



The Laveen Baptist Church Builder

Volume XLVI, Number 11

December 1, 2025

Notes from Harry Sexton, Assoc. Pastor

Merry Christmas Laveen Baptist Church! Like many of you I can hardly wrap my mind around that fact that it's already December and the Christmas season is upon us. 2025 has been an interesting year to say the least but God's goodness has shown through it all. His gifts to us as a congregation have been amazing but of course those gifts all began when He began the creation and set His plan into motion.

When we think about Christmas, we often think about gifts. As a church, we've already put together and shipped out around 100 Christmas shoeboxes filled with items that are going all over the world with the message of Jesus. We also have our annual Angel tree up to help children right here in the Laveen area. A lot of people find the idea of gift giving at Christmas from the scripture in Matthew 2:10-11 which talks about the Magi (wise men) giving gifts to Jesus at His home: "When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh."

The Bible of course tells the wonderful story about the gift God gave us—Jesus Christ—and we can use it as an opportunity to present the gospel and to show love. The giving and receiving of gifts can be part of fulfilling what Paul says about giving in 2 Corinthians 8:7–8, "Just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving. I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others." Paul encouraged the churches to give financial gifts to the believers in need in Jerusalem and stressed that their gifts were to be voluntary and motivated by earnest love. We can apply this same lesson to our own lives by giving to others, not just at Christmas, but all year round!

Can gift giving wrongly become the focus of Christmas instead of thanking the Lord for the gift of His Son (John 3:16)? Of course it can. Does gift giving have to take away from the true meaning of Christmas? No, it doesn't. If we stop to focus on the wonderful gift of salvation that the Lord has given us (Isaiah 9:6), then giving to others becomes a natural expression of that gratitude. The key is our focus. Is your focus on the gift or is it on the ultimate gift-giver, our gracious Heavenly Father? "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights..." (James 1:17).

This church and all of you are an unbelievable gift that God has given to me, and I thank Him for all of you and the opportunity that I have to serve each of you. Thank you for being God's gift in this way.

**In His service,
Pastor Harry**

Notes from the Youth Team

It's Advent. It's the time of year when we anticipate and celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ: when the Creator God of the universe willingly wrapped Himself in a human body and came to experience life on earth just as we do, in all its wonders and miseries. It's when He became "God with us", Immanuel.

According to NASA, our Milky Way galaxy – one of at least 100 billion galaxies in the universe – contains more than 100 billion stars, and our Creator God hung them all in space and called them each by name (Psalm 147:4).

According to the National Academy of Sciences, there are about 28-36 trillion (that's 28 with 12 zeros after it) cells in the human body. Each day, about 330 billion of them die and are replaced as part of the normal cell cycle process. Our Creator God not only created each one of those cells but also preserves each one of us and gives each one of us breath each day

(Hebrews 1:3; Job 12:10).

My human brain cannot fully grasp the immenseness of outer space or the intricacies of the body's inner space. How could I even begin to comprehend the majesty, power, and glory of the God who created them?

And yet, He chose to humble Himself, leave the glory behind, and become like us, and one day, in obedience to the will of the Father, He would die on a cross (Philippians 2:5-8).

So, while we're celebrating the birth of a baby in Bethlehem, let's also celebrate the love that brought Him to earth so that we could see God face to face and have forgiveness of sin and eternal life (John 3:16-17). So that we could have HOPE.

"Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him, and He will act." Psalm 37:5

Wednesdays: Worship and Bible Study; 6pm-8pm

Sunday, December 14th: Bake Sale after the morning service

Wednesday, December 17th: Christmas Celebration; 6pm – 8pm

Wednesday, December 24th: LBC Christmas Eve Service 6:00 pm – NO Youth Bible Study

Wednesday, December 31st: NO Youth Bible Study

Sunday, January 4th: Bonfire Afterglow; 5pm – 7:30pm;

SAVE YOUR LIVE CHRISTMAS TREES FOR THIS



Monthly Meeting
After AM Service
Room 2

Join Us
Dec 14th



LADIES FELLOWSHIP POTLUCK
COOKIE EXCHANGE

Dec. 12th 6:00 pm

Bring your favorite dish to share
More info on the cookie exchange is coming

women's ministry
LAVEEN BAPTIST CHURCH

Notes from the Worship Leader

Church,

On the first day of Christmas, I have an article for you to read. Three paragraphs, two things to say, and a thank you for being my friend (Guess the Christmas Carol).

First, I am excited that it is December and we are at the end of the year. Praise God!! Another year in the books and another year full of memories, challenges, adventures, and blessings. The best part is we have our Lord and Savior who has been with us throughout the year, and His faithfulness is present in our lives. We have seen our Lord's hand, and it is great to know that we have hope in Jesus. In a few days, the world will celebrate His birth, yet we as believers celebrate His birth every day, because the child to be born from a virgin (Isaiah 7:14), would come with a purpose to restore what was broken through sin (Isaiah 9:6). What a beautiful act of love from God. The outcome is even greater, that we can spend an eternal life with Him.

Second, as believers we are not exempt from the challenges, adversities, and the hard times as you are already aware of. The difference is that as believers and followers of Christ we know that we don't face these circumstances alone. Throughout Scripture we see that God's presence was present even when His people didn't think so. God is still present today and we know that when we focus on God, our circumstances become smaller and less impactful (2 Corinthians 4:17-18). Whether we like the outcome or not, His plan is better than ours and His thoughts are better than ours (Isaiah 55:8-9). Church, we serve the living God, who is not limited by time and circumstances. He is with every single one of us who loves Him and surrenders before Him.

I hope you have a wonderful month. Don't forget the Christmas events we have this month. If you are interested in helping, please reach our office. Thank you for being my friend and brother/sister in Christ.

**Merry Christmas,
Cesar Aleman**



Ugly Sweater, Carols & Hot Chocolate
Sun, Dec 14th
5pm
Bldg B

The poster features a green background with white snowflakes and red pine trees. On the left is a red ugly sweater with a yellow bell and a hot chocolate drink with marshmallows. On the right is a stack of decorated cookies.



Laveen Baptist Church
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
6:00 PM

The poster has a dark blue background with yellow stars. It features an illustration of the Nativity scene with Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus in a manger.



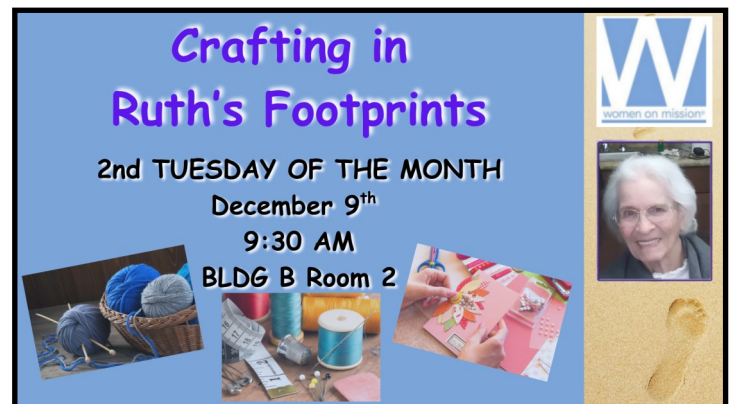
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
December 2025

TOGETHER

THE GREAT PURSUIT - Acts 1:8
Week of Prayer Nov 30th Dec 1st

Our Goal
\$15,000

The poster includes the word 'TOGETHER' in large blue letters, surrounded by various cultural symbols and languages. A small icon of a church building is also present.



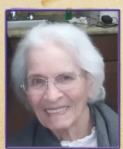
Crafting in Ruth's Footprints
2nd TUESDAY OF THE MONTH
December 9th
9:30 AM
BLDG B Room 2

The poster has a blue background and features images of crafting supplies like yarn and a spool of thread, along with a photo of a woman and a footprint graphic.

UP COMING EVENTS

Crafting in Ruth's Footprints

2nd TUESDAY OF THE MONTH
December 9th
9:30 AM
BLDG B Room 2



W women on mission

LBC's Student Ministry Bake Sale

After AM Service



Sunday December 14th

Cash Sales Only please

Be A Child's Angel this Christmas

Pick your TAG starting Nov. 23rd
& fill out the sign-up sheet



**Gifts Due:
Dec. 7th**



Office Closed

Thur., December 25th

Merry
CHRISTMAS



Office Closed

**Thursday
January 1st**

Happy New Year



25th Annual Laveen Parade
Sat, Jan. 31st

Sign up to help or walk by scanning the QR code or by signing up in Bldg. B



-Help is needed to design & build our float
-Volunteers needed to Walk in the parade

Budget Business Meeting

December 7, 2025
Following AM Service

All Church Member to VOTE on Budget



Chili Cook-Off & Testimony Night

Sun, Jan 11th @ 5:00 pm
Beginning in the Sanctuary

Please bring chili to Bldg B by 4:45 pm



DECEMBER

1 st	Seyla Fearn	9 th	Dana Desko	17 th	Emma Ruacho
	Franklin James		Donna Razo	26 th	Marilyn Reynolds
	Adela Ponce	11 th	Paul Brooke	27 th	Isola Jones
3 rd	Hannah Marie Mills	13 th	Jhamiel Phan	29 th	Antonio Becerra
5 th	Melinda Brooke	14 th	Sofia Ruacho	29 th	Joseph Razo
	Lincoln Pulley	15 th	Donna Pulley		Madison Roldan
6 th	Scott Martin		Faith Teferra		
7 th	Della Nicholson		Ruth Yiannou		



DECEMBER

8 th	Darrel & MaLinda Johanning
23 rd	Andy & Michelle Harry

We Want To Hear From You:

E-mail prayer requests to: lbc@laveenbaptistchurch.org

Call us at: 602-237-4885

See what's happening & Register for events:

www.laveenbaptistchurch.org





December



Regular Events

SEPTEMBER - MAY

SUNDAY

Sunday School Classes	9:00 am
Fellowship	10:00 am
Worship Service	10:15 am

MONDAY

AM Ladies Bible Study will resume in Jan 2026

TUESDAY

Victorious Overcomers Support Group	6:30 pm
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WEDNESDAY

Dinner	5:00pm
Adventure Club	6:00 pm
Youth Bible Study	6:00 pm
Prayer Hour	6:00 pm
Ladies PM Bible Study, room 3	7:00 pm
Men's Bible Study, room 2	7:00 pm

THURSDAY

GriefShare (August 7th - November 6th)	10:00 am
College/Young Adult Bible Study -off Campus	6:30 pm
AA Meeting	6:30 pm

FRIDAY

AA Meeting	6:30 pm
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Special Events

DECEMBER

Dec 7th - Lords Supper

Annual Budget Business Meeting (after AM service)

Dec 9 th - Crafting in Ruth's Footprints	9:30 am
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Dec 12 th - Ladies Fellowship Potluck	6:00 pm
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Dec 14 th - Mission Committee Meeting	11:30 am
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Dec 14 th - Carols & Hot Chocolate	5 pm
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Dec 24th & 31st – NO Events on campus



Welcome New Members



Gayle Mellone

11-09-2025



Sean

11-13-2025