

Tonight's Program
Starlight Service of Remembrance
6:30 p.m., Chapel

As we prepare for a baby in a manger, this service reminds us that not only was Jesus born for us, Jesus died for us. In this season of joy, this service acknowledges that although Christ came that we might have life and have it abundantly, our life is still punctuated with times of suffering and loss, but all of which love overcomes. But perhaps most importantly, this service reminds us that wherever we are on life's journey, we are not alone. As Christmas approaches, the Starlight Service of Remembrance is a time to remember the events of years past. It is especially a time of reflection for anyone who has experienced life-changing events whether through death, loss of a relationship, loss of job, loss of health, or other significant events.

Music, readings, lighting of candles, prayers, and communion will all be part of this special Advent worship service. We will be joined by flautist Hannah Hammel.

Blessing for Our Meal: God is Great
(to the tune of *Michael Row the Boat Ashore*)
God is great, God is good, Alleluia.
God is great, God is good, Alleluia.
By God's hand we all are fed, Alleluia.
Thank you, Lord for daily bread, Alleluia.

No Regular Wednesday Night Dinner & Programs on December 21 & 28

December 21 Children & Youth Dinner & Rehearsal
Dinner, 5:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal for Christmas Eve Family Service, 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary
Dessert & Recreation, 7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Children and youth will meet for dinner and to rehearse the Christmas Pageant for the Christmas Eve Family Service. After rehearsal children and youth will return to the Fellowship Hall for dessert and games. For more information, please contact Kim Crowley or Chester Phelps.

Standing Dinner Reservations for Spring 2017 TBD

January 4, 2017 Program
Epiphany Service
6:30 p.m., Chapel

Observed on January 6th, Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of God in Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, represented by the magi who visited the infant Jesus. The name "Epiphany" comes from the Greek word *Epiphania*, and means "to show, make known, or reveal." Our church will celebrate Epiphany through worship focused on the revelation of Christ to all people, through the light of a guiding star. Epiphany worship centers around revelation, light, and the hope for all nations. Join us as we close the Christmas season and open the season of Epiphany, which will call attention to the words and deeds of Jesus' earthly ministry by which his divine sonship is made manifest.

This Wednesday, we will not have children's choirs; children are invited to participate in the service and there will be a special time dedicated to our young worshippers.

Before the service, an Epiphany-themed dinner will be served. **Dinner reservations are required and must be made by Friday, December 30.** (The church office is closed January 2 and 3.)

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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.

2016 Advent Devotions

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

These books are available on the stage in the Fellowship Hall for families and individuals to take home to prepare their hearts for the season of Advent.

Christmas Decorations—Our church was decorated for Christmas on December 2 and December 9 by many volunteers who shared their time and talents. We would like to say thank you to the following people who were a part of this special time: Margaret Almond, Julia Tyler, Betsy Lowery, Jan Davis, Deb Gray, Michael Clingenpeel, George Davis, Peggy Pruden, Sallie Sparks, Martha Lou Green, Carol Alford, Steve Pugh, Beth Wilson, and Carol Cruickshanks

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.

News in the Pews ~ If you look in the pew racks on Sunday 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

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.

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.

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.

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@rjafc.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.

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. 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.

Folks who are bolded are additions or changes from last week's list.



AT HOME: Mary Ellen Berry, Marian Brooks, Doris Curtis, Margaret Daniel, Doug Edwards, Sam Nixon, Jackson Savedge, David Sims Sr., Avery Small, **Bill Smith**, 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

IN HOSPITAL: Margaret Collins—St. Mary's

Calendar Events

Wednesday, December 14

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

Saturday, December 17

8:30 a.m.: Leaf Collection Day, Plaza
11:00 a.m.: Youth Mystery Christmas Party, Offsite

Sunday, December 18

9:00 a.m.: Family Handbell Choir, Bell Room
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

Wednesday, December 21

8:00 a.m.: Men's Group: The Huddle, Reception Room
5:30 p.m.: Children & Youth Dinner, Fellowship Hall
6:00 p.m.: Christmas Pageant for Christmas Eve Rehearsal, Sanctuary
6:30 p.m.: Chancel Bell Choir, Bell Room
7:00 p.m.: Children & Youth Dessert & Recreation, Fellowship Hall

Thursday, December 22

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