



THE STAPLETON

PRESS

DECEMBER 2020

LOVE GOD | LOVE PEOPLE | MAKE DISCIPLES

STAPLETON BAPTIST CHURCH



DECEMBER 2020



GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

Josh Vance - Pastor

***Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee,
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not,
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.***

This hymn, composed in 1923, so sweetly expresses the faithfulness of God in contrast with the ever-changing world around us. Everything else might change, but God remains the same. That's always good news, but it is especially good news in 2020!

This year has been difficult in so many ways for so many people. Some of you have had to make hard choices in order to protect your health. You have tried to weigh out the importance of isolating versus socializing. Others of you found yourself suddenly homeschooling your child for several months. You had to find the balance between work and family and education. Then all of us have had to adjust our lives in one way or another. We've missed out on things that we normally enjoy and celebrate. That's not even mentioning hurricane season!

For twelve long weeks I preached to an iPhone on a stand in an empty sanctuary, trusting that God would sustain his people through this trial. Today, at the beginning of December, I can joyfully and confidently say that God has indeed sustained and provided for his people. I know this pandemic isn't over. I know the virus is still a risk. But I also know that God has been faithful.

He has continued to faithfully guide our church just as he has for the last 72 years. Even in the year 2020 we have still witnessed baptisms. We have been able to serve our community through storm clean-up and providing meals. We were able to love our community through Trunk or Treat. We've had new faces in our church finding encouragement through the teaching of God's word and the fellowship of the saints. We've even added an Associate Pastor that is doing a phenomenal job of teaching our students and leading us in worship. God has indeed been faithful. Let us praise him continually for his faithfulness!

P.S. Church, I want to thank you for the gift from Pastor Appreciation month. Victoria and I have felt so loved and welcomed by you in this first year. We love you and are so thankful to be a part of the Stapleton Baptist family!

COMING UP



COMMUNION

12.06 | 11AM

Join us as we observe the Lord's Supper together at the end of the worship service on December 6th.

We will have pre-packaged communion elements for enhanced safety and wellness.

STAPLETON STUDENTS CHRISTMAS PARTY

12.09 | 6PM

Attention all students (7th-12th)! Put on your tackiest Christmas sweater and join us for a night of festive fun, food, and games!



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

12.24 | 5PM

Join us for a special short Christmas Eve service for the whole family. We will focus on the Christmas story through worship and Scripture reading.

REACH SUNDAY

01.03 | 11AM

On the first Sunday of the new year we will be kicking-off our theme for 2021: REACH.

In 2021 we want to reach our our neighborhoods, communities, and schools with the gospel like never before!



STUDENT MINISTRY UPDATE

Daniel Murphy - Associate Pastor



It has been such a joy getting to know our 7th-12th graders these past few weeks. It is obvious to me that this church cares about discipling the next generation. I'm so thankful for Shawn & Wendy Stringer, and the many others who have invested in our students in the past.

We have quite a few things on the horizon for the rest of this year and upcoming for new year. Know that every event, every study, and everything we do as a student ministry will be for the purpose of pointing our students to Christ for growth in knowledge of His will, that they might live fruitful lives for the cause of Christ (Col. 1:9-12).

Sundays & Wednesdays

On Sundays, we are investigating the birth of Jesus Christ through an Advent series in Sunday School at 9:45am. On Wednesdays, we have been gathering at 6pm for worship and studying God's Word in Colossians.

Christmas Party

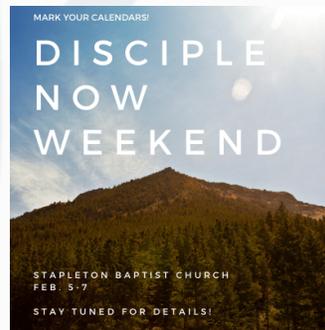
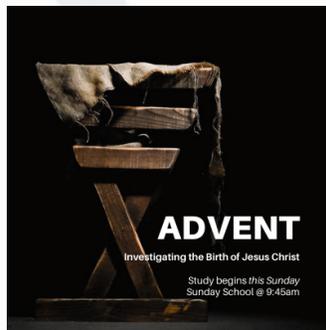
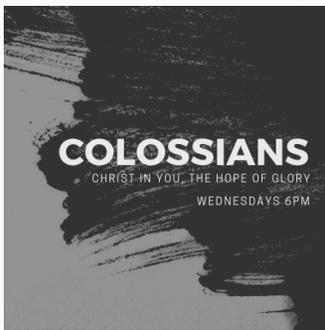
Just a reminder that we'll have a student ministry Christmas party for our 7th-12th graders on Wednesday, December 9th at 6pm. Wear a Christmas sweater, bring a friend, and come for food, games, and fellowship as we get into the Christmas spirit.

DiscipleNow Weekend

2021 is nearly here, which means it's time to start thinking towards the spring. Our student ministry will have a DiscipleNow Weekend on Friday, February 5th-Sunday, February 7th. This in-home weekend retreat will be a time dedicated to worship, Bible study, and growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. Sign up in the youth house on a Wednesday or Sunday. The cost will be \$30 per student. Stay tuned for more details!

Summer Camp

It's hard to believe it, but it's already time to start thinking about summer camp! This year, we'll be going to Generate Camp by YM360 in Shocco Springs June 17th-21st. This camp is designed to help our students know Christ and make Him known more and more through worship, Bible study, and recreational activities. You can sign up for camp on a Wednesday or Sunday in the youth house on the camp sign-up sheet. Spots are limited, so please sign up as soon as possible. A \$50 deposit, due January 24th, will secure your spot. The remaining balance, \$235, will be due by May 9th. If money is an issue, please talk to me and we can figure it out together!



The Thrill of **Hope**

Current Series - Thrill of Hope

At its very core, Christmas is all about hope. It's a hope that originated way back in the Garden of Eden. It's a hope that God would send a Messiah to defeat the power of sin and death.

That hope was realized in the birth of Jesus Christ. It's a hope that changes our lives both now and for all of eternity. **Join us on Sundays in the month of December as we focus on the Advent of Christ.**

Making the most of Advent

Advent:
the coming or arrival of something

What immediately comes to your mind when you think about Christmas? Is it candy-canes, Christmas trees, ornaments, presents, caroling, Santa Clause, time with family, or something else? There are so many fun things that come along with the Christmas season. But as Christians we don't want to let Christmas season overshadow Advent season.

For over 1600 years Christians have taken time in the month of December to celebrate the advent of a particular person: Jesus Christ. Jesus's coming fulfilled thousands of years of hope that God would send a deliverer. That's what this season is really about. Don't miss this opportunity to grow closer to God even in the midst of the holiday bustle.

Of course, Christian growth doesn't happen by accident. It takes intentionality. So how can you purposefully make the most out of this Advent season? Here's a few options:

- **Advent Reading Plan:** there are a plethora of advent reading plans that guide you in Scripture reading each day leading up to December 25 to focus on Christ.
- **Teach your Children:** there are tools available to help parents teach their children about the true meaning of Christmas. Many can be found at www.10ofthose.com
- **Service & Hospitality:** one of the best ways to combat the commercialization of Christmas is to serve and love people during this season in ways that model the very same characteristics of our Savior who was born in a manger.

LOVE GOD LOVE PEOPLE MAKE DISCIPLES

Everything we do as a church revolves around the Great Commandment (Matt. 22:37) and the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20). We sum it up with the three phrases:

LOVE GOD | LOVE PEOPLE | MAKE DISCIPLES

BEING THE BODY

A thank you from the Sibley family

Dear Stapleton Baptist Family,

Tyler and I thought we would only be saying thank you for the outpouring of love you showed us in preparation for Deborah Jane's arrival. Little did we know, God intended for the body of Christ at Stapleton Baptist to shower us with more than sweet baby gifts. We cannot say thank you enough for your faithfulness in praying with us as we welcomed Deborah Jane into the world. God showed up and He showed out through your prayers. We praise Him for the miracle he allowed you all to play a major role in as we were discharged with a healthy baby girl. Then, the Body kept working by organizing a yard cleanup after Hurricane Sally! The yard was so clean, it was hard to believe a devastating hurricane had come through a few days before. Lastly, you all fed us, and you fed us well. We have been able to boast in the body of Christ to friends and family because of you all. I praise God for bringing us to Stapleton Baptist. There are no words to express the impact you made on our lives. Thank you for showing the love of Christ and being the Body. And thank you for the absolutely beautiful baby shower!

Sincerely,

Tyler, Sarah, and Deborah Jane Sibley

3 WAYS TO GIVE



ONLINE GIVING



MOBILE GIVING



CASH/CHECK



STAPLETON
BAPTIST CHURCH

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