

# Temple News

Monthly Newsletter of Solomon's Temple Church

[www.solomonstemplechurch.net](http://www.solomonstemplechurch.net)

## Give the Gift of Forgiveness This Christmas by Michelle Medlock Adams

Wouldn't you love to live free from old hurts and replace them with God's joy and peace?

"Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, 'Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?' Jesus answered, 'I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.'" (Matthew 18:21-22)

Christmas is the time of year when we do a lot giving—presents to our friends and family, time to outreach organizations, money to charity.

While we're in this giving mode, why not give the gift of forgiveness this Christmas? If you've been holding a grudge, this is the perfect time to let it go and forgive once and for all.

Maybe you thought you'd forgiven that family member or that former friend or that cantankerous co-worker, but every time you think of that person, a little tinge of "ickiness" fills your heart. Wouldn't you love to get rid of those feelings? Wouldn't you love to live free from that hurt and replace it with God's joy and peace?

You can if you are willing to offer forgiveness.

You might say, "But that person isn't even sorry!" That's okay. That person doesn't have to be sorry in order for you to forgive. In fact, that person doesn't even have to be alive for you to offer forgiveness.

If you're still harboring hurt over harsh words your late mother said to you or you're still suffering in your soul from abuse you experienced at the hands of a late relative, it's time to choose forgiveness.

Some grief experts even suggest writing a letter to that person, saying everything you always wanted to say but never had the opportunity to share, reading it out loud, writing "I forgive you" over the top of your letter in bold letters, and then shredding it or burning it. While that might seem pointless to you, it's not. It's an act of faith and a step toward the restoration of your heart.

You don't have to feel it—just forgive by faith. God will help you. Forgiving someone doesn't mean you're condoning his or her inexcusable behavior; it just means that you're courageous enough to forgive and move forward.

I know from experience that when you give the gift of forgiveness, you'll receive gifts, too—freedom, love, joy, peace and more!

I hope you'll let Jesus fill your heart today so that there is no room for any hurt. And, I hope that you'll have a very Merry Christmas Season and the Happiest New Year ever!

# Merry Christmas December 2017



Pastor K. D. & (LL) Elder E. R. Shivers



*Wishing you love, health, happiness, inner peace all through  
& beyond this holiday season!*

### 6 Ways to Deal with Feeling Overwhelmed by Michelle Cox

With a season of planning, buying, prepping and traveling upon us, some tips for coping with it all.

A few weeks ago, I sat down and thought about all the things I've got on my plate from now through February. Book, magazine and blog deadlines. Business obligations. Speaking engagements. Christmas and all it entails with decorating, buying and wrapping gifts, baking, get-togethers and church events. A family trip that will be fun but still requires packing and planning. Then tax time for our businesses. Some remodeling at our house. And the list goes on.

I was overwhelmed that it put a knot the size of Texas in my stomach. It didn't help matters any that I was just getting over a two-month illness and was tired before I started.

I suspect I'm not the only one feeling this way. So I thought I'd share what God is teaching me during this oh-so-busy time:

1. We need to pray about things before adding them to our schedules. Seriously, folks, there are only so many hours in a day, and we can only do so much. (Yes, I'm reminding myself of that important lesson while I'm typing today.)
2. We must learn to say "No, I'm sorry, but I can't." That sounds so simple but it's really hard to do.
3. We should ask God to be the keeper of our schedules. A good rule of thumb is: Don't add anything to your calendar until you've asked Him about it first.
4. Know that if He has given these opportunities to us, that He will give us the strength to do them. He doesn't call us without equipping us.
5. Schedules are like eating an elephant. We do it one bite at a time. For me, that sometimes means finding little pockets of times to do tasks that I've been dreading—so I can get them off my list. For example, a couple of weeks ago, I did our Christmas cards over the course of a few evenings while watching television with my husband. Now I don't need to worry about how I'm going to fit those in around all the other gazillion things that need to be done around Christmas. I've discovered that being proactive really helps. When I wait until the last minute to do things, that's when I become really stressed.
6. Instead of looking at our obligations as tasks, what if we looked at them as blessings? That can totally change our attitudes as we work.

In Psalm 142:3, God says, "When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then You knew my path." Sweet friends, we can count on the fact that the God who knows our paths has everything under control. If He brought us to a task, He will bring us through until everything is completed. Tried and proven!

### 5 Ways to Sing Your Praise to God by Bob Hostetler

Most people—even the prayingest among us—spend their time making requests of God or giving thanks. But for some reason, praise is often a neglected component. Maybe it's because our needs seem so pressing. Or it could be that we're more experienced in offering gratitude than praise. Or maybe it's because we don't sing enough. One of the best ways to offer praise to God is through song. That is why the ancient psalmist sang:

Shout for joy to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious. Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies cringe before you. All the earth bows down to you; they sing praise to you, they sing the praises of your name" (Psalm 66:1-4, NIV).

The Bible actually tells you not only to speak but also to sing your praises to God. So here are a few ways to do that:

1. **Grab an old hymnal.**
2. **Adopt several hymns and praise songs as "go to" prayers**
3. **Adapt a few psalms.**
4. **Sing a new song.**
5. **Drop in on a praising church**

These aren't the only ways to sing your praise to God, but try just one or two of these, and your praying will soon be music to God's ears.

# December Kingdom Schedule

## December Scriptures

12/3 Mark 1:1-3  
 12/10 Psalm 89:1-4  
 12/17 Luke 1:14-17  
 12/24 Isaiah 52:7-9  
 12/31 Romans 13:10-13



## Welcome Schedule

12/3 Elder Sarah Hatton  
 12/10 Seniah Cypress  
 12/17 Sis. Samantha Little  
 12/24 Sis. Lenore Williams  
 12/31 Minister Ernest Ruffin

## Door Opener

Bro. James Green Sr.  
 Bro. Rodney Murphy

## Worship Leaders Schedule

12/3 Elder Sarah Hatton  
 12/10 Ms. Taleigha Turner  
 12/17 Minister Ernest Ruffin  
 12/24 Elder Edith Shivers  
 12/31 Elder Wayne Hatton

## Servant Leaders Schedule

12/3 Bro. James Green Sr.  
 12/10 Sis. Shirley Haskins  
 12/17 Sis. Phyllis Duck  
 12/24 Sis. Wendy Green  
 12/31 Bro. Donald Watkins

## Communion Bowls

Sis. Turekia White  
 Sis. Sylvia Gundy



## New to Solomon's Temple?

First of all **WELCOME!** We are so pleased that you have come to visit our church. Whether you are just inquiring about our church, a new visitor, or simply want to see if Solomon's Temple is the right fit for you and your family, we are grateful to have you among us. We hope you will find your spiritual home here. Here at Solomon's Temple, we offer many exciting ministries to assist in your daily walk.

Solomon's Temple holds New Disciple Orientation sessions that can provide information about our church, what we offer and what to expect from your church family. If you have any questions, please contact Elder Sarah Hatton, Elder Wayne Hatton. or Bro. James Green Sr.

## December CID Teaching Schedule



**December 5<sup>th</sup>** Faith to Discern | Acts 13:1-12  
 Adult Teacher: Minister Ernest Ruffin

**December 12<sup>th</sup>** Faith to Persevere | Acts 14:8-11, 19-23  
 Adult Teacher: Minister Bertram Blackwell

**December 19<sup>th</sup>** NO CID | Faithful Seekers of the King | Matthew 2:1-12

**December 26<sup>th</sup>** NO CID | Faith to Unite | Ephesians 4:1-16

Explanation of the lesson can be found on our website. [solomonstemplechurch.net](http://solomonstemplechurch.net)

## Newsletter Submissions

Do you know someone who is doing great things in the community, school, or church? Nominate them to be the Solomonite of the Month. This person can be a youth or an adult. Don't forget to recognize those celebrating an anniversary, graduation (from high school, college, or any other), or special occasion. We also want to know about those who have made the honor roll. Let's not forget baby announcements, bible humor or recipes. If you have a story or idea that you would like to incorporate into the newsletter, forward the story to [stsecretary1@gmail.com](mailto:stsecretary1@gmail.com) or leave the idea on the secretary's desk.



# December



# Schedule of Events

DATE	TIME	EVENT
12/2/17	10:00am	Christian Education Ministry will meet with all CID teachers
12/2/17	1:00pm	Joseph Tribe Christmas Luncheon at Peking International Buffet, 1234 Big Bethel Rd., Hampton, VA 23666
12/3/17	All Day	First Day of Advent
12/3/17		2018 Officers Accept/Decline Form due
12/3/17	12:00pm	Pastor Shivers will preach at Olive Branch Baptist Church, 5200 Milner's Rd., Suffolk, VA 23434 for Church Anniversary service; Choir and ushers are asked to serve
12/4/17	6:30pm	Solomon's Council will meet
12/5/17	5:45pm	Outreach Ministry will meet.
12/5/17	6:30/7:15pm	CID Session/Bible Study: Elder Thomas will teach on Victory over Sin and Strongholds
12/7/17	7:00pm	Sons of Solomon rehearsal
12/8-9/17	4:00pm	Couples Retreat at Eastover Retreat Center, 601 Eastover Drive, Spring Grove, VA 23881
12/11/17	6:30pm	Solomon's Council will meet
12/12/17	6:30pm/7:15pm	CID Session/Bible Study: Elder Thomas will conclude teaching on Victory over Sin and Strongholds
12/14/17	6:30pm	Youth Choir rehearsal
12/19/17		NO CID/Bible Study
12/21/17	6:00pm/7:00pm	Praise Team rehearsal/Mass Choir rehearsal
12/24/17	All Day	Christmas Eve
12/25/17	All Day	Christmas Day! Happy Birthday Jesus!
12/26/17		NO CID/Bible Study
12/31/17	All Day	New Year's Eve/New Year's Eve service

## Choir Rehearsal Schedule for the month of December

Thursday, December 7 <sup>th</sup>	7:00pm	Sons of Solomon
Thursday, December 14 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm	Youth Choir
Thursday, December 21 <sup>st</sup>	6:00pm	Praise Team
	7:00pm	Mass Choir
Thursday, December 28 <sup>th</sup>	No choir rehearsal	

## **Solomon's Temple - PHOTO DAY SCHEDULE – Say Cheese!**

(All Pictures will be taken in Chapel immediately after morning service unless otherwise notified!)



December 3 <sup>rd</sup>		December 10 <sup>th</sup>			December 17 <sup>th</sup>	
Armour Bearers	Intercessory Prayer Min.		Joseph Tribe	Benjamin Tribe		Levi Tribe
Greeters Ministry	Hospitality Ministry					Asher Tribe
Levite Min.						

# December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1.	2. 10:00am Education Ministry will meet 1:00pm Joseph Tribe Christmas Luncheon
3. First Day of Advent Accept/Decline Form due 12:00pm Pastor Shivers preach at Olive Branch	4. 6:30pm Solomon Council will meet	5. 5:45pm Outreach Ministry will meet 6:30pm CID Session 7:15pm Bible Study	6.	7. 7:00pm Sons of Solomon	8. Couples Retreat	9. Couples Retreat Quenten Turner
10. Kinestia Burrell	11. 6:30pm Solomon Council will meet	12. 6:30pm CID Session 7:15pm Bible Study	13.	14. 6:30pm Youth Choir rehearsal	15.	16.
17.	18.	19. NO CID/Bible Study	20. Dana Cary	21. 6:00pm Praise Team 7:00pm Mass Choir Happy Anniversary Sherman & Shirley Haskins	22.	23.
24. Christmas Eve MorVetra Johnson Christian Turner	25. Christmas Day Happy Birthday Jesus!	26. NO CID/Bible Study Melvin Turner Sr.	27.	28. No Choir rehearsal	29.	30. Jordan Elliott
31. New Year Eve						



## December Birthdays

### Happy Birthday

Quenten Turner	December 9 <sup>th</sup>
Kimesia Burrell	December 10 <sup>th</sup>
Dana Cary	December 20 <sup>th</sup>
Mor'Netra Johnson	December 24 <sup>th</sup>
Christian Turner	December 24 <sup>th</sup>
Melvin Turner Sr.	December 26 <sup>th</sup>
Jordan Elliott	December 30 <sup>th</sup>



## December Anniversary



Sherman & Shirley Haskins  
December 21<sup>st</sup>

*An anniversary is a time to celebrate the joys of today, the memories of yesterday and the hopes of tomorrow.*

## Prayer List



Sis. Vernell Brown  
Sis. Mary Diggs  
Sis. Lonnie Batten  
Sis. Connie Payne  
Sis. Vernell Wrenn  
Sis. Ruby Clarke  
Sis. Mary Cornick  
Sis. Florence Turner  
Sis. Sonjia Moore  
Sis. Tami Drew  
Bro. James Green Sr.  
Sis. Tamara Jones  
Sis. Frances Wells-Robertson  
Sis. Marion Smith  
Bereaved Families

If there are any names that need to be added to the list, let the church administrator know. Thank You.



### **Solomon's Temple Outreach Ministry** *Is In Full Effect!*

Please let us know if anyone is in the hospital, in-outpatient surgeries and death in the family or any other life changing event (medical or death).

We have "Care Teams" for each month that is willing and ready to contact you. We love our church family and we believe love is not what it says – it's what it does.

#### Care Team for the Month

Sis. Hope Parker  
Sis. Lisa Thompson  
**Sis. Wendy Green**

Please let the church administrator know of any disciples' address or phone number change. Thank you.

## The Christmas Story

by Leanne Guenther

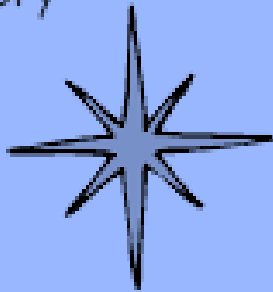
Once upon a time,  
A long, long time ago,  
Begins the story of a baby,  
That most of you should know.

His daddy's name was Joseph,  
And Mary was His mom,  
This babe was very special  
He was God's only Son.

Some angels came from heaven,  
And they began to sing,  
To the shepherds in the fields below,  
"Glad tidings do we bring!"

A bright star lit the heavens,  
To light the magi's way,  
To the baby in the manger  
Who was born on Christmas day.

And all who gathered round Him,  
Rejoiced and praised His birth,  
For the babe, the King, named Jesus,  
Is our Saviour here on earth!



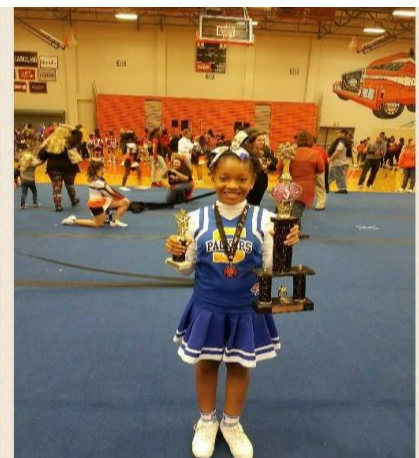
"God made  
Christmas happen;  
friends make  
Christmas beautiful,  
music makes  
Christmas festive;  
giving makes  
Christmas joyous.  
**love makes  
Christmas**

*—William Arthur Ward*

# Congratulations!



Congratulations on your engagement  
Tamara Jones & Corey Brown



Congratulations to Aalani Brown and the Smithfield Junior Pop Warner Cheerleaders! On October 28, 2017, they won First Place in their division and best jumps in SEVA League which earned them a spot in Regionals! If they do well at Regionals they will advance to Nationals in Florida! Go Packers!



Sis. Desiree Brown at work on Sunday morning announcements.



## Verse of the Month

Matthew 2:3

Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and have come to worship him.

### *Why Do We Celebrate Christmas?* By David Wright

*And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. (Matthew 2:11)*

**Today's big question: why do we celebrate Christmas?**

Black Friday! What do you think of when you hear those words? Spectacular deals for Christmas? The (un)official beginning of the Christmas season? The worst day ever for anyone in retail or food service? Regardless of what pops into your head when you hear those words, the phrase bares a special meaning—at least in the U.S. It reminds us we need to start buying gifts for our family and friends.

The Christmas season is wrought with traveling, family get-togethers, office parties, breaks from school, and insane deals on flat-screen televisions. And let's not forget Santa Claus, hanging the stockings, decorating the tree, eating copious amounts of delicious food, and opening presents. Does this describe your Christmas?

Unfortunately, this probably describes the majority of people in America (and around the world). But what's the real reason for Christmas? Most people could probably answer this question by stating "the birth of Christ." But are we truly celebrating the birth of Christ? Sure, the wise men brought Him gifts, but they also worshipped Him. While we give gifts to each other, ask yourself what gift you are bringing to Him. The wise men knew the significance of Christ, so they brought Him gifts and worshipped Him.

But the true gift of Christmas is Christ—the Son of God, who became a man and willingly sacrificed Himself for the atonement of our sins to save us from a justly deserved, eternal punishment. We are blessed exceedingly by this gift but only seem to celebrate it once a year, although we should be celebrating year-round. Do we truly understand who Jesus is and what He did? We'll take a closer look at this over the next several days. In the meantime, forget about all the secular Christmas hype, focus on what you are giving to Christ, and worship Him.

**Today's big idea: the real reason for Christmas is the gift we have received from God, so we need to give back to Him worship and a life centered on Him.**

What to pray: thank God for His gift and ask Him to give you the courage to take this gift to others.

# Thanksgiving Mission Meal Giveaway – Thursday, November 16, 2017

O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good; for his mercy endureth forever. (1 Chronicles 16:34)



**We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give. – Winston Churchill**