

SANDSTON BAPTIST CHURCH

His Last Command, Our First Concern

Matthew 28:18-20

NOVEMBER 2024 | VOLUME 50 | ISSUE 11

From My Heart to Yours . . .

Years ago, one of the church members where I served as pastor sent me the following story. I filed it and only recently discovered it again. It makes such a vivid point that I thought I'd share it with you my church family and friends. If you see yourself in this "thought" don't get upset with me but do swallow your pride and remember that God's house and God's people are open for all to gather and worship.

"A churchgoer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. 'I've gone for 30 years now,' he wrote, 'and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time, and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all.'

"This started a real controversy in the 'Letters to the Editor' column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this. They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today! When you are DOWN to nothing . . . God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!

Isn't that a great story! Do you see the truth in it! I've been privileged to serve my Lord in pastoral ministry for more than 50 years now and I'm sure I've preached more than 3000 sermons . . . I can remember some (I do have a few "favorites"), but I certainly don't remember them all. I do know that each one helped to strengthen my faith-walk with God and hopefully a few helped others as well. (Please tell me I've not wasted your time or mine!). I've read and heard countless hundreds of other sermons and lectures, read numerous spiritual books, studied from theological textbooks and I'm thankful for each experience . . . but nothing helps me more than gathering with my church family on Sundays and Wednesdays to experience worship of our Heavenly Father.

For those who are reading this article and have strayed away (or stayed away) from worship at SBC, please accept this invitation to "come home" and gather with your church family as we praise God from whom all blessings flow. If you've been hurt, wounded, angered, hindered, lazy or complacent, just know that God loves you and He wants you to be spiritually nourished in His house each week. I love seeing "new faces" each Sunday and I'm thrilled when familiar faces gather in His name . . . see you this next Lord's Day as we celebrate our Savior. God is up to something and I'm excited to see what He is going to do next!!!

We are only a few weeks away from Thanksgiving and then comes the celebration of the birth of our Savior - Christmas! I am so thankful to be serving as your interim pastor. I am having a wonderful and blessed season in my life and I'm grateful for the honor you have extended to me to serve in this transitional period in the life of your church. I want to thank you for your many kind words and your encouragement to Susan and me in this time as she battles cancer. I am thrilled to share that her chemo is now complete and soon radiation will begin. Your prayers have been a true source of encouragement to us, and we thank you from the depths of our hearts. Thank you for your cards, gifts and thoughtfulness during this time!! And thank you for honoring me during Pastor Appreciation month! I really appreciate the love gift, and your standing ovation was overwhelming!!!! Blessings as we continue to worship and serve our Lord together.

I am joyfully His . . . Yours,

Pastor Tom

In this Issue

- Operation Christmas Child
Page 2
- News for Families of Preschool, Children, and Youth
Page 3
- Bible Study News
- Note from Jean
Page 4
- Notes from Tommy
- Dinner Menu
- SHOW Deliveries
Page 5
- Activity Calendar
Page 6
- Birthday Calendar
Page 7
- Finance Report
- FISH Item of the Month
- Deacon's Info.
- Office Note
Page 8



Send the Gospel to the Ends of the Earth Without Leaving Home



Shoebbox gifts built online go to the ends of the earth to children in some of the hardest-to-reach places—whether deep jungles, city slums, steep mountainsides, or one of more than 1,000 remote Pacific islands. Many of these areas are resistant to the Gospel, for cultural or religious reasons, and are home to numerous unreached people groups, some of whom have never heard the Name of Jesus Christ.

Join us in reaching these children. You can go to the Sandston Baptist Church FB page and look for the Operation Christmas Child post. Click on the link included and it will prompt you to start building a box. Online packing is simple and easy and includes all the items you need to include in these special boxes. You pay \$25 and it includes the items you get to select as well as the \$10 processing fee which covers shipping and processing, training of leaders for evangelism, and *The Greatest Gift* book written in the child's own language.

Don't forget:

Our OCC Boutique is still available with lots of quality items. You still have time to have a personal shopper pack a box for you. Just contact Denise Harcum at 804-338-2920 or dharcum1@gmail.com

Make your boxes FUN, FULL, and PERSONALIZED!

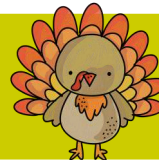
Filled shoeboxes are to be returned to the sanctuary **Sunday, November 3 through November 17.**

HELP US REACH **700** CHILDREN FOR JESUS THIS YEAR!





CHILDREN'S Ministry NEWS



November is here, and with it comes a season of gratitude and reflection. As we approach Thanksgiving, we're excited to focus this month on how we can meaningfully express our thanks to God and others. It's such a joy to see our children learning to cultivate hearts of gratitude, and we have some special activities lined up to help them grow in faith and thankfulness this season. Here's what's happening this month in our Children's Ministry!

November Theme: A Season of Gratitude

Throughout the month, our lessons and activities will focus on thankfulness—why we give thanks and how gratitude can bring us closer to God and each other. We'll explore Bible stories that illustrate thankfulness, such as the story of the ten lepers and the feeding of the 5,000, to encourage the children to reflect on their blessings.

Memory Verse for November

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."
— Psalm 107:1



Encourage your children to memorize this verse as a reminder of God's endless love and goodness, and feel free to talk with them about what they are thankful for each day.

Upcoming Opportunities

OCC Service Project: Our children will pack shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child on the evening of **November 20th**.

Extended Session Volunteers: We're always looking for extra hands on Sundays, especially during the busy holiday season. We need a few volunteers to help with the children during extended session. We are deeply grateful for each of you and the love you show our children and families daily. Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and support of our Children's Ministry. May this Thanksgiving season fill your hearts with joy and gratitude!

Lindsay Horne



YOUTH ministry



Youth and parents, as I write this newsletter, we just had an incredible turnout from our community for our SBC Fall Festival (Trunk or Treats) and we are currently in preparation for our pumpkin carving Wednesday night youth. Thanks to all who came out and helped with each event! We have also enjoyed our Wednesday night series on Lenses, looking at the world as God sees it and on Sunday mornings we are going through the parables that Jesus used to teach the disciples, religious leaders, and us today!

Coming up in January (18-20), youth will be going on a retreat known as Winter Blast that will take place at Bluefield University in Bluefield, VA. Sign-up for this worship and ski weekend will start in November, check your youth email for updates. We will continue our Wednesday night activities through most of November (NO YOUTH/CHILDREN on November 27).

On November 20, we will have a special Operation Christmas Child shoebox packing night. Youth will take supplies gathered through the year and that they have brought in to put together as many shoeboxes as possible for OCC! Details on what to bring was sent out in an email, youth can bring in their own items to add to a box and/or money to donate towards shipping for the boxes (about \$10 a piece). Any help with this donation for shipping is greatly appreciated since most of the boxes youth create that evening do not have shipping covered already, as we try to continue to improve on our goal each year, last year we had over 150 put together on our packing night. There may be other announcements through November, please be sure to contact Justin to be added to the SBC Youth email (sbcyouth.info@gmail.com) or Facebook Group (SBC Fusion).

Justin Blunt



New here and looking to join a Bible Study Group?

We have many classes who meet on
Sunday morning's at 10:15am
following the Worship Service. We
would love to have you join us as we
dive into God's Word!



Preschool—Room E114

Grades 1—3—Room E208

Grades 4-5—Room E211

Grades 6-12—Youth House

Agape—Room B03

Basement Believers—Room E203

Branches— Room 306

GIFT—Room B07

Earl Gerheart—Room 303

The Man Class—Room 313

Pathways—Room 300

Seedplanters—Room 301

Vines—Room 307

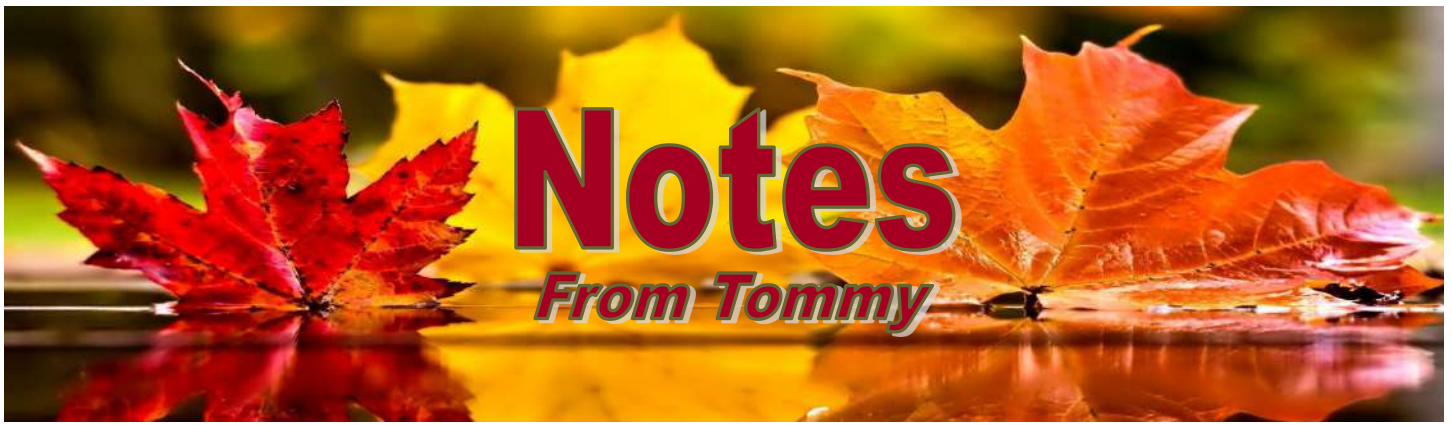
Women of Faith—Room 311

Note from Jean

National Collection Week for 2024 shoeboxes is in three weeks, November 18-25! This is a great opportunity to serve as a short term volunteer with Operation Christmas Child, as we open our doors to the community to receive thousands of Gospel Opportunities. This week is full of joy and excitement as we rejoice with our sister churches over their harvest of shoeboxes!

Sign Up sheets will be in the front foyer and in the back hallway under the stained glass. Come and share in a great time of friendship and fellowship as we send these shoeboxes on their way to Charlotte, their final destination on this side of the world

Reach out to me if you have any questions: Jean Jones (804) 690-2675



Thanksgiving is a time for "counting our blessings", and I'm sure thankful for the people that I work with each week in the Adult Choir and Praise Team. They make my job much easier, and I certainly love working with each and everyone of them.

One of our Praise Team members, Will Kulp, (our bass player) will be stepping down from the week in/week out commitment to the Praise Team at the end of October. Will has been a member of our Praise Team for the past nine years, and told me that he has really been tossed with this decision. He has the opportunity to start a new music ministry effort with another member of our fellowship, Lee Nelson. Will and Lee will be visiting local churches in our area playing a southern gospel style music with a message.

While we will miss Will in the Praise Team, I hope you will join me in wishing him and Lee all the success with this new ministry opportunity.

Of course, at the same time, I am happy to welcome a new member to our Praise Team, Pat Shobe. Pat was with the Praise Team several years ago, and I'm excited that he has joined back with the group.

Thank you Lord for each and every one of these brothers and sisters who lift You up in praise each week!

Singing for the Savior

Tommy

NOVEMBER **Dinner Menu**

November 6th

Bacon, Egg and Cheese Casserole, French Toast
Casserole, Biscuits and Gravy, Cheese Grits,
& Dessert

November 13th

Thanksgiving Dinner

Turkey, Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Green
Beans, Corn Pudding, Rolls, & Pies

November 20th

No Wednesday Dinner

November 27th

No Wednesday Dinner

SHOW **Delivery Schedule**

November 7th

Larry Meador

November 14

Ken Weaver

November 21

Alan Watts

November 26

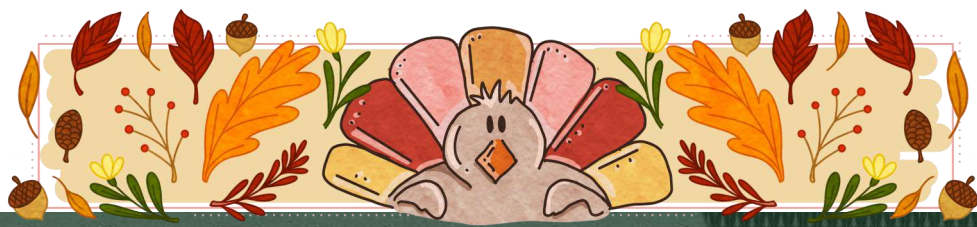
Mike Edwards



November



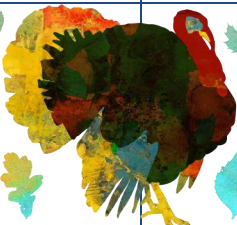

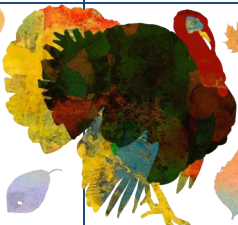


EVENT CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:00am Worship 10:15am Bible Study 5:30pm Portuguese Ministry	4 10:00am Note Writing 11:00am Williamson Group 6:30pm Men's Basketball	5 2:00pm VanLear Presidential Election BG All-Day	6 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Church Business Meeting in Sanctuary, Awana, Youth, Adult Choir, HIS Group, & Prayer Meeting	7 8:00am-5:00pm Quilters Retreat BG 11:30am Friendly/ Singles Club @ Mechanicsville Applebees 5:30pm Brotherhood 7:00pm Deacons	8 *Church Office Opening at 10am* 8:00am-5:00pm Quilters Retreat BG	9 8:00am-5:00pm Quilters Retreat BG
10 9:00am Worship 10:15am Bible Study 11:30am Sista'hood Luncheon BG 5:30pm Portuguese Ministry	11 10:00am Note Writing 6:30pm Men's Basketball	12	13 5:30pm Church Thanksgiving Dinner 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Awana, Youth, Adult Choir, HIS Group, & Prayer Meeting	14	15	16 11am-1pm Community Lunch BG
17 9:00am Worship 10:15am Bible Study 11:30am Branches Class Luncheon 5:30pm Portuguese Ministry	18 10:00am Note Writing 6:30pm Men's Basketball Shoebox Collection Week	19 Shoebox Collection Week	20 <i>*No Wed. Dinner*</i> 6:00pm Children's Choir 6:30pm Awana, Youth, Adult Choir, HIS Group, & Prayer Meeting Shoebox Collection Week	21 Shoebox Collection Week	22 Shoebox Collection Week	23 Shoebox Collection Week
24 Angel Tree Sunday 9:00am Worship 10:15am Bible Study 5:30pm Portuguese Ministry Shoebox Collection Week	25 10:00am Note Writing 6:30pm Men's Basketball	26 *Church Office Opening at 10am*	27 No Wednesday Evening Activities	28 *Church Office Closed* 	29 *Church Office Closed*	30
						



N·O·V·E·M·B·E·R

BIRTHDAYS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Joshua Talley	2 Bernard Adams Bishop Roberts Leah Steele Gary Groux
3 Karyss Milby	4 Sheila Cross Rachel McClure	5	6 Thomas Riley Jason Rochon Aris Thomas	7 Joseph Hart Thomas Milby	8 Wilma Braswell Emma Rose	9 Bill Johnson
10 Darnell Hailey Wayne Pollard Sue Rainey	11 Liz Allen	12 Carolyn Frise	13 Krista Allen Wayne Witherspoon	14	15 Judy Clements Lynn DiMarco	16 Eryn Leyda Sue Maham Jack Robertson
17 Lauren Casillas	18 Paul Burke Mark Haden Donna Loving Kathryn Robins	19 Katie Christopher Martha Lander Lindsey Rose Mark Snyder David Wilcox	20 Elizabeth King	21 Marie Ward	22 Reta Douglas Edward Drake Jonathan Nolte Charles Patrick Taylor	23 Stewart Meredith III George Gurney
24 Bryson Hamp	25 Linda Parrish Christian Donna Haller Ricky Leake	26 Mark Blanton Sarah Larsen Michael John Rochon Mark Welenteychik	27 Tommy Evans Bill Poarch	28 Kim Bivins Melissa Cottrell Debbie Downey Kimberli Harris Nancy Johnson	29 Susan Hall Shaw	30 Lauren Elizabeth Heilman Jonathan Holmes Jake Schultz
						

Deacon Team Ministries 2024

The deacon position in our church is biblically supported in the scriptures of Acts 6 and 1st Timothy 3. Men showing the qualifications provided in those scriptures are selected by the church pastor and if accepted, serve in that role for life. According to the church bylaws, *"It shall be the duty of the deacons to encourage and assist the pastor in his ministry and pastoral work. This is done by ministering to the needs of active church families and by serving the Lord's Supper and assisting in Baptism."* Different teams have been established to ensure the deacons perform that duty. With Sandston Baptist going through this time of change, the deacon body wants to remind the members that the deacons are here to support them in any way possible. Please review the list below and reach out to any deacon for assistance or with questions.

Communion Team

Typically reserved for our church family & friends that are not able to attend service on a regular basis, this team of deacons will provide an in-home communion service. When requested, two/three deacons will go to the person's home and perform a brief communion service with them.

Team Lead:	Eddie Marsh	elkobasket@aol.com	(804) 737-4078
Team Members:	Donald Clark	donandnancyclark@yahoo.com	(804) 222-2930
	Jim Stewart	jestew53@yahoo.com	(804) 507-0851
	Kenny Cordle	kennycordle@verizon.net	(804) 920-9300
	Troy Westerman	tdwesterman@gmail.com	(804) 212-8821
	Wayne Pollard	paulway@verizon.net	(804) 737-9749

Crisis & Hospital Team

This team of deacons focuses on ministering to church family members in crisis situations such as hospitalization, death in the family, divorce, financial strain, job loss, etc. They accomplish this with visits, calls, cards, prayer and assistance.

Team Lead:	Ron Molnar	rpmdlm@gmail.com	(804) 737-5272
Team Members:	Alan Watts	alanwatts@comcast.net	(804) 641-6357
	Charles Hankins	charhankins@aol.com	(804) 737-2915
	Darnell Hailey	dgfphailey@aol.com	(704) 763-6810
	Tom Palmore	tomcarpal@aol.com	(804) 737-5130

Outreach Team

Collect visitor card information. If the phone number is available, thank the visitor for worshipping with us. Answer questions about programs and activities at Sandston Baptist Church. Offer a home visit if they would like additional information.

Team Lead:	Carl Downey	carl_downey@comcast.net	(804) 512-3683
Team Members:	Darren Hayes	rdarrenhayes91@hotmail.com	(804) 401-5200
	Jeff Wilborn	mechanic4813@verizon.net	(804) 982-9916
	Eddie Marsh	elkobasket@aol.com	(804) 737-4078

New Member Team

Contact new members to schedule a time/place to meet with them, review their new member packet and answer any questions they may have about our church or their new faith. Provide contact information and encourage them to contact you if they need help or have questions. Assist Pastor with baptisms including prepping & cleaning up the baptismal.

Team Lead:	Wayne Pollard	paulway@verizon.net	(804) 737-9749
Team Members:	Donald Clark	donandnancyclark@yahoo.com	(804) 222-2930
	Jeff Carter	mrjeffcarter44@gmail.com	(804) 840-5643
	Jeff Schmid	jeffschmid2@gmail.com	(804) 380-5130
	Larry Meador	larrygaylemeador@gmail.com	(804) 339-4862
	Mike Edwards	edwr8m@gmail.com	(804) 514-1630



FISH Item for November

We are collecting Toilet Paper!



The Church Office will be opening late on Friday, November 8th & Tuesday, November 26th at 10am. It will also be closed Thursday, November 28th and Friday, November 29th for the Thanksgiving Holiday.



FINANCIAL REPORT

Offerings	10/06/24	\$7,469.00
	10/13/24	\$8,132.00
	10/20/24	\$7,761.00
	10/27/24	\$5,976.00
VANCO (Sept)		\$22,219.20
Weekly Needs		\$14,073.48

UNIFIED MISSIONS

Offerings	10/06/24	\$290.00
	10/13/24	\$175.00
	10/20/24	\$330.00
	10/27/24	\$135.00
Weekly Needs		\$673.08