

First Baptist Church of Salt Lake



The Beacon

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The People who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined – Isaiah 9:2

Advent is upon us. It is a time of anticipation and expectation. Like the people of Jesus' time it is easy in our time to long for God to dramatically enter in and remove all the things that spoil our joy. There is a lot of joy-spoiling in the world right now. The country is very divided and it feels like coming together is an impossible dream. The environmental realities of our planet are worsening and there seems little we can do about it. Violence and war are the norms of our time instead of the exception. Closer to home, we worry about the changing economy and how our jobs might be affected. We worry about our children and what kind of life they will have. We worry about our parents and how to deal with the effects of living longer but needing a lot of care. We wonder if God is even paying attention. Yet, amid all the stress and anxiety of the world we live in, God reveals God's self through the story of Jesus' birth. This once again remindd us that God has intervned on behalf of the world—a light has shined in the darkness and that light is Jesus. Emmanuel—God is with us.

Advent is a time of reflection and wonder. It is a time to imagine what the world—what our world-- might be like if we truly embraced the message God sends us through the birth of Christ: a world filled with Hope, Peace, Love and Joy. Jesus comes to us as a child, to be nurtured and cared for. Without protection, this little baby falls into danger. It up to us to keep this baby alive and well, to help him grow in knowledge and stature and to ultimately bring salvation to the world. As we enter this season of reflection, I invite all of us to contemplate how we might help this light grow and spread until darkness is overcome by the light of God's love through Christ.

Have a Blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas,

Pastor Curtis

Happening at FBC in December:

- Dec 4: Young Adult Christmas Mission Project Wrap Party following worship
- Dec 6: Ruth's Circle Christmas Potluck in the Library at 5 pm
Beers and Bros at Fiddler's Elbow at 6:30 pm
- Dec 7: Nativity in the Glen
- Dec 8: AB Women Christmas Luncheon at noon in the Library
- Dec 20: Beers and Bros at Fiddler's Elbow at 6:30 pm
- Dec 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:30 pm
- Dec 25: Christmas Day Service at 11 am
- Dec 26: Office Closed

Happy Birthday To: Dec 3: Angela Bond, Dennis Peterson. Dec 5: Wendy Winzenried. Dec 7: Karen Carter. Dec 9: Lilian Brown. Dec 10; Jennifer Schimmlfenning. Dec 11: Andrew Thompson. Dec 12: Ian Kinghorn, Jessica Hall. Dec 15: Mark Rausher. Dec 16: Aaron Barnes. Dec 20: Ron Hall. Dec 21: Alyssa Wilson, Matthew Keysaw, Dec 22: Chuck Payne. Dec 24: Scott Smith. Dec 26: Amy David, Dec 27: Georgine Parmeter. Dec 28: Abigail Nelson.

Community Prayer in the Chapel will meet on December 4th at 10:30 a.m. in Skaggs Chapel

Our traditional Christmas Eve service will begin at 7:30 pm. Join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus with word, music, candles and love. This is the service to invite your friends and neighbors to join you at worship.

Christmas Day Service at 11 am. Christmas is on Sunday this year so we will have a special service that day at our usual worship time.

End of Year giving for 2016 ; Just a reminder that all donations to the church for 2016 must be in the Church office no later than Monday, Dec 30th in order to receive credit on your 2016 taxes.

Alpha Lambda's Annual Santa Breakfast: Dec 10th, 9 to 11:30. There will be a pancake breakfast, holiday boutique and baked goods, raffles, door prizes and Santa. Donation is \$4 for children under 7 and \$7 for everyone over 7. Talk to Phyllis Hollen for more information

Sign Up Sheets for Hospitality and Flowers for 2016 are up on the bulletin board outside the office. Sign up now and get the weekend you want.

Do you drive by the church and see all the cars in our lot and wonder what is going on? Here is a list of the Concerts that will be here in our building during December:

- Dec 3: Swedish Heritage Society St Lucia Day service and dinner
- Dec 9: Salt Lake Men's Choir Concert "Yuletide Echoes" 7:30 pm
- Dec 10: Salt Lake Men's Choir Concert 7:30 pm
- Dec 11: Salt Lake Men's Choir Concert 4 pm
- Dec 15: Performing Arts High School fund raising dinner and Concert
- Dec 17: Salt Lake Symphonic Choir Concert 7 pm
- Dec 18: German Choir Concert 6 pm
- Dec 21: Crossroads Chorale Christmas Concert 7 pm

Plus...

- Dec 9: Child Development Center Christmas Party 4-6 pm
- Dec 10: Santa Breakfast 9-11:30 am

Thanks to AB Youth and their leaders, and all those who helped, for their hard work in decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas.

Thanks to all who donated money and items for White Cross. It is great to get so much support from our church family for this mission project.

Thanks to all who helped make our Thanksgiving Dinner so great! Ken Burnett and all who worked in the kitchen, Julia Watson, Pat Ditton and Lynn Christensen for the set up and those who helped with the clean up. The time of fellowship in the kitchen is a wonderful experience. Thanks too to all those who cooked turkeys and brought all the delicious side dishes and pies. Special thanks to Scott Smith and Leland Flinders for donating the turkeys.

Ruth Circle Christmas Party—Dec 6 at 5 pm in the Library. This is a salad potluck so you may bring either a dessert salad or a main meal salad. We will also be collecting money for our Christmas project which will be the Lunches of Love program.

AB Women Christmas Luncheon—Dec 8 at noon in the Library. Bring a small white elephant type gift.

Order Form for Poinsettias for the Church: Buy a poinsettia for the Sanctuary. These may be purchased in honor of someone, or in memory of someone. The list of dedications will appear in the Christmas Eve Bulletin. Plants are \$10.00 each this year and may be taken home following the Christmas Eve service.

Orders need to be in the office no later than December 20th.

Name of giver _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Number of plants _____ X \$10.00= total paid _____

Annual Junior-Senior High Winter Retreat at Camp Utaba

At this year's retreat, we will explore the role of God and how we so often deny God that role by turning elsewhere for our help. In addition, we will enjoy playing in the snow, reconnecting with old friends, making new friends and just having a good time.

Camp Utaba—January 6,7, and 8. Cost is \$80. Applications are available in the church office or from Pastor Curtis or Tommy Burnett.

This is the second book in the “Apprentice Series”. Following the Sermon on the Mount, this follow-up to *The Good and Beautiful God* guides us to look past the false notions of happiness and success that the world offers us and replace them with Jesus' narratives about life and the Kingdom of God. The Series starts on **January 8 at 9:30 in Keck Hall** and runs for 12 weeks. The book costs \$17.00. We can order it for you or you can get it on your own. Signup sheets are on the resource table by the Chapel.

Communion at First Baptist Church

Last month at our quarterly Church Meeting we had a conversation about communion. Our goal was to come to consensus about what form of taking communion fits First Baptist Church the best. We divided into table groups and first spent time listening to each other and appreciating what Communion meant to everyone. We then had discussions about the different ways we did communion here at First Baptist and each table came to some kind of decision about which they thought was the best form for FBC. Many tables were divided on the issue, but a couple of tables were in total agreement that coming forward or receiving communion in the pews was the best method. In the end, we came to consensus that alternating the way we do communion was ultimately the best reflection of who we are. It was felt that this approach honored our value of embracing diversity and making room for people of many different experiences and backgrounds.

There were many practical issues addressed as well that we will be taking into account such as the prayers with the pastor and making sure that the servers are aware of what method we are using. Therefore, going forward we will continue to use both methods of communion. We will come up with a reasonable rotation schedule and address some of the other concerns that were brought up.

This conversation served a two-fold purpose. The main purpose was to decide about communion. The second purpose was to practice consensus building in the hopes of getting good at it for when we have a more controversial decision to make. Consensus is not easy; it takes time. We need to be ready to set aside the time to go through the process in order to get to consensus. It also means we must be willing to listen to each other, not just advocate for our preferences. In addition, consensus requires that we set aside our personal preferences and, as the Quakers call it, “seek the mind of Christ”. It will take some practice for us to get used to deciding things in this way, but the results are well worth the effort.

The women of our church, thanks to Pat Ditton (who did all the sewing), shipped 11 pounds of boys' shorts to our missionaries, Kihomi and Nzunga, in Haiti. The shorts are made from (mostly 2nd hand) T-shirts. Save your T-shirts. We will be making more shorts in 2017.

AB GIRLS have prepared about 30 bags (hygiene products, hats, gloves, socks, snacks, etc.) for those folks in our community who are homeless. We will dedicate the bags on Nov. 27. The congregation will be asked to take a bag or two to keep in their car and then deliver the bag(s) to individuals living on the street. There are also bags of treats for dogs living on the street with their owners.

Prayer is a great way to be involved in the ministry to others. FBC has an email prayer tree (there are some who refer to the members as prayer warriors). As prayer requests come in to the church or directly to me, I email the request out to a group of 40 people. A few of these people are former members of FBC who have moved out-of-state but share their love for our community by continuing to pray for and with us. If you would like to join this group, please send me an email asking to be added to the prayer tree. Also, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have been on the tree but haven't received any requests for a while. Sometimes, names/email addresses mysteriously disappear from my list. If you have a concern or praise that you would like to share with the prayer tree you can either get the request to the church office or email me directly. Thanks - Maggie margaret.chaney@comcast.net

Mark your calendars! Wednesday, Dec 7, 2016 is the annual Live Nativity in the Bonneville Glen.

This will be the 9th year FBC has worked alongside the LDS Bonneville Stake in producing this incredible experience. Volunteers are needed! FBC is in charge of lining the pathway with luminaries from the parking lot, through the village of Bethlehem, along Red Butte Creek to the stable and up the hillside out of the Glen. The youth group will be assembling the 300-350 luminaries on Sunday, Dec 4th. Help is needed on Wednesday Dec 7th, in the afternoon in transporting, setting out, and lighting the luminaries. Contact Jerry Chaney if you are able to help Wed. afternoon. Plan to meet at FBC at 1:30 (time to meet may change) to load up and transport. Setting out the luminaries involves walking and bending (as does lighting them). Lighting happens at around 5:00 pm - and it is helpful to have at least 4 people working the lighters (especially if it is cold).

Jerry can be contacted at jerry.chamfly@gmail.com or you can contact Maggie at margaret.chaney@comcast.net or 801-386-2022. Cast members are frequently needed as well. Contact Bonnie Wilson if you would like to be a shepherd or work in the village passing out hot cocoa and/or rolls. She can be reached at bonbonwilson@yahoo.com or call/text her at 801-712-9424. Talk to Gordon Remington and/or Karen Carter to learn more about what is entailed in being a cast member. Gordon has been a shepherd for many years and the AB Girls have also been participating for several years. Whether you are able to volunteer or not, if you are capable of walking down and up hill and along a trail, that may or may not be covered in snow, plan on attending. No entrance fee, but canned goods will be collected. The Bonneville Glen is located at 1050 S 1500 E.

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