

December 13, 2017

Volume 35 Number 49

Sundays

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship



GRACE

Baptist Church

WORSHIP

Sunday, December 17

A Service of Lessons and
Carols
The Chancel Choir

Sunday, December 24

Christmas in Carols
11:00 am
Candlelight Christmas Eve
Service
5:30 pm

Wouldn't it be wonderful
if Advent came filled with angels and alleluias?
Wouldn't it be perfect
if we were greeted on these December mornings with a hovering of heavenly hosts
tuning their harps and brushing up on their fa-la-las?
Wouldn't it be incredible
if their music filled our waking hours
with the promise of peace on earth
and if each Advent night we dreamed of nothing but goodwill?
Wouldn't we be ecstatic if we could take those angels shopping,
or trim the tree or have them hold our hands
and dance through our houses decorating?
And, oh, how glorious it would be to sit in church next to an angel
and sing our hark-the-heralds!
What an Advent that would be!
What Christmas spirit we could have!
An angel-filled Advent has so many possibilities!
But in lieu of that,
perhaps we can give thanks
for the good earthly joys we have been given
and for the earthly "angels" that we know
who do such a good job of filling our Advent with alleluias!
-Angel-Filled Advent by Ann Weems

In these Advent days I am giving thanks for all of the "earthly joys we have been given and for the earthly "angels" that we know who do such a good job of filling our Advent with alleluias!" This Sunday the Chancel Choir will fill our worship with the promise of peace on earth and the possibilities unleashed in the world through the incarnation. There are many earthly joys to give thanks for over the last year of our life together at Grace Baptist Church— your generosity in sharing your love and energy, resources and care in kingdom work, the collaborative efforts of our staff, and the many ways we've been able to join in the work of God beyond our walls, just to name a few! Thank you for filling Advent with alleluias and the good news that "a Savior has been born!"

In this Season of Giving, we remember especially our GBC staff members, their faithful, daily service and leadership among us.

We invite you to support our Annual Staff Love Gift!

Our ministerial and support staff will receive these gifts later in December. Please make your gift as early as possible and note **Staff Love Gift** on your check, or use our online giving, [here](#).

THANK YOU!

The Personnel Commission



Our next newsletter will be published December 20th

The deadline for submissions is Monday, December 18th

Visit us online at www.gbconline.org
or email us at office@gbconline.org

GBC Contact information:

Courtney Allen: courtney@gbconline.org
 (Senior Pastor) Phone #: 804-709-7795
 Wanda Sauley Fennell: wanda@gbconline.org
 (Minister of Music)
 Suzanne Vinson: family@gbconline.org
 (Interim Minister of Children, Families and Liturgical Arts)
 Bryce Williams: bryce@gbconline.org
 (Minister of Youth)
 Theresa Steward: theresa@gbconline.org
 (Organist)
 Sam Coley: coleys853@gmail.com
 (Sexton)
 Alejandra Lopez: office@gbconline.org
 (Ministries Assistant)

Do you have contact information that needs to be updated? Email changes to office@gbconline.org.

<u>December 2018</u>	<u>Sundays</u>	<u>December Birthdays</u>	
December 17 Grace on Tap Pastor Courtney's House 6:00 pm	9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	Sarah Brubaker	2
December 20 Christmas Caroling 6:00 pm	<u>Wednesdays</u> 12:00 pm Bible Brunch Buddies Resumes February 7 th	Freida Woodson	3
	4:30 pm Handbell Ensemble Rehearsal	Catherine Carter	4
	5:15 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	Lexo Kordzaia	6
	5:45 pm Dinner	Carrie Caumont	7
	6:30 pm The Welcome Table	Brynna Boykin-Carter	9
	7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Ann Wooldridge	11
		Brisland Halley	13
		Darrel Baker	14
		Alexander Kordzaia	15
		Priscilla Biddle	16
		Jackson Smith	17
		Tracy Hunter	17
		Bill Berry	17
		Brett Hammonds	18
		Emily Hammonds	18
		Charles Rankin	19
		Sonja Hill	24
		Laura Thomson	30

The Welcome Table Menu

Weekly Wednesday meals are scheduled from September to mid-June.
 Reservations are requested. Sign up on the hall table next to the Church Office
 or with our online form found on our Facebook page.
 The cost is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children (ages 3-11).

December 13	December 20	December 27
5:45 PM Sticks Kabobs	5:45 PM Pizza Caroling	NO PROGRAMMING Christmas Week

Wednesday Evening programming will resume on January 10, 2018



Advent
THE COMING

Advent III

December 17

Lessons and Carols with The Chancel Choir

11:00 am

Grace on Tap

6:00 pm

Wednesday, December 20

Christmas Caroling with Grace Baptist Church Extension Members

6:00 pm

Advent IV

December 24

Sunday Morning Worship: Christmas in Carols

11:00 am

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

5:30 pm

Sunday, December 31

No Sunday School

Advent and Christmas Videos

10:30 am

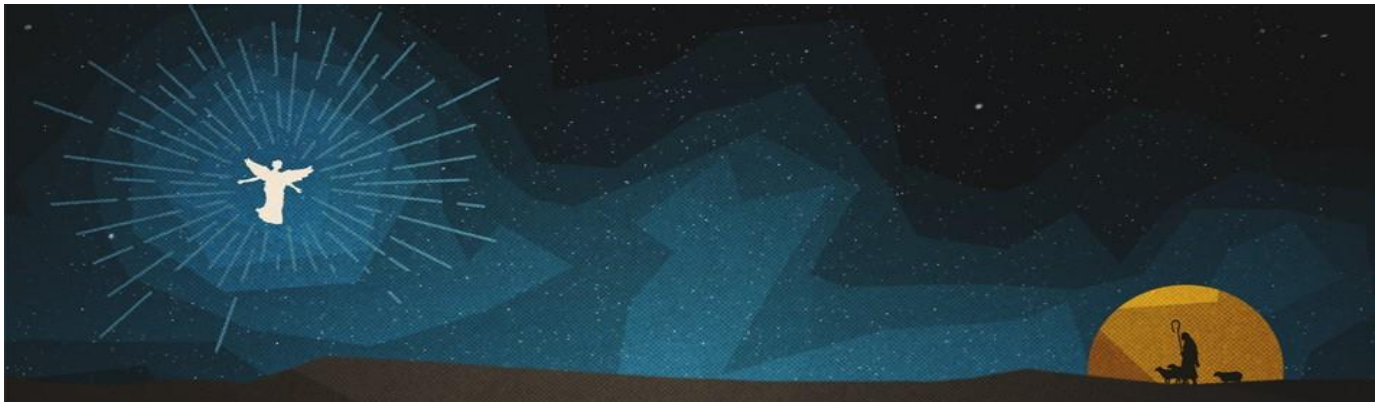
Brunch Church

11:00 am

Sunday, January 7

Epiphany Sunday

Epiphany Lunch following worship





Grace Baptist Church (EIN: 54-0557502) has been issued a \$45.16 donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between July 1 and September 30, 2017. Shop for everyone on your gift list this holiday at <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/54-0557502> and Amazon donates to Grace Baptist Church. #YouShopAmazonDonates

Deacon Nominations 2017

The Diaconate is seeking nominations for six deacons to serve a three-year term beginning in February 2018. Under the bylaws of Grace Baptist Church, deacons shall be elected annually.

Duties of a deacon include:

- Ministering to families of the church through visitation and pastoral care
- Assisting the Pastor in general oversight of the spiritual life of the church
- Preparing and serving communion, leading in worship, and caring for our community of faith
- Recommending recipients for Grace Scholarship funds

<u>Deacon (Term Expires)</u>	
Bernie Henderson (2018)	Matt Anderson (2020)
Brian Hill (2018)	Darrel Baker (2020)
Sharon Whitlock (2018)	Carole Jones (2020)
Freida Woodson (2018)	Sue Kay Lam-Kent (2020)
	Matthew Paxton (2020)
Chris Baker (2019)	Barbara Smith (2020)
Colin Bedell (2019)	Scudder Wagg (2020)
Cynthia Byrkeland (2019)	Elaine Yeatts (2020)
Kevin Corn (2019)	
Jennifer Dickerson (2019)	
Marilyn Fishel (2019)	
Marilyn Hunter (2019)	
Sandy Morrison (2019)	

If you would like to nominate a member of Grace Baptist Church who you believe is qualified to serve, please complete the nomination form on the back and leave it in the box marked “Deacon Nominations” on the hall table outside the church office, or call (353-0134) or email (office@gbconline.org) the church office by Sunday, December 20.

Masterworks Chorale to Perform Messiah at Grace Baptist

The Central VA Masterworks Chorale is excited to return to Grace Baptist Church on Friday, December 15, at 7:30pm. The Chorale members are celebrating the second half of their ten-year anniversary season with a reprise of the first-ever concert performed by the newly-formed group in 2007.

Messiah, by G.F. Handel, is a classic holiday favorite, and Artistic Director, Ryan Tibbetts, again takes the podium to conduct the Chorale and the orchestra. To complement *Messiah*, Director Tibbetts has chosen a work by Ola Gjeilo, a young Norwegian composer, entitled *Song of the Universal*, which will surely inspire. Renowned organist and accompanist, Daniel Stipe, will perform Handel's *Organ Concerto Op. 4, No. 5* to round out the program.

Please plan to attend and enjoy the classical as well as the contemporary with your entire family! Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door, and \$5 for students. Tickets will be available soon at Cross Bros. Grocery in Ashland, online at the Chorale's website, www.cvamc.org, by phone at 1-800- 838-3006, or from any Chorale member.

For questions or more information, please contact Becky Severin, Chorale President, at rvseverin@gmail.com or call 804-798- 3999.

Children and Families - Advent has begun!

This month we are to "Keep Awake" following four themes: waiting, looking, loving, and keeping. Just as we'll celebrate the candles and themes of hope, peace, love, and joy. You'll see coloring pages and wearable buttons around for use as reminders during this season. On the hall table, we have a variety of resources that you can choose from to take home and use. Gather what feels right for you and your family.

Thank you to all who participated in the **Brother Heinrich Performance** and thank you to all who witnessed its unfolding. We are loving the beginning of this season and look forward to sharing our experiences of Advent together.

Sunday, December 17th is our only regular hour for Sunday School. Ms. Susan will be teaching the 2nd-5th graders and PreK-1st is taught by Jenn Dickerson and Ginny Wagg. They will hear the story of Jonah, which finishes up our Fall Old Testament stories series and share some tasty treats.

Our Advent & Christmas Holy Moly videos will be playing in the fellowship hall where we'll gather for a potluck Brunch Church @ 11 a.m. *please sign up with the dish you'll share outside the church office and how many of your family plan to be present*

peace and light to you and yours.
Rev. Suzanne L. Vinson

Central VA Masterworks Chorale
Celebrating 10 Years

G.F. Handel

Messiah
Part I

Ola Gjeilo
Song of the Universal

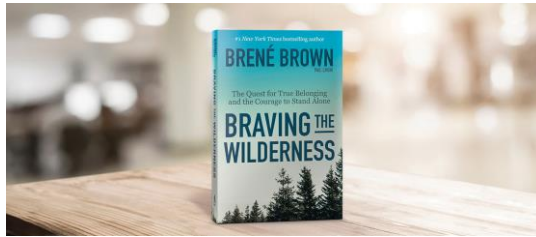
G.F. Handel
Organ Concerto Op. 4 No. 5

Ryan Tibbetts *artistic director*
Daniel Stipe *organist*

Friday, December 15, 2017
7:30 pm
Grace Baptist Church
4200 Dover Rd, Richmond

Sunday, December 17, 2017
3:00 pm
Duncan Memorial
United Methodist Church
201 Henry St, Ashland

Advance Tickets \$10 for adults (\$15 at the door) and \$5 for students. Purchase tickets at Cross Bros. Grocery in Ashland, online at www.cvamc.org or by phone 1-800-838-3006



A new Sunday school class started on December 3rd through Easter. The class is being led by Lisa Webb. Join us as we dive into Brene Brown's latest book, *Braving the Wilderness* and explore what it means to communicate and stay connected in faith despite our differences. Books are available in the church office for \$8. If you have any questions please contact Lisa at lisawebrva@gmail.com or by phone at [804-586-5122](tel:804-586-5122).

Have you noticed our new recycling bins in the hallways? We're thrilled that Grace now has curbside recycling! You can help us be good stewards of the earth by only placing paper, aluminum, and plastic in the bins! Your coffee cups and other food items can go in our regular trash cans. Thanks for your help in keeping our recycling recyclable!



Youth Schedule

12/10	Westminster	12-3 pm
12/14	High School Small Group	6:30-7:30 pm
12/17	NO ACTIVITIES	
12/24	NO ACTIVITIES	Christmas Eve
12/31	NO ACTIVITIES	New Years Eve
1/7	Movie Day	12-3 pm



Epiphany Luncheon

We will celebrate Epiphany on Sunday, January 7th with our morning worship and a lunch catered by Area 51 Food Truck. Our menu will include falafel, chicken gyros, beef gyros, greek salad, french fries and mozzarella sticks. Gluten free pita will be available. We'll enjoy king cakes for dessert. Are you as ready for this meal as we are? Sign up for you and your folks to be included in this tasty meal on the sheet outside the church office. As a part of our Epiphany Luncheon, we'll enjoy creating "word rocks" using ceramic clay that will become a part of our Lenten practice this year. You will want to be a part of all the goodness!



brunch church

sunday, december 31st 10:30 a.m.

Our December 31st Worship will be in the Fellowship Hall with Brunch Church. We will begin at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall with a special showing of Holy Moly Advent & Christmas Videos while we gather our food and set the tables. At 11 a.m. we will enjoy our Christmastide Brunch Church which will include a potluck brunch feast, gathering around to sing carols, a creative time of naming our church family values, a photo booth for fun pictures, and a nourishing time of togetherness. You are invited to dress comfortably, and PJ's are welcome. There is a sign-up sheet to name what deliciousness you're bringing and there will be dish cards available to add the ingredients used in your dish.

Cinnamon Rolls, Blanchard's coffee, and juices will be provided.



Grace on Tap

Join us for conversations on faith at 6:00 pm
*(There will only be ONE Grace on Tap in December.
We will continue our regular schedule in January)*

Dec 17

Pastor Courtney's House
4729 Louisiana St

DEACON OF THE WEEK:

EXTENSION MEMBER

Lois France
Golden Living, Room B26
3600 Mountain Road
Glen Allen, VA 23060



CHURCH FAMILY MATTERS

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

Extension Members

(Please send a note or make a phone call to these members. Contact information is in the church directory.)

Catherine Carter
Lois France
Nell Hobson
Shirley Lam

Members with Continuing Needs

Mac Angell
Dara Fennell Baker
Brynna Boykin-Carter
Bill Ford
Joe Furio
Denyse Hunt
John Luc
Wade McGinley
Beverly Pugh
Jim Rothrock
Maurianne Roberson

JOYS AND PRAISES

Paul Brockwell will serve on WCVE's Next Gen board, a volunteer group advising our local Community Idea Stations (WCVE and PBS) on how to attract and retain the next generation of listeners and viewers of public media.

Matt Paxton was named Citizen of the Year by the Virginia Building and Code Officials Association for his "uncommon compassion and empathy to improve the lives of relocating seniors, grieving families, and otherwise struggling individuals."

FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF GRACE WITH CURRENT CONCERNS

Amy Flora, surgery for breast cancer on December 14.
4505 Shirley Rd., Richmond, VA 23225

Donna Forester, recovering from severe concussion and is out of work until January.
3328 Pinebrook Dr., Richmond, VA 23225

Sam McNeil recovering from hip replacement on December 12th.
524 Williamsdale Dr., North Chesterfield, VA 23235

Spencer Anderson recovering from a broken arm.
11411 Wood Brook Rd., Glen Allen, VA 23059

Sonja Hill, recovering from shoulder surgery on November 22.
10267 Radford Mill Terr., Mechanicsville, VA 23116

Christian sympathy is extended to...

Reed and Edith Harrison in the death of Reed's brother in Baton Rouge.
2301 Littlefox Dr., Richmond, VA 23233

Friends and Family of Grace Who Value Prayers

- ❖ Gail, friend of **Wanda Sauley Fennell**, hospitalized following chemo. Scan revealed new cancer, so treatment will continue.
- ❖ Mary Rounds - 2 year old daughter of friend of the **Fennells**, will be going to *Children's Hospital in Philadelphia* with lifelong unexplained problems that prevent weight gain.
- ❖ Tina Barden, friend and coworker of **Jennifer Miller**, beginning stem cell transplant protocol for myeloma and hospitalization beginning 9/6. *1826 Summer Wind Lane, Maidens, VA 23102*
- ❖ **Betty Pugh Mills**, pray for relief from neuropathy in feet and hands due to chemo.
- ❖ Cori Ferguson, 19, has had breast removal and reconstruction surgery. Parents Greg and Sandra Ferguson, 53, has Alzheimer's-Friends of **Susanne Freeman & Phil Hale**.
- ❖ John Hill, father of **Sonja Hill**. *3200 Woodland Road, Glen Allen, VA 23060*.
- ❖ Richard Pittman, cousin of **Mac Angell**, showing the first stages of Parkinson's.
- ❖ Suzanne Belongia, mother of **Lisa Webb**, has been approved for a kidney transplant and is now officially on the waiting list. Home address: *7700 Lazy Creek Court, Prospect, KY 40059*
- ❖ Earl Parrish, friend of **Linda and Sue Levison** has congestive heart failure.
- ❖ Angela Hawkins, friend of **Linda Levison** has type 4 terminal cancer.
- ❖ Sunshine Rae Hughes, infant daughter of Ricky Hughes, great-great niece of **Barbara Hughes** and **Jane Moody** has hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.
- ❖ Kim Jennings, daughter-in-law of **Margaret Jennings** is having chemotherapy for breast cancer.
- ❖ Lois Levison, having health issues. Mother of **Linda Levison**.
- ❖ Steve Lowry, brother-in-law of **Pam Geib**, has polymyalgia rheumatica and multiple myeloma.
- ❖ Rosie Smith, niece of **Sonja Hill** is in rehab for drug addiction.
- ❖ Morton and Mavis Baldwin, parents of **Robin Baldwin** are struggling with health issues and dementia.
- ❖ Marcia Cole, sister of **Wade McGinley** is experiencing multiple health issues.
- ❖ Bobby Dean, brother-in-law of **Susan McGinley** has Parkinson's disease.
- ❖ Chuck Holmes, prostate cancer; Sarah Holmes, wife of Chuck, sister of **Priscilla Biddle** has migraines.
- ❖ Sydney Hughes, granddaughter of **Barbara Hughes** has Tuberous Sclerosis.

RECENT VISITORS IN WORSHIP

Please pick up a copy of Church Family Matters outside the church office for more information on recent GBC visitors.

Please add / remove names by contacting the church office at 804-353-0134 or gbchurch@gbconline.org.

Current GBC Missions

Camp Alkulana, CARITAS, Children Incorporated, Christian Education Center "Diamond" Poland, Hands Up Ministries, Hope Tree, Oregon Hill Baptist Center (RCFN), Grace Baptist Church Institute, Monrovia- Liberia, Liberation Veteran Services, Heifer International, The Shepherd Center.

SUNDAY RESPONSIBILITIES

<u>Sunday, December 17</u>	<u>Sunday, December 24</u>
Acolyte: Alyssa Dickerson Childcare Workers: Sarah Brawley Sunday School: Worship: Chimer: Milagros Cavet Deacon of the Week: Extension Member: Lois France Greeters/Ushers: Chip Hardy Jesse Kent Sue Kay Lam-Kent Money Counters: Susan Hebel Chad Hudson Jesse Kent Opener/Closer: Richard Cross Sound System: Faith Dickerson	Acolyte: Childcare Workers: Sunday School: Worship: Chimer: Deacon of the Week: David Carter Extension Member: Shirley Lam Greeters/Ushers: Richard Cross Sallie Cross David Boykin Bernie Henderson Money Counters: Sallie Cross Sharon Whitlock Opener/Closer: Richard Cross Sound System: Joe Griffin

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE:

Giving Opportunities 2017:	\$406,899.43
Total Gifts Given 2017:	\$353,774.47
Remaining Giving Opportunity	\$ 53,124.96
<u>December 10</u>	
Gifts given:	\$3,363.00
Other Income:	\$3,471.00

PLEASE NOTE

- Outside the office you can find:
- Church Budget
 - Birthdays (December)
 - Church Directory
 - Church Newsletter (Weekly)
 - SIGN UP SHEETS