

**AND THE PEOPLE CAME...**

- Week of November 23, 2025 -

Sunday School -----	15
Sunday Morning Service -----	34
Sunday Eve. Service -----	31

**AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...**

- Week of November 23, 2025 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$	691.42
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund -----	\$	145.35
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 11/23/25:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>836.77</b>

- Week of November 16, 2025 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$	988.08
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 11/16/25:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>988.08</b>

- Week of November 9, 2025 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$	2,400.96
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund -----	\$	145.35
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 11/09/25:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,546.31</b>

- Week of November 2, 2025 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$	1,354.94
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund -----	\$	145.35
Children;'s S. S. Missionary -----	\$	2.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 11/02/25:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,502.29</b>

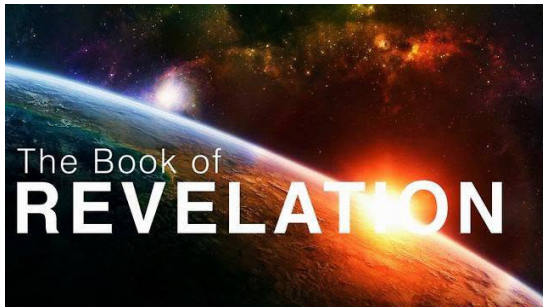
- Week of October 26, 2025 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$	1,481.04
Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund -----	\$	145.35
Audio/Visual Ministry -----	\$	5.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 10/26/25:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,631.39</b>

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed for church operating expenses **EACH WEEK**, as a **minimum** = \$ **1,700.00**



**DON'T FORGET TO BE HERE TONIGHT AS WE CONTINUE TO STUDY -**



**WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED**

1. Admit that you are a sinner.
2. Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.
3. Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.
4. You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).
5. By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, Who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.

**LISTEN TO -**



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**SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH  
23 EAST WELLS BOULEVARD  
SAPULPA, OKLAHOMA  
SOUTHHEIGHTSBAPTIST.COM**

**SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:**

**Sundays -**

- 9:45 a.m. ----- Sunday School
- 10:50 a.m. ----- Morning Service
- 6:30 p.m. ----- Evening Service

**Wednesdays -**

- 7:00 p.m. ----- Evening Service

**Bi-Monthly -**

- 11:00 a.m. or 5:00 p.m. ----- Ladies Bible Study  
- 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month

**Church Directory**

Todd W. White -----	Pastor
Debra Carlton, Mickie Shatwell -----	Pianists
Derek Quinnelly -----	Greeter
Shirley White; Berdena Bergman/Debra Carlton; Daniel Avery/GiGi Avery; Derek Quinnelly/Larry Byars -----	Teachers
Larry & Mary Byars -----	Outreach
GinaMarie Shufelt -----	Ladies Bible Study/Flowers
Seth White -----	Sound/Video
Larry Byars, Derek Quinnelly, Daniel Avery -----	Trustees

**REMINDER**



**What About Santa Claus?**

Every year, many sincere Christians ask their pastors, "What's wrong with telling your kids that Santa Claus is real?"

Once I was asked this question by a member of a church I pastored at the time. After a lengthy discussion, I didn't get very far. It seems that I could not get across to this person that it is not acceptable to lie to our children for any reason. Nor could I make clear the plain truth that, later in life, Satan could easily deceive a child by using the fact that his parents lied to him about Santa Claus to make him doubt whether or not they lied to him about Jesus Christ.

Though well meaning, I am certain that our sweet member left feeling that I was some sort of an extremist nut. I left that conversation feeling as though I had failed to communicate effectively the need to keep the real reason we celebrate Christmas - to commemorate Christ's birth - in the forefront of the holiday season.

A few days later, I came across this little article by the late Dr. Bill Rice. It is reprinted here by permission for your edification. Perhaps Dr. Bill will do a better job of presenting these truths than did I.

**Should Children Be Taught About Santa Claus, Easter Bunnies and Good Fairies?**

**Q:** I have a problem that in recent days has caused me to question my stand.

I was raised in a Christian home and have been saved for several years. My husband is an unsaved church member and doesn't take a stand for or against anything.

I have never taught our children to believe Santa Claus brings Christmas presents or that good fairies leave money for teeth. To me, Christmas is the start of a home in Heaven. I could not believe Christ died if I did not believe He was born. I have received lots of laughs and criticism for this belief. I never paid it any thought until our music director, a student of a great Bible college, laughed and told me how silly I was not to tell my children about Santa Claus, etc.

How do you feel? How did you teach your family when they were growing up? Can I teach my children to love and serve God if I also teach them things that I must tell lots of lies about?

**A:** My good friend, you are another who is going to cause me a lot of trouble! When I answer this, I'm going to get letters from irate preachers, angry parents, and outraged businessmen. If ever in my life I have wished I were a man of tact, I wish it now. But I do not know any honest way to answer your letter that will also sound kind and make everyone love me.

So - you ask a plain question, and you deserve a plain answer, and here it is -

Any Christian who teaches little children the fable that there is a Santa Claus is, at best, incredibly thoughtless and shallow.

(continued inside)

How blind one must be not to realize that the Christian who tells children about Santa Claus is bypassing the Gospel of Christ that brings salvation just as much as a modernist (liberal) who teaches that the Bible story is not true.

Surely nothing could please Satan more than for Christians to talk about Santa Claus, Easter bunnies, and good fairies rather than about Jesus Christ.

## ***The Devil Wanted A Detour***

Satan tried to keep Jesus from going to the cross in the first place. On the Mount of Temptation, Satan offered Christ the kingdoms of the world without a crucifixion. In the Garden of Gethsemane, I believe Satan tried to kill Jesus and thus prevent His going to the cross. When Simon Peter insisted that Jesus should not die, the Saviour significantly said, **“Get thee behind me, Satan.”**

The idea that Jesus should not die on the cross for sinners was clearly of the Devil.

## ***Substituting Something Good for the Gospel***

Today, Satan wants to substitute something else for the Gospel of Christ.

Perhaps the most beautiful story ever told is the true story of how Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary in the little town of Bethlehem. Angels sang to the shepherds to announce the Saviour’s birth. Surely there is no more beautiful story in all the world than this. Christmas is the day set aside by Christians to commemorate this great event.



But, little by little, the fictitious story of Santa Claus has become a tradition. In many places it has been substituted for the true story of the birth of Christ. In almost all places, it is at least on an equal with the story of Jesus. One may walk down

the streets of a great city at Christmastime and hear “Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer” sung in the same collection with “O Little Town of Bethlehem.”

Many Christian parents tell their children the Santa Claus fable because it is a cute story and an entertaining one. Many do not dream that they are actually aiding the Devil by substituting a lie for the truth. Parents tell the Santa Claus fable lightheartedly while telling themselves that Junior will soon realize that it is not a true story, and when he is older he will understand that the Santa Claus fable was just a beautifully-told tale and not the truth.

So, what harm is done? A great deal. ***Every time the Santa***

***Claus story is told - the true story of Jesus is NOT told!*** And the emphasis is on Santa Claus rather than on Christ.

After all, how many times have you ever heard someone ask a little child, “What will you be given for Christmas in Jesus’ name?” Actually, I doubt if I have ever heard that question in all my life! But I have heard, “What is Santa Claus going to bring you for Christmas?”

There certainly no honor to Jesus Christ in that!

I certainly do not object to the giving of gifts to loved ones at Christmastime. I love Christmas and think it is fitting and right for us to give gifts to our loved ones in the spirit of Christ who gave Himself for us; but I am dead set against telling little children that gifts come from Santa Claus when the Bible says, **“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights . . .” (James 1:17).**

## ***What About Easter?***

Easter is a day on which Christians commemorate the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The importance of His resurrection is absolutely impossible to overestimate or over-realize. Paul wrote in ***1 Corinthians 15:16-19:***

**“For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.”**

How foolish, then, for any Christian to add silly stories of the Easter Bunny laying eggs right along with the true and vitally important story of Jesus being raised from the dead! Easter ought not to be a time when the primary thoughts of any Christian have to do with Easter eggs, colored chicks, baby ducks, little rabbits or new clothes. Even though the stories may be cute and the clothes attractive, we are shallow to allow ourselves to be duped by Satan to share the Gospel story with these things.

## ***Any Substitute Suits Satan***

Just about anything that is used as a substitute for the Gospel is satisfactory to Satan.

It must be a matter of great satisfaction to Satan that many orthodox churches have become so engrossed with satined-glass windows, a beautiful “sanctuary” and a stiff, formal service that soul winning is no longer on the agenda.

Not only should a Christian be careful always to tell the truth - and stories about Santa Claus, Easter rabbits, and good fairies are definitely not truthful - but he ought to be careful never to let anything detract from the story of Christ. □

### ***NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS***

♣ ***MAINE JUDGE BANS A MOTHER FROM TAKING HER DAUGHTER TO CHURCH AND READING THE BIBLE WITH HER*** - The following is excerpted from **“Maine judge rules,” Standing for Freedom, Nov. 20, 2025:**

“A single mother’s fundamental right to raise her child in her Christian faith is now before Maine’s highest court, and legal advocates say the outcome could have ramifications for the rest of the country. On November 13, the Maine Supreme Judicial Court heard oral arguments in *Bickford v. Bradeen*, a case in which the mother, Emily Bickford, is appealing a custody ruling that barred her from taking her 12-year-old daughter to church, reading the Bible with her, or even associating with members of the church she attends. Mat Staver, founder and chairman for Liberty Counsel, which is representing Bickford, argued that the lower court’s order represents an unprecedented incursion on both parental rights and religious freedom. The order granted the father, Matthew Bradeen, sole authority to decide all religious and spiritual matters for the minor child, effectively giving him a veto over her Christian upbringing. ... the district court judge, a former president of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), concluded that Bickford’s daughter experienced ‘psychological harm; through her attendance at Calvary Chapel Portland, a Bible-teaching, non-denominational church. The court relied heavily on testimony from a self-described ‘cult expert’ who labeled the church’s teachings on spiritual warfare, fallen angels, and doctrinal certainty as ‘cultic’ and potentially harmful.

... U.S. precedent has long affirmed the authority of parents to instruct their children in morals and faith. In the landmark case *Troxel v. Granville*, for example, the U.S. Supreme Court held that the interest of parents in the care, custody, and control of their children ‘is perhaps the oldest of the fundamental liberty interests recognized by this Court.’”

### ***Let Your Light Shine...***

In a certain mountain village in Europe several centuries ago, a nobleman wondered what legacy he should leave to his townspeople. At last, he decided to build them a church.

No one saw the complete plans for the church until it was finished. When the people gathered, they marveled at its beauty and completeness. Then someone asked, “But where are the lamps? How will it be lighted?”

The nobleman pointed to some brackets in the walls. Then he gave to each family a lamp which they were to bring with them each time they came to worship.

“Each time you are here the area where you are seated will be lighted,” the nobleman said. “Each time you are not here, that area will be dark. This is to remind you that whenever you fail to come to church, some part of God’s house will be dark.”

### ***WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?***

There are three main millennial views among Christians and these three views may be found among Baptists. Most of my Baptist family call themselves either Postmillennialist, Amillennialistic, or Premillennialist. There are also some subdivisions in each of these three groups.

While the word “millennium” is not found in the Bible, it comes from the Latin, “mill” meaning a thousand and “annum” meaning a year, thus 1,000 years or millennium. The Old

Testament speaks of this as a coming kingdom and Revelation 20 refers to a 1,000 years, thus the millennium.

The POSTMILLENNIALIST, for the most part, believes that through the preaching of the gospel we will win the world to Christ and will experience a wonderful period of peace and prosperity for 1,000 years. At the end of the 1,000 years Jesus will return for a general resurrection and general judgment of all the dead both saved and lost.

The AMILLENNIALIST, for the most part, believes there will be no future literal earthly kingdom of Christ but that His kingdom is now as He reigns in the life of believers and at the end of the age, He will come personally for a general resurrection of all the dead followed by a general judgment of all, followed by the eternal states of heaven and hell.

Amillennialists generally hold that the prophecies in the Scriptures concerning a future kingdom for Israel are fulfilled spiritually in the church.

We PREMILLENNIALIST usually believe that Jesus will come personally, at an unknown time, in the air to catch away His blood bought believers before the time of Tribulation begins upon the earth. Following this meeting in the air, the seven years of Tribulation will begin upon earth. Following the Tribulation, Jesus will come to the earth and establish His millennial kingdom and reign for 1,000 years.

Among PREMILLENNIALIST there are three basic theories concerning the time of the rapture:

- (1) Pre-tribulation rapture;
- (2) Mid-Tribulation rapture; and,
- (3) Post-tribulation rapture.

Those who believe in a Pre-tribulation rapture place it at Rev. 4:1. Those who hold to a Mid-tribulation rapture place it at Rev. 11:11-12 when the two prophets ascend to heaven. Those who hold to a Post-tribulation rapture place it at Rev. 16:15 following the bowl judgments.

While I am a PREMILLENNIALIST!, I am not the final authority and if the Lord does close this age in a way that differs from my viewpoint I can assure you that I will have no objection I am not looking for a future EVENT! I am looking for a PERSON, that person is the Lord Jesus Christ, the blessed Savior who loved me and washed me from my sin in His own blood.

*- from the pen of the late Bill Dudley, longtime Baptist pastor*



***THIS THURSDAY, 12/4/25, 4 PM***