

November 29, 2017

the SPIRE



First Baptist Church
columbia



Christmas Celebrations

Hangings of the Greens

Sunday, December 3 is the first Sunday of Advent. At both worship services, we will hang the traditional greens to complete the decoration of the Fellowship Hall and the sanctuary for the season. This is a wonderful time for the First Baptist family and friends to begin the Advent journey together.

Christmas Dinner

Sunday evening, December 10 from 5-8 pm is First Baptist's annual Christmas dinner. Come prepared for a lovely meal with turkey, ham, and beverages provided by the church, and wonderful side dishes and desserts prepared by you and your First Baptist friends.



First Baptist celebrates the annual church Christmas dinner in 2015.

Breaking News!

Our dinner this year will feature "Breaking News!," a newscast of events that happened on the night of Jesus' birth presented by First Kids. The children will rehearse Sunday, December 3 at 4 pm in the sanctuary. There will also be an extra fun bonus rehearsal on Saturday, December 9 from 9:30-11 am.

Staff Open House

On Wednesday, December 20 from 3-6 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!

Christmas Eve Worship

The ultimate celebration will be the Christmas Eve worship service, the most beautiful hour of the year. We celebrate the coming of Christ with the singing of carols, the telling of the Christmas story, and the tradition of sharing the light with candles to the strains of "Silent Night." The service is a wonderful "homecoming" for all. It's also the easiest time to invite others to worship with you, so bring family and friends to join in worship in the sanctuary at 11 pm.





The Value of Family Rituals

How do we pass on our faith to children? This is a question that parents and pastors care deeply about. We want our children to know and love God as much as we do. We want them to have moral grounding and to have a faith that will carry them through life's difficulties. But what is the best way to communicate faith? Faith that sticks is best caught, not just taught. Which means we need to ask, how do we make our faith contagious?

Rituals can help. Thomas Groome, the director of the Institute of Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry at Boston College, gives some great examples. He suggests that the family table is a great place to start. Consider beginning the meal with a simple prayer exercise like this one: "Let's all pick one thing to say thank you to Holy God for." Or establish a bed time ritual - every night before your kids go to sleep, put your arms around them and say, "God loves you. I love you. Sleep well." Groome writes, "Do that every night for the next ten years, and you'll have children knowing they are deeply loved by their parents and by God."



I would add another suggestion to his list. Create family faith rituals around the seasons of the church year. This is one of the reasons the church staff wanted to do an intergenerational Advent Wreath workshop. Our hope was that families would create an Advent Wreath that they would pull out and use each Christmas season year after year. Consider placing your wreath on your dining room table. Before you eat each night, light the appropriate candle and say a prayer. Rituals help ground children in the faith. If you use your Advent Wreath in home worship for the next 10 years, then when your kids leave home the Christmas season will seem incomplete without it and without the God it points to!

Carol McEntyre,
Senior Pastor



Pictured here are two of the many households who participated in the intergenerational wreath-making event on November 26. Lynn Lampe (left) and Paige & Jen Boeckman (right) can include these Advent wreaths in their household traditions for years to come.





Columbia Handbell Ensemble Winter Concerts

The nationally recognized Columbia Handbells are back on stage for their annual crowd pleasing Winter Concerts, Friday, December 8 – 7:00 pm and Tuesday, December 12 – 7:00 pm in the First Baptist Fellowship Hall. The group will be presenting a terrific concert of songs about “peace,” seasonal carols, a sing-a-long, and of course, the famous bell carol – “Hark, hear the bells...” It will be fun for all ages! It’s always a seasonal favorite when this group rings in the holidays, so plan to join us and root on First Baptist participants, Noah Hartsfield, Anna Provo (now playing percussion in the Awakening Praise Band) and Ed Rollins. Tickets are \$7 in advance, \$10 at the door, and only \$1 for kids 12 and under.



Odyssey Concert Series Presents:

JOYEUX NOËL: Fauré & Ravel

Friday, December 1 at 7 pm, First Baptist Church with a pre-concert performance at 6:45pm by Thornbrook Piano Trio. This musical party is not to be missed!



Other Holiday Concerts at First Baptist

December 2

3 pm University Concert Chorale

December 9

7:30 pm Columbia Civic Orchestra

The Columbia Civic Orchestra and the Perlman-Stoy School of Ballet present scenes from Tchaikovsky’s Nutcracker Suite, Prokofiev’s “Troika,” and “Winter” from Vivaldi’s Four Seasons. The concert begins at 7:30 pm. Admission is free. For more information go to <http://cco.missouri.org/>.



Child Development Center

at First Baptist Church Est. 1969

CDC News

Holiday Program

The Children of the Child Development Center invite members of First Baptist Church to enjoy a brief holiday program in the Fellowship Hall on Friday, December 15. The children will sing a few festive carols at 5:45pm. Popcorn and hot chocolate will be served.



New Playground Climber

The Child Development Center is excited to announce that our new playground climber has arrived! Thank you to everyone who helped make this dream come true. We hope all the children at the Child Development Center and at First Baptist Church enjoy it!





Financial Peace University

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University (FPU) is a nine-lesson class on money management taught by America's most trusted financial guru. With facilitator Amanda Jacobs, Dave Ramsey and his teaching team will walk you through the basics of budgeting, dumping debt, planning for the future and much more. Amanda is offering the course on Wednesday evenings from January 10 through March 7, 2018, from 6:00 -7:30 pm in the conference room.

When you start Financial Peace University, you get immediate access to your online account which includes videos of Dave's teaching, additional reading material, and tools to help you win with money! Come learn how to handle your money God's way!

To sign up, contact Amanda Jacobs at amanda@jacobsrealty.com.

American Baptist Churches- USA Mission Offering in November



Thank you to our First Baptist family for supporting our missions partnership with the American Baptist Churches - USA. Through of your generosity, we collected over \$2500 to support the much-needed disaster recovery efforts funded by the One Great Hour of Sharing ministry, as well as the ongoing work of ABC-USA missionaries around the world.



Thank you for giving.
Mark Thomas
Chair of the Serving Team

2018 Pledge Update

Pledges for the 2018 general operating budget are coming in steadily after the pledge walk during our combined worship on November 12. To date, 63 pledges have been received, totaling \$247,944 - thank you!

If you have not yet been able to return your pledge for 2018, pledge cards are available at each entrance of our worship spaces. We are hoping to reach \$300,000 in pledges.





Wednesdays 6- 7:15pm, Youth Suite

the calling

Students 6th- 12th Grade

The Calling will meet on our regular schedule Wednesday Dec 6th and 13th in the Youth Suite (6:00pm-7:15pm). The Youth Christmas Party will be Wednesday, Dec 20th at the McEntyre's house from 6:00-8:00pm (following the church staff open house). We will eat and celebrate a great year with our legendary gift exchange. All participants are asked to bring a gift (\$5-\$10 range) to share. It will be shocking how much fun we have :) Friends are encouraged to join us. The Calling will start back on Jan 10th. Have a wonderful Advent season and a Merry Christmas.



Upcoming Events for College and Young Adults

Our College and Young Adult Ministry will wrap up with our "I Can't Believe We're Having a Christmas Party This Early" party on Sunday Dec 3rd at the McEntyre's house from 5:30-7:30pm. We will eat dinner together and then take part in our festive gift giving/stealing extravaganza! It is a sight to behold. Everyone is asked to bring a gift in the \$5-\$10 range that you think the others would want. We'll add a few "special" gifts to make things interesting. It promises to be a good time.

On Dec 10th, all our College and Young Adults are invited to join us for our church-wide Christmas party (starting at 5:00pm) as you prepare for finals. It is a great time together and our children's choir will be performing their Christmas program, "Breaking News". It's a great way to get in the holiday spirit.

Our weekly College and Young Adult Bible Study will resume Jan 21st after students return to classes. Don't forget to mark you calendar for our Winter Retreat Feb. 9-11th. Have a great Christmas Break!

VAC Family Sponsorship

Voluntary Action Center (VAC) is a non-profit that exists to help low-income individuals and families bridge the gaps between crisis and stability and improve quality of life in Boone County. Each year VAC coordinates the collection and distribution of food and gifts for approximately 4,000 people during the holiday season.



Voluntary Action Center

the heart of service
in Boone County

First Baptist is participating in the VAC holiday program by sponsoring 3 families. In addition to toys, books, and games, families often receive needed clothing and household supplies through this program. The cards listing the items that our families have requested are located on the bulletin board, in the hallway, outside the Sanctuary. Get involved by choosing an item that you would like to donate, take the card, bring item backed wrapped and attach the card to the outside of the package.

If you aren't able to go shopping but would still like to help, you can make a donation to First Baptist Church with "VAC Family Christmas" in the memo line. Gifts will be collected through December 10. If you have any questions, you can contact Michael McEntyre, Associate Pastor of Youth, College and Young Adults, and Missions, at mmcentyre@fbc-columbia.org.

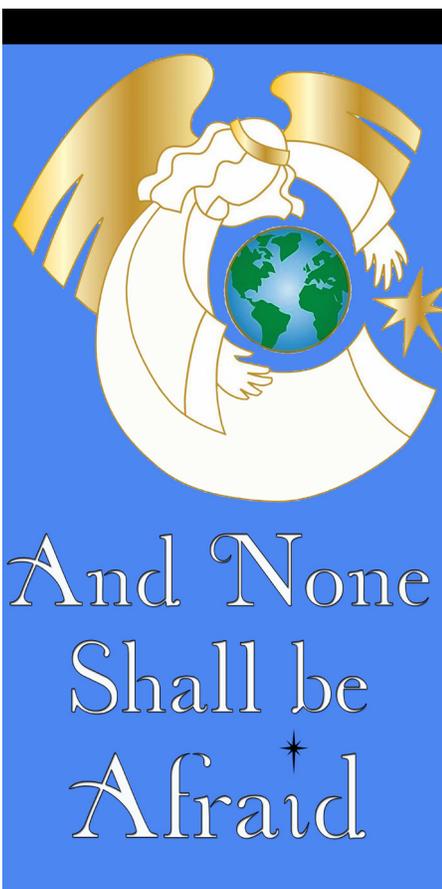
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Bethany James, Nursery Director
Jason Bell, Custodian

“Return Service Requested”



We don't choose to have fear any more than we choose to be hungry or cold or thirsty. We are human and we are vulnerable. In a broken world with plenty of real dangers, fear is normal and natural. But excessive fear takes the joy out of life. Come explore how to follow Jesus in a culture of fear.

Our Advent theme this year comes from a line in a hymn by Brian Wren, which says, “When God is a child there's joy in our song. The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be afraid.” This Advent, come contemplate how the birth of Jesus invites us to move from a culture of fear to a place of more hope, more peace, more love and more joy!

Worship Schedule

Advent I: Sunday, Dec 3

Hanging of the Greens

Luke 1:5-17: *From Fear to Hope*

Advent II: Sunday, Dec 10

Luke 1:26-38: *From Fear to Peace*

Advent III: Sunday, Dec 17

Matthew 1:18-25: *From Fear to Love*

Advent IV: Sunday, Dec 24