



December 2016

The Messenger

A publication of Malvern Hill Baptist Church

From the Pastor's Desk

Angela and I love Christmas. First and foremost, we love that Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Christ. We also love nearly everything that goes along with the celebration of Christmas. We love lights and trees, tinsel and ribbon, and we love hot coffee and family traditions. One new tradition in many homes is the Elf on the Shelf. Anxious for traditions and consumed as we often are by our own impulsiveness, we bought an elf several years ago and then cringed when we began to read about the elf. He is constantly watching you and taking reports back to Santa. It felt more like the NSA than a fun Christmas tradition.

We don't really do Santa in a big way at our house and the concept of someone always watching over my shoulder to discipline me does not seem very encouraging. We never took the elf out of the box and today it is happy on someone else's shelf. However, in our search for a new Christmas tradition, we talked with our old friends, the Blanchards, and were introduced to the Advent Buzzard. This is a tradition that we are excited to have in our home. Here's the way that Carrie explains the Advent Buzzard:

By Craig Thompson

As the tale goes, once upon a time, some preacher person (likely fed up with secular holiday traditions) hung up a homemade buzzard (originally constructed from men's dress socks) in a prominent place in their home. His purpose was to remind their family of sin, evil, and distractions that surround us every day that draw our attention away from Christ, especially during the season of advent when we should be looking and waiting for Him. Any time you pass this buzzard, you are supposed to whack him and say something like "I renounce the powers of darkness and look for the coming light!" Thankfully, the children of the family shortened this to "Jesus is coming you old buzzard!"

We hide the buzzard as a reminder that sin can hide anywhere and rob us of our joy and steal the focus of Christmas away from Christ. The buzzard of Christmas is not always ugly and scary, often it is beautiful and dazzling, but regardless of its look, its purpose is the same—stealing glory from Christ. I invite you to join us by getting your own buzzard to remind you that sin and Satan lurk at Christmas to rob you of your joy. But, even if you do not buy a buzzard, I hope that you and your family will celebrate that Christ has come and is coming again, and when he arrives, death will be no more, there will be no more pain, no more tears—THE LIGHT HAS COME!



Merry Christmas

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December Events

- 2-3: Progressive Dinner Weekend
- 4: Cookies and Carols (5:30 PM)
- 7: Christmas Around the world (6:30 PM)
- 8: Women's Craft Party (6:30 PM)
- 11: Morning in Bethlehem (10:30 AM)
- Adult Cantata (6:00 PM)
- 14: Baby Shower for Baby Jesus (6:30 PM)
- 15: Prime Timers' Christmas Party (6:00 PM)
- 18: Jesus Birthday Party (10:30 AM)
- Christmas Candlelight Service (6:00 PM)
- 19: Christmas open House (5:30 PM)
- 21: Christmas Caroling
- 24: Christmas Eve Service (3:00 PM)
- 25: Christmas Day Service (10:30 AM)
- No Evening Services
- 28: No Evening Services

Christmas Party

Wednesday, November 30th

Join us from 6:00-8:00PM
at the Tolberts' for
decorating, food, games,
and our traditional ugly
Christmas Sweater Contest.

Progressive Dinner Weekend 2016

December 2-3

\$20

plus an appropriate gag-gift for
the gift exchange

Sign up by Sunday,
November 27

Cookies and Carols

Sunday, December 4

5:30-7:30 PM

Children's Christmas
Musical

Silent Auction

Cookies by the Dozen



MHBC Women's Ministry

Christmas Craft Party

.....

Thursday, December 8
6:30-8:30PM

Bring a dessert & craft to trade
(Please spend less than \$15 on the craft)



COME LET US ADORE

Adult Cantata
Sunday, December 11
6:00 PM



Thursday,
December 15
6:00 PM

*Senior Supper
and
Christmas Party*

CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT SERVICE



Sunday, December 18, 6:00PM
Malvern Hill Baptist Church



Children's Events



12/1 Christmas Musical Dress Rehearsal

12/4 Cookies and Carols

12/7 Christmas Around the World

12/11 Morning in Bethlehem

12/14 Baby Shower for Jesus

12/18 Birthday Party for Jesus

christmas

caroling

wednesday,
december 21

6:30-7:30 PM

Caroling, cookies, hot chocolate, and new friends.

Join us at Steeplechase Apartments

Hosted by the Malvern Hill pastors
and their families

You're Invited
to a

Christmas Drop-in

Monday, December 19, 5:30-7:30
at the Thompsons' House

Christmas Eve
SERVICE

December 24th
3:00PM

Malvern Hill
Baptist Church

www.malvernhill.org

Monthly Calendar

December 2016

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
				1	2	3
					← Progressive Dinner Weekend →	
4 Cookies and Carols	5 Budget and Finance Mtg. Deacons Mtg.	6 Senior Breakfast Prisoner Packet Distribution	7	8 Karesh Wing Christmas Craft Party	9	10
11 Love, Serve, Give Adult Cantata	12	13 Sacks of Love Mission Bible Study Mission Prayer Group	14	15 Senior Supper	16	17
18 Candlelight Service	19 Christmas Drop-In	20	21 Church-Wide Christmas Caroling	22 Springdale	23	24 Christmas Eve Service
25 Christmas Day Worship Service at 10:30 AM	26	27	28 No Evening Services	29	30	31



- 12/2 Malorie Bantum
 Bill Andrews
 12/4 Tommy Jordan
 12/6 Buddy Hyatt
 Diane Spradley
 12/7 Michael Williamson
 Madison Grant
 Cody Taylor
 12/8 Crystal Ham
 12/13 Trey Stephens
 12/15 JoAnn Rush
 Michael Arrington
 Cheryl Colvin
 Emmaline Sparks
 12/17 Kaityln Anderson
 Cooper Morris
 12/19 Neva Arrington
 12/25 Mac Arrants
 12/26 Zinda Hayes
 12/27 Staci Hyatt
 12/29 Gregg Williams
 Jill Snipes
 12/30 Cheyenne Anderson



- 12/6 Kenneth & Audrey Barfield
 12/21 Dale & Velma Correll
 12/22 Larry & Margie Thomas
 12/23 Jay & Marty Huggins
 12/24 Phillip & Tabatha Knopp
 12/31 Julian & Virginia Morris

Malvern Hill Baptist Church

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www.malvernhill.org

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