

December 9, 2015

Celebrating
190
years

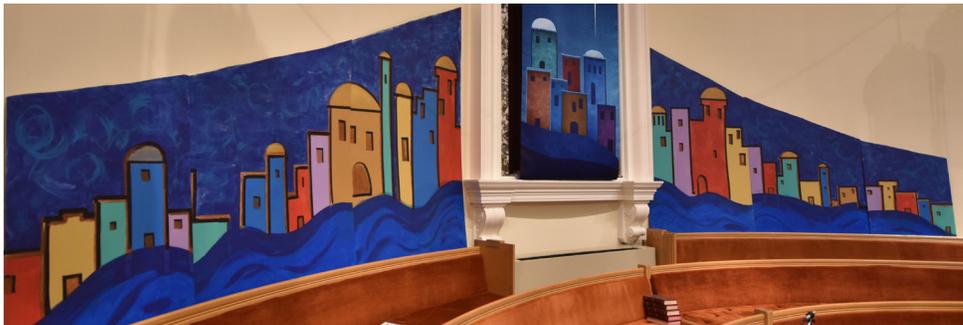
the SPIRE



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.



Worship

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 as we retrace Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

December 24

The most beautiful worship service of the year - join us at 11:00 pm for special music, the Christmas story, communion, and the joyous candlelight service to remind us that Christ has come and will come again.





CommunityNews



Sometimes, I feel overwhelmed by the violence in our world. Mass shootings and terrorist attacks bring to mind the line from the Christmas hymn "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day:"

"And in despair I bowed my head:
'There is no peace on earth, ' I said."

From 1861 to 1865, the Civil War ravaged America. The country was bitterly divided and averaging an astounding 504 casualties per day. In the midst of all this strife, Henry Longfellow suffered the additional heartache of losing his wife in a house fire. His injuries from the fire were so severe that he was unable to attend her funeral. Life must have seemed very bleak.

On Christmas Day 1863, Longfellow traveled to D.C. to be with his eldest son who been severely injured in the war. When he arrived, he heard the Christmas bells and people singing of "peace on earth" (Luke 2:14). In sharp contrast to this optimistic outlook, he observed a world of injustice and violence. He thought it seemed to mock the truthfulness of the gospel. In response to the dissonance in his own heart, he wrote the poem "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day." Throughout the poem, the theme of listening to the bells occurs and this eventually leads to a settledness of confident hope even in the midst of despair. He victoriously proclaims, "God is not dead, nor doth He sleep; the wrong shall fail, the right prevail, with peace on earth, good will to men."

It is a great reminder especially this Christmas that good will win in the end and Christ will triumph. You can read the whole poem below:

I heard the bells on Christmas day

Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

I thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along through broken song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head:
'There is no peace on earth, ' I said
'For hate is strong, and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.'

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
'God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men.'

Till, ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

Prayers & Concerns:

Joyce Riley is at Boone Hospital.

Nelda McCrory had a mild stroke and is at Boone Hospital for rehab.

Julie Anson has been ill; 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 had a PET scan that showed a new, larger malignancy in her liver. She may start a different chemo regiment to try to shrink it, with hopefully minimal side effects.

Celebrations:

Lexie Kieffer, and her college choir at Belmont, will have their "Christmas at Belmont" concert special air nationwide on PBS on December 21 and 24. Check your local listings for times.



CommunityNews

Special Mission Offering: Total

Thank you for your generosity toward the Special Missions Offering for American Baptist Relief Work. This year our Serving Team issued a challenge to our congregation: we set aside \$1,000 as a matching gift for contributions given for our annual offering to the American Baptist Churches-USA. Our congregation not only met this gift, but exceeded it by more than we could possibly imagine. This week, First Baptist issued a check for \$4,308 to support ABC missions work and relief efforts around the world, including ministry to those displaced by the crisis in Syria. Thank you for supporting our mission partners and God's work around the world.



Trustee Actions

1. A thirty foot chain link fence has been added to the south end of our parking lot to discourage pedestrians from walking down to the alley by way of the "rock hill" between our parking lot and First Presbyterian's lot. This safety change was completed to help eliminate the risk of falling and injury.
2. The Trustees have approved a revision to the First Baptist Wedding Policy. A number of minor changes have been made, and one more significant change to ensure that a coordinator/representative of the church is always available for assistance and supervision.
3. Roof work on the flat roof at the base of the spire is set to begin at any time.

2016 Pledges

More than Enough

Pledges for the 2016 general operating budget have been coming in steadily since our November combined worship pledge walk. To date, 60 pledges have been received totaling \$245,687. If you have not yet been able to return your pledge for 2016, pledge cards are available at each entrance of our worship spaces. We are hoping to reach \$280,000 in pledges.



Child Development Center

Auction Update—
A "BIG THANK YOU" to our First Baptist Church family for donating and bidding on the Child Development Center's Email Auction.

Through your generous support we were able to raise \$2,496.50. The monies raised will help enhance CDC's programs.



CDC school and office will be closed December 21-January 1

Holiday Hours

The church office will be closed on December 24 -25 and December 31 - January 1.

Upcoming Events

Concerts

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

Fellowship Adventures

Join us for dinner and a tour of Christmas Lights!

This time of year, my husband, Mark, and I have always loved seeing the Christmas lights and decorations around Columbia. We thought it would be fun to tour them together. Therefore, Fellowship Adventures will gather on **December 26** at 5:00 pm at Olive Garden for dinner followed by a tour of Christmas lights around town. Depending on how many people sign up, we may rent a van. Please RSVP to Paula Thomas by December 18 at paulalou52@gmail.com. If you don't drive at night, let us know and we will pick you up. Merry Christmas from the Fellowship Team!

–Paula Thomas

Annual Business Meeting

Save the Date for the Annual Business Meeting on Sunday, **January 17**.

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



Parties & Holiday Cheer

December 12
Pageant Rehearsal
10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall

December 13
Church Wide Christmas Dinner & Pageant
6:00 pm in the 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



Upcoming Events

Young Adult (+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).

Winter Weather Cancellation Policy

Should snow, ice, or other inclement weather fall on the weekend, Sunday morning Awakening Worship and Small Groups will be canceled; we will join together in one combined 11:15 am worship service. On the weekdays, our policy is to cancel all events if Columbia Public Schools are canceled. Notification will be made on the church facebook page or at these local media stations: KFRU (1400 AM), KPLA (101.5 FM) Zimmer Radio Groups, KOMU-TV8, and KMIZ-TV17. We will be listed as First Baptist Church-Columbia.

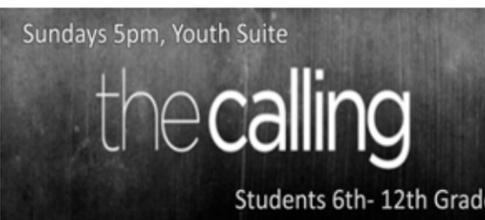
Students



You are invited to the Youth Christmas Party at the McEntyre's

It's hard to believe Christmas is almost here and this is a party you won't want to miss. **Sunday night, Dec. 20th from 5:00- 7:00pm** all youth and parents are invited to the McEntyre's house for the festivities (Youth are asked to bring Christmas goodies to share). Youth and adults are encouraged to wear the tackiest Christmas outfits they can find. Prizes will be given to two students who have the best outfits. Youth (and parents if you would like to play) are also asked to bring a \$5-10 gift to go under the tree for the craziest gift exchange you've ever seen. Great gift ideas include gift cards, movie passes, crazy toys, fun games, and favorite foods. Youth are encouraged to be creative, you want people to want your gift. All gifts need to be appropriate and respectful. In other words, don't bring something you wouldn't want yourself! All gifts should be wrapped or put in a bag so they can't be seen. This is going to be a fun night, as always, friends are welcome to come (just make sure they bring a gift for the exchange).

It's the season to **ROCK YOUR TACKY TACKY CHRISTMAS PARTY**



The Calling will not meet in December. December 13 is the Church-wide Christmas party and December 20 is the youth Christmas party (from 5:00-7:00 pm at the McEntyre's). The Calling will start back on **January 10** with a trip to Laser Lanes for bowling and fun. Merry Christmas.



Welcome New Members

Sachiko and Charles Cantrell (right) met "long, long ago in a faraway land" while he was an exchange student. After living in Columbia for three years while Charles completed law school at Mizzou, they have, for the past 30 plus years, resided in Charles' hometown of Mountain View, Missouri. Their two daughters, Anna and Sarah, grew up in Mountain View while spending summers with Sachiko and their relatives in Japan. Charles and Sachiko enjoy many outdoor activities as well as reading and traveling, including regular trips to visit their daughters in South Carolina and San Francisco. Both have been Christian and Baptist for many years and continue to be involved with Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in various ways.



Anne and David Gifford (left) moved to Columbia from Fort Worth, Texas in June, 2014. Anne's father was a colonel in the USAF serving at SAC bases so she is from "everywhere." David is a Missouri native and lived in Columbia "many" years ago where he attended medical school. David practiced gastroenterology for 10 years in Mexico, MO and then in the Fort Worth area for over 20 years before retiring. Anne has worked as an ICU & Recovery Room nurse as well as in management & consulting roles and as a hospital chaplain. Anne is currently working under a federal research grant as a Family Reunification Consultant for Texas Prison Re-Entry programs. David did graduate work in Biblical studies at SWBTS and has taught Bible classes in multiple Baptist & Methodist churches. His focus is on the text in its original setting as a way to better grasp and understand God's Word as it is received today.



Baby Shower Invitation

You are invited to a baby shower to welcome the newest member of the McEntyre family. A beautiful baby girl from China will be joining the McEntyre family (and our First Baptist family) in the spring of 2016.

We will honor them with gifts of love and loving gifts for the new addition to their family. Gifts of money to assist them with their two to three week trip to China to meet and bond with their new daughter will be appreciated.

(Checks may be made to either the McEntyre family or to First Baptist Church - please indicate "McEntyre Baby Shower" on the memo line.) Also needed are the following items:

Car Seat (could be a joint gift), 6 to 9 month dresses (she is just 13 pounds), tights, under shirts and socks, diapers (disposable), onesies, pants and shirts, etc. You get the idea. They need girlie things! Even a new blanket for the crib.

Her room in her new home will be lavender/purple with butterflies.

Hosted by Christine Chang, Diana Groshong and Sue Hammann

If you plan to attend, please R.S.V.P. to Sue Hammann at cshammann@gmail.com or 445-0167 by December 7.

Date: Saturday, December 12 Time: 2:00 – 4:00 pm Place: First Baptist Fellowship Hall

Recent Events

Habitat for Humanity Dedication

Congratulations to Pastor Nene Peter (pastor of our African Worship Service) and his family on moving into their new home. A special thanks to those who helped work on the house and to those who came for the dedication. It was a great day as members from each of our congregations came by to pray over the new home and enjoy the celebration. Blessings to Nene and his family.



Hanging of the Green

Both the Awakening and Traditional services enjoyed a special time of preparing our worship spaces for the Advent season. Thanks to all who helped decorate and climb the ladders to add ornaments to the tree. Special thanks to the painters and set up crew led by Brenda Rice. Assistants included Jennifer Showalter, Ken Hammann, Don Sewell, Larry and Esther Rollins and Glen Machlan.



Ministerial Staff:

Carol McEntyre, Senior Pastor
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Ed Rollins, Associate Pastor
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Michael McEntyre, Associate Pastor
of Youth, College & Missions
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Yvette Chambers, Director of Children's Ministry
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Nene Peter, African Minister
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Rubin Byishimo, African Worship Leader
byrubin@yahoo.fr

Music Staff:

Colleen Ostercamp, Organist
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Alex Bennett, Awakening Worship Coor.
abzandercole1@gmail.com

Child Development Center:
Debra Riley, CDC Director
cdcdirector@fbc-columbia.org

Support Staff:

Madison Reynolds, Administrative Assistant
churchinfo@fbc-columbia.org

Brenda Rice, Project Coordinator
brice@fbc-columbia.org

Glenn Owings, Custodian

“Return Service Requested”

Christmas Dinner and Pageant

Sunday night, **December 13** at 6:00 pm is First Baptist's annual Christmas Dinner. Get ready for a lovely meal with turkey, ham and fresh rolls provided by the church and wonderful side dishes and desserts provided by you, First Baptist! This year's dinner will feature fabulous Jazz music by our very own Cole Kieffer and his band A-Frame Trio. And you don't want to miss the Christmas Pageant called "Listen" directed by Anne Bills and Debbie Jacobs.

(Below: Angels and Wise Guys from the 2014 Christmas Dinner.)



Staff Open House

On Sunday, **December 20** from 3:00-5:00 pm, the First Baptist staff is hosting an open house at the home of Michael and Carol McEntyre at 1604 Brady Place. As a staff, we feel grateful to serve at First Baptist. This is our way of saying, "Thank you." Thank you First Baptist for being so good to us and for making our job easy!