

Hephzibah Baptist Times

DECEMBER 2025



Our Christmas Light

‘The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it,’ (John 1:5).

Light is a key part of our Christmas traditions. Even if we had all of the food associated with Christmas, the presents, and the family time, if no one put up any lights at all—no tree, no strands of lights on houses, no lighted Christmas displays—we would all feel like we had missed Christmas somehow. Light is not an incidental part of our Christmas tradition, like egg nog and fruit cake. We shine lights at Christmas because Jesus is the light that shines in darkness. Throughout the Bible, light is associated with two things—glory and revelation. God in His greatness shines in His radiance, and He shines light into our darkness by revealing His Word and will to us. And Jesus is the light in both senses. Through Jesus we experience the glory of God, and through Jesus we come to know God personally. Jesus, our light, shines in the darkness.

At Christmas, we should shine light from our Christmas decorations and displays to represent the light of Christ. We should also shine the light of Christ through our love and our lives. This month we’ll be doing just that—giving to International Missions through our Lottie Moon Christmas offering, telling the story of Jesus through our Living Nativity, and celebrating our candlelight Christmas Eve service. Join us in celebrating Jesus, and invite a family member or neighbor to experience the light of Jesus with us.

Your Pastor,

Michael Wren



Please join us on Wednesday, December 24th at 5:30pm for our annual Candlelight Christmas Eve Service as we joyously celebrate the birth of our Savior. The service will be in the Sanctuary.

LOTTIE MOON
Collection will run from
Dec. 1st-Jan. 1st

OFFICE CLOSED
Thursday, December 25th &
Monday, December 29th



COMING IN JANUARY
NEW YEAR’S DAY
January 1st
Office Closed

FYI

- **MEN’S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST:** Cancelled for December.
- **CHILDREN’S CHOIR MUSICAL:** Wednesday, December 3rd at 7:00pm.
- **WOMEN’S CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT SWAP:** Friday, December 5th, at 6pm.
- **SENIOR ADULT LUNCHEON:** Sunday, December 7th, following the 11am service.
- **TRIP TO OCC PROCESSING CENTER:** Saturday, December 13th, 6:30am.
- **HEPHZIBAH CHRISTMAS PARADE:** Saturday, December 13th at 10am.
- **CHRISTMAS CAROLING:** Wednesday, December 17th at 6:00pm
- **LIVE NATIVITY:** Saturday, December 20th & Sunday, December 21st from 6-8pm at HBC.
- **CANDLELIGHT SERVICE:** Wednesday, December 24th, at 5:30pm.
- **OFFICE CLOSED:** December 25th & 29th for Christmas.
- **NO ACTIVITIES:** Wednesday, December 31st

TEAM MEETINGS IN DECEMBER:

- **Building & Grounds:**
Wednesday, December 3rd, at 6:15pm
- **Stewardship & Finance:**
Wednesday, December 10th, at 6:00pm

Please Note:

All events, dates, and times are subject to change.

Wednesday Menus for the Month of December:

Dinner begins at 5:50 pm.

All meals include tea and coffee.

\$7—11 & Up, \$4—Children, 5-10, \$7—Take Out \$25 max. for immediate family.

*To-Go” Plates will be prepared by the Kitchen

Personnel after the serving line closes. We cannot

guarantee “to-go” orders until all of our dine-in family members are served. As available, additional take out

plates may be purchased at the regular price.

Meal dates are to be determined!

12/3 Penne pasta, Salad, Garlic Bread, & Dessert	12/10 Fried/Baked Chicken, Mac & cheese, Green beans, Roll, & Dessert
12/17 NO FELLOWSHIP MEAL	12/24 NO FELLOWSHIP MEAL

MEMBERSHIP FINANCIAL REPORT:

Monthly Budget Needs:	\$38,348.00
Weekly Budget Needs:	\$8,850.00
General Offering Received as of 11/18/2025	\$33,298.99
Year-to-Date Budget Needs:	\$111,126.00
Year-to-Date Budget Received:	\$121,673.48
11am Worship Service Average Attendance	135
AverageS.S.attendance as of 11/18/2025	97



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Church Staff

Senior Pastor.....	Dr. C. Michael Wren, Jr. mwren@hephzibahbaptist.org
Minister of Worship/Music.....	Amanda Brookins abrookins@hephzibahbaptist.org
Minister to Children and Families.....	Cindy Lewis clewis@hephzibahbaptist.org
Minister to Students.....	Bernard Harper bharper@hephzibahbaptist.org
Administrative Assist./Finance.....	Kelly Rabun krabun@hephzibahbaptist.org
Administrative Assist./Ministry.....	Renee Jenkins rjenkins@hephzibahbaptist.org
Custodian.....	Gary & Sue Thomas office@hephzibahbaptist.org

Children's Ministries

Happy Birthday Jesus Party



December 10th
6:30 - 8:00pm
Age 2 - 5th Grade

Boys bring a gift for a boy and girls bring a gift for a girl under \$10



Merry Christmas

HEPHZIBAH CHRISTMAS PARADE

Saturday, December 13th, 2025

10:00am

HBC will be serving cookies and Hot Chocolate at the parade. We will be collecting cookies and Hot Chocolate (the packets in boxes.) Please bring these to the church and place in the bin by the fellowship Hall by Wednesday, December 10th. If you are available to volunteer and help serve the cookies and Hot Chocolate on December 13th, please let Cindy Lewis know.



The Storyteller

author of all things

Gardner-Webb University

June 8-12, 2026

Grades 2 - 5

\$75.00 Deposit

Due Jan. 11, 2026

See Cindy Lewis to Register

CENTRIKID CAMPS 2026

Community Events



Hephzibah Baptist will present our annual walk-thru Living Nativity on Saturday, Dec. 20th and Sunday, Dec. 21st from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. From prophecy, to the miraculous birth, to the cross, we will journey through key events in the life of Jesus, as God brought salvation to the world. It's not too late to sign up to help! If you would like to participate in any way (scenery, costumes, characters, snacks, etc.) please see Amanda Brookins or sign up on the bulletin board outside of the Fellowship Hall.

Student Ministries

412 STUDENTS

1 TIMOTHY 4:12

We will only meet on Wednesday, December 3rd & December 10th. On December 18th students are encouraged to join in the Christmas caroling.



Student Christmas Pajama Party

December 10, 2025

6:30 - 8:00pm

\$10 Gift Exchange

Meet at the Youth House

Women's Ministry

THURSDAY MORNING 10 AM BIBLE STUDY



Ladies, Thursday morning Bible Study will meet on the 4th & 11th for month of December.

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday evening Women's Bible study will only meet on December 10th due to Christmas activities this month. We will meet from 6:30pm to 8:00pm on Wednesday, in room 102.



Ladies of all ages! Please join us on Friday, December 5th at 6:00pm, for a Christmas Ornament Swap. Bring a finger food and an ornament (\$10 limit) to exchange .

CHRISTMAS CAROLING



Join us on Wednesday, December 17th at 6:00pm to go Christmas Caroling to our shut-ins and the Keysville Nursing Home. There will be no fellowship dinner or regular activities that night.

Men's Ministry

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST is cancelled for December.

MEN'S WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Men's Bible study will meet on Wednesday, December 10th from 7:00-8:00pm in Open Door class room.

Missions Ministry



A Big Thank You to all who helped us this year with OCC.

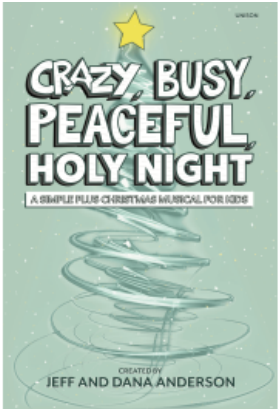
YOUR donation that you gave throughout the year and YOUR giving heart made all of this possible. This past week we have sent off the boxes that have been dropped off from other churches and the ones we prepared. Truly, without you this mission would not be a success!

Thank you again,
Amanda Larson

INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

Cornelia and Carlton Walker have served 40 years in Japan. Please continue to pray for this couple as they continue to serve there. Praise God for His faithfulness to this couple for 40 years and Praise God for their faithfulness to Him. Ask God for more Japanese churches to have a strong desire to share the gospel.

Music Ministry



On Wednesday, December 3rd at 7:00pm the Children's Choir will present our Christmas musical, Crazy, Busy, Peaceful, Holy Night. Christmastime is often crazy busy with SO many things to do. From parties to shopping, from recitals

to exams, it is easy to lose focus on the Prince of Peace that was born in Bethlehem that holy night. Our Christmas today is not usually quiet, calm, or silent. That first Christmas was crazy busy too! But Jesus came to bring peace and hope to a crazy busy world.