

November 23, 2015

the SPIRE



Celebrating
190
years



The Road to Bethlehem - Advent 2015

This Advent we explore the cities and main characters associated with the Christmas story: from Nazareth to Bethlehem, from Mary and Joseph to the shepherds and the wise men. By gaining a greater understanding of the historical and geographic aspects of the story, we will deepen our context of the story of Jesus' birth and deepen our spiritual quest for new life.

Worship

November 29

Introduction of our Advent theme and the annual Hanging of the Greens - a great day of preparation for the coming of Christ.

December 6

Share in the joy of the Advent season through music, message and communion.

December 13

During the 11:15 hour, our worship will be enhanced by music of the season, as the Chancel Choir presents portions of Vivaldi's most recognized work, "Gloria."

December 20

The final Sunday prior to Christmas - a wonderful opportunity to ready heart and mind for the coming Christ.

December 24

The most beautiful worship service of the year - join us for special music, the Christmas story, communion, and the joyous candlelight service to remind us that Christ has come and will come again.





CommunityNews



It is hard to believe that next Sunday, November 29, during worship, is the Hanging of the Green at First Baptist. It is the beginning of Advent, the first season of the Christian year, which leads up to Christmas and the celebration of the birth of Jesus. I hope you will make an extra effort to be in worship during Advent to celebrate the coming of the Christ child and to enjoy the beauty of our worship spaces which are so lovingly adorned for Advent. If there is someone you have been considering inviting to church, Advent is a great time of year to invite people! The stories and music of Advent are accessible even for people who may not have a church background.

Before we get to Advent, most of us will pause to celebrate Thanksgiving. I find it interesting that even families who are not very religious, pray on Thanksgiving. Along with turkey, parades, family and football, prayer is part of the ritual of Thanksgiving. Maybe it is because one of the definitions of the word Thanksgiving is "a prayer expressing gratitude" or maybe it is because the holiday has some religious roots. Throughout history, people would gather in the fall to thank God for a successful harvest. Either way, prayer is a part of the holiday. As you get ready for Thanksgiving, take some time to thank God for the many ways that God has sustained you this year. Here are a few Thanksgiving Prayers for use around the dinner table:

Moravian Blessing

Come, Lord Jesus, our guest to be
And bless these gifts
Bestowed by Thee.
And bless our loved ones everywhere,
And keep them in Your loving care.

We Give Thanks

God in Heaven,
We give thanks for the gift
Of gathering together for this occasion.
We give thanks for this food
Prepared by loving hands.
We give thanks for life,
The freedom to enjoy it all
And all other blessings.
As we partake of this food,
We pray for health and strength
To carry on and try to live as You would have us.
This we ask in the name of Christ,
Our Heavenly Father.
— Harry Jewell

And just for fun a Humorous Thanksgiving Prayer

When turkey's on the table laid,
And good things I may scan,
I'm thankful that I wasn't made
A vegetarian.
— Edgar A. Guest

Carin McEntyre

Prayers & Concerns:

Julie Anson has been ill and she is recovering at the Neighborhoods.

Bob Smith is in rehab at the Neighborhoods.

Barry Kausler is undergoing chemotherapy treatments for colon cancer.

Marsha Randell is undergoing treatment for cancer.

Celebrations:

Sam and Crystal Henley are expecting a baby.

Marriage of
Meryl McCampbell
and **Taylor Homoky**
on November 14.



Needs and Seeds

The youth ministry is in need of an upright vacuum cleaner if someone has one that could be donated. Please contact Michael at mmcentyre@fbc-columbia.org if you might be able to help.

UpcomingEvents



Concerts

December 4 – Odyssey Chamber Music Series 7:00 pm

December 5 – Chordbusters Barbershop 6:00 pm

December 6 – UMC Women's Chorus 2:00 pm
UMC Concert Chorale 5:00 pm

December 10 – Columbia Handbell Ensemble 7:00 pm

The Columbia Handbell Ensemble Winter Concerts will be presented on Dec 10 and 13 in the First Baptist Church sanctuary at 7 and 3pm respectively. This nationally recognized group will be play seasonal works of Tchaikovsky, familiar carols, and the uproarious "The Twelve Days After Christmas." Tickets may be reserved with Madison in the church office, or by contacting Noah Hartsfield or Ed Rollins.

December 12– Columbia Civic Orchestra 4:00 pm

The Columbia Civic Orchestra and the Perlman-Stoy School of Ballet present scenes from Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite, Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride" and Rimsky-Korsakov's fabulous "Suite for Christmas Eve." The concert begins at 4 pm. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$5 for students, and may be reserved at <http://cco.missouri.org/> or purchased at the door.

December 13 – Columbia Handbell Ensemble 3:00 pm

Ann Judson Christian Action Circle

Mary Lou Spradling and Esther Rollins invite the Ann Judson Christian Action Circle ladies and guests to Esther Rollins' home for a Christmas cookie fellowship on Thursday, **December 3** at 1:00 pm.

Young Adult (and 30-Somethings) Gathering

The next young adult gathering (20-30 ish) will be at the Wyatt home on Friday, **December 11** at 5:30 pm. Please bring a snack to share! RSVP to Sherry Wyatt at: sherrywyatrn@juno.com. Please let Sherry know if you need childcare (provided at First Baptist) by December 5.

Parties & Holiday Cheer

December 6

Pageant Rehearsal
4:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

College Christmas Party
6:00 pm at the McEntyre residence

December 12

Pageant Rehearsal
10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall

December 13

Church Wide Christmas Dinner & Pageant
6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall

December 20

Staff Open House
3:00 - 5:00 pm at the McEntyre residence

December 20

Youth Christmas Party
5:30 pm at the McEntyre residence



SAVE THE DATE
December 12, 2015

Come join the fun as we "shower" the newest addition to our church family, Baby Girl McEntyre!

Invitation to follow quickly!

— Christine Chang, Diana Groshong,
Sue Hammann



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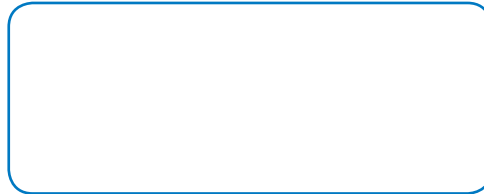
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Poinsettias

During Advent, the First Baptist sanctuary and fellowship hall will be filled with beautiful poinsettias. If you would like to place one or more of these festive plants in memory of, or in honor of, a family member or friend, please fill out the envelope form and return it to the church office (or place in the offering plate) along with \$10 for each poinsettia you order. **Orders may be made until November 29.**



Child Development Center Holiday Parade

You are invited to join CDC in the Holiday Parade on Sunday, **November 22** at 3 p.m. Alumni, current and future CDC children are welcome. Call Ms. Debby Riley at (573) 443-7677 if you would like to participate.

Enjoy a Child-Free Morning to Holiday Shop

The CDC staff is excited to offer 2 hours of holiday shopping time...without children!

Saturday, **December 12** 9:00-11:00 a.m. at CDC.

Cost is \$10 per child.

Call the CDC Office to sign up 573-443-7677

Happy Thanksgiving

The church office will be closed on Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27.