

*New Hope Baptist Church*

# Children's Church Newsletter

*Growing in Christ : Greatest Gifts*

Last month, the Children's Church Newsletter recounted the question God posed to Solomon: "When Solomon ascended to the throne, as King of Israel, in 2 Chronicles 1, God asked Solomon this question: "Ask for whatever you want me to give to you." Solomon's response revealed what he considered most important to him. He responded, "Give me wisdom and understanding that I may be able to govern this great people of yours." Solomon demonstrated his commitment to the covenant that God established with Solomon's father, David.

In the season of Advent, all Christians celebrate God's greatest gift to us, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. God has posed to all of us the same question He posed to Solomon. Before joining church, like Solomon we should seek wisdom. As our Bible passage from last month stated: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding" (Proverbs 9:10). We get wisdom by reading the Bible. By joining the church, our response expands on Solomon's response. Since we live after God came to Earth in human form and because we sin, we cherish the gift of salvation that only comes, as Christians, from acceptance of Jesus as our Savior. Salvation originates from the verb, to save, and means in the Christian sense, the saving of the soul.

So, whatever we find under the tree, there is only one gift that matters—salvation.

We wish you and your family God's salvation and joy during the Christmas season.

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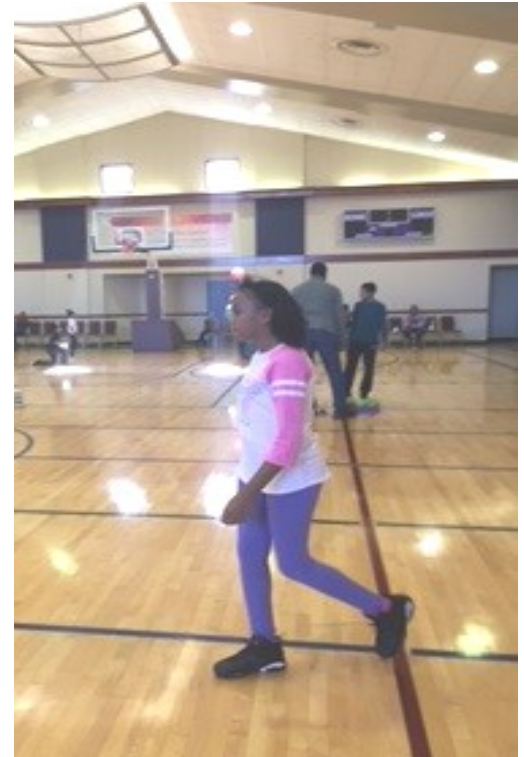


**NEW HOPE**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

*Celebrating New Life & Offering Hope*

Editor: Phyllis Thomas, December 2017

## Pictures from the Harvest Festival



With Ms. Karen as MC and Ms. Lisa managing food, everyone had a fun time.

### Bible Focus for December:

**Though you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. 1 Peter 1: 8.**



# Pictures from the Harvest Festival



Pumpkin painting for children and adults. Food for all.



A scavenger hunt and karaoke for the youth and teens.



A special thank you to Sharon Simmons for the pictures.

## Giving Xmas Activities

**Send Christmas cards to the New Hope sick and shut ins**

**Visit a sick and shut in member**

**Volunteer some time at your local hospital**

**Go Caroling at a nursing home**

**Contribute to the Food Ministry, HBCU, or disaster fund**

**Place a new toy under the Sunday School Giving Tree for homeless children**

**Listen to a child read a story during school break or tutor a child**

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## Awesome Reads!!

Elementary **Imani's Moon** by JaNay Brown-Wood. Voted by the National Association of Elementary School Principals as the Children's Book of the Year, this is a story of a Masai school girl, Imani. Despite her small size, she realizes big dreams.

Elementary **Berenstain Bears Read Along Classics: 5-Minute Inspirational Stories**. The stories have such titles as "God Loves you, Say Their Prayers, Love Their Neighbors, Bless Our Home, and Faithful Friends".

Upper Elementary. **Booked** by Kwane Alexander. A book of poetry about a soccer-loving boy. Alexander won the Newberry Prize for his book, *The Crossover*.

Adults. **Our Black Sons Matter** by George Yancy, Maria del Guadalupe Davidson, and Susan Hadley. A collection of essays celebrating and anguishing on the lives of black males.

**Podcast for Parents "How Smartphones Are Making Kids Unhappy"** by NPR. Scientists attribute excessive smartphone use to increased depression among teens.

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2017/08/07/542016165/how-smartphones-are-making-kids-unhappy>

## Calendar of Events

December 24 Christmas Service, 10:45

Fifth (5th) Saturday of the month. There will be no Angel Choir rehearsal.

# CHRISTMAS

## DECEMBER 25

### Twenty Five Days of Christmas Stories: Sacred and Secular

- Day 1      Matthew 1 & 2. Jesus' genealogy and birth
- Day 2      Christmas in Bethlehem and Jerusalem for World Book. 2014  
A Christmas Tour of Nazareth, Bethlehem, and Jerusalem
- Day 3      Luke 1: 26-38 & Luke 2: 1-21
- Day 4      Who Built the Stable? By Ashley Bryan. 2012. Atheneum.
- Day 5      The Birds of Bethlehem. By Tomie dePaola. Penguin Books. 2012
- Day 6      Refuge. By Anne Booth & Sam Usher. Little, Brown. 2015
- Day 7      Small Camel Follows the Star. By Rachel W. N. Brown. 2007
- Day 8      Christmas in the Barn. By Margaret Wise Brown. Harper. 2016
- Day 9      Voices of Christmas. By Nikki Grimes. ZonderKids. 2009
- Day 10     Amazing Peace. By Maya Angelou. 2005.
- Day 11     Christmas Makes Me Think. By Tony Medina, Chandra Cox. 2001
- Day 12     An Invisible Thread Christmas Story. Laura Schroff. Little Simon.
- Day 13     Grace at Christmas. By Mary Hoffman. Dial. 2011
- Day 14     The Christmas Quiet Book. By Deborah Underwood. Houghton. 2012

# CHRISTMAS

## DECEMBER 25

### Twenty Five Days of Christmas Stories: Sacred and Secular

- Day 15     How the Grinch Stole Christmas. By Dr. Seuss.
- Day 16     The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus. By Frank Baum. 2009
- Day 17     The Legend of Saint Nicholas. By Anselm Grun. Eerdams. 2014
- Day 18     The 12 Days of Christmas. By Greg Pizzoli. Hyperion. 2017
- Day 18     The Nutcracker. By Stephanie Spinner. Alfred A Knoph. 2015
- Day 19     A Christmas Carol. By Charles Dickens. Creative Editions. 2015
- Day 20     A Letter from Santa Claus. By Mark Twain.
- Day 21     A Child's Christmas in Wales. By Dylan Thomas. 1950
- Day 22     Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer. By Robert L. May. 2014
- Day 23     Good King Wenceslas. David T. Warner. Shadow Mountain. 2012
- Day 24     Visit from St. Nicolas. Clement C. Moore.
- Day 25     Matthew 1 & 2.