



# December 2022

CLIFTON FORGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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[www.Cliftonforgepresbyterianchurch.com](http://www.Cliftonforgepresbyterianchurch.com)  
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## MISSION STATEMENT

*We are a Family in Christ,  
Prayerfully seeking through  
the spirit, to serve God, grow  
in faith and share the good news.*

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*From The Pastor*

### **Pacing Outside the Stable (Joseph)**

Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house of lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, His betrothed, wife, who was with child. So it was, that while they were there, the days were Completed for her to be delivered.

Luke 2:4-6

The white space between Bible verses is fertile soil for questions. One can hardly read Scripture without whispering, "I wonder". The innkeeper too busy to welcome God - did he ever learn who he turned away? The shepherds - did they ever hum the song the angels sang? The wise men who followed the star - what was it like to worship a toddler? And Joseph - did he ever look up from his prayers and see Jesus listening? Whatever happened to him? His role in Act 1 is so crucial that we

expect to see the rest of the drama but with that expectation of a short scene with twelve-year-old Jesus in Jerusalem, he never reappears. And we are left with our questions.

My first question would be about the night in the stable. Moonlit pastures. Stars twinkle above Bethlehem sparkled in the distance. I picture Joseph there, pacing outside the stable.

He had done all he could do to prepare as comfortable a place for Mary as he could in a barn, and then stepped out. She had asked to be alone, and Joseph has never felt more so.

In that eternity between his wife's dismissal and Jesus' arrival what was he thinking? I wonder if he said...

This isn't the way I planned it, God. Not at all. My child being born in a cave with sheep and donkeys? My wife giving birth with only the stars to hear her pain?

This isn't what I imagined. No. I imagined family, grandmothers and neighbors clustered outside the door and friends standing at my side. I imagined the house erupting with the first cry of the infant. Slaps on the back, Loud laughter.

Jubilant.

But now look. Here we are in a...sheep pasture. Who will celebrate with us?

Did I miss something. God?

When you sent the angel and spoke of the son being born. I envisioned Jerusalem, the temple the priest and the people gathered to watch. A pageant perhaps. A Parade. A banquet at least. I mean, this is the Messiah?

This is not the way I wanted it to before my son. Oh my, I did it again, didn't I. Father? I don't mean to do that; it's just that I forget. He's not my son...he's yours.

The child is yours. The plan is yours. The idea is yours. And forgive me for asking but...is this how God enters the world? The coming of the angel, I accepted. The questions people asked about the pregnancy. I can tolerate. The trip to Bethlehem fine. But why a birth in a stable, God?

Any minute now Mary will give birth. Not to a child, but the Messiah. Not to an infant, but to God. That's what the angel said. That's what Mary believes. And God, my God, that's what I want to believe. But surely you can understand, it's not easy.

Gracious father, your ways are so far above our ways that our wildest imaginations can't begin to conceive your plans. I celebrate the wonder of the birth of your Son and I bow my heart to what you want to do in and through my life. In Jesus' name amen.

Pastor Paul

(The above came from a book by Max Lucado called "In the Manger")

Every Sunday Morning  
9:30 – NO Sunday School  
10:30– NO Coffee Fellowship  
10:00– NO Nursery  
11:00 – Worship



PLEASE  
COME  
TO BIBLE  
STUDY ON  
MONDAY  
@ 6:30.



We are  
Studying  
*Galatians*  
We will  
meet in the Nettie Paul Room.



"For Christmas, Santa is bringing sales in at plan."



### Session Meeting

- Lisa Armentrout - Treasurer.
- Lisa Boothe - Music & Worship
- Jenny Irvine – Clerk of Session/Fellowship
- George Chip Snead – Stewardship/Personnel
- Stephine Persinger - Christian Ed/Youth
- Jenny Oeltjen - /Mission/Witness

**Highland House:**  
**Genny McDowell**  
**Brian Center:**  
**Marilyn Woods**



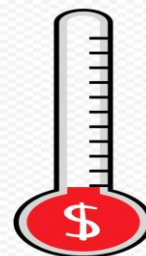
**Kathleen McMillion Clothing Closet**  
 Will be open 9:00 – 12:00  
 Wednesday **December 7 & 21**  
 November 2022

<u>People</u>	<u>Pieces</u>
40	436



**AC in the Chapel Cost**  
**11,872.00**

**Donated \$6,326.00**





## The Church Mouse



**December** is our favorite time of the year! The church is so beautiful and our hearts are so big. This year we are even inviting the cats to eat with us, but only on one condition that they keep their claws to themselves!

**Merry Christmas!**



1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month – Robert & Cecille McDowell

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of every month – Ed Jones

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday April - October - Jenny Irvine

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday every month – Richard Brinkley



## December

1 – Aaron McDowell

5 – Carla Davis

10 – Maggie May Persinger

16 – Mary Ann Laughlin

17 – Casey Almarez  
Greg Ball

20 – Jayne Putnam  
Carol Almarez

27 – Duane Boothe

## December Anniversaries

18 – Robert & Cecille McDowell

24 – Andy & Cookie Reynolds

31 – Mike & Barbara Higgins



## MISSION/WITNESS NEWS

Mark & Miriam Adams

Please pray for

Our Missionaries

Mark & Miriam Adams



**MEMBERS @ HOME**

**Robert Brown  
Mildred Wilson  
Margaret Brown**



**Tuesday  
Boy Scouts 7:00**



**WOMEN OF THE CHURCH**

**The Officers:**

**Moderator – Virginia Harlow  
Vice Moderator - Irene Booze  
Secretary - Carol Jones  
Treasurer – Virginia Irvine**



**Women's Circle**

**We will not have circle until further Notice.**

**Food Pantry**

**For the month of October 2022, we serve (197)  
Individuals representing (530) family members.**



# December

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
				1	2	3 Prayer Breakfast 8:00
4 Communion	5 Bible Study 6:30	6	7 Clothing Closet 9:00-12:00 Choir 7:00	8	9	10 Breakfast with Santa @ 9:00
11	12 Bible Study 6:30	13	14	15	16	17 Prayer Breakfast 8:00
18 Christmas Cantata	19 Bible Study 6:30	20	21 Clothing Closet 9:00-12:00 Choir 7:00	22 Session 6:00	23	24 Prayer Breakfast 8:00 Candlelight Service 11:00 P.M.
25 Merry Christmas	26 Bible Study 6:30	27	28	29	30	31 Prayer Breakfast 8:00

***Intercessory Joys & Prayer Concerns***

**Prayer Chain**

Cindy Brokaw.....960-1476  
Rene Clark.....862-3395  
Virginia Harlow.....862-2492  
Barbara James.....620-7648  
Barbara Boone .....691-6731

***Prayers For:***

*Anna Brooks, Makayla Russell, Andy Fisher, Nicole Doyle, Robert Goodbar, Teresa Hull, Derek Garrett, Lynn Agee, Sissy Howard, Amanda Brumit, Ukraine, Christina Lopez, Leanna Tyler, Oreinna Mosier, Bill Withrow, Anthony Poindexter, Timmy Nicely, Family of Debbie Vance, Nancy Eley, Michele Owens, Lynn Wright, Freddie Wilson.*

*Praise: Cindy's Family, Kendra's Birthday Day.*





# Christian Carols Challenge

Begin each question with "according to the lyrics of..." and fill in the answer.

## Merry Christmas!

### According to the Lyrics of...

- A. Go Tell It On The Mountain: Throughout the heavens shone what? \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Joy To The World: What should prepare Him room? \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Do You Hear What I Hear: What is the star doing in the night? \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Angels We Have Heard On High: Who is echoing the Angels joyous strains? \_\_\_\_\_
- E. Silent Night: What two words describe the Holy Infant? \_\_\_\_\_
- F. Angels From the Realms of Glory: Angels should wing their what over all the earth? \_\_\_\_\_
- G. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen: Christ was born to save us from what? \_\_\_\_\_
- H. Good King Wenceslas: Who came into sight gathering winter fuel? \_\_\_\_\_
- I. It Came Upon A Midnight Clear: Who was bending near the earth? \_\_\_\_\_
- J. O Come O Come Emmanuel: Who is captive that needs ransom? \_\_\_\_\_
- K. The First Noel: The angel found the shepherds in fields doing what? \_\_\_\_\_
- L. We Three Kings: The star of wonder has what kind of beauty? \_\_\_\_\_
- M. Hark The Herald Angels Sing: What should all ye nations rise and do? \_\_\_\_\_
- N. Away in a Manger: The cattle are what? \_\_\_\_\_
- O. Mary Did You Know: Mary's baby boy will one day walk on what? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Nativity Word Search

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



angels  
 Christmas  
 donkey  
 innkeeper  
 Jesus  
 Joseph  
 king  
 manger  
 Mary  
 nativity  
 salvation  
 sheep  
 shepherds  
 star  
 wisemen





# Christmas in the Good Book Trivia

*How well do you know your Christmas Bible facts?  
This fun trivia game will test every student's ability.*

- 1) Who was the emperor of Rome when Christ was born?
  - Nero
  - Julius Caesar
  - Caesar Augustus
  - Marcus Aurelius
- 2) Why did Mary and Joseph go to Bethlehem?
  - to be taxed
  - for a family reunion
  - for the baby's birth
  - to live there
- 3) Who was king in Judea when Christ was born?
  - Nebuchadnezzar
  - Pontius Pilate
  - King Solomon
  - Herod the Great
- 4) Which of the names for Christ means "God with us?"
  - Jesus
  - Emmanuel
  - Savior
  - Christ
- 5) How many wise men came from the East to see the baby Jesus?
  - three
  - five
  - an unknown number
  - eight
- 6) Why did the wise men not report back to King Herod?
  - they were warned by Joseph
  - they were warned in a dream
  - they were warned by Herod
  - they wanted to see a different landscape
- 7) Why did Joseph and Mary take Jesus to Egypt?
  - an angel told Joseph to go to Egypt
  - the wise men told Joseph to go to Egypt
  - Mary told Joseph to go to Egypt
  - the king warned Joseph to go to Egypt
- 8) Who did Herod kill when he learned the wise men had gone?
  - all the babies under the age of two
  - all the newborn babies
  - all of the children in Bethlehem
  - all of the people in Bethlehem
- 9) When did Joseph and Mary return from Egypt?
  - when Herod died
  - when Caesar died
  - when the baby was two years old
  - when the wise men advised them to return
- 10) Who learned of the baby's birth from angels?
  - shepherds in the fields
  - wise men in the East
  - King Herod
  - the people of Bethlehem
- 11) Which king of Israel was Christ's ancestor?
  - David
  - Saul
  - Ahab
  - Hezekiah
- 12) Why did Herod tell the wise men he wanted to know where Jesus was?
  - he wanted to kill him
  - he wanted to see him
  - he wanted to worship him
  - he wanted to capture him
- 13) Where did Jesus grow up?
  - Bethlehem
  - Egypt
  - Jerusalem
  - Nazareth
- 14) What three gifts did the wise men bring the baby Jesus?
  - gold, frankincense, and myrrh
  - gold, silver, and diamonds
  - incense, myrtle, and gold
  - jewels, gold, and spices
- 15) Why was Jesus put in a manger when he was born?
  - they had no relatives in Bethlehem
  - they were hiding from the Roman guards
  - there was no room in the inn
  - an angel told them to go there



*Clifton Forge Presbyterian Church  
544 Church Street  
Clifton Forge VA. 24422*

*Tidings To:*



**December**

