



Christ Memorial Baptist Church
1160 E. Lebanon Road
Dover, DE 19901
302-697-7924 cmbcdover@yahoo.com
Web-site: christmemorialbaptistdover.org.

December

Connections

The monthly newsletter of Christ Memorial Baptist Church

Join us for the
Live Nativity
presentation on
Sunday evening,
December 23 at 6:30pm.
Come and bring a friend or
neighbor to hear the
Christmas story once
again. Full article on page 2.

An illustration of a nativity scene. Mary is kneeling in prayer, and Joseph stands beside her. They are in front of a stable with a thatched roof. A manger with a baby Jesus is visible in the foreground. The background shows a city skyline under a starry night sky with a crescent moon.

OUTREACH MINISTRY



KETTLE DRIVE

We will once again be assisting with the Salvation Army Kettle Drive. The days we are responsible for are Friday and Saturday, December 7 & 8 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The location this year will be at Sam’s Club in north Dover. Please sign up in the Communications Room.

Live Nativity Christmas Eve Eve

On Sunday, December 23rd at 6:30pm (Christmas Eve EVE), Christ Memorial Baptist Church will feature a live nativity, accompanied by readings of the Christmas story and your favorite Christmas music. The program will be followed by a reception with cookies and hot chocolate. The community is welcome and the congregation is encouraged to invite friends and neighbors to enjoy this special Christmas event. Many participants will be needed, from readers to costumed nativity characters to set designers and those who can help create cutout animals. Can you bake? Please sign up to bring homemade cookies for the reception! A sign-up sheet will be available in the communications room at the church, or speak to the Pastor or Woody.

Fellowship Ministry



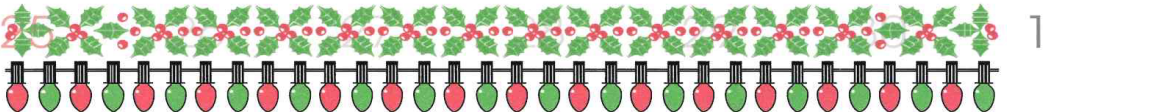
To all that enjoyed the Thanksgiving Dinner at church, we say thanks for sharing in the meal preparation. From the salads and vegetables to the turkey and ham, and everything in between and after, you each made for a wonderfully delicious meal. Thanks also to those that hosted a table and those that helped in every aspect to make things go smoothly. Everything was very much appreciated.

Our next big event will be the Annual Valentine's Dinner in Mid-February. Watch for details in the January and February Connections.

Anne Kearns
For The Fellowship Ministry Team



Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday



2

8:30 & 11am Worship
9:45am SS

3

6:30pm Night Owls

4

11am Worship Min.
12:30pm Day Glow Circle
6pm Property & Grounds Min.

5

5:30pm Dinner
6:30pm Praise Team

Janice Whitney

6

Abby Ford

7

9:45am Ensemble
6:30pm Teen Life

10am to 4pm
Bell Ringing @ Sam's Club

8

9

8:30 & 11am Worship
9:45am SS
12:15pm Women's Christmas Luncheon

10

6:30pm Missions
7pm Gathering of Friends

Doris Redick

11

7:30pm Deacons

12

5:30pm Dinner
6:30pm Praise Team

13

7pm Fellowship Min.

14

9:45am Ensemble
6:30pm Teen Life

Miatta Adenaike

15

16

8:30 & 11am Worship
9:45am SS

17

18

6:30pm Church Board

Jan Jacobs
Frank Young

19

5:30pm Dinner
6:30pm Praise Team

Mike Pollock
Adan Bamaca

20

Cheryl Soyster

21

9:45am Ensemble

Regina Taylor

22

23

Christas Sunday
8:30 & 11am Worship
9:45am SS
6:30pm Living Nativity

24

Christmas Eve

25

Christmas Day
Office Closed

Heidi Snarsky

26

No evening activities
Jeremiah Collins
David Majors
CJ Aduma

27

28

6:30pm Teen Life

29

30

8:30 & 11am Worship
9:45am SS

Luis Figueroa

31

New Years Eve

Victor Adenaike
James Kemp

Year-End Giving and Required Minimum Distributions

If you are over the age of 70½, the IRS generally requires you to take withdrawals from your IRA, SEP IRA, SIMPLE IRA, or retirement plan account. (Roth IRAs do not require withdrawals until after the death of the owner.) These withdrawals are taxable income and can often take people by surprise. In fact, if you fail to take the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) by the required deadline, the IRS will tax it at the rate of 50%! In other words, if you don't use it, you will lose half of it! Many people find that the RMD ends up leaving them with more money than they really need and, rather than allowing the IRS to take a chunk of it for taxes, make use of the funds for charitable giving.

For those who are younger, tax-deductible donations can present a useful reduction of taxes as well. Many projects around the church or impacting the community would benefit from a sizeable donation. If you would like to speak to someone about opportunities for giving, speak to Jerome Patterson, our Director of Finance, or any of our church's financial ministry team.

Wednesday Night Dinners

Yes! There are still going to be dinners in the month of December. The fellowship is always great and it gives us time to share prayer concerns and praises around the table. The meals are great and at a cost of only \$3.00 per person, they can't be beat.

WEDNESDAY DINNER MENUS FOR DECEMBER

December 5th – Soups: Chicken Corn Chowder and Great Northern Bean

December 12th – Breakfast Casseroles and Peach French Toast

December 18th – Sliced Ham, Mac and Cheese and Green Beans

December 26th – No Wednesday Night Dinner

January 2nd – Chili and Corn Bread



Beginnings Class Planned for January 20

On Sunday, January 20 at 12:30 p.m., the Deacons will host a Beginnings/New Member Orientation in the Fellowship Hall. If you want to become a member or be baptized, this class is a must; or if you just want to know more about our church, this is for you. The sign up sheet will be available after the holidays.

LONG TIME WAITING... by Pastor Jeff

Today, we think of the Christmas event as happening a long time ago. We often forget how long Israel had been waiting for it to happen. For four hundred years there was no new word from God. Generations had come and gone. After the Assyrians, Palestine had been taken over by Greeks, under Alexander the Great, who brought their own culture and language, causing a cultural and political crisis for the Jews. When Alexander died, his empire was broken into four parts and Palestine was ruled by the Ptolomies, who came out of Egypt and treated the Jews well. They were followed by the Seleucids, who were brutal to the Jews. They forced their pagan religion on them and set up an altar to Zeus in the Temple courts. This pushed the Jews way too far and they revolted under the Maccabees and gained independence until 63BC, when the Romans took over.¹

Through all this, there was tremendous pressure to conform to the prevailing cultures and religions. All the while, there was silence from Heaven. No prophets. No miracles. No word. What they had was hope. Based in the revelation of the Scriptures which had already existed the people clung to the hope of God's promises. Under the burden of oppression, they prayed for the coming of God's promised Messiah.

Into the longstanding silence, God sent His angels; first to a priest named Zechariah as he served in the Temple, then to a Virgin named Mary, then to shepherds in the fields, announcing the birth of the Messiah! Once again God broke into human history to renew our hope and remind us of His loving kindness. The Christ was born! Simeon and Anna – prophets who lived in the Temple courts – recognized God's intervention even in the infancy of Jesus. The Holy Spirit confirmed this to them. God was bringing salvation!

Christmas is a reminder to us, not only that God's salvation had come two thousand years ago, but that Jesus still comes to us today. Into the chaos of our history, God still sends us hope:

The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned...
...For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- Isaiah 9:2, 6

May the presence of the Living Christ fill your Christmas celebrations with hope and joy as you look forward to the coming of our Savior at His return.

¹ Robert H. Gundry, "What Happened Between the Old and New Testaments: 4 Things You Need to Know to Read the New Testament Well," <https://zondervanacademic.com/blog/what-happened-between-testaments/>



TEEN LIFE ALERT!

Christmas caroling at the library

December 7th @ 6:30pm

Dover Public library

We will be meeting to sing Christmas Carols for the homeless at the library!

Everyone is welcome to join our youth!

Come help us spread the joy and deck the halls with youthful voices as we celebrate the Christmas season with all those who can hear us!

Teen life Christmas party

December 14th @ 6:30

CMBC sanctuary

We will be meeting to sing and praise God for His wonderful gift we have in Jesus Christ!

There will be lots of surprises for the youth!

There will be **NO Teen Life** meeting on **December 21st** but we will be meeting on December 28th!

HE DID IT!

Congratulations to Jacob Snarsky on his selection to the Delaware High School All State Chorus. Jacob will represent Sussex Central High School where he is sophomore. The concert is February 9, 2019 at Mt. Pleasant H.S. He is the son of Heidi Snarsky and the grandson of Dale and Mary Dobrinski.

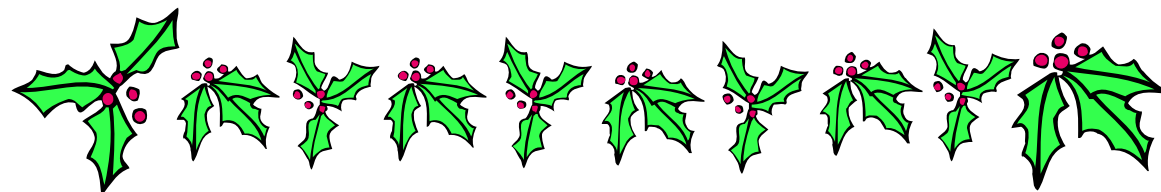
Way to go Jake and KEEP ON SINGING!



Moving Forward with Property & Grounds

Have you taken notice of the improvement by CMBC's front steps? A workday to refurbish the front gardens was scheduled for last month but was rained out. Theron Boots again stepped up to oversee the replanting of the gardens with the help of Dave Majors, Kevin Wyatt, Gene Schaller, Kenny Boots (Theron's son) and Quinn Boots (Theron's grandson). The old vegetation was removed, the ground prepared and new cover plants put in the ground. The new plants will spread and fill in the area the future. Many of the plants that were removed from the gardens have been replanted elsewhere, including around the cross in the front.

Again a big thank you to all who were involved in this project and many other projects around the church.





A Christmas Carol

December 5-8 @ 7:00 pm
December 8 @ 1:00 pm

Free admission/nursery available
Doors open one hour before
performance.
Come early, seats fill fast.

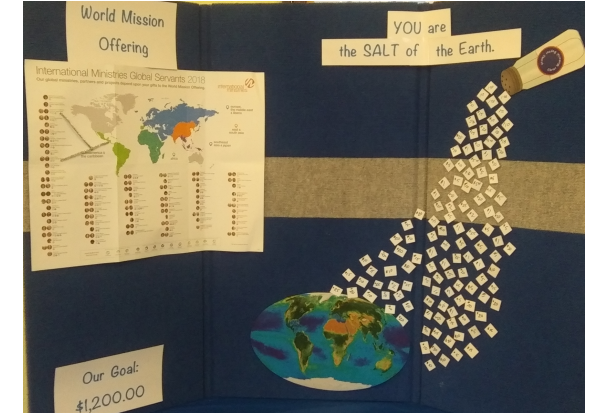
Calvary Church
1141 E. Lebanon Rd.
Dover, De.

Mission Ministry

In October we set a goal of \$1,200 for our World Mission Offering. On the last Sunday of the month we were wondering if we had set too high a goal, but we praise God that not only did we reach our goal, we surpassed it by over \$132. God is good and we give Him Praise!

In November we had our Operation Christmas Child Shoebox packing party. We packed 182 boxes with the help of the twenty individuals who came out, and we know that each box will go to just the right child. On Monday, November 12, 189 boxes were delivered to the drop-off location here in Dover. We are pleased to announce that on December 1, four members of our team will travel to Baltimore to ready the shoeboxes for overseas shipment at the OCC Warehouse.

Our thanks go out to all that gave to make these two events successful. Whether you turned in Redner's receipts, made things for the shoeboxes or gave financially, we say thanks. You are a church with a heart for MISSIONS.





The Women's Ministries groups of Christ Memorial will hold their regular meetings as follows...

The Night Owls will meet on Monday, December 3 at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Janice Jacobs, 24 Deputy Lane, Wyoming. Sally Gordy will be in charge of the program for the evening.

The Day Glow Circle will meet at the church at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 4. Cheryl Soyster is the hostess and Carolyn Kersey is in charge of devotions.



Women's Christmas Luncheon

On Sunday, December 9, at 12:15 we will gather together for our Christmas Luncheon and Gift Exchange. Gifts are to cost \$10 or less. Mary Dobrinski will lead the program and the meal will be provided by the Day Glow Circle. Please sign up in the Communications Room if you plan to attend.

We are excited to share the information about the 2019 Thrive Conference (see next page). When the full information packet arrives, it will be copied and passed out as requested.

Come and join in the fellowship as we work together to promote God's kingdom.

THRIVE 2019



Annual Conference Sponsored by the American Baptist Women's Ministries of Pennsylvania And Delaware



JUNE 28 - 29, 2019

**BLAIR COUNTY CONVENTION
CENTER, ALTOONA, PA**

Adult Conference Fee \$95*

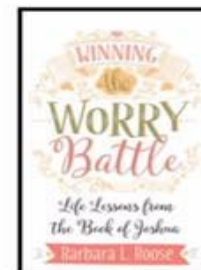
Girls Fee \$100 (includes housing)

*Hotel not included, Look for housing info with Registration Materials early February 2019.

*Some Early Bird Discounts will be available for those registering and paying for conference prior to May 1, 2019.



Barb Roose
KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Popular speaker and author, passionate about equipping women to win at life with Christ-empowered strength and dignity.



Marie Monville
TESTIMONIAL SPEAKER

"When all other lights go out, He still shines!"

On October 2, 2006, Marie's life was forever changed when her then husband made the decision to hold an Amish school hostage.



**Abigail Medina
Betancourt**
MISSION SPEAKER

Abigail is the Puerto Rico Volunteer Coordinator at the American Baptist Home Mission Society in Cantano, Puerto Rico.

THRIVE 2019 updates, as they become available, can be found on the ABCOPAD Website, Notes and News Publications, on the ABWMOPAD Facebook Page or on the THRIVE Facebook Event Page. [FIND US ON FACEBOOK!](#) A REGISTRATION BOOKLET and forms will be mailed to each church in the region in early February. Please SHARE it when it arrives in your churches mailbox!