

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER



Holly Grove Christian Church

Established 1873

“BITS FROM BOB”

Are You Ready?

Here we are at the end of another calendar year. As for the Church year, Sunday December the 3rd is the beginning of the new year. The world will be all about getting Thanksgiving out of the way so that we can move on to Christmas.

How about you? Are you ready? And if so, what are you getting ready for? What are your expectations for Thanksgiving and Christmas this year? Perhaps your mind set is to just go with the flow. The Advent Season is a time of preparation and anticipation for the coming of the Christ.

Martin, the Cobbler, is Leo Tolstoy's story of a lonely shoemaker who is promised in a dream that Christ will come to visit his shop. The next day Martin rises early, gets his shop ready, prepares a meal and waits. The only one who showed up in the morning was an old beggar who came by and asked for rest. Martin gave him a room he prepared for his divine guest. The only one to show up in the afternoon was an old lady with a heavy load of wood. She was hungry and asked for food. He gave her the food he had prepared for his divine guest. As evening came, a lost boy wandered by. Martin took him home, afraid all the while he would miss the Christ. That night in his prayers he asks the Lord,
“Where were You? I waited all day for You.”

The Lord replied to Martin:

Three times I came to your friendly door,
three times my shadow was on your floor.
I was a beggar with bruised feet.
I was the woman who came to eat.
I was the homeless child on the street.

Getting ready for the seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas takes a lot of planning and preparation. This can lead to added stress and anxiety in our daily lives. So, in the face of all this I suggest for each of us three things we could do:

Whatever traditions of the season you have, make Jesus a part of it.

When the stress of the season increases, make the extra effort to have an attitude of gratitude in your heart.
And finally, in your daily duties look carefully at your surroundings, for Jesus may be closer than you realize.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas.

Love in Christ- Bob

Cell phone # 804-896-0631/Email Address: boblane5@aol.com

Announcements

- Our next bi-monthly board meeting will be on Wednesday, November 15th at 7:00 p.m. If you have a concern or idea, come join us.
- The Church Food Pantry will be giving out "Thanksgiving Meal Boxes" on Saturday, Nov. 18th for those patrons that visit the food pantry. The boxes will have either a turkey or ham and the fixings. If you would like to help with this ministry, there will be a container on the table near the front door through November 12th if you would like to give a monetary donation and help make Thanksgiving a little more special for those community families. The Food Pantry will be open on the third Saturdays in November and December from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. There is also the "Food Box" located outside the fellowship hall door with items available for those that may be in need for just a few things. If you would like to help with the Food Pantry in any way, see or call Suzanne Bowman at (804) 517-1224.
- Our Missions Committee will be preparing Thanksgiving baskets for shut-ins in the community. If you know of someone you would like for them to deliver a basket to, please give the person's name to Dana Crawford or Suzanne Bowman. The group would also be appreciative for donations of items such as small boxes of raisins, packs of gum/mints or small individual packages of crackers or cookies to go with the fresh fruit. You can leave the items in the chair in the vestibule. The committee will be meeting on Friday, November 17th at 6:00 p.m. to prepare the baskets.
- The Hospitality Committee is planning a Thanksgiving Luncheon on Sunday, November 19th after the Worship service. Please bring a covered dish or dessert to share. Meat and drinks will be provided. We hope you will stay for the fellowship!
- We have several Bible Studies during the week for adults. The Ladies group meets on Monday mornings at 10:00 a.m. They will be doing a Christmas study beginning November 27th through December 18th. There are two adult groups for men and women that meet with Pastor Bob on Wednesdays. These sessions are at 11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. but will finish up on November 8th for the year and will resume on January 10th, 2024.
- The ***Our Daily Bread*** devotional booklets for December/January/February and our Advent devotionals to enjoy during Christmastime will be in the vestibule on the table as you walk in the front door by November 26th. Pick up copies and enjoy some quiet time with God.
- For reserving the church, fellowship hall or gazebo, please contact Dianne Montgomery, Vice Chairman.
- The Adult Choir has practice on Tuesday nights at 7:00 p.m. If you enjoy singing or making a joyful noise, come on out and join this great group.
- The Holly Grove Crafters' Club has been making beautiful creations for the Louisa Santa Council this year. The group plans to display them on Nov. 12th and they will be blessed before the items are delivered.
- Just a reminder there are book boxes near the church playground, and at the Holly Grove Ruritan Club playground. There are lots of books for youth and for adults as well, so pick up a book from one of those locations and enjoy reading. Special thanks to the Lipscombs for placing the new book box up at the Ruritan Club!
- If your birthday or anniversary is not on the calendar, please let Cindy Wilson know so you can be added and celebrated!
- If you would like to receive church emails during the week and are not on the email list, please give Cindy your information at bccawilson@yahoo.com or call or text (804) 357-4412 and you will be added.



Live Nativity and Soup with Santa

Mark your calendar for Sunday, December 10th for this special afternoon event! Beginning at 3:00 p.m., we will have a live nativity on the corner at church, then at 4:00 p.m. we will have soup, chili, bread and desserts and Santa will come and meet with the children outside near the fellowship hall. There will also be a group going to nearby homes Christmas caroling. If you can bring a pot of soup, bread, or dessert, please let Dawn Lipscomb know. Also, if you can participate in the Live Nativity, please let Dawn know as well so she can have your costume ready.



It's a Boy!

Congratulations to Christian Trayer and Cassidy Mitchell on the birth of their son Theodore Odell Trayer on Thursday, September 14th. He weighed 6 lbs., 13 ounces and was 19 inches long. The excited grandparents are Kristy and Robbie Trayer and the thrilled twin uncles are Jordan and Hunter Trayer.

We wish them lots of joy!



Thanks to all who helped by donating to the Louisa County Emergency Food Pantry during the month of October!

If you are a youth of the church or community, come join the CYF! They meet on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. and work on projects to help our community, have Bible study, and do lots of fun things along the way. If any questions, contact Pastor Andy Rose at 804-512-5153 or email him at nrfarmshg@gmail.com.



Operation Christmas Child

A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE

Abby Brown is coordinating this special ministry along with the help of our Christian Youth Fellowship (CYF). Together, they will be collecting and preparing shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. The Shoeboxes along with the labels/instruction leaflets are in the vestibule and are due back by Sunday, November 12th. The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Details of this ministry can be viewed at <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/occ>. As a church family, we hope to pack shoeboxes with toys, art supplies, personal items, and most of all with Jesus' love that can impact the life of a needy child. No Candy or toothpaste please. You can either pack your own shoebox or you can use the shoeboxes that are available or either donate items and the youth will prepare the shoebox for you. There is a \$10.00 fee to send each box so if you would like to donate towards the postage/processing that would be helpful also and please make check payable to Samaritan's Purse. If any questions, contact Abby at (804) 814-6484. The CYF will be staying after Church on Nov. 12th to prepare the boxes for delivery.



Church Closing or Delay

If we should have inclement weather, please turn your TV to Channel 6 and watch for closing information. We will also send out an email, post on Facebook (if possible, depending on internet access) and make calls to those who attend regularly if church is closed.



Pastor Bob's Advent Sermon Schedule

December 3 rd	Hope	Isaiah 64:1-9
December 10 th	Peace	Mark 1:1-8
December 17 th	Joy	John 1:6-8, 19-28
December 24 th	Love	Luke 1:26-38

Giving Online

If you would like to give an online monetary donation to the church, you can give safely via Givelify by using the QR Code below. Just use your cell phone camera, hold it up to the barcode and it will take you straight to our Givelify account.



Elder and Deacon Serving List November 5th through December 31st, 2023

Group I

Dianne Montgomery
Steve Montgomery
Ronnie Bagby
Bill Baxter
Tammy Mayo
Byron Wilson

Group I will be serving: November 19
December 10
December 31

Group II

Joe Sommer
Sherrie Sommer
Avery Clough
Jeff Clough
Diane Rigsby
Hunter Trayer

Group II will be serving: November 5
November 26
December 17

Group III

Jane Harris
Pam Hart
Robert Bowman
Dale Lipscomb
Dawn Lipscomb
Arthur Sigmund

Group III will be serving: November 12
December 3
December 24

Communion Preparation

November - Diane Rigsby
December - Robert Bowman



CW&W Program Schedule

(If you should have any questions about this program,
see Nancy Lloyd.)

November 5th: Storyteller: Carrie Vincze
Greeter: Gwen Rose (The Temple, a House for God-14)

November 12th: Storyteller: Suzanne Bowman
Greeter: Judy Wyatt (Exile and Return - 15)

November 19th: Storyteller: Dawn Lipscomb
Greeter: Katherine Lipscomb (Jonah and the Whale -
Godly Play Vol. 2, #14)

November 26th: Storyteller: Dianne Montgomery
Greeter: Steve Montgomery (How the Church Tells
Time - 16)

December 3rd: Storyteller: Crystal Clough
Greeter: Avery Clough (Advent I -17)

December 10th: Storyteller: Nancy Lloyd
Greeter: Elizabeth Lloyd (Advent II - 18)

December 17th: Storyteller: Carrie Vincze
Greeter: Gwen Rose (Avent III - 19)

December 24th: Storyteller: Suzanne Bowman
Greeter: Judy Wyatt (Advent IV - 20)

December 31st: Storyteller: Dawn Lipscomb
Greeter: Katherine Lipscomb (Advent V - 21)

Highlights from the Board Meeting

Held on September 20th, 2023

Chairman Tammy Mayo called the meeting to order with 13
members in attendance.

Rhonda Gorman presented the Treasurer's Report. The
Church began with a balance of \$206,271.10 on July 1st.
Total receipts were \$15,309.72, total disbursements were
\$16,220.60. This gives a balance in Regular Checking of
\$205,360.22. We have a \$2,492.73 balance in our Givelify
account which gives us a total balance of \$207,852.95 as of
August 31st, 2023. As for our Designated Funds, we have
\$125 in the Food Pantry, \$100 for Bible Study, \$100 for the
Cemetery, \$150 for the Building Fund, \$1,020 for Missions
- Maui, \$400 in the Samaritan Fund and \$120 for Worship
which is a total of \$2,015. Our Parsonage Account has
\$13,313.29. We have two CDs that total \$100,812.45.
Report was accepted.

Mary Anne Barlow presented the Cemetery Treasurer's
Report dated July 1st through September 20th, 2023. The
current Principal Amount for a CD (not to be used for
upkeep) is \$26,935 with \$700 being held to place in a CD.
The current amount in General Checking (to be used for
general maintenance for the cemetery) is \$14,022.43. The
account still owes for grass cutting for 2022 and 2023.
Report was accepted.

Billy Lloyd started the discussion on the thermostat setting.
It was suggested the setting needs to be at 75 degrees and set
back to 72 for Sunday service. Tammy advised she would
discuss it with Jeff Clough.

Committee reports were given.

Pastor Bob Lane mentioned we had visitors sign our register
and didn't know if we had procedures in place to
acknowledge their visit. Jane Harris stated Suzanne
Bowman usually sends visitors a card and suggested he
check with her. Jane Harris and Mary Anne Barlow recently
made some cards for Suzanne.

Bob asked if the Sunday school class for young people was
still meeting. Pastor Andy Rose said this class historically
included the youth group kids and someone needs to take
over and Bob said he would do so and let the parents know
it's still available.

As for Church renovations, the storage room still needs to be
built. Billy Lloyd advised that the contractor went to the
Planning Department on August 14th but he has not received
an update.

Pam Hart gave a report on the 150th Anniversary Jubilee
planning. UPDATE: There was a nice crowd and a
wonderful and joyous celebration on October 8th.

Dianne Montgomery is checking to see if Kenny Davis is
finished with the parking lot gravel.

Audits need to be completed on the General Fund and filed
in the Treasurer's book. Jane Harris, Tammy Mayo, and
Patricia Hicks will audit up to the last bank statement for the
General Fund. Billy Lloyd agreed to audit the Cemetery
Fund.

The second purchase of playground mulch was 11 bags, less
than what was previously approved. Tammy confirmed that
Billy should order what he thinks we need to finish covering
the playground, probably a full skid (40-60 bags).

Tammy plans to review the By-laws/Constitution, possibly at
the next meeting.

Billy said the front door still needs a closer. The Board
authorized him to purchase one at approximately \$110. We
are also waiting for them to fix the sweep under the door.
Ronnie Bagby will install aluminum siding where storm
doors were connected to building and wrap outside of the
windows. There is still some electrical work to be done
(light switch and flood light on playground, repair to light
switch in back of Sunday school hall and speaker in vestibule
and fellowship hall).

Jane Harris stated our current insurance agency will no
longer insure churches so now she will be looking for an
insurance company.



The basketball hoop keeps falling over. It was discussed and
due to its age, Steve Montgomery will remove it.

Rhonda Gorman advised shoeboxes will be in the vestibule
beginning October 15th and Abby Brown will meet with CYF
November 12th to assemble the boxes for delivery.

Tammy Mayo adjourned the meeting.

November 2023

December ►

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
B - Birthday CYF - Christian Youth Fellowship			1 Adult Bible Studies - 11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. CYF Meeting - 6:30 p.m. Justin & Ashley Longo - Anniversary	2 Joe Swann - B	3 Fran Grimm - B	4
5 Daylight Saving Time Ends (Set your clock back one hour) Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. Worship Service - 10:30 a.m. (Veterans' Day Sunday) and CW&W Program - 10:45 a.m. Jim Britton - B Shawn & Tammy Smith - Anniversary	6 Ladies Bible Study - 10:00 a.m.	7 Adult Choir Practice - 7:00 p.m. Kynslee Page Staton - B	8 Adult Bible Studies - 11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. (Last Study for the Year) CYF Meeting - 6:30 p.m. Crystal Clough - B Lydia Lloyd - B Eric Welton - B Paige Welton - B Robert & Suzanne Bowman - Anniversary	9 Crafters' Mission Circle - 6:30 p.m. Kennedy Owens - B	10 Cameron & Katharine Lipscomb - Anniversary	11 Veterans' Day (Please fly your American Flag)  Avery Clough - B
12 Men's Breakfast - 8:30 a.m. Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. Worship Service - 10:30 a.m. and CW&W Program - 10:45 a.m. (Last Day for Monetary Donations for the Food Pantry Meal Boxes, Holly Grove Crafters' Items will be blessed, Missions will receive the Thanksgiving Special Offering and Deadline for OCC Shoeboxes to be at Church) CYF will stay after Church to prepare OCC Shoeboxes for Delivery	13 Ladies Bible Study - 10:00 a.m.	14 Adult Choir Practice - 7:00 p.m.	15 Church Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m. NO CYF Meeting due to the Board Meeting	16 Senior Citizen Gathering - 11:00 a.m. at Gum Spring United Methodist Church (Please bring a side dish to share) Jane Miller - B	17 Missions Committee - 6:00 p.m. (baskets for shut-ins prepared) Micah Smith - B	18 Food Pantry Open - 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. (Thanksgiving Meal Boxes given out) Michael Owens - B
19 Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. Worship Service - 10:30 a.m. and CW&W Program - 10:45 a.m. (Last Day for Missions to receive the Thanksgiving Special Offering) Thanksgiving Luncheon after the Worship Service Worship Committee will decorate after the luncheon Blakely Luciano - B	20 Ladies Bible Study - 10:00 a.m. Jarrett Grimm - B Gavin Longo - B Shyanne McNally - B Matthew & Jessica Bagby - Anniversary	21 Adult Choir Practice - 7:00 p.m.	22 NO CYF Meeting	23 Thanksgiving Blessings to All  Tripp Luciano - B Tommy & Mary Anne Barlow - Anniversary	24 Don and Carolyn Richardson - Anniversary	25
26 Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. Worship Service - 10:30 a.m. and CW&W Program - 10:45 a.m. Nancy Lloyd - B	27 Ladies Bible Study - 10:00 a.m. (Christmas study begins)	28 Adult Choir Practice - 7:00 p.m. Clay Hart - B	29 CYF Meeting - 6:30 p.m.	30 Katharine Lipscomb - B		

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
B - Birthday CYF - Christian Youth Fellowship					1	2 Bill Baxter - B
3 Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. Worship Service - 10:30 a.m. (First Sunday of Advent) and CW&W Program - 10:45 a.m. Kim Lacy - B Jason & Jaimie Snead - Anniversary	4 Ladies Bible Study - 10:00 a.m. Cindy Swann - B	5 Adult Choir Practice - 7:00 p.m. Sal Luciano - B	6 CYF Meeting - 6:30 p.m.	7 Worship Committee Meeting - 9:00 a.m. (to prepare Santa gifts) Kevin "KJ" Jackson - B Rachel Smith - B	8 Copelynn Saige Moore (1 st Birthday)	9
10 Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. Worship Service - 10:30 a.m. (Second Sunday of Advent and Missions will receive the Christmas Special Offering) and CW&W Program - 10:45 a.m. ~ Live Nativity - 3:00 p.m.; Soup with Santa - 4:00 p.m.~	11 Ladies Bible Study - 10:00 a.m. Dillon Hollins - B	12 Adult Choir Practice - 7:00 p.m.	13 CYF Meeting - 6:30 p.m. Pastor Andrew Rose - B Donald & Gaylyn Lloyd - Anniv.	14 Crafters' Mission Circle - 6:30 p.m. (Last meeting of the year) Hugh Wilson - B	15 Lucas Lloyd - B	16 Food Pantry Open - 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.
17 Men's Breakfast - 8:30 a.m. Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. Worship Service - 10:30 a.m. (Third Sunday of Advent and Last Day for Missions to receive the Christmas Special Offering) and CW&W Program - 10:45 a.m.	18 Ladies Bible Study - 10:00 a.m. (Last day of the Christmas study) Jordan Bagby - B Douglas & Fran Grimm - Anniversary	19 Adult Choir Practice - 7:00 p.m.	20 CYF Meeting - 6:30 p.m.	21 Senior Citizen Gathering - 11:00 a.m. at Holly Grove Christian Church (Please bring a side dish to share) Dianne Montgomery - B Winter Begins	22 Jane-Evan Ward - B	23 Barbara Goolsby - B
24 Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. Worship Service - 10:30 a.m. (Fourth Sunday of Advent) and CW&W Program - 10:45 a.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service - 11:00 p.m.	25 	26 NO Adult Choir Practice	27 NO CYF Meeting	28 Caroline Bagby - B Gracie Jeanne Goolsby - B	29	30 Lorraine Klein - B
31 Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. Worship Service - 10:30 a.m. (Rev. Bob Lane away; the Worship Committee will coordinate service with our church lay people) and CW&W Program - 10:45 a.m. New Year's Eve						

Recent Holly Grove Happenings



*Pastor Andrew Rose with his mom Gwen on September 24th.
(May God bless Andy and his family as he begins his new pastoral role.)*



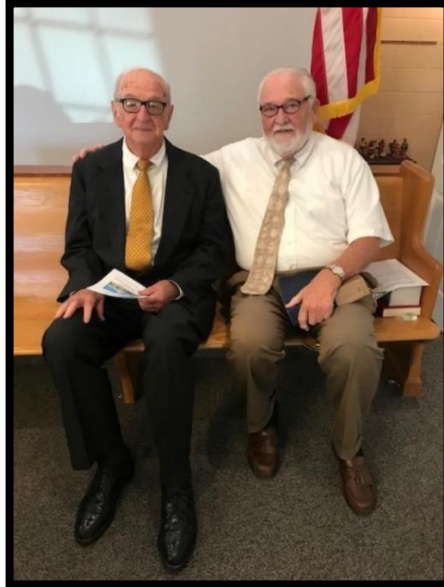
*The Brown Family Baby Dedication on October 15th.
(Pastor Bob with the happy Brown and Gorman families.)*



Halloween Fun

(CYF Group at Jouett Elementary School on October 20th and Trunk-of-Treats fun at HGCC on October 28th.)

Pictures from the 150th Anniversary Jubilee on October 8th
(It was a wonderful celebration!)





Our Mission

The mission of Holly Grove Christian Church is to attempt to be the eyes, ears, hands, and feet of Jesus, as we serve our community and share His love.

Church Address: 1637 Holly Grove Drive, Bumpass, VA 23024

Church Phone Number: 804-556-1138

Keep up with us on Facebook or our Church Website at www.hollygrovechristian.com.

If you should have any articles or pictures for the next newsletter, please give to Cindy Wilson or email to bccawilson@yahoo.com.

