

Tonight's Program
Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long with David Gulick
6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Who says you have to wait until Advent is over to sing Christmas carols? Come join David Gulick in the Sanctuary for some good old-fashioned caroling. Request your favorites!

December 14 Dinner
5:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Dinner Reservations are REQUIRED

Menu for Adults & Children:

Poppy Seed Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Corn & Lima Beans, Dinner Rolls, Apple and Cherry Cobbler

Dinner Costs: \$7/Adults, \$7/Youth, \$3/Children, \$20/Family Max

Make your dinner reservations by 11:00 a.m. on Monday, December 12. You may sign up when you pay for tonight's dinner, contact the Church Office, email susanyoung@rrcb.org, or fill out the form online (www.rrcb.org/wednesdays). Reservation cards are no longer available in the pew racks. Please consider making your reservations tonight.

Dinners this year are being prepared by Annabell's Catering. The owners and chefs are brothers Seldon and Moe Plumley. Both have extensive food service and customer service backgrounds. We are excited to welcome them to River Road Church! If you are interested in having Annabell's Catering prepare food for your event, talk to Seldon and Moe tonight.

December 14 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. Please join us.

This is the last program of 2016. We will return January 4, 2017 with the Epiphany Service.

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.

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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.

FLO (For Ladies Only) Afternoon Tea

Friday, December 9

12:00 p.m., Jefferson Hotel

This trip is open to all women!

Please contact Liz (ecseward@aol.com) to see if spaces are still available. Please advise if you would like to carpool from the Church's North Parking Lot at 11:30 a.m.

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 ticketing process through Eventbrite; Reserve your **FREE** tickets at www.rrcb.org/messiah

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.

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

CBF Season of Prayer for Global Missions & Christmas Offering
Deadline: January 1

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.

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@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,

Calendar Events

Wednesday, December 7

6:00 p.m.: Children's Choirs
6:30 p.m.: Wednesday Night Program, Sanctuary; Chancel Bell Choir, Bell Room

Thursday, December 8

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

Friday, December 9

9:00 a.m.: Chancel Committee Flower Team, Sanctuary
12:00 p.m.: FLO Afternoon Tea, The Jefferson Hotel

Saturday, December 10

9:00 a.m.: Kitchen Work Day, Fellowship Hall Kitchen
10:00 a.m.: Chancel Choir Dress Rehearsal, Choir Room

Sunday, December 11

9:00 a.m.: Family Handbell Choir, Bell Room; Inquirers' Class, Youth Area
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.: Concert Series: *Messiah* Part 1, 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



AT HOME: Mary Ellen Berry, Marian Brooks, Doris Curtis, Margaret Daniel, Doug Edwards, Sam Nixon, Jackson Savedge, Betty Rose Sexton, 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

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to Susan and Bob Halloran upon the death of her mother, and to Marty, Frank, Mary Alice, and Helen Halloran upon the death of their grandmother in Edenton, North Carolina on December 1.