

*December 2023*  
**College Park Baptist Church**



**College Park Baptist Church**  
3435 Crill Avenue  
Palatka, FL 32177

The monthly newsletter is also available on our website at: [www.cpbcpalatka.org](http://www.cpbcpalatka.org)  
*Our email address is:* [collegeparkbc@bellsouth.net](mailto:collegeparkbc@bellsouth.net)

## Prayer and the Bible

There has been a lot of emphasis on prayer at College Park Baptist Church lately, and that is a good thing. Communication with God should be a wide avenue with a constant flow of dialog from us to our Creator. Unfortunately, what happens all too often is that the frequency of our prayer more often resembles a barely visible, overgrown pathway through the wilderness. Pastor Steve has been emphasizing a greater focus on frequent and effective prayer, and Chris Stewart has been supporting this with prayer centered lessons on Wednesdays and handing out a book for supplemental reading.

Praying the Bible, by Donald S. Whitney, is a wonderful aid to building your prayer life. Pastor Whitney asks the question: "When you pray, does it feel like you're saying the same old things about the same old things?" It can be easy to slip into this type of rut, very much like going to the same restaurant and ordering the same meal over and over again. It is comfortable but can grow boring.

Our church leaders want to emphasize what Pastor Whitney writes about, letting the Bible be your guide in prayer. Scripture is God's Word and you can use it to guide you in speaking to the Lord. The Psalms are particularly good for this, no matter what book, chapter or verse you choose for your prayer time, whether it's your favorite, very familiar, or a part of the Bible you rarely leaf through, let the Spirit lead you into a more meaningful quiet time with the God of the universe. And one thing will soon become clear to you, you will never say the same old things about the same old things.

May God bless you with a Merry Christmas as you seek Him in prayer.

G.A. Teske



The Church office is open Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.  
Call if you need anything. 386-325-7991

#### Church Fundraising Goals

Crill Avenue sign – need \$8000.00 received \$6200.00

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Goal \$2500.00 raised \$1340.00

#### Church Budget 10/30/2023: Monthly expenses: \$9,165.24

Monthly giving: \$8,882.00.

This figure looks really different than any previous post. Those were an annual amount reflecting the whole year and extra funds received for project that were not part of our budget. This represents the church's income and actual budget expenses for the month of October.

If you or someone in your immediate family is hospitalized, Pastor Steve would welcome an opportunity to visit them. He has also begun to do some home visits. If you would like a visit at home, or in the hospital, contact him at 610-509-3270.

Celebrating Jesus' birthday has become an annual event for our church. Children dress in costumes and use props to act out the story on stage. What makes this a unique experience is there is no practice. No lines memorized or blocking to learn. The story directs all of the action. Even though the language of the story changes from time to time, the children are able to understand and perform it without too many hiccups. Watching them perform is always a joy. After the stirring performance, we celebrate with a beautiful and delicious birthday cake! Mary Susan Wilson is an expert on baking and caking and she decorates it to go along with the story the children just performed. She explains the symbolism of the cake and we read passages from the Bible to further discuss and confirm the story. The cake is round, chocolate with white icing, decorated with greenery and fruit, and topped with a red candle. The circular shape and evergreens represent eternal life. We then use the red candle to light our individual candles and sing a few beloved Christmas songs. We all get cake which symbolizes that we are to witness the gospel within the world. It is with reverence that we celebrate this event every year. On display is a manger scene with a baby doll wrapped in a blanket to represent the baby Jesus. It functions as an offering plate for one of our final efforts to raise money for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The very last thing we do for this Christmas offering is set up a mailbox for you to send Christmas Cards to the your fellow church members. All that we ask is you donate the postage you're saving to Lottie Moon. The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is for international missions with the Southern Baptist Churches. Last month we had a marvelous time at last month's auction. We raised \$1,248.00 in one night with amazing cakes, snack mixes, and many more goodies. We should have zero issues reaching out goal for the year. We are an awesome church and this proves it.

Christmas Jamboree – **December 2** 5:00 pm

Birthday Party for Jesus – **December 17** 4:00 pm

Christmas Caroling - **December 20** 5:30 pm

**December 31 - NEW!** On the last Sunday of this year, we will start the morning with breakfast provided by our men at 8:30 am. Then at 9:30 am, we will participate in an extended worship service including a choir, communion, and a baptism.



#### December Birthdays

Smith Brenda	12	4
Reynolds Buddy	12	5
Williams Helen	12	9
Annis Wayne	12	10
Boyne Douglas	12	15
Hicks Teresa	12	15
Mew Fred	12	17
Bobbitt Samantha	12	18
Fricker Anthony	12	22
Brantley Anita	12	26
Rosier Faye	12	29

# December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 <b>CHRISTMAS Jamboree 5:00 pm</b>
3  9:30am Grow Groups 10:30am Coffee fellowship 11am Worship Service Facebook.live	4	5	6  5:30pm Church Dinner 6pm Bible Studies, Children's Ministry 7pm Music	7  Putnam County Medical Mission 5-8pm	8	9
10  9:30am Grow Groups 10:30am Coffee fellowship 11am Worship Service Facebook.live 3pm Deacon's Meeting 3pm Women on Missions 4:30pm Church Council	11	12	13  <b>5:30pm Church Dinner</b> 6pm Bible Studies, Children's Ministry 7pm Music	14	15	16
17  9:30am Grow Groups 10:30am Coffee fellowship 11am Worship Service Facebook.live 4 pm Birthday Party for Jesus	18	19	20  5:30pm Christmas Caroling Come early for some Pizza!	21  Putnam County Medical Mission 5-8pm	22	23
24  9:30am Grow Groups 10:30am Coffee fellowship 11am Worship Service Facebook.live	25	26	27  5:30pm Church Dinner 6pm Bible Studies, Children's Ministry 7pm Music	28	29	30
31  <b>8:30 am Breakfast 9:30 am Worship Service, Communion &amp; Baptistim</b>						

Interim Pastor - Stephen Wilt  
 Pastoral Assistant – Chris Stewart  
 Accompanist – Jeannie Brown  
 Bass Guitar– Jerry Teske, Drums- Lewis Spikes, Jr.,  
 Vocals – Denise Spikes, – Bass - David Sullivan.  
 Deacons – Rick Lynes, Lawrence Oliver & Jerry Teske  
 Prayer Chain Coordinator - JoAnn Morgan  
 Church Secretary – Christi Bellamy  
 Financial Secretary – Ilene Fulghum

Easy Access - website: [www.cpbcpalatka.org](http://www.cpbcpalatka.org), Facebook.live at  
 College Park Baptist Church, for current information. Contact info  
 email [collegeparkbc@bellsouth.net](mailto:collegeparkbc@bellsouth.net) or phone number 386-325-7991.