

EASTON CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

DECEMBER, 2019

PEACHBLOSSOM PRESS NEWSLETTER

Mission Statement

“Sharing the love and blessing of God with all.”



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Easton, MD 21601

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Website: www.eastonbrethren.org

Imagine what it would have been like to be a shepherd two millennia ago, sitting on the hills surrounding Bethlehem and gazing at the clear night sky while a flock of sheep were grazing and baa-ing and sleeping around you. “And suddenly...”



Or imagine being a priest named Zechariah or his wife Elizabeth, married for many years but never having children of your own, figuring on peacefully spending your golden years together. And then a mysterious being pays a visit with shocking news. “Do not be afraid, Zechariah...” Or imagine being a teenage girl in ancient Palestine who had become engaged, perhaps contemplating what life would be like with your new husband-to-be in your new home in Nazareth. But then, once again, a mysterious being comes for a surprise visit. “Greetings, you who are highly favored...”

Imagine being Joseph, or one of the Magi, or John the Baptist, or Simeon or Anna, or others. As we experience the Christmas narrative each year, it's easy to forget that these are not just figures in our Nativity scenes or characters on banners or cards. They were real people leading their ordinary lives until something miraculous happened in their midst. Each one of them played a part in God's amazing story unfolding through an infant born in a little Middle Eastern town all those years ago.

For us to fully appreciate the wonder of that ongoing story, we need to not only hear it, but to try to put ourselves in the shoes of those who experienced it in real time. The poet Walt Whitman once wrote, “The powerful play goes on, and you may contribute a verse.” We improve our compositions by better understanding those who have written and spoken and acted before us—especially those who started it all.

And so this Advent season we will explore some of those “faces of Christmas,” looking more closely at some of the individuals that we hear about in those well-worn passages of scripture each year. I hope that within them you experience some new glimmers of understanding, connection, and meaning. And ponder in your own hearts how God might be calling you as part of that story yet today.

—Pastor Walt



December 1

The Faces of Christmas: Elizabeth, Zechariah, and John the Baptist
Ps. 72:1-7, 18-19; Luke 1:5-25, 57-66;
Matt. 3:1-12; John 1:6-9

December 8

The Faces of Christmas: Gabriel
Isa. 52:7-10, Luke 1:26-38



December 15

The Faces of Christmas: Joseph & Mary
Ps. 98; Matt. 1:12-16, 18-25, Luke 1:46b-55

December 22

The Faces of Christmas: The Shepherds
Isa. 40:9-11, Micah 5:2-5, Luke 2:8-15

Christmas Eve

The Faces of Christmas: The Baby Jesus
Isa. 9:2-7, Luke 2:1-20; John 1:1-5, 10-14

December 29

The Faces of Christmas: Anna & Simeon
Ps. 146:5-10, Isa. 62:6-12, Luke 2:21-38

January 5

The Faces of Christmas: The Wise Men
Isa. 60:1-6, Matt. 2:1-12

Merry Christmas



Covenant Bible Study Series Book of James

The Covenant Bible Series will continue on Tuesday evenings from 7-8 p.m. in the Parlor. The remaining dates are:



December 3
December 10

Doing While Waiting
The Healing Community

Sponsored by the Christian Education Team

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE HYMN?

During January and February, we'll be highlighting some of the favorite hymns of the congregation. If you would like to participate, send the title of your favorite hymn and a brief explanation of why it's your favorite to the church office or Pastor Walt by Jan. 5. Then each Sunday we will highlight one hymn and invite you to share why you picked it. We can either read what you've written, or you can come up and tell the congregation a bit about it as we celebrate the gift of music!

Applebee's Short Stacks for a Tall Cause

You're invited to an Applebee's Flapjack Fundraiser Breakfast to support Camp Mardela

\$7.00 per person

Saturday, December 14,
8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

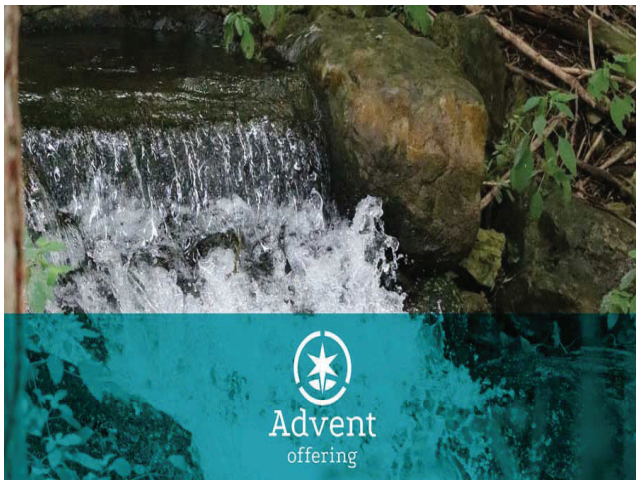
Applebee's in Easton on
Ocean Gateway



For more information contact Chief Gieta at
410-479-2861

Our Prayer List

Please pray for the following individuals and their families: John Ford, Alan Seger, Brent Spurry, The Krauss family, Bruce Butler, Virginia Watson, Sharon Lister, Tom Schuyler, Pat Sathoff, Paul & Ginny Turkington, Pat Lewis, Junior & Bonnie Wooters, Bob Fletcher, Ellen Walbridge, Pete Haynes, Lee Roesti, Norman Harding, Gene & Betty Lednum, Barbara Seese, GraceWay CoB, Nancy Scheffler, Roger Plagge, JK Rider, John Nalley, Bobby Hopkins, Kurt Kline, Dee Candel, Mary Ann Kiser, Doug Edsall, Lois Schall, Meredith Kelly, Natalee Jones, Doris Walbridge, Jeff Wright, continuous prayers for our church family in Nigeria, continued prayers for Comfort Amos, Barbara Taylor, Audrey Geib, Leo Truban, Emerson Fike, Katelyn Howard, Christine & Kenny Fike. Pray for leaders & people that are working towards peace. Please phone the church to add or remove persons on our prayer list. In order to keep the list up-to-date, we will remove persons the end of each month unless we are asked to continue them on the list.



*"Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your
God.'"* ~ Isaiah 35:4a

Collection date: December 15, 2019



- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | Gene Hagenberger |
| 2 | Tony Fluharty |
| 4 | Rica Denlinger |
| 8 | Karter May Mullikin |
| 12 | Ashley Ward |
| 14 | Jennifer Carrion |
| 15 | Camryn Phillips, Ed Wildasin, Jimmy Fike, Jonathan Ulrich |
| 16 | Margie Ridenour |
| 17 | Sue Ann Brockson, Todd Lyons |
| 18 | Bradley Hughes |
| 19 | Christa Crannell, Ruth Ann Smith |
| 20 | Rick Marshall, Karen Tarr, Ronnie Miller, John Banghart |
| 21 | Billy Schnaitman, Jr. |
| 22 | Kenny Ball, Michael Schwaninger, Nora Quidas, Luke Carrion |
| 23 | Charles Wooters |
| 24 | Mabel Kinsey, Mark Miller, Justine Foxwell, Carolyn Lane |
| 26 | Betty Schwaninger |
| 27 | John Stichberry III |
| 28 | Taylor Ann Jacobs |
| 29 | Doug Edsall, Wendy Faulkner |
| 30 | Megan Timms |
| 31 | Robert McGee |



- | | |
|----|-------------------------|
| 2 | Gene & Diane Walbridge |
| 4 | Larry & Kathy Fike |
| 23 | Mike & Nina Jacobs |
| 28 | Mark & Tracy Lednum |
| 31 | John & Mischelle Nalley |



Tidewater Singers to Present An A Cappella Christmas 2019 in Easton, St. Michaels and Cambridge

The Tidewater Singers will present an a cappella concert spanning early music by Giovanni Gabrieli and Jan Sweelink through contemporary favorite, Ola Gjeilo plus perennial chestnuts (and surprises) on December 13 at 7:30 pm at Trinity Cathedral in Easton; on Saturday, December 14 at 7:30 pm at Christ Church in St. Michaels; and on Sunday, December 15 at 4:00 pm at Christ Episcopal Church in Cambridge.

Advance tickets for the Easton and St. Michaels performances may be purchased online at www.tidewatersingers.org and at Cracker Jacks in Easton, or leave a message for Tidewater Singers at 1-888-752-0023 or tidewatersingrs@gmail.com. Information and tickets for the Cambridge performance are available at 410-228-3161.



Easton Chorals Arts Society Presents

Christmas by Candlelight Wes Lockfaw, Artistic Director

Favorites of the season including Daniel Pinkham's Christmas Cantata with Brass Quintet, Organ, Harp, Flute, and Classical Guitar.

*Thursday December 5, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday December 8, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.
Christ Church Easton*

*Tickets admission \$25, \$30 at the door
Students admitted free (reservations required).*

*Purchase tickets at:
www.EastonChoralsArts.org*



Christmas Eve Service

**Gathering Music begins at
6:30 p.m.
Service begins at 6:45 p.m.**

“The Faces of Christmas”



Bible Quiz

*Where did the child Jesus
and his parents flee for
safety?*



- A. Ethiopia*
- B. Syria*
- C. Rome*
- D. Egypt*

Answer: D (See Matthew 2:13.)

Volunteer Opportunities

Talbot Interfaith Shelter

The 2019 volunteer list is available for sign-up. Please take the time and look to see where you can spare a few hours of your time every other month. Any questions, please contact Norma Trax. **Our next date is January 19, 2020.**

Interested in Serving as Worship Leader or doing the Children's Time?

We're always looking for new people to share their gifts! It doesn't take a lot of time--just a bit of preparation and a willingness to serve. If you would like to join this team of volunteers or want more information, please contact the church office or Pastor Walt.

Neighborhood Service Center

Please contact Marilyn Neal, if you are interested in volunteering at the center. Their phone number is 410-822-5015.

NSC Food Pantry

Let's not forget that food prices keep going up! When we pay attention to our local, national and international food needs, we are reminded that people suffer from food insecurity all around. If we do not share of our bounty, others go hungry. Let us give, so others may live. Any non-perishable food items with good "best if used by" dates are accepted. **There is a container in the narthex to put your non-perishable items.**

Ridgeway House Lunches

The 1st & 3rd Fridays of each month. For months that have five Fridays, lunches will be provided on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Friday. Contact Loretta Lohr (410-822-3094). Monetary and food donations (drink boxes, individual fruit cups, small bags of chips and cookies) are always welcome.

Dixon House Senior Living Center

The Dixon House located at 108 N. Higgins in Easton is seeking volunteers interested in helping out occasionally with crafts projects for the residents. All supplies are provided. If you would like to help, please contact Pastor Walt or the church office, or you can contact activities director Shelly Laroque directly at 410-822-6661.





Witness Ministry Team

It is that time of the year again...Christmas will soon be here! We are having a collection drive for Choices Pregnancy Center. They have a very special room at their office where new baby items are donated and kept. These include diapers, formula, clothing etc. We will follow-up with more detailed information on these items.

As we prepare for the holiday, let's be mindful of the reason for the season-the birth of our Lord and Savior. What better time to celebrate the arrival of new life into this precious world?

We thank you for your participation in this project. Your support will be greatly appreciated, not only by your Witness Team but especially all of those who are associated with Choices Ministry.



Phone (410) 822-3311
Text (443) 698-8110
8221 Teal Dr. Unit 408
Easton, MD 21601

Diane Shores & Anne Harvey

**Thank
You**

Volunteers for December

**Thank
You**

	December 1	December 8	December 15	December 22	December 29
Preaching	Pastor Walt	Pastor Walt	Pastor Walt	Pastor Walt	Pastor Walt
Worship Leader	Mat Baynard	Jane Marshall	Sharon Miller	Kevin Wile	Lynn Butler
Head Usher/ Sound	Leroy Miller	Leroy Miller	Leroy Miller	Leroy Miller	Leroy Miller
Ushers	Leroy & Sharon Miller	Rick & Jane Marshall	Leroy & Sharon Miller	Rick & Jane Marshall	Leroy & Sharon Miller
Greeters	Barbara Saulsbury & Liz Wildasin	Les & Marlena Groves	Paul & Ginny Turkington	Mat & Wanda Baynard	Rick & Jane Marshall
Deacons on call	Geoff & Lee Ann Fox	Mat & Wanda Baynard	Les & Marlena Groves	Rick & Jane Marshall	Leroy & Sharon Miller
Special Music	Choir, Cheryl Dayton, Soloist	Choir & Handbells	Choir, Amy Bachand, Soloist	Choir	Amy Bachand
Flowers	Advent Wreath	Advent Wreath	Advent Wreath	Advent Wreath	



DASHING THROUGH THE WORDS

Can you find the following Christmas season words in the puzzle below? Answers can be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal, forward or backwards:

-WREATH

-CHRISTMAS

-SHEPHERD

-ANGEL

-LIGHT

-MERRY

-ADVENT

-NATIVITY

-STAR

-STABLE

-TREE

-JOY

-BELLS

-BABY

-MANGER

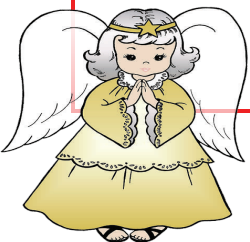
-CANDLE

-GIFTS

-HOLLY



W	U	D	R	E	H	P	E	H	S
E	R	N	T	O	Y	O	S	O	U
L	M	E	R	R	Y	I	L	S	B
D	O	R	A	N	G	E	L	L	N
N	T	T	H	T	R	E	E	I	Y
A	S	S	G	L	H	D	B	B	R
C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	E
A	Y	G	F	A	S	B	A	V	G
I	H	Y	T	I	V	I	T	A	N
T	O	O	S	T	A	B	L	E	A
J	T	N	E	V	D	A	R	C	M



Attendance & Offering for November

	<u>Attendance</u>	33	32	42	52	159
	11/3/19	11/10/19	11/17/19	11/24/19	Totals	
<u>Distributions</u>	-	-	-	-	-	
General (06)						
Envelopes	2,690.00	1,021.00	1,184.00	1,318.00	6,213.00	
Loose Change/Cash	47.00	0.00	40.00	20.00	107.00	
Tithes	2,737.00	1,021.00	1,224.00	1,338.00	6,320.00	
06 Income						
Building Use						
Dutchmans Lane Rent			1,155.00		1,155.00	
Harrison St. Rent		1,155.00			1,155.00	
Subtotal of Income	0.00	1,155.00	1,155.00	0.00	2,310.00	
Totals	2,737.00	2,176.00	2,379.00	1,338.00	8,630.00	
Special Offerings (07)						
Deacon Fund	800.00				800.00	
Drama/Clowns/Puppets				18.00	18.00	
In Kind						
Student Boxes & Postage	54.44				54.44	
Sanctuary Decorations				22.22	22.22	
In & Out						
Poinsettias		8.00	80.00		88.00	
Totals	854.44	8.00	80.00	40.22	982.66	
Totals	3,591.44	2,184.00	2,459.00	1,378.22	9,612.66	



Please join us for Christmas caroling on Sunday, December 8 at 1:00 p.m. After caroling we will return to the church for soup and fellowship!



Box Tops for Education

Please continue to collect the box tops for education during this school year. The box tops are found on a variety of food items we purchase. The box tops will enable us in some small way help the school children of Talbot County. Thank you for your participation.





Address Service Requested

Easton Church of the Brethren
 Peach Blossom Press
 412 S. Harrison Street
 Easton, MD 21601

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