



DISCOVER~DEVELOP~DISCIPLE
Helping people discover and develop into disciples of Christ

Let's Be Donkeys This Christmas



Christmas bespeaks of nativity. And nativity gives occasion to nativity plays. Who knows who first came up with the idea of dramatizing the birth of Christ, but the first script has inspired innumerable others.

Though each has its own unique wrinkle, they all have some common features: angels with chiffon wings, wise men and their gifts from afar. A weary innkeeper will turn Mary away. A wide-eyed Joseph will bunch the manger's hay. And Mary, weary and sweet will say, "I think today."

Beneath a suspended star a baby will be born, the angels will sing, the wise men will kneel and children of all ages will go home telling their parents that next year they want a part in the nativity play. Little boys want to be Joseph. Little girls want to be Mary. Some want to wear the angel wings or bear gifts from a distant land. A few might even offer to be the hard-hearted Herod or the hassled innkeeper.

But no one, ever, as far as I know, volunteers to be the donkey. Which is odd, actually, for what greater honor could exist than to do what the donkey did? He carried Jesus. I know, Joseph is better looking and Mary is quite stunning. Wise men get the cool hats and angels have the hallelujahs. And the donkey? He just stands to the side and chews on hay.

But look at him. Do you not see contentment in those big, brown eyes? A look of satisfaction on his face? He just delivered history's greatest gift! Before Santa had a sleigh or UPS had trucks, God had a donkey. Thanks, in no small part, to him, the choir can sing "For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given."

I know, I know. We'd rather be Joseph, rugged and bearded. We'd rather be Mary, faithful, beautiful, and immaculate.

But somebody needs to be the donkey. I'm thinking a donkey at Christmas is a good thing to be.

- * The Christmas donkey did his work. He delivered Jesus so Jesus could be delivered.
- * He plodded. He didn't gallop or giddy-up. He did what donkeys do. He steadily stepped in the direction the master directed.
- * And, upon arrival, he stepped to the side. He demanded no recognition, expected no compensation. He isn't even mentioned in the Bible.
- * He was happy to do his job and let Jesus have all the attention.



Perhaps we could learn a lesson from the Christmas donkey? There is always a place in the nativity, God's nativity story, for the person who will plod along expecting no applause, bear up under the weight of the long haul, and carry the One who will carry us all.

So here's to the donkeys of the story. *May your ride be faithful and your rest be fruitful. And we will do our best to follow your example.* ~ Copied

I love being your pastor! Merry Christmas!
Pastor Chris



December Mission Focus: Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions



In 1873, Lottie Moon was appointed as a missionary to China. She spent nearly 40 years sharing the gospel with love, courage, and unwavering faith.

Her letters home inspired churches to pray and give, leading to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. Today, this offering supports missionaries and helps take the life-transforming message of Jesus to the nations.

Every year, Southern Baptist churches collect an offering to send and support missionaries to be steadfastly present among those who have never heard the gospel.

In 2024 there were 3,577 missionaries on the field, 2,409 churches planted and 1.6 million heard the gospel presentation!

Let's honor Lottie Moon's legacy by praying and giving so others can hear the hope of the gospel.

Every dollar you give goes to the mission field to support gospel transformation among the lost. Thank you for your generosity, love and help in sharing Jesus with the world!



Parent's Night Out

Saturday, December 20
4:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Kids ages 3 – 5th grade
(No cost)

Enjoy a night out while your kids have fun at church playing Christmas themed games, making crafts, and watching a fun movie. Pizza and a hot chocolate bar provided!

Kids...we can't wait for you to join us upstairs in the Education Building for a fun-filled evening!

Merry Christmas



*No matter where you journey this Christmas,
May you find your greatest Gift at the manger.*



CHRISTMAS MUSIC AT EBC

Come hear the angels’ invitation to the shepherds and see the star that summoned the Wise Men. Come find the stable where a young mother held her newborn Son, turning an animal feeding trough into a cradle. God’s plan to call His people back to Him was unfolding, and from that moment on, the world could know hope and peace through this One named Jesus. Come join this journey as we worship our Living Hope.



We invite you, your family and friends to join us
Sunday morning, December 7 at 11:00 a.m.
as the choir presents
HOPE was born this night

We pray that your hearts and minds will be open to God’s message through word and song this Christmas season!



I’m sorry guy. I know that you’ve got a good health plan and you give out free gifts and all, but Jesus really does have a much better plan.

CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH






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

- ANGEL
BELLS
CANDLES
CANDY
CARDS
CAROL
CHESTNUT
CHIMNEY
CHRISTMAS
DASHER
- EGGNOG
ELVES
FAMILY
FROSTY
FRUITCAKE
GIFT
GREEN
GREETINGS
HAPPY
HOLIDAY
- HOLLY
ICICLE
JINGLE
JOY
LIGHTS
MANGER
MARY
NATIVITY



December
Children



<div><div>DECEMBER</div></div> <div>Small Groups meet every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. (unless otherwise noted)</div>		
DEC 02	10:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Group Bible Study Prayer Meeting
DEC 03	All day	Annual Day of Prayer (sanctuary will be open or virtual)
	6:30 p.m.	 Women's Bible Study
DEC 07	10:55 a.m.	Worship Choir presents "HOPE was born this night" a Christmas Cantata
	6:00 p.m.	Brief Business Meeting /Bible Study with the pastor CIA / Youth
DEC 09	10:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Group Bible Study Prayer Meeting
DEC 10	6:30 p.m.	Women's Bible Study
DEC 14	9:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	2nd SUNDAY CELEBRATION Bible Study with the Pastor CIA / Youth
DEC 16	10:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Group Bible Study Prayer Meeting
DEC 17	6:30 p.m.	Women's Bible Study
DEC 20	4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	Parent's Night Out
DEC 21 ABCCM SUNDAY	4:00 p.m.	 Church Christmas Party
DEC 24	5:00 p.m.	 Christmas Eve SERVICE
DEC 25	 All Day Long!	
DEC 28	6:00 p.m.	Bible Study with the Pastor CIA / Youth



Christmas is in the air...
and EBC's traditional December bulletin board is waiting! You are welcome to post a festive greeting card, warm wishes and perhaps a family picture to share. May our hearts be filled with joy and praise as we celebrate our Savior's birthday together.