRON**  
**Monday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> ~ 7:00p ~ Rm 109**  
**'33 The Series - A Man and His Family'**  
**Sign up in the Welcome Center if you would like a Study Book (\$15).**

**YOUNG MEN'S BIBLE STUDY**  
**(AGES 18-30)**

Thursday Nights at 7:00p Rm 109

**The Week of Prayer for International Missions** is November 30 - December 7.



Join us, along with Southern Baptists churches, as we pray 'together' for missionaries around the world who are faithfully sharing the

gospel. Learn more at: [imb.org/weekofprayer](http://imb.org/weekofprayer).

**Lottie Moon Christmas Offering**

In 1873, Lottie Moon was appointed as a missionary to China. She spent nearly 40 years sharing the gospel with love, courage, and unwavering faith.

Her letters home inspired churches to pray and give, leading to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. Today, this offering supports missionaries and helps take the life-transforming message of Jesus to the nations.

Let's honor her legacy by praying and giving so others can hear the hope of the gospel. Our church goal this year is \$3,500.

Together, we find the lost, give help to the hurting, share the hope of Christ, and witness God grow His Church around the world. Your generosity today changes lives.

The money you donated in 2024 helped support 3,577 missionaries, planted 2,409 churches, saw 144,969 souls saved, and 1.6 million heard the gospel presentation.

Please pray for what the Lord would have you give.

# DECEMBER 2025

# BIRTHDAYS & EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Nov. 30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> SS Fruitcake Trip Wed. Night Service 7p	<b>4</b> Young Men's Bible Study 7p	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
Week of Prayer for International Missions Nov. 30 - Dec. 7						
<i>Dennis Dunn</i>	<i>Ava Barbee Garnet Ellis Elle Reaves</i>	<i>Hailey Crabtree Jacob Murray</i>		<i>Nathan Walker</i>	<i>Amber Grinstead Robin P'graph Sheila Sanders</i>	
<b>7</b> Worship Service / Lord's Supper 8:45a & 11:00a  Kid's Ministry Christmas Party 12:15p  Deacons Mtg 12:30p	<b>8</b>     <i>Annette Glenn</i>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  Christmas Caroling 6:30p	<b>11</b> RCWC Luncheon @Homestead 12p  Young Men's Bible Study 7p  <i>Lyndsey Wilson</i>	<b>12</b> Fun Bunch / Rudy Theatre    <i>Joy Cummings</i>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Worship Service / Choir Christmas Celebration 8:45a & 11:00a  Christmas Play 6p  <i>Blair Harrell</i>	<b>15</b> Women's & Men's Bible Studies 7p    <i>Cody Ellis</i>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Business Mtg. 6:45p ----- Wed. Night Service 7p  <i>Crystal Propst</i>	<b>18</b> Young Men's Bible Study 7p	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>     <i>Connie Garrett Annabeth Riggs</i>
<b>21</b> Family Christmas Service 8:45a & 11:00a  <i>Don Garrett</i>	<b>22</b>     <i>Shirley Ellis</i>	<b>23</b>     <i>Joan Hill</i>	<b>24</b> No Evening Services   <i>Joslyn Blomberg Jordan Davis Hunter O'Briant Paisley Powell</i>	<b>25</b>   <i>Debbie Long</i>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Worship Service 8:45a & 11:00a	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> New Years Eve  No Evening Services   <i>Teresa Weems</i>	<b>Memory Verse</b> "But reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness." 1 Timothy 4:7		



RED MOUNTAIN  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
P.O. BOX 103  
ROUGEMONT, NC 27572  
919-477-3657



Rev. Dave Pryor - Pastor  
Rev. Cameron Lewis - Youth Pastor  
<https://redmountainbaptist.com>



Address Correction Requested



## Lord of the Messy Manger

Ralph F. Wilson

If you think your life is an utter disaster, that God could never use a life as messed up as yours, think again. Let me point you to some familiar Bible stories.

Joseph's brothers hate him so much that they sell him as a slave and make their father believe he has been devoured by animals, but "but God meant it for good" to save thousands from starvation.

*"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives."*  
Genesis 50:20

Sampson lusts after a Philistine girl -- not the nice Jewish girl his parents wanted for him. But the Bible says, "his father and mother did not know that this was from the Lord."

*"But his father and mother did not know that it was of the Lord—that He was seeking an occasion to move against the Philistines. For at that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel."* Judges 14:4

King Solomon's son makes a disastrous decision that loses him half the kingdom. What a mess! But God says, "This thing is from me."

*"Thus says the Lord: "You shall not go up nor fight against your brethren the children of Israel. Let every man return to his house, for this thing is from Me." ' ' ' Therefore they obeyed the word of the Lord, and turned back, according to the word of the Lord." 1 Kings 12:24*

Jacob is a liar and a cheat and has to flee for his life. He sleeps out in the open with only a rock for a pillow. But when he wakes with a vision of angels, he says, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it." Genesis 28:16

Your life may appear well-ordered on the surface, but underneath there may be disarray. Brokenness, pain, shame. Things you seem utterly incapable of fixing.

The good news, my friend, is that God is bigger than your messy life. He is not powerless. He is not confined by your boundaries. He is God! And he is unafraid of working in

messy situations. In fact, he gets a kick out of surprising us with his amazing grace.

What are your points of pain? What is the mess that *you* are struggling with? Maybe, just maybe, God is able to take *your* mess, and out of it bring blessing.

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28)

How bad can it get? A girl gets pregnant. Her parents are utterly shamed. Her fiancé -- not the baby's father -- is ready to dump her. And then he is told, "Do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit." Matthew 1:20

How bad can it get? The girl is in labor, far from home with only a cave-barn where she can have her baby. The only place to put her newborn is a manger. A cattle trough. We imagine it with fresh, fragrant straw plucked from a

bale of hay. But I doubt that the cave was stocked with neat bales stacked against the wall. The straw that night was neither fresh nor fragrant. Life was a mess -- but God was in it.

God sees Mary with her tiny infant and sends a host of angels to announce the birth.

*"Behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." Luke 2:10-12*

The messy manger is itself a sign from God. Is your life a mess? Then let this be a sign to *you*.

*Your* very good news is that the God of the messy manger, the resurrected Christ of the cruel cross, and the Holy Spirit, in whom you live and move and have your being, are able to break through in *your* life, begin to clean up *your* mess, bless you too. And that -- like the messy manger -- will be a wonder all its own.

<https://www.joyfulheart.com/christmas/messy-manger.htm>

"Copyright Ralph F. Wilson <[pastor@joyfulheart.com](mailto:pastor@joyfulheart.com)>. All rights reserved. Used by permission."

