



Count Your Blessings!

How wonderful that our current Presidential Administration took the initiative to launch a program like Operation Warp Speed to help the Medical Community develop vaccines so quickly to stop the spread of the Covid-19 Virus. It appears that the “impossible” has become a reality! Something to be truly joyful for and hopeful about! What a blessing!

Despite the disappointing Presidential Election (both the result and the way it was handled) I still have much to be happy about. I am grateful that I was born in the USA to good Christian parents. (Not all that common a thing.) Raised to go to church every Sunday, read my Bible and say my prayers. My parents were very aware of setting an example for me and my brother. They made sure we knew other people might be watching and we needed to represent the Lord well. What a blessing!

I truly believe God intentionally brought my family back to the Eastern Shore, my mother’s birthplace. I could be still living in the “alternate universe” of Southern California, my birthplace. The very thought is horrifying! We have peace and joy all around us, particularly in the woods where I live. There is NO PLACE BETTER on earth! What a blessing!

Consider the reason for this Season...The birth of our Savior. What if we were still living in Old Testament times as hopelessly heathen Gentiles with no possible way to redemption. Because of Jesus we are blessed with Hope, the most important thing for our wellbeing. Hope is what we have to carry us forward in the face of huge obstacles. It doesn’t mean everything will be magically easy. It does mean when we face difficult times the Holy Spirit will steer us right. Cultivate a close relationship with Him daily and listen carefully. He’ll guide your way. What a Blessing!

Carol Hill, Editor

Here’s What’s Coming Up:

- Each Sunday—Sunday School at 9:45 am. Worship Service at 11am
- Jan 1st—New Year’s Day
- Jan 3rd—Rev. Tom Thomasson Speaks
- Jan 10th—Rev. Tom Thomasson Speaks
- Jan 17th—Rev. Tom Thomasson Speaks
- Jan 18th—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day & Impact Hunger Deliveries
- Jan 24th—Rev. Tom Thomasson Speaks
- Jan 31st—Rev. Tom Thomasson Speaks & The Lord’s Supper
- Feb 2nd—Groundhog Day
- Feb 7th—Speaker TBD
- Feb 14th—Valentine’s Day Speaker TBD
- Feb 15th—Presidents Day & Impact Hunger Deliveries
- Feb 21st—Speaker TBD
- Feb 28th—Speaker TBD

JANUARY 2021

Hollies Baptist Church
17691 Hollies Church Rd, Keller, VA
757-787-4655

www.holliesbc.org



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 	2
3 Sunday School 9:45a Worship Service 11a Rev Tom Thomasson	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Sunday School 9:45a Worship Service 11a Rev Tom Thomasson	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Sunday School 9:45a Worship Service 11a Rev Tom Thomasson	18 Impact Hunger Deliveries	19	20	21	22	23
24 Sunday School 9:45a Worship Service 11a Rev Tom Thomasson	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Sunday School 9:45a Worship Service 11a Rev Tom Thomasson The Lord's Supper 						

FEBRUARY 2021

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 	2 Groundhog Day	3	4	5	6
7 Sunday School 9:45a Worship Service 11a Speaker TBD	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Valentines Day Sunday School 9:45a Worship Service 11a Speaker TBD 	15 Presidents Day Impact Hunger Deliveries 	16	17	18	19	20
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28 Sunday School 9:45a Worship Service 11a Speaker TBD						

New Beginnings

This time of year, people start to focus on the upcoming New Year. People often reflect on the past year. They either celebrate the gains/victories or lament the losses/failures. There is a sense of optimism that the New Year will be better. With Covid19 and the toll it has taken on America and the world, most will gladly say good-bye to 2020 and hope for a better 2021. For some, there is an anticipation of something better will come. There is a hope for a new beginning.

Based on Paul's second letter to the church in Corinth, Christians don't just have a hope of a new beginning but we are completely new. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." Because we have accepted what Jesus Christ did on the cross, we just don't have a hope for a new beginning but we live in the reality that we are new in Christ Jesus. Because we are "in Christ," we are completely new.

Where the world is looking for hope in the New Year, the Christian lives in the reality of the hope. The Christian hope is not based on us but based on the cross. On the cross, Jesus made a way for humanity to be reconnected to the Heavenly Father. By rising from the grave, Jesus defeated death and took the keys of Hell away from Satan. Experiencing true freedom in Jesus Christ comes when a person truly understands that they are a new creature-alive in Christ Jesus-and their sinful past is behind them. In the eyes of God, our sins never happened because they are covered by the blood of Jesus. Psalm 103:12 says, "as far as the east is from the west, so far does he [God] removed our transgressions from us." This is the present reality for all Christians; that our hope is in Christ and not in a possibility of happiness but in the reality of joy. The joy of knowing Jesus Christ sustains us in our daily living.

If 2021 ends up being as troublesome as 2020, as a Christian our joy will not change. Jesus himself connected our daily spiritual life with joy. Jesus said, "If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love. . . . These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full." in John 15:10-11. If our soul is satisfied in Christ, we will rejoice in Him.

We shouldn't confuse this unique joy with other upbeat feelings. Genuine Christian joy is not the power of positive thinking. Joy is not a bubbly, optimistic personality. Joy is not being happy because life is going our way. Joy is not walking through life with a naïve, glass-half-full attitude. Joy is a by-product of the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

As the world is looking at 2021 in hopeful anticipation of a new beginning, we Christians are living in the joy of being new creations since we are in the family of God. Because we are in the family of God, we are called to share our hope with others. 1 Peter 3:15

says, “but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.” The “hope that is in you” is Jesus Christ. We are called to share it with others.

As we all are hoping for new beginnings in a new year, let us all be willing to share our hope with the world. Jesus came so that we can have a fulfilled life in Him. Let us share this reality-the Christian reality-with all those people that God puts in our path.

Rev. Tom Thomasson

For Our Consideration

You all know that we have been searching for a Part-time Interim Pastor with different people providing for our pulpit each week. Finally we have someone who feels he may be lead to fill that need. Rev. Tom Thomasson has agreed to be with us each Sunday during the month of January. This will give Rev. Thomasson, his family and Hollies an opportunity to figure out if we’ll be a good match. Here is a short bio to refresh your memory:



Tom Thomasson has been serving God's Kingdom for over 30 years. He has actively served in various ministries at three dynamic churches, both vocationally and as a lay leader. The past 21 years, Tom has worked at Dollar Tree Stores, Inc. as a Logistic Analyst while serving as a Youth Pastor, Executive Pastor, and a Small Groups Pastor. The last 7 years, Tom has partnered with The Bridge Network of Churches in helping churches with pulpit supply. Tom has been married to Teresa for 24 years and has a 12 year old daughter named Ripley.

This is an important matter that deserves your attention. Your attendance each week will give us all an opportunity to make a good and informed decision for our mutual future. It’s our chance to ask questions and get to know each other better.

Looking forward to a great 2021 at Hollies Baptist Church.



Covid-19 Safety Reminders

Sunday services are on-going with Adult Sunday School at 9:45am and Worship Service at 11am. Here are the guidelines the deacons have established for a safe ministry time together. Please re-read them and follow them. Thank you!

1. We are required to have no more than 1/2 of our seating capacity filled at our services; this is not a problem for us.
2. We are to still practice social distancing so we ask you to spread out throughout our sanctuary. Do not sit directly behind or in front of someone and try to abide by the 6 foot guideline.
3. The State has said that face masks are mandatory if you are unable to social distance. While social distancing should not be a problem in our church it would be well advised to bring or wear a face mask. Hand sanitizer is also available at both entrances.
4. We will not pass the offering plates, they will remain on the front table. Please place your tithes and offerings in the plates before or after the service.
5. Sunday School Classes are available for everyone, including the children with the opening at 9:45am and individual classes at 10am.
6. No Wednesday evening Adult Bible Study and Prayer Meeting is scheduled until March.
7. We will not have Wednesday evening Children and Youth Ministry until March.
8. We will not have Pot Luck Suppers until things improve. This will help us avoid passing things between people.
9. If you bring children to the worship service they must be under your control at all times. They may not understand social distancing and must not be permitted to roam the church.
10. If you do not feel well, please stay home until you are feeling better.
11. If you do not feel comfortable coming out just yet, stay home. God is not sitting in the heavens judging your church attendance during this time and neither are we.



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Dacons: Jimmy Campbell, Nat Atkinson
& Brooks Wallace

Standard Hours of Worship & Meetings

Sunday Morning
Sunday School 9:45am
Worship Service 11:00am