

THE SPIRE

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FROM OUR PASTOR

For the last few days, both my home and our church have been filled with the important work of decorating for the Advent and Christmas season. The first thing Caroline and I have always done in years past was to decorate the tree. On our Christmas tree are ornaments from much of our life thus far. We have ornaments from places where we have traveled. We have ornaments that we were given when we were married. We have ornaments that commemorate the births of our children and now so many ornaments that the girls have made at school or at church or other places. Our tradition has been to slowly and methodically go through each box and each ornament and remember that trip or that place or that moment as we hung the ornament. It is a special time that is filled with laughter, a few tears, some amazement, and mostly joy at just how wonderful this life can be.

This year, it was a little different because the girls wanted to help, and by help, I mean they wanted to hang all the ornaments. They quickly began unwrapping and placing them on the tree—not always as careful as their old dad has become with some of these ornaments that are now in double digits. They didn't tell any stories. They didn't remember or laugh or cry or talk about where and when we got most of those ornaments—except when we got to the ornaments that we had picked up in the last few years. They were so excited to talk about what they remembered about their ornaments! It was a reminder to me that in the work of Advent preparation, there is room for all of our stories and all of our remembrances because God comes to all of us right where we are and we all have a chance to find our place in the story.

With Expectant Hope,



HANDS OF CHRIST CHRISTMAS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15
FELLOWSHIP HALL

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
FROM 8:00-10:30 A.M.

ALL volunteers are asked to greet and visit
with our guests around tables.

Hands of Christ Christmas committee has all
other duties already assigned.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

A huge "THANK YOU" to everyone who made Cool Yule such a success, and especially to Diane Lumpkin for her tireless dedication to this special Christmas event!

FAMILY ADVENT NIGHT

Our final Wednesday evening will be December 12th, and we will have a special Family Advent Night in the gym from 5:45-6:45 p.m., full of Christmas treats and activities for the whole family to enjoy together (including some special live nativity animals!)

CHILDCARE REGISTRATION

Sunday School Christmas Parties will be December 16th, & childcare will be provided from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Register through the link on the Children's Ministry Facebook page or through the link provided in the holiday newsletter email. If you did not receive the holiday newsletter, please send your email address to kpope@fbcrome.org.

CANDLE LIGHTERS NEEDED

We will need 5th and 6th graders to help with candle lighting during the Christmas Eve service. We will practice Sunday morning December 23rd, and also please plan for them to arrive in the sanctuary by 4:30 p.m. on the 24th for the 5:00 p.m. service.

YOUTH NEWS

CHRISTMAS CARD POST OFFICE

Youth Ministry will deliver YOUR Family Christmas Cards to other FBC Church members this season! Drop boxes will be available throughout the building. How do you participate?

1. Drop your finished cards in a drop box with a donation for our delivery services
2. Watch for an email that your cards were delivered!
3. Emails will be sent to all FBC members who have received mail... and those cards will be available for pick up outside the sanctuary, near the elevators.

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9TH FROM 4:00 - 8:00 PM

\$20 per person

Ice skating at The Forum & dinner to follow. Make plans to attend!

NINA LOVEL'S LIFE VERSE:

"Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."

John 7:38

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEDDING INVITATION

Keith and Hilary Reaves are pleased to invite the church family to the wedding of Ellen Reaves and Logan Wood on December 8 at 3:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. A reception in the Fellowship Hall will follow the service.

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.



"SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT" EXHIBIT

This wonderful exhibit of woodwork by Bob Harris is now open (Gallery on 3rd Floor) and will run the Christmas season. Bob is known for his collection of nativity scenes, which he has been creating for many years. The blend of woods and shapes makes each figure unique. The cases containing Bob's woodwork, will be joined by other artists' depictions of the nativity of Jesus.

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.

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.



WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

MONDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

DECEMBER 10TH, 10:00 A.M.

Join us at LivingProof Recovery on Shorter Ave. to decorate their building. Rather than hosting a party for ourselves, we will prepare their building to be a festive place to celebrate with others who are involved in recovery meetings.

SENIOR ADULT EVENTS

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

The Senior Adult Christmas Luncheon is Thursday, December 13 at noon. Come prepared for great food, festive music and lots of laughs and Christmas cheer. (Be sure to wear some gloves or a scarf as a prop for part of the program!) Cost is \$10. Please make reservations with Karen in the church office by Monday, December 10.

GO WEST!

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. More information and opportunities to register for the trip will be available **after** the first of the year.

SUNDAY FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary for Sunday, December 9, are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Libby on the occasion of their wedding anniversary by Richard York.

The flowers in the Sanctuary for Sunday, December 16, are given to the glory of God and in honor of Kay Bratton on the occasion of their wedding anniversary by Randy Bratton.

The Sanctuary and Narthex flower calendar has several openings in the months of January and July. If you are interested in placing a beautiful floral arrangement, for all to enjoy, 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	\$368,242.72
Support Received	\$336,628.31

Hurricane Disaster Relief	\$9,010.00
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2018-2019 Total Budget Commitments to Date	\$1,187,634.00
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2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES: Due to the fact that the church's new financial computer program does not recognize envelope numbers, the 2019 Offering Envelopes will not have a number or a name assigned. Blank envelope packets for the year 2019 will be available on each Sunday School floor and in the Church Narthex. If you give a cash offering, be sure to write your name on the envelope in order to receive a tax credit.

December 8 - December 21

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Saturday, December 8

Minister on Call	Matt DuVall 706.254.1323
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Sunday, December 9 (Second Sunday in Advent-Peace)

Scrap Iron Broadcast (WLAQ 1410)	9:00 am
Bible Study (all ages)	9:45 am
Worship - Comcast Channel 44	11:00 am
Youth Christmas Party	4:00-8:00 pm

Monday, December 10

Women's Bible Study, LivingProof Center	10:00 am
Ruble-Whitworth Missions Group, Comm. Rm.	11:00 am
Foundation Mtg., Conf. Rm.	12:00 p.m.
Women's Small Group, Comm. Rm.	5:30-7:30 pm

Tuesday, December 11

Men's Bible Study, MSP Law Office	6:45 am
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Wednesday, December 12 (Final Family Night of 2018)

First Choice Dinner, FH	5:00 pm
Youth Gathering, YR	5:45 pm
Family Advent Event, Gym	5:45-6:45 pm
Prayer Time, FH	6:00 pm
Youth Bible Study, YR	6:15 pm
Adult Choice Seminar, DR	6:20 pm

Thursday, December 13

Senior Adult Christmas Lunch, FH	12:00 pm
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Saturday, December 15

Minister on Call	Kristen Pope 502.693.5644
Hands of Christ Christmas, FH/DR	8:00-11:00 am

Sunday, December 16 (Third Sunday in Advent-Joy)

Adult Faith Development Committee Mtg., Conf. Rm.	8:30 am
Missions Committee Mtg., DR	8:30 am
Babies' First Christmas, DR	9:00 am
Scrap Iron Broadcast (WLAQ 1410)	9:00 am
Bible Study (all ages)	9:45 am
Worship - Comcast Channel 44	11:00 am
Bing Crosby Christmas Show, Rome City Auditorium	4:00 pm

Monday, December 17

WOC Book Group, Mary Shotwell Smith's Home	1:00 pm
The Edge (HS Seniors), Uldrick Home	7:30 pm

Tuesday, December 18

Men's Bible Study, MSP Law Office	6:45 am
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THIS WEEK: DECEMBER 9

SUNDAY WORSHIP

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT - PEACE

SERMON: "Peace Settles Us"

PREACHER: Rev. Matt DuVall

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:68-79

ANTHEMS: *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day...arr.
Lloyd Larson*

Cradle Hymn...Kim Andre Arnessen

TLC VOLUNTEERS

BED BABIES: Carroll & Miriam Peterson

1'S & 2'S: Ryan & Leigh Weldon

3'S & 4'S: Jordan & Ann Knight

FIRST CHOICE MENU

DECEMBER 12

Beef Bourguignon

CHILDREN'S OPTION

Hamburgers with French Fries

MINISTER ON CALL:

Matt DuVall 706.254.1323

THE SPIRE

SUNDAY SERVICES

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

MISSIONS MINISTRY

2019 PERU TRIP DATES

Make plans to join us as we serve
in Colliquè, Peru in 2019!

April 5-14, 2019

October 4-13, 2019

MISSION PARTNERSHIP WITH

REFUGE & HOPE, KAMPALA UGANDA

FBC Rome has supported Jade & Shela 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

DECEMBER 9

Youth Christmas Party

DECEMBER 13

Senior Adult Christmas Luncheon

DECEMBER 16

Babies' First Christmas

DECEMBER 23

Silent Lord's Supper

DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service

NEXT WEEK: DECEMBER 16

SUNDAY WORSHIP

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT - JOY

SERMON: "Joy Calls us Out"

PREACHER: Rev. Matt DuVall

SCRIPTURE: Zephaniah 3:14-20

ANTHEMS: *Rejoice Greatly...Joseph Martin*

What Did the Star See?...Joseph Martin

SPECIAL MUSIC: Youth Choir

TLC VOLUNTEERS

BED BABIES: Jeff & Tiffany Martin

1'S & 2'S: Brian & Betsy Richie

3'S & 4'S: Marc & Lauren Sklar

MINISTER ON CALL:

Kristen Pope 502.693.5644

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

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First Baptist Church of Rome
100 East 4th Ave., Rome, GA 30161-3120
Postmaster: Send address changes to The Spire
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