



The Newslne

Our family reaching out to your family

December 2018

Hope4You

"We venture to assert, that if there be any day in the year, of which we may be pretty sure that it was not the day on which the Savior was born, it is the 25th of December."

Charles Spurgeon.

Though this is a statement of absolute truth from Mr. Spurgeon, there are other equally true facts about December 25th.

Those who do not know Jewish, Church, or Biblical history want to teach that December 25th was chosen as the date of Jesus' birth because it was already a pagan holiday. The reasoning is that Christians wanted to reach the lost souls around them and sought to combine the birth of Christ with the worldly festivals.

That is not however the way it really

The oldest Bible commentary known to exist is from a man named Hippolytus of Rome and is on the book of Daniel. The commentary was written around 170 years after Christ ascended back to heaven.

In this commentary, Hippolytus calculated the date of Jesus' birth by tracing history backwards to Caesar Augustus. It is the earliest known mention of the date of Christ's birth, and Hippolytus set the date as December 25th. The date had and has nothing to do with pagan festivals.

Like a lot of things, the Catholic Church wants credit for the date. They claim that Pope Julius I official named December 25 as the date of Jesus' birth based on the writing of Roman Emperor Constantine in 336AD. This event took place nearly 140 years after the death of Hippolytus.

It is also widely circulated that December 25th was the date of the festival Saturnalia, named for the Roman god Saturn. The festival corresponded with the winter solstice . That festival was started nearly 100 years after Hippolytus died, so Christians did not choose that date to reach the lost.

Does any of this matter as we prepare to celebrate Christmas on December 25? Well that depends. Are we celebrating being together with family, giving presents, singing carols, shopping, parties, etc. all? Or are we celebrating the birth of the Christ?

If it is the latter, then the date doesn't really matter all that much. No one in the Bible mentions the date. Mark and John don't even mention the

ALEXANDRIA BAPTIST CHURCH

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Hanging of the Greens

DECEMBER 1st

Come at 10:00 am to help to decorate the church for this blessed Christmas season.



Help Share Jesus This Christmas

This year we will be sponsoring two local families from the Johnstown/Alexandria area "Adopt a Family" program again. These families are right in our own backyards with great need. There is a tree decorated with the needs of the family and some toy wishes for the little ones. We will also include Bibles and other materials to share Christ with the family and welcome them to our church.

We can also accept monetary gifts to help purchase these materials, fill in gaps in their list of needs, and/or purchase food for the family for Christmas dinner.

Gifts are due **DECEMBER 9th**. They will be delivered the next day!!

Bring them un-wrapped with tag attached. Please also bring a gift bag or wrapping paper so the parents can wrap the gifts. **THANKS!**

Questions? See Carol Holbrook



The S.W.A.G. youth group would like to invite all the people Young – Youth –Adults in the church to join them on

December 16th at 5:30 pm

(meet at the church at 5:15)

Christmas Caroling

around the village.



Pastor Brian, Barb and Kaitlyn invite you to their home for a Christmas Open House!

December 16th at 6:30 pm



Girls Night Out Annual Potluck, Cookie Swap, Sock and Ornament Exchange

Friday, December 21st at 6:00 pm

Melissa Bailey's

Take a break from the holiday rush and share the Christmas spirit with old and new friends. What to bring:

Potluck - A batch of cookies (3 dozen)

Wrapped Christmas Ornament and
or/Christmas Socks

Christmas Cantata

December 23rd at 9:30 am

Adult Choir
Bell Choir
Children's Choir



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 24th
11:00 pm



ABC LEARNING ADVENTURES Money
Maker



Proceeds to buy a new printer!

2019 SCRIPTURE CALENDAR
SALE

Wall Calendars \$8.00

**Be sure and pick one or more up for
your Christmas gift giving! While supplies last!**



All Board reports will be due January 6th so they
can be added to our annual report for 2017. Email
Patti at ppylant@yahoo.com with your report – hard

December Schedule for our children's ministry.....



*"By this we know that we love the children of God, when we
love God, and keep his commandments."*

(1 John 5:2) Serve the Lord with a glad heart!!!

Snacks: Marcia Jackson

Dec. 2

Jr Church Leader: Brenda Reese

Jr. Church Helper: Julie Liggett

Nursery: Barbi & Kaitlyn

Primary (1st – 4th) Teacher: Veronica

Helper: Ann

PreTeen: Stacy

Helper: Amy

High School: Susie

Helper: Dave C.

Dec. 9

Jr Church Leader: Brenda Reese

Jr. Church Helper: Sabrina

Nursery: Kinkead's

Primary (1st – 4th) Teacher: Veronica

Helper: Helen

PreTeen: Stacy

Helper: Patti

High School: Susie

Helper: John

Dec. 16

Jr Church Leader: Brenda Reese

Jr. Church Helper: Olyvia A

Nursery: Alison Bash & Daniel Hatfield

Primary (1st – 4th) Teacher: Veronica

Helper: Brittany

PreTeen: Stacy

Helper: Jan

High School: Susie

Helper: Mike

Dec.. 23

NO Jr Church

Nursery:

Dec. 30

Jr Church Leader: Brenda Reese

Jr. Church Helper: Kaitlyn

Nursery: Lynette Yancey & Lisa Russell

Primary (1st – 4th) Teacher: Veronica

Helper: Brian

PreTeen: Stacy

Helper: Nicole

High School: Susie

Helper: Dave J.