

Hephzibah Baptist Times

DECEMBER 2023

Wednesday Menus for the Month of December:

Dinner begins at 5:50 pm.

All meals include tea and coffee.

**\$7—11 & Up, \$4—Children, 5-10, \$7—Take Out
\$25 max. for immediate family.**

*To-Go” Plates will be prepared by the Kitchen

Personnel after the serving line closes. We cannot guarantee “to-go” orders until all of our dine-in family members are served. As available, additional take out plates may be purchased at the regular price.

Meal dates are to be determined!

12/6 Eggs, Bacon, Sausage, Biscuits & Gravy, Grits, & Pancakes	12/13 Baked/Fried Chicken Mac n Cheese, Vegetable, Roll & Dessert
12/20 NO FELLOWSHIP MEAL	12/27 NO FELLOWSHIP MEAL
	WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER

MEMBERSHIP FINANCIAL REPORT:

Monthly Budget Needs:	\$35,237.00
Weekly Budget Needs:	\$8,132.00
General Offering Received as of 11/26/2023	\$33,118.27
Year-to-Date Budget Needs:	\$105,711.00
Year-to-Date Budget Received:	\$99,742.00
11am Worship Service Average Attendance	124
Average S.S. attendance as of 11/26/2023	121

FYI

- **MEN’S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST:** Cancelled for December.
 - **CHILDREN MUSICAL:** Wednesday, December 6th at 7pm.
 - **YOUNG AT HEART:** December 11th at Noon.
 - **HEPHZIBAH CHRISTMAS PARADE:** Saturday, December 16th at 10am.
 - **LIVE NATIVITY:** Saturday, December 16 & Sunday, December 17 from 6-8pm at HBC.
 - **CHRISTMAS CAROLING:** Wednesday, December 20th at 6:00pm
 - **DEADLINE FOR JANUARY NEWSLETTER:** Monday, December 18th, at 9am.
 - **OFFICE CLOSED:** December 25th & 26th for Christmas.
 - **NO ACTIVITIES:** Wednesday, December 27th
- TEAM MEETINGS IN DECEMBER:**
- **Building & Grounds:** Wednesday, December 6, at 6:15pm
 - **Stewardship & Finance:** Wednesday, December 13, at 6:00pm

Please Note:

All events, dates, and times are subject to change.



Church Staff

Senior Pastor.....	Dr. C. Michael Wren, Jr. mwren@hephzibahbaptist.org
Minister of Worship/Music.....	Amanda Brookins abrookins@hephzibahbaptist.org
Administrative Assist./Finance.....	Julia Grayson jgrayson@hephzibahbaptist.org
Administrative Assist./Ministry.....	Renee Jenkins rjenkins@hephzibahbaptist.org
Custodian.....	Ken Oglesby office@hephzibahbaptist.org



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**“He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”
(2 Corinthians 5:21)**

“It’s the most wonderful time of the year.” That’s what the song says. It also says kids will be jingle belling, there will be caroling out in the snow, and “there’ll be scary ghost stories” (apparently a Victorian tradition at Christmas, like Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol). Bells, trees, sleigh rides, and greenery are all cultural aspects of our celebration. Cultural traditions are part of living in this world. They come and go, kind of like the Victorian ghost stories. Celebrating Thanksgiving and eating turkey are cultural traditions, but Christmas is special. It’s in the name. It is a celebration of the birth of Christ. If Jesus is not at the center of Christmas, it is nothing but an empty cultural celebration.

People are going to find things to celebrate. It shouldn’t shock or anger us. But we can give them more reasons to love Christmas than that it is the time of year we ride sleighs and roast chestnuts. He who knew no sin entered this world, took on flesh and blood, walked and lived among us, and took on sin for us. The author of life was born in the flesh. Our greatest reason to celebrate is that Jesus did this for us. At Christmas, we get to tell that story. The world is listening. Let’s not miss the opportunity.

Your Pastor,

Michael Wren



Please join us on Sunday, December 24th at 5:30pm for our annual Candlelight Christmas Eve Service as we joyously celebrate the birth of our Savior. The service will be in the Sanctuary.

LOTTIE MOON
Collection will run from
Dec. 3rd-Jan. 1st

OFFICE CLOSED
Monday, December 25th &
Tuesday, December 26th



COMING IN JANUARY

NEW YEAR’S DAY
Office Closed
January 1st

Children's Ministries



All children, ages 3-5th grade, are invited to join MPact, which will meet Wednesday, December 13th from 6:30-8:00pm. We look forward to a school year full of growing together in Christ through studying God's Word, singing, praying, learning about missions, and playing games. A nursery is provided. Join us and bring a friend!

AFTER THE HEPHZIBAH CHRISTMAS PARADE



HBC will be hosting a Christmas Family Fun Time for our community and church after the 10:00am Hephzibah Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 16th. Make plans to join us on the front lawn of the church to eat cookies, drink hot chocolate, and make crafts with the kids. A family photo booth will also be available for pictures.



CENTRIKID CAMP 2024: WOW FACTOR

CentriKid Camp is scheduled for June 10-14, 2024 at Ridgecrest Conference Center in Black Mountain, NC. Camp is for those entering 3rd grade through the completion of 5th grade. Registration and a \$75 deposit are due Sunday, February 4th. The total cost of camp is \$355 before any fundraising is applied to help reduce the cost.

Community Events



Hephzibah Baptist will present our annual walk-thru Living Nativity on Saturday, Dec. 16th and Sunday, Dec. 17th from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. From prophecy, to the miraculous birth, to the cross, we will journey through key events in the life of Jesus, as God brought salvation to the world. We are so excited to be able to offer this event again for our church and community.

Student Ministries



We will only meet on Wednesday, December 13th. December 13th will also be our Christmas party. On December 20th students are encouraged to join in the Christmas caroling.



ReCharge, a monthly gathering for High School students, will meet on December 10th, after the morning worship service.



CentriFuge Camp is scheduled for June 10-14, 2024 at Ridgecrest Conference Center in Black Mountain, NC. Camp Registration and a \$75 deposit are due Sunday, February 4th. Only 15 spots are available to students. The total cost of camp is \$374 before any fundraising is applied to help reduce the cost.

Women's Ministry

THURSDAY MORNING 10 AM BIBLE STUDY

Ladies, Thursday morning Bible Study will meet December 7th at 10am. We are currently working through the book "Biography of God."



WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday evening Women's Bible study group is continuing the study of "Mama Bear Apologetics." We meet from 6:30pm to 8:00pm on Wednesday, December 13th in room 102.

Music Ministry

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Join us on Wednesday, December 20th, at 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall. We will split up in groups to sing to some of our church members who have been unable to attend lately. We will stand outside to sing, so dress warmly.

Discipleship Ministry

CHURCH LIBRARY

There are many opportunities for spiritual growth within our church. We now have seven Sunday School Classes for adults. We also have two weekly studies for women, and one for men. Our library has books and DVDs for discipleship, evangelism, parenting, and many other important topics. If you have any questions, please contact Daniel Cross (706) 836-9226.

Men's Ministry

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST is cancelled for December.

MEN'S WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Men's Bible study meets on Wednesday, December 13th from 7:00-8:00pm in Room 103. We are studying the book of James.

Missions Ministry



Thank you for everyone who volunteered for OCC this year. HBC packed 489 boxes. During OCC collection week we collected 1,966 boxes and the total from the Augusta area was 15,100. Please continue to pray for the children and families who will receive these shoe boxes.

INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

Ways you can pray for International Missions: Go to the following link: <https://IMB.org/pray>

The week of prayer for international Missions is December 3-10, 2023.



Sshh! Grab your dark shades and go undercover to join the exciting Christmas mission of WE THREE SPIES. Agents E, L and F are recruits with the CIK (Christmas Intelligence Kids), a covert group of spies who secretly bring Christmas cheer to the needy. But this year

they're facing an especially difficult challenge. Join us on Wednesday, December 6th at 7:00pm for the Children's Christmas Musical and watch as the kids blow their cover and proclaim joy to the world!

Senior Adult Ministry

YOUNG AT HEART LUNCHEON

December 11th at Noon. We will have our gift exchange \$10 limit. Jo Nash, a local vocalist, will be singing for us.

