

Bible Readings

The Bible Readings for the week of **December 2 - 6**: Monday: Psalm 33:16-22, Tuesday: Isaiah 40:28-31, Wednesday: Jeremiah 29:11-13, Thursday: Matthew 12:15-21, Friday: Romans 15:12-13.

Backpack Ministry

Packing backpacks this **Wednesday at 11:45 am** will be Beth Lollis, Erin Kneer, Carole & Gary Judy and Beverly Shotwell. Gary Judy will deliver them.

Youth Group (6th - 12th grade)

Join us on **Wednesday, December 4 from 6:00 - 7:30 pm** for youth group! We will enjoy dinner and a game before Bible study.

Our Youth Christmas party will be held on **Sunday, December 15, 1:00 pm at Thomas Smals home** (2337 S. Church Avenue, Covington, VA 24426). Lunch will be provided and everyone is asked to bring a \$5.00 wrapped gift to exchange. Hope to see you there!

Children's Choir

Sunday, December 8, during the **11:00 am** worship service, the Children's Choir will be singing "A Baby in a Manger, Gloria!" and "Christmas Songs of Joy" and ringing "O Come, All Ye Faithful".

Adult Choir Cantata

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, December 15 at 11:00 am**. The Adult Choir will share the cantata, "Have You Heard" by Joel Raney. Joel Raney's Celtic version of familiar Christmas texts brings freshness and new meaning to the Christmas story. Soloists will be Jennifer Fuller-Spears, Steve Higgins and Brian Kave. Noah Campbell is the narrator. Join us for this very special service!

Meador-Steele Handbell Choir

The Meador-Steele Handbell Choir will be ringing during the **11:00 am** worship service on **Sunday, December 22**.

Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed on **Tuesday, December 24, Wednesday, December 25** and **Thursday, December 26** for Christmas.

Rockbridge Area Relief Association

Item of the month for December is **stuffing and mashed potatoes**. Please leave your donations in the box outside of the nursery or choir room. Thank you!

The Season of Advent

Today is the first Sunday in Advent. Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. The word advent comes from a Latin word meaning "a coming or arrival". In Advent, we thank God for Christ's first coming, anticipate his second coming at the end of time, and celebrate his presence among us today through the Holy Spirit. In worship each Sunday of this Season, we spiritually prepare ourselves to worship and serve him who was born King of Kings and Lord of Lords on Christmas Day.

Wise Men's Journey

You may have noticed that the Wise Men are located on a window sill. This represents the fact that they were not present for the birth of Jesus but arrived at a later time. Each Sunday they will make their way around the sanctuary until they finally arrive at the manger on January 5.

International Mission Offering

Remember, as you give to our International Missions **Goal of \$2,500** you can choose which Baptist Missionaries and Mission projects you wish to support. You may give to the Alma Hunt Offering of Virginia Baptists which helps fund the International Mission Projects which Virginia Baptists sponsor, the Global Missions Offering of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship or the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering of the Southern Baptist Convention. Your gifts to any of these will be added to help us reach our International Missions Offering goal. Let us generously give so that others may hear the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ!

Benevolence Offering

The ushers will be stationed at the exits this morning to take up the offering for those in need in our community.

Christmas Poinsettias

Today is the last day to place your order today for a Christmas Poinsettia! You may dedicate your poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one. **The cost is \$12.00 and must be submitted with your order form.**

Christmas Eve Service

It has been a Manly tradition to gather with family and friends on Christmas Eve for a service of carols and special music. **Please let Pastor Mike or the church office (463-4181 or office@manlybaptist.com) know if your family would like to sing a Christmas hymn!**

WMU Meeting

WMU will hold their quarterly meeting on **Monday, December 2, 5:15 pm in room # 120**. Please join us as youth share about Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) activities in our area. We will also pack exam goody bags for our college students as they prepare for exams prior to Christmas break. As a part of our December projects we will sponsor a Honduran child through Friends of Barnabas.

Deacon-Staff Christmas Party

The annual Deacon-Staff Christmas Party will be held on **Sunday, December 8, 6:00 pm at Linda Hook's home** (11 Hamilton Drive, Lexington). Everyone is asked to bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Please contact Linda Hooks (540-817-0221) for more information.

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