



Cherokee Baptist Association Newsletter



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Merry Christmas

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From The Director's Heart

December 1, 2025

It's hard to believe that here we are at the close of another year with Christmas only a few days away. I have noticed that for the past few weeks preparations for Christmas have been well underway. Retailers have begun running Christmas advertisements and sales even as early as shortly after Labor Day. It seems as if people are putting up their Christmas Tree and decorating their homes and yards even earlier this year. All of this in preparation for Christmas. However, I can't help but wonder, as believers, are we making the best and proper preparations during this season of the Advent of Jesus? The word **advent** means appearing, arrival, or coming. I am afraid that for many of us we get caught up in the decorations, the lights, the shopping, the parties, and many other happenings connected with our Christmas celebrations. Unfortunately, we oftentimes become so busy with all the activities taking place in our churches during this season, we fail to prepare ourselves for the true meaning of Jesus' Advent.

I want to share two ways we can prepare our hearts and lives to truly celebrate the Advent of Jesus:

1. We should prepare by looking backward with earnest appreciation at Christ's First Coming. Our hearts should be filled with a deep appreciation, "That God so loved us," He sent His Son Jesus to save us and place us in His forever family and one glorious day get to spend all of eternity with Him in Heaven. May we focus with appreciation on the words of Luke 2:11, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."

2. We should prepare by looking forward with eager anticipation to His Second Advent. As we focus during the Christmas Season on the Baby born in Bethlehem, it is paramount that we have an eager anticipation that Jesus is coming again. In Titus 2:13, we find these words, "Looking for that blessed hope and glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ." Be assured that one day Jesus is coming in great power and glory!

So, as we make preparations for Christmas, don't neglect to prepare your heart with appreciation for His First Coming as Savior and in anticipation of His Coming again as King of Kings.

May you and your family have a very Merry Christmas!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Marcille and me!

Bro. Wendell

Matthew 1:21

Christmastime



Centre First *Journey to Bethlehem* Dec 4, 5, & 6, 5:00-8:00 PM; also, annual coat and food giveaway during this event.

Choir Christmas Special Dec 7, 9:00-10:30 AM.

Children's Christmas Play Dec 14, 9:00 & 10:30 AM.

Red Cross Blood Drive Dec 16, 1:00-5:00 PM.

Christmas Eve Service Dec 24, 5:00 PM.

Gaylesville First Christmas Play, *A Child Saw the Savior*, Dec 14, 5:00 PM.

Rock Run Christmas Parade, Dec 20, 2:00 PM, food and festivities & line up begins at 10:00 AM.

Salem Will present *A Shephard's Story*, Dec 21, 5:00 PM.

Shady Grove Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Dec 24, 5:00 PM.

Slackland Choir will present *The Most Wonderful Time of the Year*, Dec 21, 11:00 AM.

Other Church News

Calcedonia Pastor Joe Witcher has resigned.

Centre First The Christmas season can be especially difficult for those walking through loss or struggling with mental health. Two support groups are offered: NAMI Mental Health Support Group and GriefShare. Call 256-927-3316 for more info.

Shiloh is seeking a Christ-centered, compassionate, and organized individual or couple to lead their Family Ministries. This role includes oversight of children (Preschool-5th Grade) and youth (6th-12th Grade) programs. The leader will help disciple the next generation by teaching biblical truth, modeling Christlike love, and building trusting relationships in a small, intimate, community church. Please inquire by email at: shilohbaptist120@gmail.com.

Slackland Food Pantry, the first Friday of each month, 10:30 AM. Dec 5, Jan 2, Feb 6.

Week of Prayer for International Missions

& Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
November 30 - December 7, 2025

Will you join your heart with others to pray for missionaries around the world who are faithfully sharing the gospel.

Birthday Blessing to Our Pastors

Dec 13 - Bo Gray, Faith at Piedmont
Jan 10 - Scott Hosey, Sand Rock

Pray for Our Churches

Seeking Pastors

Calcedonia, Pleasant Arbor & Sandy Creek

Executive Committee Meeting

January 19, 2026

CBA, 7:00 PM. Refreshments at 6:30 PM

Assoc Missionary Search Committee Update

The Committee has posted the opening for AM/DOM on several websites and sent letters to all CBA pastors/churches. We have received several resumes and will continue receiving resumes through Dec 20, 2025. Our next step will be interviewing candidates. Please continue praying for the Lord's guidance as we seek to do His will for the Cherokee Baptist Association. -Rev. Brett Clements, Chairman

VBS Early Bird Clinic for Pastors & Directors

February 5, 2026

CBA, 6:00 PM, - RSVP by February 2

February - Collection for Children's Homes

Collecting items for the Alabama Baptist Children's Homes has always been a favorite ministry of our churches. Your church will receive information in January regarding the item you will be asked to collect for this partnership ministry. Thank you for what you have collected in the past and will do in 2026!

December

Nov 30-Dec 7 Week of Prayer for International Missions & Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

7 Delivering Christmas Backpacks to Holly Springs, Mississippi.

24-25 Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Office Closed

31 New Year's Eve Office Closed

Assoc Office will be closed December 23 - January 4.

2026 January

1 New Year's Day Office Closed

4-11 January Bible Study *The Gospel of John*

- "Knowing Jesus Through the I AM Statements"

18 Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

19 CBA Executive Committee Meeting, CBA, 7:00 PM

The Cherokee Baptist Association is a fellowship of local churches working in partnership to expand the Kingdom of God through His message and mission.