



FROM OUR PASTOR

This past week I had the opportunity to hear some lectures by Brian McClaren that were hosted by the McAfee School of Theology and several of our CBF partners. The point of these lectures is to not only hear some insight about preaching and local church ministry, but often times the lecturers give those gathered a greater perspective of the work of the church on a global scale. Brian did not disappoint in that regard.

One of the conversations that churches and denominations like ours have been having for a while now is about the eventual decline of denominations. The numbers show that denominations of all stripes are shrinking from what they were at their peak a few decades ago. Most of the time when I hear writers and futurists talk about that eventual decline is that there will eventually be no denominations—just remnants scattered about in churches. But Brian made a different postulation. He wondered if, instead of remaining in our silos, it might be possible for Christians of every denominational stripe to come together and be a part of one large connecting body of churches. I am sure there are others who have said something similar, but this was the first time I had heard it from someone.

What fascinated me about this conversation was trying to imagine all of the work that would need to go into getting people who have essentially been living in different rooms of the same house into the same room. It is not unlike the work that we will be doing at FBC as we continue to give more shape to the dreams articulated by our Discovery Team. In order to be successful, we will need to have everyone singing off the same song sheet (to use a different analogy). I am excited about the conversations we continue to have and also the fervent prayers of so many of you who are all partnering together to bring these dreams to reality. Stay engaged in the conversations and keep praying for God's work in our midst!



December 23
Silent Lord's Supper
Sanctuary
5:00-6:00 p.m.

December 24
Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
Sanctuary
5:00 p.m.



CHILDREN'S CORNER

CHILDREN ON MISSION

Wednesday Nights will resume on January 9th and we need a wonderful adult to help teach 5th-6th grade missions! Please email Kristen at kpope@fbcrome.org if you are willing to serve in this way.

APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

We will have a Teacher Appreciation Breakfast on January 13th at 9:00 a.m. in the Dining Room, and we would like 4th-6th graders to serve teachers at this event. Look out for emails & social media posts about all the ways you can get involved in this "Thank You" to our teachers.

PRETEEN RETREAT

February 1st-2nd will be our 5th & 6th grade retreat! Cost is \$50 and will cover food, lodging & a fun outing. Email Kristen at kpope@fbcrome.org to reserve your spot!

YOUTH NEWS

WINTER RETREAT REMINDERS

JAN 2 - 5, 2019 - WEST VIRGINIA

REMINDER TO THOSE PARTICIPATING...

Get your information into John ASAP!

MMM SAVE THE DATE!

March Mission Madness
John's Creek Baptist Church
March 15-17, 2019
\$100 per person

PASSPORT YOUTH CAMP REGISTRATION OPEN!

Greensboro College - Passport Choices
June 30 - July 5, 2019 - \$399/person
Registration Open NOW!
<https://fbcrome-ythpassport-19.eventbrite.com>

MISSIONS MINISTRY

HANDS OF CHRIST CHRISTMAS

"Thank you" to all who organized, adopted children, purchased presents, donated towards meals, and made HOCC a WONDERFUL event! The HOCC Committee is an exceptional group of ladies and this event couldn't happen without their diligent planning and work!

MISSION PARTNERSHIP WITH REFUGE & HOPE, KAMPALA UGANDA

FBC Rome has supported Jade & Shelah Acker's work in Uganda for years. We are proud to announce we will take a small group of educators, business entrepreneurs and medical professionals with us to Uganda, June 15-28, 2019. Those wanting more information about the service opportunity, please call the office or email John.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISCIPLINES DEVOTIONAL GUIDES AVAILABLE

Copies of the Upper Room Disciplines are now available throughout December, either in the Church office or on the Welcome Desk near the elevator. Please contact Tamara Smathers if you need more information.



TOGETHER WE LEARN!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30TH

On most Sundays, families arrive at church and go their different directions—Older adults gather in one area, youth in another, and children in yet another. We are rarely TOGETHER!

But on Sunday, December 30th, we will learn TOGETHER. Mark your calendars now and plan to join us in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45 for an intergenerational Bible Study.

JAMIE BARTON COMES HOME

See FBC's own Jamie Barton in a starring role in "Dead Man Walking" with the Atlanta Opera on Tuesday, February 5. This is a true story based on the book and Academy Award-winning movie. It is the most performed new American opera of the 21st Century. Tickets are limited and are \$75, which includes the ticket and transportation. We will have a chance to visit with Jamie following the performance. Call the church office to register. Tickets are going quickly!

HOLD THE DATE!

"CONVERSATIONS FOR EVERY COUPLE"

MARCH 1-2, 2019

We are excited to announce a Marriage Enrichment weekend, with David and Jane Hull as our presenters. The cost will be minimal, as the sessions will be held at FBC, with childcare provided. Put this on your calendars, and watch for more details.

WREN BOOKER'S LIFE VERSE:

"The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me;
your love, O Lord, endures forever—
do not abandon the works of your hands."

Psalm 138:8



WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

WOMEN'S EPIPHANY RETREAT

JANUARY 4-6

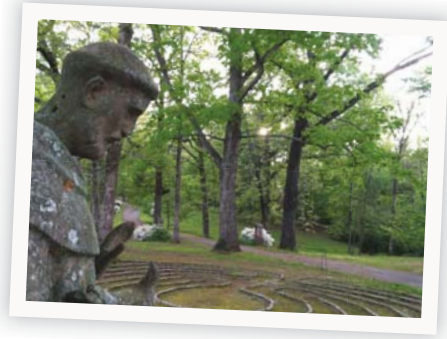
SACRED HEART MONASTERY, CULLMAN, AL

A few spaces have opened up for this great time away with women from First Baptist.

The opportunity to explore some quiet soul nourishing experiences is the perfect way to start a new year.

We are fortunate that Gayle Monk will once again lead yoga sessions, helping us to prepare for stillness and quiet.

The Sisters of Sacred Heart will include us in their morning and evening prayers with lovely chanting of the Psalms.



If you have any questions, please contact Tamara Smathers.

SUNDAY FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary for Sunday, December 30, are given to the glory of God and in honor of Beverly Harris on the occasion of their wedding anniversary by Bob Harris.

The Sanctuary and Narthex flower calendar has several openings in the months of January and July. If you are interested in placing flowers in the church on a Sunday to honor or memorialize someone special, please contact Karen Garrett in the church office.

GIVING TO GOD

Year-to-Date:

Ministry Support Needed \$466,082.84

Support Received \$420,064.50

2018-2019 Total Budget Commitments to Date \$1,212,954.00

IMPORTANT TAX NOTICE: To insure the deductibility of your church contributions, do not file your 2018 income tax return until you have received a written acknowledgement of your contributions from the church. Some of your contributions may not be tax deductible if you file before receiving a written acknowledgement. Year-end contributions must be received in the church office by 4:00 p.m., Monday, December 31 or postmarked by December 31.

For contributions made with a bank credit card by December 31, 2018, you can claim the deduction for the tax year 2018 even though the credit card bill is paid in the next year. Contributions made with a retail store credit card are only tax deductible for the year you actually pay the credit card bill.

seeking His heart | Being His hands

December 22 - January 4

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Saturday, December 22

Minister on Call

John Uldrick 706.766.0430

Sunday, December 23 (Fourth Sunday in Advent-Love)

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Scrap Iron Broadcast (WLAQ 1410) | 9:00 am |
| Bible Study (all ages) | 9:45 am |
| Worship - Comcast Channel 44 | 11:00 am |
| Silent Lord's Supper | 5:00 pm |

Monday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)

Church Office Closed

Candlelight Service, Sanctuary 5:00 pm

Tuesday, December 25 (Christmas Day)

Church Office Closed

**FBC Serves Community Kitchen
NO Meals and More in December**

Wednesday, December 26

FBC Serves Community Kitchen

Thursday, December 27

FBC Serves Community Kitchen

Friday, December 28

FBC Serves Community Kitchen

Saturday, December 29

Minister on Call Tamara Tillman Smathers 706.266.7141

Sunday, December 30 (World Hunger Sunday)

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Scrap Iron Broadcast (WLAQ 1410) | 9:00 am |
| Family Faith Talks, FH | 9:30 am |
| Bible Study (all ages) | 9:45 am |
| Family Worship - Comcast Channel 44 | 11:00 am |

Monday, December 31 (New Years Eve)

Church Office Closes

4:30 pm

Tuesday, January 1

Church Office Closed

Friday, January 4

Women of the Church depart for Epiphany Retreat 4:00 pm

OLIVIA BARFIELD'S LIFE VERSE:

To Timothy, my dear son:
"Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord."

2 Timothy 1:2

THIS WEEK: DECEMBER 23

SUNDAY WORSHIP
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT - LOVE
SERMON: "Love Moves Us Forward"
PREACHER: Rev. Matt DuVall
SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:39-45
ANTHEM: Love Can...arr. Jay Rouse
SPECIAL MUSIC: Maggie Inman

TLC VOLUNTEERS

BED BABIES: Joanne Owens and Pat Bagby
1'S & 2'S: David & Carolyn Brearley
3'S & 4'S: Ryan & Amy Cox

MINISTER ON CALL:

John Uldrick 706.766.0430

THE SPIRE

SUNDAY SERVICES

BROADCAST LIVE ON
COMCAST CHANNEL 44 AND
VIA WWW.FBCROME.ORG

SENIOR ADULT EVENTS

GO WEST INFO MEETING IS JANUARY 23!

The senior adults will be traveling west next fall! Our trip to Yellowstone, Jackson Hole and more will be beautiful and memorable. Dates are September 17-24, 2019. You can pick up an information packet and sign up now, or you can wait until our information meeting with the Collette representative, provided there is space left! The meeting is January 23 at 3:30 p.m. in the Dining Room. Contact Keith Reaves with questions.

UPCOMING EVENTS MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

DECEMBER 23

Silent Lord's Supper

DECEMBER 30

Together We Learn

JANUARY 13

Teacher Appreciation
Breakfast

DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service

JANUARY 4-6

Women's Epiphany Retreat

NEXT WEEK: DECEMBER 30

WORLD HUNGER SUNDAY
FAMILY SUNDAY WORSHIP
SERMON: "About the Father's Business"
PREACHER: Rev. Matt DuVall
SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:41-52

TLC VOLUNTEERS

BED BABIES: Kathy Cooper and Susan Hortman
1'S & 2'S: Christian & Kate Terry
3'S & 4'S: Matt & Katie Moon

MINISTER ON CALL:

Tamara Tillman Smathers 706.266.7141

Please visit us for more information:
www.fbcrome.org

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