



# THE BEACON



The Newsletter of Pine Street Baptist Church

## Prepare the Way or Get Out of the Way?



Whether we are ready for Christmas or not it is coming. In fact, it has been coming for a while. Before the Halloween candy was gone, Christmas and all its regalia began to fill the shelves of local stores. Somewhere in the midst of it all was Thanksgiving, but it was swallowed up by Black Friday advertisements which signals the “unofficial” beginning of the Christmas season. What follows is a four week sprint of parades, holiday music, lights and decorations, television specials, and gift buying. Now, for Christmas lovers like myself, I enjoy all these holiday highlights.

However, if we are not careful, the holiday season can roll over the holy season of Advent leaving hope, joy, love, and peace trampled over like eager shoppers on Black Friday. The Advent preparation for the coming Christ is swept away in the currents of commercialism and Christmas arrives with an empty manger, shepherds still in their fields, and magi looking in another direction.

The challenge for us as Christians and the church is to prepare ourselves through prayer, worship, and service by keeping the holy message of the season in the forefront of our hearts and lives. There will be plenty of distractions along the way, but if we keep our focus on the coming Christ child we will discover the great gifts of hope, joy, love, and peace. These gifts will truly make Christmas not simply a holiday, but a holy day where the light of Christmas finds an eternal home in our hearts. Mother Teresa once said, “At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with God's own love and concern.”

May we make this season a time in which the Bethlehem babe finds a place within us so that the Christmas season arrives with us ready to make our hearts his manger.

### The Sundays of Advent

First Sunday of Advent: December 2  
*Jeremiah 33: 14-16*  
 Daydreamer

Third Sunday of Advent: December 16  
 Choir Musical

Second Sunday of Advent: December 9  
*Philippians 1: 3-11*  
 Tis the Season  
 VCU French Horn Choir

Fourth Sunday of Advent: December 23  
*Luke 1: 39-45*  
 The Christmas List




Virginia Commonwealth University Horn Choir  
Sunday, December 9  
11:00 am Worship

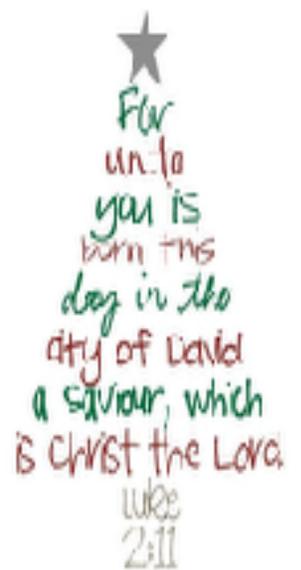
IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR

Choir Musical  
Sunday, December 16



**2018 Advent Calendar of Devotions**  
Please make sure to pick up yours from the church foyer

The season of Advent provides an opportunity for spiritual renewal for followers of Christ. But often what happens is that we get so caught up in the hurry and rush, the hustle and bustle, the frantic pace of the season that we emerge more spiritually exhausted than refreshed and more disillusioned than inspired to face the coming of a new year. We may have tried so hard to enjoy the holiday season, to recapture a sense of wonder and mystery, only to end up asking, "Is that all there is?" The purpose of *Advent A Calendar of Devotions 2018* is to help you focus on the things that truly matter during this busy season so that you can experience spiritual renewal.





**LOTTIE MOON OFFERING**  
give generously this christmas season

Ingathering of Offering and Reception  
Sunday, December 2

Church Goal: \$2000



Wednesday, December 19 @ 6:45 pm  
Please bring a snack item to share



**CHRISTMAS FELLOWSHIP**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9 @ 9:30 AM



Remember the last day to bring your gifts to the River City Faith Christmas Store is Wednesday, December 5.

For Questions: Contact Jennifer Turner

**December Birthdays**

- 3: Nancy Jernigan  
Terry Donohue  
Della Smith
- 4: Flynn Townsend
- 5: Debbie Thacker
- 9: David Johnston
- 10: Belinda Alvis
- 12: Karen Jarrell
- 15: Mike O'Donnell
- 22: Elizabeth Shifflet
- 23: Zora Garretson
- 26: Josh Schuyler
- 27: Michael Jernigan
- 28: Linda Johnston  
Claudia Neal



**Anniversaries**

- 29: Allen and Susan Townsend

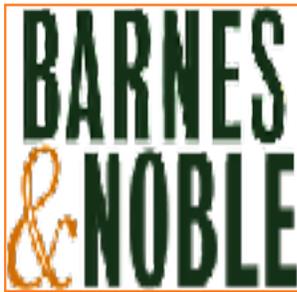
**YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Sunday  
December 16  
@ Noon



## Envelope Budget Report through November 18

**Budget:** \$111,006  
**Given:** \$93,528  
**Variance:** -\$17,478



**GIFT WRAPPING FOR  
BENEVOLENCE  
DECEMBER 22  
9:00 am - 9:00 pm**

Barnes and Noble  
on Libbie Avenue  
Sign up in pairs of 2

### Miracle of Christmas at the Metro Zoo

You are invited the 15th anniversary of **Miracle of Christmas**, a live nativity pageant at the Metro Richmond Zoo. Join us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, through a live re-enactment of the Christmas story featuring animals from the zoo. The twenty minute pageant will be presented 3 times each evening. Live musical performances before and after each pageant will be provided by local churches and performing arts groups. For those who would like to attend we will be leaving after our candlelight service on December 23. The cost is free. Hot chocolate and other refreshments will be served. Please sign up on the downstairs bulletin board if you would like to go.



**Christmas Post Office**  
 Save a stamp and send your cards through the Church's post office Begins December 2



## Humphrey Home Christmas Party

**December 13  
6:15 pm**



### All Things Harry Potter

December 8

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Parents of children are invited to bring them to church on December 8 for All Things Harry Potter. Parents may want to use this time for Christmas shopping. The church will provide lunch and entertainment for the children and youth. Sign up on the downstairs bulletin board at church.

