



2026

**Philadelphia Baptist Church**

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Philadelphia Baptist Church



**Baptism Sunday – January 4<sup>th</sup>**

We will also plan for baptism on the first Sunday of every month for anyone who wants to be baptized. Please contact Pastor Bo.

**BULK RATE NON-PROFIT  
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MARSHVILLE, NC 28103**

## **A New Year, Faithful and Forward**

Dear Church Family, **HAPPY NEW YEAR!** As we step into a new year, we do so with gratitude for God's faithfulness behind us and renewed trust in His guidance ahead. The turning of the calendar reminds us that while seasons change, the steadfast love of the Lord remains the same. He goes before us, walks with us, and continues His work in and through His people.

**SERIES IN ACTS** In this New Year, we will begin our journey through the Book of Acts. We are invited to witness the birth of the Church and the powerful work of the Holy Spirit through ordinary believers who were fully surrendered to Christ. The book of Acts reminds us that the Church is not merely a building or a program—it is God's people, empowered to live on mission and to boldly share the hope of the Gospel. My hope is that this series in Acts will challenge and encourage you to depend on the Spirit, devote yourself to prayer and God's Word, and live faithfully as witnesses of Jesus in your home, community, and beyond. The same God who moved mightily in the early Church is still at work today, calling us to follow Him with courage, unity, and love.

**MAN Church** (Bible Study) in the Fellowship Hall.

**Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 9am and Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**

Beginning this January, MAN Church will be launched. There will be two opportunities during the week for the men to attend. MAN Church is open to all men, and we are intentionally structuring this study to accommodate as many as possible—because no man should walk his faith journey alone. The purpose of this study exists to call men to something greater—to know Christ deeply, to walk in obedience, and to live with courage and integrity in every area of life. This Bible study is not simply about gaining knowledge, but about becoming men who are transformed by the Word of God and led by the Spirit. **Please sign up in the church vestibule by January 18<sup>th</sup>.** Once the study begins, the opportunity to participate will close. More classes will be provided at a later time. In Christ, Bo Hamilton

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**\*\*Fund Raiser Meal for Building Fund - Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup> • \$12 per person**

Menu: Variety of Soups, Cornbread & Crackers, Desserts

Children: Macaroni and cheese and chicken tenders

Sign up by Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> in vestibule, on the bulletin board, or call Peggy at: 843-672-8729. Thank you.

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**Golden Age Meeting - Breakfast at Beth's Restaurant**

Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

## **A Note from Jenks**

### **"GET YOUR POPCORN READY"**

During one of the downtimes during our Live Nativity, I was sitting by the fire listening to all the chatter of the youth and adults. The crackling of the fire got me to thinking a little deeper. This phrase "Get your Popcorn ready " kept coming to my mind.

Terrell Owens, a talented NFL player coined this phrase when he signed a contract to play for the Dallas Cowboys. His reasoning was this was a great pairing and great things were to come.

It got me thinking about other times when I have used similar phrases when coaching a sport.

I have told several athletes over the years that not all popcorn pops at the same time. My point is/was that not everyone sees instant results or shows instant improvement. For some, it happens quickly, but if it doesn't happen for them right away, there is no need to get discouraged. Eventually everything will work out, as long as they keep striving to get better.

As I pondered these things more, it was time to act out the last scene of our Live nativity again.

We had done this scene a few times but each time, it took on a new meaning or gave me more insight on how this actually played out in real time during the life of Jesus and continues to this day.

My role in our scene is one of the soldiers leading Jesus to the cross. Of course, we were dressed as such and had spears as props. In our role, we mock Jesus, we ridicule, we hurled insult after insult at him. I drew the line at spitting at him. By the way, I just couldn't do that. The scene pales in comparison to the real life suffering he went through, but it still is an emotionally, physically, and mentally a tough thing to do over and over. Our cast in this scene did a fantastic job.

After each scene, I debriefed by thanking him for all he has done for us by saying a little prayer. In the scene, Jesus carries a smaller cross as we are leading him to the place between the other two crosses. We then raise him on a bigger one. As we were finishing the scene and going back behind the building, I usually try to pick that cross up along with any other props we use and go behind our area until the next group comes through. On several occasions I had a cross in one hand and the soldiers spear in the other. WOW!! What a real-life picture we all at some point will have to deal with. Two choices before us.

The Cross or the Spear. We all face this dilemma every day. Do we choose to crucify him all over by giving in to our sinful self or do we choose to place ourselves at the cross and trust and rely on the fact that Jesus did it all for us? Do we pick up our cross daily and FOLLOW HIM? As we continued to act out the scene, those thoughts kept running through my mind. As I looked around and saw every age group represented throughout all of the nativity scenes, I was overcome with a sense of JOY. Seeing the different age groups come together to witness, proclaim, and preach the GOOD NEWS of Jesus warmed my heart more than the actual fires we had going. It was pretty cold Sunday night:). Then I thought of all the baptisms we have had over the last few months. All ages were represented in that as well. Proclaiming or preaching their first sermon for others to see the choice they made to follow Jesus. When I see the age differences, I go back to that statement that "not all popcorn kernels pop at the same time". We as Philadelphia Baptist Church call ourselves a Beacon of Hope (lighthouse) in the community. I believe we are doing just that. We are called to be Salt and Light to the world. We have the awesome responsibility but also a great privilege in that process. Which leads me to that NFL players statement, "Get Your Popcorn Ready." Much like all kernels don't pop at the same time, we are tasked with investing and pouring out our faith with those we come in contact with. We are called to get those young, and old kernels ready to serve the Lord. So, we can continue to be the Lighthouse for our Community. We have so many talented and great teachers here. Thank you for your dedication and service.

As we are transitioning into a New Year, a New Pastor and his Family, a New Chapter, if you will, here at Philadelphia Baptist, it is my prayer that we all find our place in service to HIM. As long as we continue to be LED by GOD in everything we do, we will continue to be what he has called us and commissioned us to do. Make disciples, baptize and teaching them all he commanded us. All the while knowing He is with us.

I'll say it again "Get Your Popcorn Ready". With Jesus as our guide, we are in for great things. Love you all, Jenks



Our items to collect are Pop Tarts, individual packs of grits, oatmeal, and individual boxes of cereal.

Thank you for helping with this mission project.

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### Men's Supper

**DATE:** Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup> **TIME:** 6:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** Napoli's Restaurant

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### January

January 4<sup>th</sup>: ¼ Book Completion

January 11<sup>th</sup>: Regular Night

January 18<sup>th</sup>: Fiesta Night

January 25<sup>th</sup>: Spot Your Leader/5-Mustache Surprise

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### Youth Winter Retreat The Edge - Student & Leaders Conference

Jan 17-19 at Ridgcrest Conference Center

Cost \$150. See Jenks for Details. 18 spots available

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### Ladies' Prayer Breakfast

Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

Beth's Restaurant, Pageland, SC

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#### January Mission Friends

7<sup>th</sup>: FLC with Mrs. Lisa; Snack-Mrs. Lisa

14<sup>th</sup>: Amanda & Lisa; Snack-Maegan

21<sup>st</sup>: Lisa & Karoline; Snack-Jamie

28<sup>th</sup>: Michelle & Lisa; Snack-Ava

#### January Children's Church

4<sup>th</sup>: Jana & Malorie

11<sup>th</sup>: Kathy & Alyssa

18<sup>th</sup>: Kim & Lisa

25<sup>th</sup>: Mindy & Jamie

#### January Nursery Workers

4<sup>th</sup>: Jill & Kathy

11<sup>th</sup>: Lisa and Jana

18<sup>th</sup>: Leigha & Jake

25<sup>th</sup>: Taylor & Ryan

#### Truth Seekers

January 11<sup>th</sup> & January 25<sup>th</sup>



1-Maggie Altman, David Autry, Ava Glidewell, Jeffrey Hunter, Todd Nash, Ona Ruth Smith

3-Olivia Gathings, Hannah Turner, Katie Weaver

4-Whitney Beard

6-Coleston Langston, Eddie Wallace

7-Brent Vaughn

8-Avery Stutts

9-David Booth, Joshua Flowe, Tyler Stutts

10-Harper Felt

11-Deana Guffey, Candie Porter, Aurianna Price

13-Richard Kirkley, Chelsea Reitz

14-Mary Ellen Mills, Jessie Griffin Rabun

17-Nancy Lowery

18-Chad Clay, Rhett Rollins

19-Randy Brock

20-Jonathan Mills

21-Mickey Lowery

22-Sybil Jordan, Gregory Outen

23-Hudson Felt, Naomi Tarlton

25-Ember McGriff, Phyllis Hunter, Michelle Phifer, Trent Severt

26-Tony Eudy, Chris Tucker

28-Remi Ratliff

29-Donna Altman, Page Nelson

30-Michelle Crain, Annette Rorie

31-Sawyer Burch, Taylor Phifer, Randy Ratliff

### **February 1<sup>st</sup> Week**

2-Jason Lowery

3-Tessa Flowe, Teresa Lowery, Kadie Rickard

4-Georgia Gathings, Marion Lowery

7-Wanda Aldridge, Gracie Mills

## *It's a Baby Sprinkle*



Kindly join us for a Drop-In Baby Sprinkle honoring

*Olivia Gathings*

January 10<sup>th</sup> • 11AM – 1PM

The Davis Home, 5122 Dudley Road, Monroe, NC

It's a girl. Registered at Amazon.

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2026 Offering Envelopes are in the vestibule for pick up. If you would like to have a box, please contact Sheri. Thank you.

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### **75 Plus Newsletter**

Sorry we were unable to have our December meeting. We're excited to see everyone on January 13, 2026, at 11am in our Family Life Center.

Happy New Year. Bonnie Oster

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# January 2026

				1 New Year's Day	2 Craft DIY Signs	3
**MEAL in FLC 4 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Baptism/ Worship 4:30 p.m. AWANA 5:00 p.m. Youth	5	6 Golden Age Breakfast at Beth's 9:00 a.m.	7 7:00 p.m. Classes/Service 8:00 p.m. Choir Practice	8 Men's Supper Napoli's Restaurant 6 p.m.	9	10 Olivia Gathings Drop in Baby Sprinkle at Davis Home 11 am – 1pm
9:30 a.m. 11 Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship/ Church Conference 4:30 p.m. AWANA 5:00 p.m. Youth	12	13 75 Plus Meeting at 11:00 a.m. in the FLC	14 7:00 p.m. Classes/Service 8:00 p.m. Choir Practice	15	19	17 Youth Winter Retreat 17 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup>
18 Sign up deadling for Man Church 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship 4:30 p.m. AWANA 5:00 p.m. Youth	19	20 Ladies' Prayer Breakfast 9:00 a.m. Beth's Restaurant	21 7:00 p.m. Classes/Service 8:00 p.m. Choir Practice	22	23	24 Man Church 9 a.m.
25 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship 4:30 p.m. AWANA 5:00 p.m. Youth	26	27 Deacon's Meeting 7:00 p.m.	28 7:00 p.m. Classes/Service 8:00 p.m. Choir Practice	29 Man Church 7 p.m.	30	31

**Wednesday Night Classes 7:00 p.m. (\*FLC week of the month)**

Mission Friends\*1<sup>st</sup>, GA\*2<sup>nd</sup>, RA\*3<sup>rd</sup>, Youth\*4<sup>th</sup>, Girlfriends in Christ, Adult Bible Study