

## Fourth Sunday of Advent Service of Worship

Sermon by Daniel Glaze  
Music by the Chancel Choir & Family Handbell 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.

**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

**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](http://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

## **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.**

**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.

## **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](http://www.rrcb.org/onlinegiving) to give online.

*Alicia and Jeffrey Lee work in Skopje, Macedonia, serving many ethnic groups marginalized by poverty, showing the love of God to many who feel unloved. They work with local grassroots organizations to address the needs of families living in extreme poverty, people neglected by society, and children who are rescued from or are at-risk for human trafficking.*

## **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](http://www.rrcb.org/pastorsblog).

## 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](http://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.*

## Micah Opportunities & Needs Fall 2016

Our work with Oak Grove Elementary School offers us the 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](mailto:susanryan1@verizon.net)).

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



**AT HOME:** Mary Ellen Berry, Marian Brooks, **Margaret Collins (daughter's home)**, Doris Curtis, Margaret Daniel, Doug Edwards, **Barbara Paterson**, 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

## Calendar Events

### 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  
11:00 a.m.: Worship, Sanctuary  
12:00 p.m.: Reception, Fellowship Hall  
4:15 p.m.: Youth Handbell Choir, Bell Room

### Wednesday, November 21

8:00 a.m.: Men's Group: The Huddle, Reception Room  
5:30 p.m.: Youth & Children Dinner, Fellowship Hall  
6:00 p.m.: Christmas Pageant Rehearsal for Christmas Eve Family Service, 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

### Friday, December 23

9:00 a.m.: Chancel Committee Flower Team, Sanctuary

### Saturday, December 24

4:00 p.m.: Christmas Eve Family Service, Sanctuary  
11:00 p.m.: Christmas Eve Service of Candlelight & Holy Communion, Sanctuary

### Sunday, December 25

11:00 a.m.: Worship, Sanctuary

### Monday, December 26

Church Office Closed

### Tuesday, December 27

Church Office Closed

### Wednesday, December 28

8:00 a.m.: Men's Group: The Huddle, Reception Room  
9:00 a.m.: Christmas Decorations Take Down, Sanctuary

### Friday, December 29

9:00 a.m.: Chancel Committee Flower Team, Sanctuary