

# THE SPIRE

Volume 70 • No. 24 • December 1, 2023



## 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL Christmas at First Baptist CONCERT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 4 P.M.

As always the Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra  
will be featured with special appearances by  
the First Baptist Ringers, Children's Choir  
and Youth Choir.

*(Streamed live and broadcast live Comcast 44)*



## ADVENT EVENTS

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

Christmas at First Baptist Concert – 4 p.m.  
*(Streamed live and broadcast live Comcast 44.)*

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

Final Wednesday Night of 2023  
Carol Sing and Younger Choirs Sing – 6:15 p.m.

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

Senior Adult Christmas Luncheon – Noon

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

Silent Lord's Supper – 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.  
Children's Ministry Cool Yule – 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

Morning Worship Service – 11 a.m.  
Christmas Eve Service – 5 p.m.  
*(Streamed live and broadcast live Comcast 44.)*

## FROM OUR PASTOR

### WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?

Much of our life is spent waiting. We wait every day for lights to turn green, for babies to be born, for the results of a test. We wait on acceptance letters, in grocery lines, and for our order to come to our table so we can eat. Waiting comes with the territory as we live day to day.

Often, we grow frustrated in our times of waiting, but waiting can also be useful, productive, and a time in which we grow and develop in our character as people who are seeking to be formed in the image of Christ. This is especially true as we wait for the weightier things of life—things like justice, peace, a word from God, help in our times of trouble. And the season of Advent is a time for us to sharpen our waiting skills as we await the coming of Jesus once more.

So, let's do just that. Let's welcome and embrace our daily times of waiting. Let's see what God can do through us as we wait. It will take patience. It will be hard at times. But purposefully waiting can bring us closer to God and to one another.

Appropriately, our Advent theme this year is a question: **What Are We Waiting For?** As we all ponder this question, come to worship each week to wait on God and to answer the call of God when we hear God speaking to us.

Waiting with you,

*David*



## CHILDREN'S CORNER

### ESP DINNER

We will provide & serve the monthly dinner for ESP (Extra Special People) on Monday, December 4 at St. Peter's Episcopal Church. After serving, we will get to enjoy sitting with the families to enjoy a meal ourselves. Mark this date on the calendar for your family to participate.

### CAMP SIGN-UPS

Emails have gone out about the CBFGA Children's Retreat in January as well as Passport Kids Camp over the summer. If you did not receive the email, please let me know and I will get info to you ASAP. Hard to believe, but deadlines are already approaching!

**DECEMBER 6: FINAL WEDNESDAY NIGHT**, no choir/missions, but both younger children's choirs will perform

**DECEMBER 17: COOL YULE 6-8 P.M.**, adult Sunday School classes are invited to have their Christmas parties during this time while we provide Christmas fun at the church. Collide (5th-7th grade) will meet in the youth room.

## STUDENT NEWS

### UPCOMING EVENTS

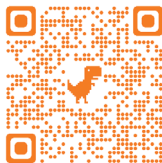
**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10-** FBC Student Progressive Christmas Party

### THE EDGE

The EDGE is a ministry for our graduating seniors that offers good fellowship and practical discussions on their transition from high school to a new season of life. To kick it off, we will have the first gathering at the Georgian house on Thursday, December 7 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Please contact Nick Georgian for more details.

### COLLEGE CHRISTMAS PARTY

All college students are invited to a fun night out for our Christmas dinner on Thursday, December 21 from 6:30 until 9 p.m. We will meet at Blossom Hill for dinner and then head over to Honeycream for dessert. Scan the QR code to RSVP! Please contact Nick Georgian if you have any questions and/or need further information.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR? AN ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES

|               |                           |                  |
|---------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| December 3    | Waiting for God to Act    | Isaiah 64:1-9    |
| December 10   | Waiting for God's Comfort | Isaiah 40:1-11   |
| December 17   | Waiting on Purpose        | 1 Thess. 5:16-24 |
| December 24   | Waiting on God's Favor    | Luke 1:26-38     |
| Christmas Eve | What Are We Waiting For?  | Luke 2:1-20      |

### FINAL FAMILY NIGHT

Our final Wednesday Family Night for 2023 is December 6. Join us for dinner between 5 and 6 p.m. and stay for a unique carol sing and special Christmas music from our two youngest choirs.

### UPPER ROOM DISCIPLINES

The 2024 Disciplines have arrived and are available. This daily devotional book is an excellent tool for those wishing to begin or deepen a devotional practice. Each day includes a Scripture to read, a short meditation, and prayer. Starting December 6, copies may be picked up on the welcome desk near the elevator and in the church office.



## MEN'S MINISTRY

### MEN'S MINISTRY STEAK DINNER

WHEN: Tuesday, December 12

WHERE: FBC Rome, Fellowship Hall

TIME: 6 - 7:30 p.m.

PRESENTER: Tony Kunczewski, Head Football Coach at Berry College  
Please mark your calendars and invite a friend! The steak dinner is \$15 per person and a RSVP is needed by Wednesday, December 6. You may sign up on the FBC webpage or by scanning the QR Code on one of the Steak Dinner flyers around the church.



## POINSETTIA HONORARIUM & MEMORIAL

Please help the Flower Committee beautify the sanctuary during Advent by purchasing a poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one through Wednesday, December 20. Complete the form below and return it with your payment of \$10.00 per plant. Make check payable to the *FBC Flower Fund*. Plants may be picked up after the service on December 31. You may drop off your check or mail it to:  
First Baptist Church Flower Fund, P. O. Box 1189,  
Rome, GA 30162-1189

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE

NUMBER OF PLANTS

IN MEMORY OF

IN HONOR OF

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ROME

100 East 4th Avenue Rome, GA 30161 706.291.6850 [www.fbcrome.com](http://www.fbcrome.com)





## WELCOME TO THE CHURCH FAMILY



PLEASE WELCOME:  
The Aronhalts (Kevin,  
Rhea, Yoma Jane, Eden  
and Zoe)

## STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

We celebrate with this member of our staff and give thanks for all they do in service to God and our congregation:

- **GREG PAULSON**, HEAD OF FOOD SERVICES –  
14 years on December 2

## SENIOR ADULT NEWS

### SENIOR ADULT CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Our annual luncheon will be at noon on Thursday, December 7. FBC's own Mary Donahue will present a special Christmas mini-concert for us! Make reservations in the church office by Monday, December 4. Cost is \$10 per person. Guests welcome!

## MISSIONS

### HANDS OF CHRIST- CHRISTMAS EMPHASIS

Thank you for submitting families and individuals to be a part of Hands of Christ Christmas. Watch for these family stories and gift signups through December 2. Gifts should be dropped off in the Dining Room December 3 through 10. Presents will be sorted, wrapped and picked up December 11 through 15. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, reach out to Kate Barron 706-296-3453 or Amy Cox 770-826-5714.

## SUNDAY FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary for Sunday, December 3, are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Libby by Richard York.

The flowers in the Sanctuary for Sunday, December 10, are given to the glory of God and in honor of Kay Bratton on the occasion of their wedding anniversary by Randy Bratton.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR December 2 – December 15

### Saturday, December 2

Minister on Call Gwen Stephens 706.766.5074

### Sunday, December 3

Scrap Iron Broadcast (WLAQ 1410) 9:00 am  
Adult Bible Study 9:45 am  
Worship - Comcast Channel 44 11:00 am  
Worship also available on FBC Website / YouTube Channel  
Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra, Sanctuary 2:45 pm  
Children/Youth rehearse 3:15 pm  
Choirs, FBC Ringers, and  
Orchestra photo, Sanctuary 3:30 pm  
Christmas at First Baptist 4:00 pm

### Monday, December 4

Women's Bible Study Group, Dining Rm. 10:00 am  
Extra Special People Dinner 5:00 pm

### Tuesday, December 5

Bridges Task Force, Conf. Rm. 5:30 pm

### Wednesday, December 6

Extended Family Ministry Team, Conf. Rm. 4:30 pm  
Family Night Dinner Served, F.H. 5:00 pm  
Young Children's Choir Rehearse 5:45 pm  
Carol Sing/Children's Choirs Sing, F.H. 6:00 pm

### Thursday, December 7

Senior Adult Christmas Luncheon, F.H. 12:00 pm  
Bridges Out of Poverty, F.H. and Comm. Rm. 6:00 pm  
The Edge Gathering, Georgian home 7:00 pm

### Saturday, December 9

Minister on Call David Brooks 252.916.7174  
Bridges Life Coach Sharing, F.H. 9:30 am

### Sunday, December 10

Scrap Iron Broadcast (WLAQ 1410) 9:00 am  
Bible Study 9:45 am  
Worship - Comcast Channel 44 11:00 am  
Worship also available on FBC Website / YouTube Channel  
Student Progressive Christmas Party 4:00 pm

### Monday, December 11

Women's Bible Study Group,  
(All Hands on Deck) F.H. 10:00 am  
Ruble-Whitworth Mission Group, Conf. Rm. 11:30 am

### Tuesday, December 12

Men's Ministry Steak Dinner, F.H. 6:00 pm

### Thursday, December 14

Bridges Out of Poverty, F.H. and Comm. Rm. 6:00 pm

## THIS WEEK: DECEMBER 3

### SUNDAY WORSHIP

SERMON: "Waiting for God to Act"

PREACHER: Rev. David Brooks

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 64:1-9

ANTHEM: "Bell Carol"... William Mathias

SPECIAL MUSIC: First Baptist Ringers  
Women's Ensemble

ACCESS THE ORDER OF WORSHIP EACH WEEK AT:  
<https://fbcrome.com/orders-of-worship/>

### FAMILY NIGHT MENU

#### DECEMBER 6

#### Final Family Dinner Night of 2023

Mixed Green Salad, Beef Bourguignon,  
Whipped Potatoes, Medley of Vegetables,  
French Silk Pie

CHILDREN'S OPTION:  
Hamburgers, Chips

MINISTER ON CALL:  
Gwen Stephens 706.766.5074

## NEXT WEEK: DECEMBER 10

### SUNDAY WORSHIP

SERMON: "Waiting for God's Comfort"

PREACHER: Rev. David Brooks

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 40:1-11

ANTHEM: "The Yearning"...arr. Craig Courtney

SPECIAL MUSIC: Emma Sprayberry

ACCESS THE ORDER OF WORSHIP EACH WEEK AT:  
<https://fbcrome.com/orders-of-worship/>

MINISTER ON CALL:  
David Brooks 252.916.7174

# THE SPIRE

## FAITH TALKS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

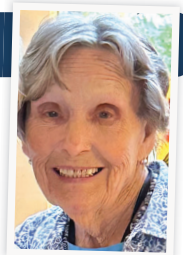
9:45 A.M. IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

"Discovering Our Overlapping History" The Sunday, July 4, 2021, New York Times gave front page coverage to Stacie Marshall who had recently inherited her family's farm in Chattooga County, GA. She had uncovered family records that included an enslaved wet-nurse named Hester. Almost 150 years after her passing, the descendants of Hester and her enslavers lived as neighbors and friends. They prayed, worshiped, and shared meals together, not knowing their shared history until 2021. In light of this discovery, descendants of both families joined together to create Hester's Heritage Foundation with the intent of supporting equal justice in black history preservation, education, and black farming initiatives. Stacie, along with Melvin and Betty Mosley, will be joined by Virginia Bolton to share this remarkable story.



## EXTENDED FAMILY

**HELEN CLEMENTS** joined First Baptist on April 17, 1966. She has been active in many of the ministries of the church. Helen taught GA's (missions for girls), served for a number of years on the Bereavement Committee, volunteered to serve in the Soup Kitchen, and was a much-needed extra pair of hands to assist with the Spire mailing. Helen enjoyed several trips with the Senior Adults, and she now resides at Renaissance Marquis. Helen is the mother of Frank Clements.



Please visit us for more information:  
[www.fbcrome.com](http://www.fbcrome.com)

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