

Third Sunday of Advent Service of Worship

Sermon by Daniel Glaze
Music by the Chancel Choir

Following worship there is a reception in the Fellowship Hall hosted by the deacons.
Everyone is invited to attend.



2016 Advent Devotions

***Behold!: Cultivating Attentiveness in the Season of Advent* by Pamela C. Hawkins**

These books are available in the Upper Commons and Sunday School classrooms for families and individuals to take home to prepare their hearts for the season of Advent.

Nativity Set—The porcelain Nativity Set made by Franklin Mint is featured in the History Cabinet in the Lower Commons. This set was a gift to River Road Church, Baptist, by Frances Still, aunt of church member Joyce Gibson. It will be on display during the seasons of Advent and Christmas. We hope that it serves as a reminder of the coming of the Christ Child and might also serve as a teaching tool for the children in the church and the preschool.

CBF Season of Prayer for Global Missions & Christmas Offering

Deadline: January 1 | RRCB Offering Goal: \$3,000

This offering is the primary way CBF field personnel are funded, making your gifts an essential part of spreading the Gospel and meeting physical needs in the world. Envelopes can be found in the pew racks. You may also visit www.rrcb.org/onlinegiving to give online.

Missy and Francis Ward-Angalla, CBF field personnel in Uganda recently visited RRCB to tell us of their work and ask for our support. Missy is serving as the refugee women's advocacy coordinator for Refuge and Hope International in Kampala, Uganda. In addition to ministering to women and girls who are traumatized, abused, trafficked, the shelter offers a vocational training program. Francis is beginning a new ministry to help refugees stay connected to their culture, their heart language, through music training which can also lead to jobs for them. The Ward-Angallas ask for prayers for strength, discernment, and doors to open for partnerships with local NGOs. Pray that the people they serve might know they are loved by God and cared for by their community.

2017 Flower Calendar Sign Up

Sundays, December 11, & 18

Anyone wishing to contribute altar flowers for a Sunday should see Betsy Lowery (804-338-4604) in the Upper Commons following worship on the above dates. The cost is \$85.

E. Carl Freeman Concert Series: Advent/Christmas Choral Concert

Sunday, December 11

7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Chancel Choir with Orchestra

Handel's *Messiah* Part 1

Please note our new ticketing process through Eventbrite

Reserve your **FREE** tickets at www.rrcb.org/messiah.

News in the Pews ~ If you look in the pew racks this morning, you will find the two-sided card inviting your participation in the upcoming ADVENTure Lunch and Christmas Stores. This month's card is the third in a planned series designed to reach members and visitors in the pews, lifting awareness and inviting participation in missions activities, educational programming, and church family events. You'll continue to find offering envelopes, the Stephen Ministry card, and a list of our missions causes directly behind the "news" card. For more information about these and all events, visit www.rrcb.org or read below.

Christmas Eve Family Service
Saturday, December 24
4:00 p.m., Sanctuary
(please note the earlier start time)
Lessons & Carols
Reading of the Christmas Story
Lighting of the Christ Candle
Anthems by the Carol, Crusader, Youth, and Youth Handbell Choirs
Missions Offering: Please bring non-perishable goods wrapped in white paper.
Childcare not provided

Christmas Eve Service of Candlelight & Holy Communion
Saturday, December 24
11:00 p.m., Sanctuary
Lighting of the Christ Candle
Meditation by Dr. Daniel E. Glaze
Anthems by the Chancel Choir and the Chancel Bell Choir
The service will be preceded by music for organ and handbells beginning at 10:30 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship Service
Sunday, December 25
11:00 a.m., Sanctuary
Sermon by Daniel Glaze
No Sunday School
Childcare not provided

The Comma Club Christmas Luncheon

Tuesday, December 13

12:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Lunch will be served prior to the program and costs \$10. The ladies of the Lydia Class will be our guests for their annual Christmas Luncheon. Do you have a holiday ornament or a tradition that has been passed down from generation to generation? Bring it with you and plan to share your story! If you would like to attend, please make your reservation by Friday, December 9, by calling the church office or filling out the form online (www.rrcb.org/seniors). This group is open to all ages; "senior" is not a requirement.

WMU Connectors

Tuesday, December 13

7:00 p.m., Home of Peggy Stevens

All women interested in missions and fellowship are invited to attend the Christmas party and program. For more information please call Wyatt Heisler at 804-741-9320.

Church Leaf Collection Day

NEW DATE: Saturday, December 17

8:30 a.m., Plaza

The House and Grounds Committee is sponsoring a leaf collection day. We will meet on the Front Plaza and then disperse around the outside of the church. This is a great opportunity for families to come and be good stewards of their time, talents, and resources on behalf the church. A light breakfast of coffee, OJ, and pastries will be available. Please bring your work gloves, rakes, tarps, and other yard tools.

New Year's Eve Labyrinth Walk & Personal Meditation in the Fellowship Hall

Saturday, December 31, 2016

Opens at 10:00 a.m. | Closes at 6:00 p.m.

Guided Meditation 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

(Please enter the Fellowship Hall through the doors facing the front plaza.)

At the cusp of the New Year, River Road Church cordially invites you to experience a meditative walk. Written material about the labyrinth's history and symbolism will be available. Bring a friend or come alone. We suggest that you allow approximately 45-60 minutes for the labyrinth experience.

For first time walkers, or if you'd like to learn more about the labyrinth experience, Libby Grammer will offer guided meditative walks from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Appointments are not necessary; everyone is welcome.

Church Christmas Decorations Take Down

Wednesday, December 28

9:00 a.m., Sanctuary

2016 Contributions

If you are planning to make a payment or donate stock toward your 2016 pledge, we must receive it in the **Church Office by 5:00 p.m., Friday, December 30, 2016** or it must be **postmarked by Saturday, December 31, 2016** to be counted on your 2016 pledge to the Church. **Anything received after the above dates will be applied to 2017.**

Online contributions through the church's website or your bank **must be initiated by Saturday, December 31, 2016.**

If you plan to **donate stock, please advise LeAnne Lane** (leannelane@rrcb.org) so proper credit can be given to you. Also if you have donated stock to the Church and have not let us know of your donation, please contact LeAnne or call 804-288-1131.

Contributions put in the offering plate on Sunday, January 1, 2017, will go toward your 2017 pledge.

To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, please do not file your 2016 income tax return until you have received your year-end contributions statement from the church. Under IRS rules, you may lose your deduction for some or all of your contributions if you file your tax return before receiving a written acknowledgement of your 2016 contributions from the church.

Third quarter financial statements were mailed out in mid-November. **Please take the time to review your statement to ensure your contributions have been properly designated.** If you have any questions regarding your statement please email LeAnne or setup a meeting with her. You may also check your statement online through Access ACS throughout the year.

THE STEWARDSHIP DISCOVERY REPORT from this summer's work by Dr. Tom Melzoni and Horizons Stewardship is available by contacting the Church Office. You may request a digital copy or hard copy. The report contains observations, statistical information, survey results and analysis, and recommendations. If you have questions or suggestions regarding stewardship, please direct them to Bill Rusher (brusher@rjadc.org or 804-285-1087), Chair of the Stewardship Committee. Questions and suggestions related to the endowment fund should go to Ransone Hartz (hartzhomes@comcast.net or 804-754-1111), Chair of the Endowment Board.

Foundations Sunday School Class—This is a class specifically tailored for those in their 20's and early 30's and will have a focus on both social interaction and missions. The class meets at 10:00 a.m. in CH #141 by the Life and Discovery Sunday school classes. Katie and Tim Merritt will be primarily leading the class. How can you help? If you know anyone who fits the demographic for this class, please tell them about it and encourage them to check us out. Welcome young visitors and new members you may not have met yet. And of course, pray for our guidance and patience as we begin this journey. This class will only succeed with the support of the entire church. For more information, please contact Katie or visit www.rrcb.org/pastorsblog.

Micah Opportunities & Needs Fall 2016—Our work with Oak Grove Elementary School offers us the following opportunities for service and donation. For more information about these volunteer opportunities and donation requests, please contact Susan Ryan (804-282-6321 or susanryan1@verizon.net).

Service:

- Classroom assistance and one-on-one tutoring
- Office assistance
- Food backpack distribution on Friday afternoons

Donations:

- Children's book drive
- Clothing
- Bikes

Fellowship Fund

Every fellowship collection on Sunday is quickly used at the beginning of the week based on requests we receive weekly for assistance. In the third quarter of 2016, our congregation contributed over \$7,000 (over \$25,000 for the year). Your generosity is greatly appreciated, and we ask for your ongoing support and donations throughout the year. You will find designated blue envelopes in the pew racks, or you may give online (www.rrcb.org/onlinegiving).

Thanks to a generous grant from the Endowment Fund, your contributions to the Fellowship Fund will now go twice as far. The Endowment Fund will match the congregation's contributions each quarter in 2016, up to a total match of \$40,000 for the year.

About the Fellowship Fund: The offering is quietly administered by the Board of Deacons, after a screening and approval process through our church administrative and ministerial staff, for those who have financial needs. If non-members are in need of assistance, they must be represented through social services or another organization (Catholic Charities, CrossOver Ministries, Richmond Behavioral Health Authority, Better Housing Coalition, Habitat for Humanity, Veterans Administration, Veterans Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital, St. Joseph's Villa, Senior Connections, and RCAP) where a case worker can submit a request on their behalf. Members may contact a minister on staff.



AT HOME: Mary Ellen Berry, Marian Brooks, Doris Curtis, Margaret Daniel, Doug Edwards, Sam Nixon, Jackson Savedge, David Sims Sr., Avery Small, Mary Lee Stark, Beth Stuhlman, Mac Taylor

IN HEALTHCARE: Jean Eubank - The Hermitage, Eunice Garrett - Morningside, Mary Lib Grizzard - Westminster, Mary Haydon - The Crossings at University Park, Charlotte Ladd - Lakewood, Ann Moss—Westminster, Martha & Bob Younger -Westminster

IN ASSISTED LIVING: Jane Budwell - Beth Sholom; Ellis Cunningham - Elmcroft Assisted Living; Mary Gauldin - Our Lady of Hope; Jeanette Gholston - Chestnut Grove Assisted Living; Lovell Glasco - Lakewood; Sue Kalbaugh - Gayton Terrace; June Lane - Lakewood; Sarah MacLellan - Culpeper Baptist Retirement Community (Culpeper, VA); Clayton Marr - Our Lady of Hope; Vivian Mathews St. Mary's Woods; Mary Noble—Cedarfield; Gloria & Doug Pace - The Memory Center Richmond; John Pearson - Lakewood; Merle Showalter—Lakewood; Mary Shreve - Spring Arbor Assisted Living; Sandy Thornton - Sanders Health Care Center (Gloucester, VA); Kemp West - The Hermitage

IN REHABILITATION: Jerry Crute - Westport Manor, Janet Currie - Beaufont Rehab & Healthcare

Calendar Events

Sunday, December 11

9:00 a.m.: Family Handbell Choir, Bell Room; Inquirers' Class, Youth Area
9:20 a.m.: Children's Choirs Makeup Rehearsal, Choir Room
9:45 a.m.: Sunday School; Shepherd Bible Study Class Brunch, Assembly Room
11:00 a.m.: Worship, Sanctuary
12:00 p.m.: Reception, Fellowship Hall
4:15 p.m.: Youth Handbell Choir, Bell Room
5:00 p.m.: Youth Choir, Youth Choir Room
5:45 p.m.: Youth Snack Supper, Fellowship Hall
6:15 p.m.: Youth Music, Youth Area
6:45 p.m.: Youth Program, Youth Area
7:30 p.m.: *Messiah*, Sanctuary

Monday, December 12

5:45 p.m.: Yoga, Assembly Room

Tuesday, December 13

12:00 p.m.: The Comma Club, Fellowship Hall
6:00 p.m.: Panama Mission Team, Reception Room
7:00 p.m.: WMU Connectors, Home of Peggy Stevens

Wednesday, November 14

8:00 a.m.: Men's Group: The Huddle, Reception Room
4:45 p.m.: River Road Camerata, Choir Room
5:30 p.m.: Wednesday Night Dinner, Fellowship Hall
6:00 p.m.: Children's Choirs
6:30 p.m.: Wednesday Night Program, Chapel; Chancel Bell Choir Bell Room
6:45 p.m.: Voice for Life, Choir Room
7:00 p.m.: Youth Choir Makeup Rehearsal, Choir Room
7:30 p.m.: Finance Committee, Parlor

Thursday, December 15

7:30 p.m.: Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room