



1 VIRGINIA STREET
BRISTOL, VIRGINIA 24201

THE FIRST WORD

December 2019



1st Sunday of Advent

Sunday, Dec. 1

HAPPY CHRISTMAS (WAR IS OVER)

ISAIAH 2:1-5

Wednesday, Dec. 4

CAROL SING-ALONG WITH ANTHONY MANGRUM

Saturday, Dec. 7

CHILDREN'S PAGEANT REHEARSAL - 5 P.M.

2nd Sunday of Advent

Sunday, Dec. 8

THE GIVING TREE

ISAIAH 11:1-10

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT - 5:30 P.M.

CHRISTMAS DINNER - 6:30 P.M.

Wednesday, Dec. 11

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING - 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, Dec. 14

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY-9:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M.

TRAVEL TO JUST JUMP AND RETURN TO FBC

FOR REFRESHMENTS AND GIFT EXCHANGE

3rd Sunday of Advent

Sunday, Dec. 15

CHRISTMAS CANTATA - 11 A.M.

CHURCH-WIDE DROP-IN RECEPTION - 6 P.M.

(AT KRIS AND CLARY AARON'S HOUSE)

Wednesday, Dec. 18

CHRISTMAS CAROLING- 5:30 P.M.

Pizza, subs and salad in Rosser Hall at 5:30. At 6 pm, travel to Brookdale. Caroling and fellowship with the residents until 6:45. Return to FBC for Christmas cookies, hot chocolate and fellowship!

4th Sunday of Advent

Sunday, Dec. 22

THE CELEBRATION OF SCANDAL

MATTHEW 1:18-25

Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday, Dec. 24

WORSHIP & COMMUNION - 5:30 P.M.

*"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,
because he will save his people from their sins."*

First Baptist Family,

Advent has begun and Christmas is nearly here! Consequently, a lot will be going on here at First Baptist. Our children will be performing a play that they have been working on diligently for weeks. "Crazy, Busy, Peaceful, Holy Night" will be performed in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 8 at 5:30 p.m. Following that, we'll have our Annual Christmas Dinner at 6:30 p.m. in Rosser Hall. On Sunday, December 15, during worship at 11 a.m. our choir will perform their choral and instrumental tribute to our Savior's birth entitled "Wonder and Promise: The Christmas Story." And on the evening of December 15, Clary and I would like to invite the entire church to a drop-in reception at our house. The reception will begin at 6 p.m., and there will be hot chocolate, apple cider, and Christmas goodies. We'll also be lighting Advent candles for the next four weeks during worship, culminating with the lighting of the Christ candle at our Christmas Eve service. I'm sure there will be Sunday School parties, and I know people are going to be traveling to spend time with family. All in all, December is going to be a crazy, busy month, but I hope that you'll take the time to catch your breath so it can be peaceful and holy, too.

With all the decorating, purchasing of gifts, traveling, and attending special get-togethers, we can be in such a hurry to get to Christmas that we miss Advent altogether. Concerning Advent, one of my favorite authors, Frederick Buechner, writes, "In the silence of a midwinter dusk there is far off in the deeps of it somewhere a sound so faint that for all you can tell it may be only the sound of silence itself. You hold your breath to listen. You walk up the steps to the front door. The empty windows at either side of it tell you nothing, or almost nothing. For a second you catch a whiff in the air of some fragrance that reminds you of a place you've never been and a time you have no words for. You are aware of the beating of your heart. The extraordinary thing that is about to happen is matched only by the extraordinary moment just before it happens. Advent is the name of that moment." Buechner goes on to describe Advent as a time in which "the world itself is holding its breath." As Christmas rapidly approaches, I encourage you to take a pause and hold your breath. Don't become so overwhelmed by your to-do list that you miss the peaceful and holy, which is what this season is all about. The events that are scheduled are designed to allow you to take that pause and hold that breath. And if you do, if you listen carefully, you will hear the groan of bleak midwinter turn into joyous celebration, and you will see Christmas as the night "that all heaven broke loose." So, pause and take that breath. Take advantage of the events that have been scheduled and invite others to join you. It may be the only time they stop to experience the divine. I pray that you take the time to find peace this holiday season and that you experience the holy. Merry Christmas!

Grace and Peace, Kris

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The church's **Annual Business Meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, December 11, 2019 at 6 p.m.** The agenda for that meeting as required in our Church's By-Laws is to adopt the 2019 Budget, to elect church officers for 2019, and to receive a report from the ministry Team relative to Team membership, etc.



Back by Popular Demand!

Come join the fun! Wednesday night, December 4, in Rosser Hall. Wear your ugly Christmas sweater, socks, or hat. (A prize for the ugliest sweater.) Sing Christmas Carols with Anthony Mangrum. Have a delicious meal and enjoy a lot of special fellowship to get us in the Christmas Spirit. If you are not in the habit of attending on Wednesday, call to let us know so we will have plenty of food.

Children's Christmas Production "CRAZY, BUSY, PEACEFUL, HOLY NIGHT!"

The Children's Christmas production will be Dec. 8, 2019, at 5:30 p.m. This will be followed by our Annual Christmas Dinner.

FBC Christmas Dinner

December 8, 2019, 6:30 p.m.

To help offset the costs, a donation of \$10 per adult is suggested, and \$5 for ages 6-12 (ages 5 and under are free). Reservations are needed by Sunday, December 1. Our buffet menu will be tossed salad with three dressings, turkey w/gravy, sliced ham, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls w/butter, coffee & tea. Desserts will be chocolate fudge cake, banana pudding and red velvet cake w/cream cheese frosting. You can make reservations by 1) calling the church office at 276-669-8191 or 2) emailing office@fbcbristol.org.

The Children's Christmas Party will be on Saturday, December 14, 2019. We will meet at the church at 9:30 a.m. to head to the Just Jump Trampoline Park and return by 12:30 p.m. to the church for lunch and gift swap. Please bring a wrapped \$5 gift for the Gift Swap.

Sanctuary Choir Christmas Performance

On Sunday, December 15, 2019, at 11:00 a.m., the First Baptist Church Sanctuary Choir invites you to join us for a choral and instrumental tribute in celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, entitled "*Wonder and Promise: The Christmas Story*."

Youth Christmas Party

The Youth Christmas Party will be Friday, December 20, 2019. The Progressive dinner and gift swap begins at 5:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church and ends at 8:30 p.m. at the Ondraks' home at 17 Compton in Bristol, TN, in the Middlebrook neighborhood. Please bring a wrapped gift valued \$10 or less for the gift swap. The night will include visiting the Elliotts' and the Aarons' homes.

My Journey of Faith

Jeff Burnette

At the age of three, my dad purchased my Mom a piano for Christmas. I can remember the excitement as it was being rolled into our living room. One Sunday morning shortly thereafter, upon returning home from church, I climbed onto the piano bench and would not quit until I could play completely through "Jesus Love Me".

When I was five, I stood up in front of the church for the first time and sang my Daddy's favorite hymn, "How Great Thou Art". From that point on, I was involved with the church music ministry in some way or another. As I became older, I could feel His presence in my music but I knew something was missing

And it was... I needed to have a personal relationship with Jesus. I was saved at the age of 12, thanks to a group of volunteers for the Children's and Youth Ministry. These volunteers took the time to sit down with a group of young children to teach us the Bible and to explain the plan of salvation. Then, did my soul truly begin to sing!

I do believe that is the reason that the Lord has given me such a heart and passion for our Children's and Youth music ministries. You see, I am a direct product of how GOD works through Godly parents, how HE works through a Bible-teaching, caring church, and definitely how HE works through a Music Ministry to witness to a young innocent heart.

Who knew on that Sunday morning years ago when a Sunday school teacher sang to a young child..."Jesus Loves Me this I know...for the Bible tells me so...Little ones to Him belong...they are weak, but HE is strong."

...My journey with the Lord had begun!

Library Lines

New to our library from the "King of Christmas Fiction" Richard Paul Evans, is the Christmas Collection which includes *The Noel Stranger*, *The Noel Diary*, and *Noel Street*. These are stories of heart, loyalty, and hope that explore the deeper meaning of the holiday season and ask what it truly means to love and forgive. Displayed will be non-fiction books, children's picture books, and Christmas CD's to add to your family's holiday joys.

First Monday Trips

First Monday Trips will resume in March 2020.

Matthew 25 Ministry

First Baptist Bristol has a new ministry called Matthew 25. This consists of a worship service for unchurched individuals. Our hope is to give persons a comfortable, casual place to meet Jesus, share our faith, and become friends in an accepting setting. Many of these persons feel they cannot attend church because they do not have the right clothing, resources, vehicles, or connections to fit in. Some just feel they are too different to come to church, or church is just not their thing. To combat this misconception, we invite the "brothers and sisters" of Jesus to a truly inviting place. For reference, read Matthew 25:31-46.

For more information and to learn ways you can help, contact Mary Amburn-Bowman at mwa51721@live.com or 276-791-0823. Doing, not having, this ministry will change us!

Gifts for Missions Share Abundant Life

During the Christmas season as you celebrate the gift of God's love, you may want to make a special offering to one of our mission's organizations. You may choose to donate to the Lottie Moon offering or to the Global Missions offering. Each of these funds are used to spread the hope of Jesus Christ. Your gifts will join with the gifts of other generous people to fund mission personnel around the world to be the person of Christ to the poorest of the poor. Our goal for this year's offering is \$700.

Decorate the Tree with Caps and Gloves

A church-wide mission opportunity is available. We need people to decorate the tree in front of the church with winter items during the cold months. Items you can donate for this project are toboggans, adult-sized gloves, and socks. We need people to be responsible to package these items and tie on the tree. This is something you can do anytime of day or on weekends when it is cold. By doing this, we can show others we care and want them to be more comfortable. Remember WARM is the key word here. Right now, Dollar Tree and Dollar General have a great supply or you can shop wherever you choose. We will have supplies for packaging at the church. For more information and to sign up for a small block of time, please call Linda Pruner at 276.669.3592, or 276.669.5082



The church office will be closed on December 25, 26, and 27 in observance of the Christmas holiday.

We will close at 1 p.m. on December 31, and will be closed January 1 for New Year's Day. There will be **NO Wednesday Night Service** on December 25.

Our Staff

Rev. Kris Aaron
Rev. Ben Ondrak
Mrs. Jackie Burnette
Rev. Leigh Clark

Senior Pastor
Associate Pastor
Pianist
Interim Minister of Music

Mr. Dennis Thomas
Mrs. Marcine Robinette
Ms. Terri Thomas
Ms. LaVerne Brown

Sexton
Parish Nurse
Financial Secretary
Administrative Assistant



Church Phone : 276.669.8191

Fax: 276.669.5082

E-mail: info@fbcbristol.org

Website: www.fbcbristol.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

1 Virginia Street
P.O. Box 116
Bristol, VA 24203

FBC Minister On-Call Schedule

Dec. 1	Kris Aaron, 803-225-0795
Dec. 7-8	Ben Ondrak, 423-217-8934
Dec. 14-15	Kris Aaron, 803-225-0795
Dec. 21-22	Ben Ondrak, 423-217-8934
Dec. 28-29	Terri Thomas, 423-963-7576

Ushers for the Month of December

Head Usher: Matt Chandler
Ushers: The Chandler Family
The Rouse Family

Deacon of the Week for December

Dec. 1	Steve Talbert
Dec. 8	Gary Malcolm
Dec. 15	Roberta Yowell
Dec. 22	Jerry Sorrell
Dec. 29	Jeff Burnette