



THE
First Baptist Church
OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON D.C.

TWICE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | NOVEMBER 30, 2017



2 CHURCH FAMILY CHRISTMAS DURING POTLUCK

Sunday, December 3



2 BLUE CHRISTMAS COMFORT + HOPE

Wed., Dec. 13
7pm Sanctuary



generosity:
*Lifestyle of
Gratitude*

4 COMMITMENT CAMPAIGN

Underway for
2018: 47 Respond



3 CARING CHRISTMAS

Wednesdays in
December



4 YOUNG ADULT CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

Sun. 12/17 12:30pm



2 60TH ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT CAROLS

Sunday, December 10 @4pm

ADVENT SEASON

DECEMBER 3: CHURCH FAMILY CHRISTMAS

Live Nativity During Potluck Lunch

Every year, our children and youth reenact the Christmas story during our December "first Sunday" potluck. Rehearsal will take place during the Sunday School hour starting at 9:30am (children and students should come to their classrooms first, then head to Fellowship Hall). After worship, kids will eat first, then come backstage to dress as angels, shepherds, wise men or part of the holy family. Any children visiting are also welcome to dress and join the FBC kids on stage; they don't have to read or speak.



60TH ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT CAROLS

December 10 @ 4pm (FBC Sanctuary)

Capture the joy of the season with a beloved First Baptist tradition! The first Candlelight Carols Service was held in the newly completed sanctuary of First Baptist Church on December 8, 1957, launching a tradition that has spanned six decades. Candlelight Carols continues today, featuring the choirs and instrumentalists of The First Baptist Church and The Runnymede Singers. An offering will be collected, benefitting SOME (So Others Might Eat), an interfaith, community-based organization that exists to help poor and unhoused people in D.C. Bring a friend!



BLUE CHRISTMAS: A SERVICE OF COMFORT AND HOPE

Wednesday, December 13 @ 7pm (FBC Sanctuary)

For those who grieve, the weeks leading up to Christmas can be the most painful time of the whole year. Blue Christmas offers a place simply to feel what we feel and to receive the hope and comfort of Christ. This year's service will include music by Alex McKeithen, a personal reflection on grief by Paul Clark and some words of hope by Pastor Julie. We conclude the service by lighting candles in memory of people who have died, and/or in acknowledgment of other kinds of grief we are carrying. Consider inviting and accompanying someone you know who needs some hope and comfort.



CARING CHRISTMAS: WEDNESDAY NIGHTS IN DECEMBER

Dec. 6: Decorating at Christ House (6:30-8pm)

Meet at Christ House (1717 Columbia Rd NW, in Adams Morgan) to help decorate the house for Christmas. Christ House is a residential medical facility for homeless persons in D.C. All are welcome; children, too! Dinner after decorating at Mellow Mushroom (2436 18th St, NW).



Dec. 13: Blue Christmas (7pm; Sanctuary)

See announcement on p. 2

Dec. 20: Christmas Caroling (6-7pm)

Meet at the church at 6:00 for a two-block walk to the Residences at Thomas Circle (a senior adult community at 1330 Massachusetts Ave, NW) where we'll sing Christmas carols for the residents at 6:30 (or you may meet us there). Dinner after caroling at City Tap House, 1250 Connecticut Ave NW Suite 105, Washington, DC 20036.



CDC CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

The FBC Child Development Center's Christmas Program is scheduled for **Friday, December 8th at 5:15pm**. This is an entertaining annual event, the cause of much excitement and joy!

Each class sings a holiday song or does a little skit, and the evening ends with refreshments.

Lots of Fun..... Come join us! ~ Carolyn Roebuck, CDC Director.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2017 • 4PM-5PM

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL GUIDES

At this time of year we prepare our homes; we prepare special meals; we prepare shopping lists.



But Advent invites us most of all to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and the moment-by-moment presence of God. Pick up a free Advent devotional guide in the narthex. We also recommend

the daily online devotional, *Following the Star* (d365.org), produced by PASSPORT.

**YOUNG ADULT
CHRISTMAS BRUNCH!**

SUNDAY DECEMBER 17TH AT 12:30PM

Bring a side or a beverage to share.

Hosted By: Rob Marus
Rob's place is located a block from Shaw Metro.

ADVENT:

Worship Banners

We welcome five new Advent banners in worship this year. The banners are based on designs by Alice Lewis of Asheville, NC and Jac Whatley, and fabricated by Kathy Whatley. They are presented by the Whatleys as a Christmas gift to First Baptist Church in appreciation for the hope, peace, joy and Christian love they have received from all the members.



Sunday Worship Guide

Our Sunday worship guide (bulletin) has been redesigned for Advent. One of our resident artists, Ernest Stone, is providing artwork for each cover: a hand-drawn sketch of the Advent banner for each Sunday.



CHRISTMAS OFFERING FOR GLOBAL MISSIONS

First Baptist Church can help can change the world through the love of Jesus Christ by supporting global missions efforts. You're invited to give a Christmas gift for missions through The World Mission Offering of the American Baptist Churches, U.S.A., and/or the Offering for Global Missions of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. These two Baptist mission groups have answered God's call to join God in the world on mission and we affirm their efforts when we give as we are able! Offering envelopes are available in the sanctuary, in each pew.

GIVE TO MISSIONS



American Baptist Churches USA
America for Christ/World Mission Offering

\$ _____



Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
Offering for Global Missions

\$ _____

Name: _____ **Email:** _____ **Total:** \$ _____

ADVENT: "HOW WE WAIT"

Let's be honest: Advent can be a hard sell. While Christmas starts appearing in September, often in glaring, gaudy ways, Advent comes on padded feet with very little fanfare. Advent is about waiting. It's about reflection and repentance and delayed gratification—things with which we tend to struggle. And yet, Advent has a gift it wants to give, which our souls desperately need. Advent, if observed with intentionality and an open heart, helps us to resist some of the Christmas craziness out there. Advent offers the simple joy of preparing our hearts and minds for Christ. In this holy season, our chief assignment is to watch and wait and worship. Doesn't that sound like something of a relief? Join us!

~Pastor Julie

STAFF LOVE OFFERING FOR CHRISTMAS

During this season of giving, we think of our church staff to whom the congregation owes appreciation for serving the church family so faithfully during the past year. Therefore, as has been the custom for many years, please prayerfully make your gift to the Staff Love Offering. You may do so by placing your gift in the form of a check or cash in an envelope noting on the outside that it is for the "Staff Love Offering." Please place the envelope in the offering plate any Sunday between now and December 24, or give it to Life Deacons Steve Netcott or Ellen Parkhurst.



BORED WIDE-EYED EXCITED
EMPTY THANKFUL WEARY
FALTERING HOPEFUL SINGING
ACHING CURIOUS PLAYFUL
LONELY SURROUNDED
WANTING WISHING FATIGUED
BELIEVING ANGRY ASHAMED
CONTENT QUIET SERENE
SURE SECURE ALONE GRIEVING
DOUBTING GROUNDED ANXIOUS

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SUNDAYS @ 11AM

December 3

How We Wait: WIDE-EYED

Mark 13:24-37

December 10

How We Wait: FALTERING

Isaiah 40:1-11

December 17

How We Wait: SURROUNDED

Matthew 1:1-16

December 24

How We Wait: BELIEVING

Luke 1:26-38

December 24 *4PM

CHRISTMAS EVE

How We Wait: GROUNDED

Luke 2:1-20



COMMITMENT CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY FOR 2018

As of today, 47 individuals and families have returned commitment cards for a total \$251,280: 14 of those commitments came from individuals or families making a first-time pledge! Only 13 more pledges and \$78,720 needed to meet our goal. **There's still time to make your commitment.** You may pledge online through our website, or pick up a commitment card in the narthex (foyer), church office area or Fellowship Hall. FBC's Commitment Season extends through December.

FBCDC "YEAR OF HOSPITALITY"

"OUR MESSAGE IS THAT YOU MATTER TO US."
VISIT to the EPISCOPAL CHURCH of the EPIPHANY'S WELCOME TABLE MINISTRY

"MISSION CAN BE AWKWARD, AND THAT'S GREAT."
VISIT to the EPISCOPAL CHURCH of the EPIPHANY'S WELCOME TABLE MINISTRY

Hospitality to the Homeless (by D'O Dillard)

Every Sunday morning at my home parish, Church of the Epiphany Episcopal Church (at 13th & G Streets, NW), we extend hospitality to persons experiencing homelessness with a hearty breakfast and other services through our Welcome Table program. The mission of the Welcome Table is to feed the hungry, build a diverse and inclusive community, and give and receive the love of Christ. Approximately 200 people participate in various aspects of the program every Sunday, including working with an outreach counselor, attending an NA meeting, Bible Study, and Gospel Art!, in which participants create art and poetry in response to the Sunday Scriptures. The Welcome Table began in 1995, and a hot breakfast is prepared each week by a team of volunteers. The meals are served on real china, and volunteers refill coffee cups as needed. It's heart-warming to see our homeless brothers and sisters enjoy a much-needed meal. As we are reminded in Hebrews 13:2, "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it."



COMING IN JANUARY: AN EVENING WITH PASTOR DONNA CLAYCOMB SOKOL

Wednesday, January 17, 2018 (Fellowship Hall)

Our "third Wednesday" speaker series sponsored by the Faith Formation Team continues in January. Join us for a conversation with Rev. Dr. Donna Claycomb Sokol, senior pastor of Mt. Vernon Place United Methodist Church here in D.C., and co-author of a new book, *A New Day in the City: Urban Church Revival*. The MVP congregation focuses its energy on a limited number of ministries in order to offer each with intentionality, excellence and the hospitality of Christ. On January 17th, Pastor Julie will facilitate an interview and Q&A with Pastor Donna. Come and hear more about the MVP story, and meet this exceptional pastor who is also eager to meet the people of First Baptist Church.



Schedule on January 17 in Fellowship Hall (come for some or all of the evening)

- 5:00 Sandwich making for Martha's Table
- 6:00 Supper prepared by Chef Laval (RSVP to ddillard@firstbaptistdc.org)
- 7:00 Conversation with Rev. Dr. Donna Claycomb Sokol

THE
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6th Annual
**Christmas
Candlelight Carols**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2017

4:00 p.m.



1328 16TH ST NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20036 | + 202 387 2206

www.firstbaptistdc.org

EVENTS

Sunday, December 3

- 9:30am:** Bible Study for All Ages & Rehearsal for Church Family Christmas
- 10am:** Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Rm 312)
- 11am:** Worship (Sanctuary)
- 12noon:** First Sunday Potluck and Church Family Christmas (Fellowship Hall)
- 2pm:** Worship in Spanish (Dawson Room)

Tuesday, December 5

- 6:30pm:** Education for Ministry (Rm 214)

Wednesday, December 6

- 6:30pm:** Decorating at Christ House

Friday, December 8

- 5:15pm:** CDC Christmas Program (Fellowship Hall)

DEACONS ON-CALL: WEEK OF DECEMBER 3:



Zena Aldridge

WEEK OF DECEMBER 10:



Mel Doxie

The on-call deacon is your lay contact for prayer concerns during their week of service.

FBC PRAYER & CARE

Thanks be to God!

- Charlie and Cindy Fuller have a new grandson: Josiah Jonathan Gitlin, born to daughter, Becky Fuller, and husband Jonathan Gitlin, November 17 in Dallas.
- Rachael Bevill and Joey Burns were married on November 4 in Wingate, NC. On November 7 they moved to Stuttgart, Germany, where Rachael will begin work on her Ph.D.

Recently Added

- Randy Hawkins (father of Philip Hawkins): in frail health in GA
- Mr. and Mrs. Adebayo (Violet Bakare's uncle and aunt): returning to Nigeria; Mr. Adebayo is elderly and in poor health
- Bola Kuti (Violet Bakare's cousin): injured in a car accident; having shoulder surgery
- Skip Strain (Debbi Miller's 94-yr-old father): fell and broke his hip; recovering from surgery

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