

DECEMBER

- 4 Week of Prayer Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
- 11 Week of Prayer Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
- 5 Pastors / Staff Christmas Party
- 17-31 Associational Office Closed for Holidays
- 25 **Christmas Day**

JANUARY

- 2 New Year's Day Observed (Office Closed)
- 7-9 National WMU Board Meeting
- 10 Executive Board, 7:00 PM, Mt. Olive
- 15 Sanctity of Human Life Sunday (CLC)
- 16 Martin Luther King Day
- 22 Baptist's Men's Day

FEBRUARY

- 1-28 "True Love Waits" Month
- 2-3 State Evangelism Conference
- 3-5 SBU Church Music Workshop
- 11-18 Mission Construction Trip
- 6-12 Focus on WMU Week
- 11 Children's Ministry Day
- 13 President's Day

"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" Rom 8:1

Praying For the Association

Month of December 2016

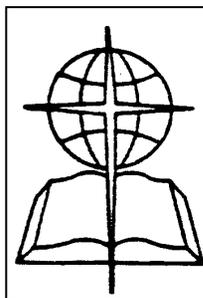
We are asking you to remember the Association in prayer and lift up the following needs:

- >Praise for the pastors of MLBA churches
- >Pray for the Disaster Relief Ministry
 - *Wisdom
 - *More Trained Volunteers
 - *Finances to fund the ministry
- >Pray for the Shuttle Ministry
- >Pray for the churches and leaders.
- >Pray for the Missions Committee
- >Pray for the needs of those struggling with Cancer
- >Pray that we will see more people saved.
- >Pray that our Sunday Schools will experience growth.
- >Pray for the finances of the churches
- >Pray for the work of MLBA
- >Pray for Camp Committee
- >Pray for VBS plans
- >Unspoken

NEWSLETTER

MID-LAKES

SOUTHERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION



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WMU The Story Lives On!

Barbara Studt, WMU Director

In the season of busy-ness, are you reflecting upon the birth of Jesus? Isaiah 9:6 predicted Jesus would be born to us, as our Savior. Are you revering the sacredness of God's sacrifice, to bring Jesus to us, only to be born to die?

Often times I get agitated at the nativity sets. We put Jesus back as the baby, forgetting to look at the rest of His story. There should be a cross in every nativity set, as far as I'm concerned. For if it wasn't for the ultimate end on the cross, we would be eternally lost. We need to reflect on the total picture of what God sent His Son to us for. The cradle is empty as well as the cross. This should speak volumes to true Christians. Go and tell others how majestic God truly is.

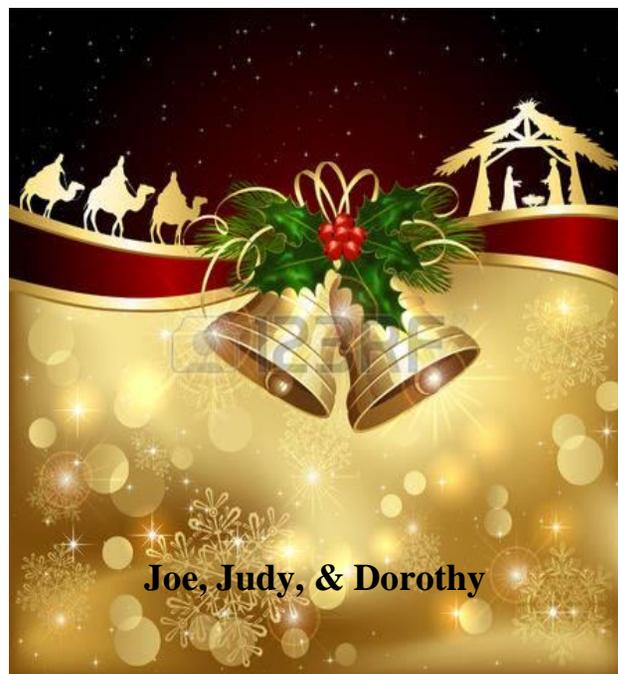
Merry Christmas,

Barb Studt

DECEMBER

2016

Merry Christmas



Joe, Judy, & Dorothy

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Mid-Lakes Baptist Association

NEW CONSTRUCTION MISSION TRIP

Dates: February 11 -18, 2017

Cost: \$ 175.00

(Please be praying for the plans for this trip)

More information as it develops

Bastrop, L



Thanks to all who helped to finish the roof!
We are so grateful for all the help and support!!
And appreciation for Eugene Gouge



DIRECTOR'S NOTES:

It's Christmas Time! It truly is a wonderful time of the year. I am looking forward to all the Christmas programs and activities. We will miss the Christmas Village at FBC Fair Play this year but I am told they will be putting it on next year and plan to do this around the church building. I want to join with you in praying that all we do around Christmas be focused on the reason for the season which is the birth of Jesus! I don't know if you looked ahead but Christmas Day falls on Sunday this year. What a wonderful opportunity for us to get up Sunday Morning and spend time with family and get all dressed up and make it to Worship Service. The Temptation is to put too much emphases on being a **holiday** instead a **holy day**. May our churches be filled with people gathering to celebrate the birth of Jesus!

Judy and I just had a wonderful Thanksgiving Day with our family. I had heard a new word this year called "*thanks gathering.*" Not sure what that means but looks like to me Thanksgiving should be more about being thankful to our creator and Lord for the blessing of the year rather than just thanks gathering. Sometimes I wonder if I am getting too grumpy in my old age.

The year is coming to a close and the New Year will be on us before you know it. May you be blessed in your closing out this year and moving in the New Year be all that you want it to be for yourself, family and church family.



"But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

Matt 1:20-25

The Christmas Story:

Does It Still Matter?

What does Christmas mean to you? Times with family and friends? Perhaps

carols, cards,
television specials.

Maybe hectic
shopping, parties,
and eating too
much.



All these and more are part of North American Christmas. But what about the first Christmas? Why is the original story—the baby in a manger, shepherds, wise men, angels—important, if at all?

May I invite you to consider eight reasons why the original Christmas story matters, even to you? You may not agree with all of them, but perhaps they will stimulate your thinking and maybe even kindle some feelings that resonate with that famous story.

The Christmas story is important because it is. . .

A Story that Has Endured

For two millennia, people have told of the child in a Bethlehem manger; of angels who announced his birth to shepherds; of learned men who traveled a great distance to view him.

Unknown

Brighton Baptist Church Family along with Pastor Michael Summers Invitation

Springfield Live Nativity Pageant
Corwin Arena at Ozarks Empire Fairgrounds
December 1-3.

We are promoting this as a church-wide

Christmas Mission Trip.

Performances are at 6:30 and 7:30 each night

It is a great evangelistic opportunity as well;

(28 professions of faith
were recorded at last year's pageant)

