


Newington

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DECEMBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
7 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Morning Worship Kids Sing Christmas GUEST Training	8 6:00 pm Leadership Action Team	9 6:00 pm Deacons Meeting	10 10:00am Women's Bible Study 5:45 pm Choir Practice 6:30 pm COR3 Youth 6:30 pm Deeper Kids 6:30 pm Deeper Adults	11 9:00am Senior Men's Prayer Mtg 11:00am Church-wide Prayer 6:00 pm Men's Small Group	12 9:00 am Blood Drive	13 6:00 pm Community Orchestra Concert
14 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am Morning Worship Christmas Cantata	15 10:00 am WMU	16	17 10:00am Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm COR3 Youth 6:30 pm Deeper Adults Christmas Party	18 9:00am Senior Men's Prayer 11:00am Church-wide Prayer 6:00 pm Newington Courthouse Pre-school Christmas program	19 11:00 am Young at Heart	20 10:00am Christmas Clothes Closet
21 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30am Morning Worship	22	23	24 6:00 pm Christmas Candlelight Service	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26	27
28 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30am Morning Worship	29 6:30 pm GUEST	30 6:30 pm GUEST	31 10:00am Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm GUEST	1 New Year's Day Office Closed 6:30 pm GUEST		



NEWington News

We are a welcoming community of fully devoted Christ-followers that demonstrates Jesus's love to all.

Newington Baptist Church

Volume 10, Issue 12
December 2025

As we get ready to gather with loved ones this Christmas season to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus, join us as we honor Him during this special musical presentation:



Christmas Cantata "Unto Us"

Sunday, December 14
During the 10:30 a.m. service



NEWINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE
Candlelight SERVICE

Wednesday, December 24
at Newington Baptist Church
6:00 pm

From the Pastors View: 'Christmas in Virginia'

Well, we've arrived. Another Christmas season is upon us as it seems to arrive like Santa Claus when we least expect it. Yes, it's on our calendar, so it must be here!

I don't know what you've been going through the last few weeks or months, but in some ways living here in Virginia, Christmas can be either a very joyous, or a somewhat hard time of year, depending of course on our life circumstances.

Now, as a pastor, each Christmas season presents somewhat of a challenge...How does one take a Christmas story of Jesus's birth (that we have heard many times) and still make it interesting or challenging in a Sunday message? So, in preparation for our series of messages, I typed into Google 'Christmas in Virginia' and this is what Google gave back to me about some books that are set in Virginia at Christmas. (I have not read or do I endorse them; this is just for illustrative purposes):

Christian romance – '*Christmas in Virginia*' – "This story centers on characters named Lauren and Shane and their journey of rediscovery, faith, and love set in Virginia."

Historical fiction – '*Betty's Virginia Christmas*' – "A heartwarming story set in lower Virginia, featuring themes of resilience and community during the holidays."

Classic story - Yes, *Virginia, There Is a Santa Claus* – "While not a devotional, this classic newspaper editorial is based on a letter from an eight-year-old named Virginia O'Hanlon and is a Christmas-themed story that connects to Virginia."

Of course, these three and many other stories are fictional. But isn't it awesome that as followers of Jesus, our Christmas story is **not** fictional!

No, we each love, worship and celebrate the risen Savior Jesus, who came to us two thousand years ago. And Jesus came as Messiah to this world for many reasons, but the primary reason is that He came live, die and rise again for you and I.

So, this Christmas whether the Christmas story of Jesus's birth is something that is new to you or you've heard it hundreds, if not thousands of times; let the story of Christmas and Jesus's birth soak deep into you. Let the birth of Jesus either reassure, comfort or transform you this Christmas, towards either knowing or remembering that He loves you deeply! Also, remember that Jesus came then and wants to come to you each day now. So, whether your life is full of joy this year, or whether it has been full of hardships and grief; Jesus has come!

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Chris Grella

Newington has many special events happening at Newington this Christmas. We do hope that you can slow down enough to enjoy this Christmas season. Every year, the season comes to a crescendo for us as a church on Christmas Eve at 6 pm in our candlelight worship and Lord's Supper service. We hope that you can join us!

BLUE CHRISTMAS COMBINED SERVICE, DEC 14 AT
5:00 PM AT GRACE ON MAIN.

Christmas can be especially difficult for those who are dealing with the loss of a loved one, be it a recent loss or one in years past. During this combined service, our goal is to offer comfort and a quiet acknowledgement of the pain many are experiencing. We pray that Jesus would bless each person in a unique way as we gather together.

We're Hiring! The Newington Courthouse Pre-school & Kindergarten is hiring a 4-year-old teacher to begin in the next few weeks. Please contact Heather King (heatherking@cox.net) for more info. Job application deadline is 12/15/



Please keep Jeff and Rhonda Moore in prayer as they bring coats and other items to the Hope for Appalachia mission in Kentucky the first week in December. Thank you to all who donated, and helped to sort and pack.

WHAT IS THE LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING?

Growing up in Virginia, Lottie Moon and her siblings chose to rebel against Christianity. At 18, Lottie followed Christ and was baptized. When she was 33, she sailed to China as a Southern Baptist missionary. She saw firsthand the world's greatest problem – **LOSTNESS**.

In letters to Southern Baptists in America, she pleaded for increasing prayer and giving. Her letters raised more support for missionaries to be sent to China.

Every year, Southern Baptists collect the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® where **100% of the money given sends and support missionaries. Please use the designated offering envelope or make checks out to Newington with Lottie Moon in the memo line.**

CLOTHES Closet



**DEC 20, CHRISTMAS SHOP
OPEN 10AM-12PM**



Clothes Closet Entrance around front of building to the left
For more info call 804-693-2349





Thank you for your generous support of Operation Christmas Child!

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped pack and load boxes for pickup. This year during Newington's packing party, 410 boxes were packed to send to children around the world! In addition, area churches and individuals brought shoeboxes to bring the total to 1,668 boxes. These were packed in 102 cartons and began their

journey to the processing center in NC. From there the boxes will be distributed to pastors around the world hosting outreach events in places where people may not know Christ and invite them to follow Him. Included in each box is a gospel story booklet, The Greatest Gift and an invitation to participate in the Greatest Journey discipleship program.



Young at Heart senior ministry invites you for a covered dish lunch and fellowship, Friday, Dec19th.



There will be a GUEST training in the Fellowship Hall after the service on Dec 7. Pizza lunch is included. Sign up on FYI board. For questions, see

Mike Horrell. Save the dates: GUEST will be using the church gym Dec 29-Jan 4. More info and sign-ups to come or sign up at guestshelter.org

DECEMBER MESSAGES

Dec 7	Christmas Gate	John 13:1-5
Dec 14	Christmas Cantata	
Dec 21	Your Move!	
Dec 24	Pure Joy	Luke 2:8-15
Dec 28	The Newness of Life	Haggai 1
Jan 4	A Prayer for the New Year	Philippians 1:1-11

COR3 Youth

Greetings from Cor 3 Youth and we wish you and yours a Merry Christmas! We've been studying 1 Kings. In 1 Kings we are reminded that God provides what is necessary to do His will. God provides for those who obey Him and He provides when all seems hopeless. Those are good reminders. A miracle is something only God can do. Standing for God is often not popular but we need to be reminded that we must stand for God and His ways, even when it's not popular. God hears and answers when we pray according to His will. Our Youth have participated in several mission opportunities recently. We donated money to help with OCC, Packed boxes at our OCC Packing Party, Worked in our Clothes Closet sorting out clothes and we have collected Hair Ties as a part of our MTBA Hope For Appalachia project. It's been a busy few months with our Lock-in on Friday, November 14. Friendsgiving was held on Wednesday, November 19. Save the Date: January 10, 2026 will be our Chili/Soup Cook-Off. This is always a fun time. New Sign up info will be posted soon. Thanks to everyone who helps and support our Youth Program. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Blessings, Brenda H. Armistead, Youth Director



WELCOME

If anyone would like to be a greeter for next year, please give me a call at 757-814-0472. Billy Hogge

Ministry opportunities! Volunteers are needed to serve in the following areas: Sunday school directors, Angel Tree helpers, Salvation Army Bell-Ringing Coordinator. See Pastor Chris if interested.

LOTTIE MOON POST OFFICE

DEC 1-JAN 1

The Lottie Moon Post Office will be open Dec. 1- Jan 1 for Christmas cards to Newington members. Postage is a donation to the Lottie Moon/ International Mission Board Offering. Write checks to Newington/memo Lottie Moon/IMB. This is a nice way to say Merry Christmas to your church family!



NEWS AND UPDATES FOR FAMILIES



Christmas Programs

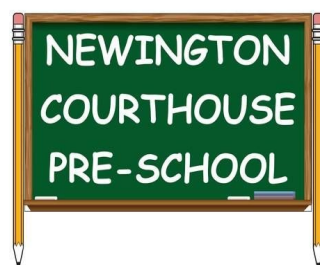
Please join us at Newington as we celebrate the GOOD NEWS of Jesus's birth through song!

Sunday, December 7th during the 10:30 a.m. worship service

Our KidzWorship Kids will be sharing their program, "Kids Sing Christmas" as part of our worship service on Sunday, December 7th. We are practicing the songs on Sunday mornings during KidzWorship.

Sunday, December 14th during the 10:30 a.m. worship service

The Newington Christmas Choir will be singing the cantata, "Unto Us" during the service. We look forward to rejoicing in the news that "from His throne a Redeemer has come, a Prophet, Priest, and Savior; God incarnate, Light of the World lying in a manger."



Merry Christmas!

In December we will be learning about the reason we celebrate Christmas. Our pre-schoolers and kindergarteners have been preparing songs for our Christmas program coming up on December 18 at 6pm.

Our kindergarten class is practicing their sentence writing by doing journal writing. They are also practicing counting by two's, five's and ten's.

The four year old class will be working on counting collections of objects and practicing their writing skills by learning letter formation.

The three year old class will practice matching objects by shape and color, sorting objects by size and words such as "next to, under, behind" to describe the location of objects in relation to each other.

We will also have lots of fun making holiday projects and learning holiday songs and poems.

Preschool will be closed December 22- January 2 for the Christmas break.

Stephanie Smith



From the Deacons...Jubilee Churches of Gloucester - November update:

In October, Jubilee Churches (of which Newington is a member of) provided support to **THREE** households in our community with \$2,497. Those financial requests included rent, Dominion power assistance. And as of the end of October, Jubilee collectively has helped 55 households with \$25,713 in just under two years!!

Here is just one example of how Newington's Jubilee support was used in October:

Because of the faithful giving of the Jubilee Churches, a local family of seven — two parents and five children — recently received much-needed help to keep their lights on and stay in their home. The father, who serves in the National Guard, was not paid for his recent 28-day duty due to the current government shutdown. And in addition to his military service, he is self-employed; but his time away meant he was unable to earn income from his business.

This unexpected gap in pay created a serious financial strain for the family. Thanks to your generous support with Jubilee, we were able to step in and cover their Dominion Power bill.

This assistance brought tremendous relief and stability during a stressful time — helping them avoid falling behind and keeping their home warm and bright for their children.

Newington because of your generosity to our NBC deacon fund, we were able to support Jubilee and this family (along with others) who were able to avoid homelessness and keep a roof over their heads.

Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ in our community and for helping families stay housed, hopeful, and cared for.

A final reminder too, Jubilee works with the GUEST ministry in our area. We will be hosting the GUESTs beginning **Monday December 29 - Sunday January 5**. Please consider signing up and helping us with a shift or two, giving love and care to those without homes or food. Thanks!

Please mark your calendars:

Training for the GUEST ministry at Newington will be held **this Sunday Dec. 7th** right after church. Lunch provided!! Please sign up on the FYI board

Christmas Nativities give the simple message of Christmas! Nativity sets are available across from the Welcome desk for free. Please take one (or more!) and give one to a friend! A great way to start a conversation about Jesus this Christmas season!

Christmas Angels

Again this year, we are planning to bless children with Christmas gifts for our jail ministry. Children have given us a list of things they would like for Christmas. We plan to have our Angel Tree set up by **Dec 1**. When you choose an angel from the tree, please write your name beside your angel's name on the list beside the tree. This will help us track the angels to make sure no gift is forgotten. Your contribution is greatly appreciated by our church, but especially by the Sheriff's Dept who organizes this project each year for the children whose parents are incarcerated during the Christmas holiday. Thank you for your kind hearts and Merry Christmas to you and your family!



Patricia Hogge

The Angel tree tags for the children of the Gloucester Jail inmates are now available on the tree across from the Next Steps area. Please return your angel with the gifts no later than **Sunday, December 14th**. If there is no room under the tree, overflow gifts can be placed in the history room.

