



RIVER ROAD CHURCH

BAPTIST

+ thoughtful faith +

explorer

DECEMBER 2019 | VOL. IX | ISSUE 12

WHEN HOLIDAY SPIRIT BECOMES COMPLICATED

For many, the holidays really are (cue Andy Williams) the most wonderful time of the year. We associate the Advent season with food, family, friends, parties, presents, the Nutcracker. It can be a highly anticipated time from which we draw strength and energy, and may find ourselves sad when it is over.

For many others, the holidays can be difficult for numerous reasons. What has been experienced as a positive season can become complicated when one is grieving. Losses may involve the death of a dear loved one, but can also be centered around the loss of a job, relationship, place, or home. Because we experience this season as a time of connection with loved ones, an absence of a cherished person is felt even more keenly, as are other losses. Sadness can seem overwhelming if this is the first holiday season after such a loss, if the loss happened during this or a prior holiday season, or if these days are associated with a birthday or an anniversary. If the missing person, place, or relationship is especially connected to a holiday tradition, this too can make this season difficult. Even if not a new loss, it may still be a time of dearly missing this important person in or piece of your life.

River Road Church will be offering two events during Advent with all this in mind. Please consider attending both offerings and inviting others.

First, on Wednesday evening, December 4, at 6:15 p.m. in the Assembly Room, David Breckenridge will lead a presentation and discussion on the topic of "Understanding Needs: Helping Those Who Hurt Navigate the Holidays." In this session, we will explore how people are likely to be feeling loss most keenly during the holidays; ways that such individuals can survive the season; and, most importantly, how we might walk with such individuals during the holidays as instruments of God's peace and care.

Second, on Wednesday evening, December 18, at 6:15 p.m. in the Chapel, we will join in our annual Starlight Service of Remembrance. This is the eleventh year that RRCB has offered such a service. Such services have become an international tradition, especially in the Northern Hemisphere, where Christmas falls so close to the Winter Equinox, the darkest day of the year but also the day when darkness begins to give way to light. Our service will include music, liturgy, prayer, and a reflection which will give witness to both the pain of our losses as well as the comfort and hope we have in a God who, then and now, comes to be with us. Highlights of the service include communion and a time when candles of remembrance will be lit. We encourage you to tend to your own experience of loss this Advent and, as you do so, also to consider those around you who could use some extra care this holiday season.

BY DAVID BRECKENRIDGE & ANNA PERRY MILLER



Christmas Eve Services—Tuesday, December 24

Family Service
4:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Candlelight & Holy Communion Service
8:00 p.m., Sanctuary (*please note new time*)

A full list of our Advent and Christmas services and events can be found inside.

THOUGHTFUL FAITH COMMUNITY

TFC Wednesday, December 4

- **4:30-5:15: River Road Camerata**, Main Rehearsal Room
- **5:15-6:15: Dinner**, Fellowship Hall
- **5:45-6:15: TFC-Kids**: Missions Education, UC #228
- **6:00-7:00: TFC-Youth**: Games & Dessert, Youth Area
- **6:15-7:00: TFC-Adults**, Assembly Room

Understanding Needs: Helping Those Who Hurt Navigate the Holidays with Rev. Dr. David Breckenridge

- **6:15-7:00: Children's Choirs**
 - Crusader Choir (3rd-5th grades), Youth Rehearsal Room
 - Carol Choir (1st & 2nd grades), Youth Rehearsal Room
 - Cherub Choir (Pre-K & Kindergarten), UC #232 (6:45 end)

TFC Wednesday, December 11

- **4:30-5:15: River Road Camerata**, Main Rehearsal Room
- **5:15-6:15: Dinner**, Fellowship Hall
- **6:00-6:30: Children's Choirs**

- Crusader Choir (3rd-5th grades), Youth Rehearsal Room
- Carol Choir (1st & 2nd grades), Youth Rehearsal Room
- Cherub Choir (Pre-K & Kindergarten), UC #232

- **6:15-7:00: TFC-Churchwide**, Sanctuary Chancel
Christmas Carol Sing Along with David Gulick
(children will join at 6:30 p.m.)

TFC Wednesday, December 18

- **4:30-5:15: River Road Camerata**, Main Rehearsal Room
- **5:15-6:15: Dinner**, Fellowship Hall
- **5:45-7:00: TFC-Kids & TFC-Youth**: Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- **6:15-7:00: TFC-Adults**, Chapel

Starlight Service of Remembrance & Holy Communion

HISTORICAL HALLMARK

Beginning with the first Sunday in Advent, a porcelain Nativity Set made by the Franklin Mint will be featured in the History Cabinet in the Lower Commons. This set was given to River Road Church in 2002 and was presented by members Joyce and Harold Gibson as a gift from her aunt, Frances Still. It will be on display during the seasons of Advent and Christmastide.

ADVENTure Lunch

Sunday, December 1

12:15 p.m., Fellowship Hall

After worship, children and youth of all ages and their families are invited to the ADVENTure lunch. We will gather in fellowship to enjoy a meal around the tables, learn more about the season of Advent, and receive resources to use at home as we prepare for Christmas. Sign up by November 26 at rrcb.org/adventure.

Youth Sunday Nights

December 1, 8, & 15

- 4:15: River Road Camerata
- 5:00: Youth Choir
- 5:45: Youth Snack Supper
- 6:15: Youth Program

Men's Fellowship Breakfast

Tuesday, December 3

7:00 a.m., Reception Room

All men are invited for breakfast, fellowship, and partnership in prayer. Please make a reservation by calling the church office.

Evening Bridge

Tuesday, December 3

7:30 p.m., LC #102

Anyone who likes to play bridge is invited to join us. Contact Kitty or George Davis (804-285-9782) for more information.

Men's Group: The Huddle

Wednesdays, 8:00 a.m., Reception Room

The Huddle is a small group of men who minister to each other, make a plan to bring their lives together on a regular basis, and keep faith in that plan and each other. For more information, please contact Bill Thurston (804-514-3360).

'Twas the Night Before Christmas

Wednesday, December 4

9:15 a.m., Sanctuary

River Road Preschool invites you to join them for the play *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*. With Music and Lyrics by Bruce Craig Miller, VA Rep on Tour promises to give a performance you will not forget!

Inspired by the timeless poem *A Visit from St. Nicholas* and by the real life of its author, Clement Moore, this hilarious musical introduces Santa in a particularly beneficent light. This classic from Virginia Rep has been charming audiences nationwide for many years.

Christmas Decorating
Thursday, December 5
9:00 a.m., Sanctuary

The Chancel Committee needs helpers to hang 64 wreaths and 135 yards of roping in high and low places. You will not be asked to do any floral design, but rather climb ladders, fluff bows, carry wreaths here and there, hold roping, etc. Sentiments of Dr. Seuss express hopes for the day: *"Welcome Christmas, while we stand/ Heart to heart, hand in hand."*

Yoga, 5:45-7:00 p.m., Assembly Room

Thursday, December 5 | Mondays, December 9 & 16

Hatha Yoga is a gentle form of stretching exercise that offers many health advantages. Darcie Anderson is our instructor. There is a \$10 fee for each class you attend. Beginners and newcomers are most welcome.

Church Work Day

Saturday, December 7

8:00 a.m., Front Plaza

Meet the House and Grounds Committee on the front plaza for the day's projects. This is a great opportunity for families to come and be good stewards of their time, talents, and resources on behalf the church. Please bring your work gloves, rakes, blowers, trimmers, and shears.

The Comma Club

Tuesday, December 10

Luncheon: 11:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Depart RRCB: 1:15 p.m.

Jubilation Choir Concert: 1:30 p.m., Second Baptist

After lunch, at 1:15 p.m., The Comma Clube will carpool to Second Baptist Church (River and Gaskins Roads) for "Christmas Jubilation" by The Jubilation Choir, directed by Paul Honaker. Lunch is \$12 per person, and the concert is free. Please make your reservations, for both lunch and concert, by Tuesday, December 3 by calling the Church Office, or filling out the form online rrcb.org/seniors. *The group is primarily made up of senior adults, though it is not a requirement; anyone interested in a program is invited.*

2019 Contributions — If you are planning to make a contribution for 2019, we must receive it in the Church Office by 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 31, 2019, or by mail and postmarked by Tuesday, December 31, 2019. Online contributions through the church's website or your bank must be initiated or dated by Tuesday, December 31, 2019. Anything received after the above dates will be applied to 2020. If you plan to donate stock, please advise LeAnne Lane (leannelane@rrcb.org or 804-288-1131) so proper credit can be given to you. Also if you have donated stock to the Church and have not let us know of your donation, please contact LeAnne. All stock contributions must be received into the Church's investment account by Tuesday, December 31, 2019.

Contribution statements will be emailed out in early December, please take the time to review your statement to ensure your contributions have been properly designated. If you have any questions regarding your statement please contact LeAnne or set up a meeting with her. You may also check your statement online through Access ACS throughout the year.

FLO Luncheon (For Ladies Only, 50+, Single Again, Just Single, and Caregivers)

Friday, December 13

12:00 p.m., Crab Louie's Seafood Tavern (Midlothian)

RSVP to Jean Ellis (jean782carter@verizon.net or 804-272-7672) and let her know if you would like to carpool.

WMU Connectors

Friends Helping Friends

Tuesday, December 17

7:00 p.m., Home of Peggy Pruden

The Connectors is hosting their annual Christmas party — all women are invited to attend! Christmas cards will be readied to mail to church ladies who are unable to attend meetings. We will celebrate the season with great friends. The Connectors is open to all women and you're invited. Bring a friend! RSVP to Ray Nelson at rayzor846@gmail.com.

Interested in helping others in our Richmond Community? Being an active friend in helping to feed the homeless at Oregon Hill Baptist Center? Want to hear about missions' efforts and needs from those who are in the field and walk the walk? The WMU Connectors gathers on the third Tuesday during the months of September thru April with programs and speakers that will expand your knowledge of needs in the area. *Friends helping friends by doing the Lord's work together.*

Christmas Pageant Lunch & Rehearsal

Sunday, December 22

12:00-2:00 p.m., Reception Room & Sanctuary

Please contact Marnie Fisher-Ingram or Sandy Rooney for more information and watch for an email sign-up.

Stephen Ministry Training

We are anticipating a training program for new Stephen Ministers soon. Please call the church office, Joyce Gibson (jsj.usunset@verizon.net), or David Breckenridge (davidbreckenridge@rrcb.org) if you are interested in serving as a Stephen Minister. You are invited to take home the Stephen Ministry pew card or brochure as a reminder of this ministry of care.

Happy Birthday!

December 1

Willy Carter
Greta Van Tiem
Janice Whitaker

December 2

James Gray
Helen Halloran
Cindy McGuire
Elizabeth Seward
Lily Slatton

December 3

Erin Early
Lucy Gray
Kathryn Knerr
Seth Roberts

December 5

Tom Berry

December 6

Catie Burkett
Andrew Price
Lucy Thornton

December 7

Susan Vaughan

December 8

Nell Bailey

December 9

Nancy Smith-Jackson
Rick Naschold
Amber Simms

December 10

Lorraine Welker

December 11

Tricia Alford

December 13

Eli Macturk

December 14

Amy Matney
Daniel Ingram
John Robertson

December 15

Caroline Koskinen
Brock Livick
Theresa Price

December 16

Marshall Parker

December 17

Brenda Nichols
Barbara Paterson
Sallie Sparks

December 18

Beth Clingenpeel
Ransone Hartz
Colton Hiser

December 19

Joyce Gibson
Mallory Manriquez
Dolly Winston

December 20

Lou Moelchert
Charlotte Ortega

December 21

Tyler Butterworth

December 22

Carole Gustavson
Mildred Scherer

December 23

Paige Newcomb
Gaynelle Worley

December 24

Eleanor Cox

December 26

Fred Anderson
Betty Damon
Kristen Groseclose
Bonnie Way

December 27

Carol Alford
Nicholas Cavallo
Jean Ellis
Bob Harris
Jack Heisler
Ruth Tanner

December 28

Robyn Tyer

December 29

Tom Cox
Bob Grigsby
Beth Howe
Dan Lynch
Mike Mistretta

December 30

Hilary Blanchard
Mark Cipolletti
Stuart Seaton, Jr.

December 31

Steve Pugh

Happy Anniversary!

December 2

Marilene & Harold Sheppard – 29 years

December 8

Kathy and Berry Fowler – 46 years

December 9

De Anne and Cliff Shelton – 24 years

December 16

Julia and Bob Bouck – 52 years
Mary Beth and Rick Scherer – 41 years

December 19

Laura and Will Thorne – 27 years

December 22

Kathryn and Tim Norman – 40 years

December 26

Judy and Dick Morris – 60 years

December 28

Cathy and Ken Wilson – 45 years

December 30

Diana and James Mahoney – 7 years
Judy Collins and Joe Teefey – 25 years

December 31

Sandra and Carl Sizemore – 53 years

Missions

First Sunday Food Share

Sunday, December 1

River Road Church has a long history of working in many capacities with our three Baptist Centers: Church Hill, Oregon Hill, and South Richmond. On the first Sunday of each month, you are invited to bring a bag of food for the Centers and place it in one of the green grocery carts in the Upper or Lower Commons. To best serve our centers and their communities, the center directors are requesting smaller-sized products.

Suggested Shopping List:

- cans of vegetables and fruit
- cans of soup and canned entrées (example: Spaghettios)
- cans of meat: small cans of tuna, chicken
- cans of pork and beans or other beans
- boxed macaroni and cheese
- packages of powdered milk
- boxes of cereal
- rice and dry pasta
- peanut butter and jelly

Christmas Stores for the Church Hill Baptist Center

Deadline: Wednesday, December 4

They are called “Christmas Stores” because the items are not simply given away. A small amount, \$5, is charged for each child, entitling the parent(s) to select toys and several pieces of clothing. The money collected is used in a neighborhood fuel assistance fund for the winter months.

We need gifts for children ages birth through 12 years old (shortages are reported for the 7- to 10-year-olds). Go easy on stuffed animals, Barbie dolls, Candy Land, and Chutes & Ladders Board Games. In other words, purchase gifts that you would want your own children to receive.

Suggestions:

- clothing (jeans, sweaters, sweatshirts, sleepwear, socks, underwear, coats, hats, gloves)
- games and toys
- books
- bicycles and helmets

Do not wrap the gifts; the parents need to see what they are selecting. (Donations of small amounts of wrapping paper will be appreciated.) Please leave price tags on items so that it is easier to distinguish less expensive from more expensive items. **Please deliver your donations to room LC #106 off of the Lower Commons.**

Micah & Oak Grove-Bellemeade Elementary School

The Micah Initiative is a partnership of faith communities with Richmond City elementary schools that encourages “mentoring, tutoring, and volunteering... so that every child believes, ‘I am valuable.’” Our church is privileged to serve at Oak Grove-Bellemeade Elementary School (OGBES). If you would like to participate in anyway, please contact Susan Ryan (susanryan1@verizon.net or 804-282-6321). Please **pray** for keep OGBES’s teachers and children. Thank you for your continued support of this mission and the opportunities we’ve been able to provide for the children.

Volunteer (No teaching experience necessary)

- **Mentor a Child:** Ideally you will meet with the same child each week during the school year, helping them with reading and writing, developing a meaningful relationship, and being a presence the child can count on.

- **Volunteer in a Classroom:** You’ll be an extra pair of hands for a teacher. You might work with individual students or small groups, put up bulletin boards, file papers, read to the class – whatever needs doing.
- **Birthday Card Program:** Volunteers are needed to write upbeat messages, perhaps add drawings and stickers, in birthday cards for students. The cards are provided and addressed by Micah volunteers, and then given to children along with a birthday pencil.

Donate (Please place donations in the designated bins at the Mission Table in the Lower Commons.)

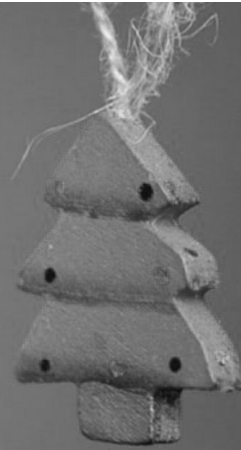
- **School Clothes Closet** (clothes and undergarments)
- **Box Tops for Education:** Please note at this time we are NOT moving to the digital collection (scanning).
- **Kroger Community Rewards Program:** You can designate your Kroger Plus Card to support Oak Grove.

Panama Mission Trip: February 8-16, 2020

The Christian Medical Foundation in Panama that we have partnered with for the past 10 years has once again invited us to work with them on another mission trip! There will be 2 teams - healthcare and construction. The dates are February 8-16, 2020. If you are interested in going or would like more information, please contact Judy Collins at (804) 402-5998 or Norma Hays at (804) 240-5016. We will need to finalize the teams and make reservations soon.

Advent & Christmastide at River Road Church, Baptist

rrcb.org/advent



First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 1, 2019
9:45 a.m., Baptismal Service in the Chapel
Sunday School following Baptism
11:00 a.m., Worship in the Sanctuary
Sermon by Daniel Glaze
Music by the Chancel Choir
Childcare provided

ADVENTure Lunch for Families

Sunday, December 1, 2019
12:15 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Sign up at rrcb.org/adventure

Christmas Stores Donations

Deadline: Wednesday, December 4, 2019

TFC-Adults: Understanding Needs: Helping Those Who Hurt Navigate the Holidays with Rev. Dr. David Breckenridge

Wednesday, December 4, 2019
6:15 p.m., Assembly Room
5:15 p.m., Dinner in the Fellowship Hall;
Reservations required at rrcb.org/tfc
Activities for children and youth
Childcare provided

Christmas Decorating

Thursday, December 5, 2019
9:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Youth Christmas Party

Saturday, December 7, 2019
5:00-8:30 p.m., Fisher-Ingram Home

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 8, 2019
9:45 a.m., Sunday School
11:00 a.m., Worship in the Sanctuary
Sermon by Daniel Glaze
Music by the Chancel Choir, Youth Choir,
and Children's Choirs
Childcare provided

Chancel Choir Christmas with American Composers Concert

Sunday, December 8, 2019
7:30 p.m., Sanctuary
Brass, Percussion, and Organ
Reserve FREE tickets at rrcb.org/concert

The Comma Club Luncheon & Jubilation Choir Christmas Concert

Tuesday, December 10, 2019
11:30 a.m., Lunch in the Fellowship Hall
1:15 p.m., Depart for concert at Second
Baptist Church

TFC-Churchwide: Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long with David Gulick

Wednesday, December 11, 2019
6:15 p.m., Sanctuary Chancel
5:15 p.m., Dinner in the Fellowship Hall;
Reservations required at rrcb.org/tfc
Children & Youth participate
6:00 p.m., Children's Choirs rehearsals
Childcare provided

Children's Christmas Parties

Saturday, December 14, 2019
Infants to Kindergartners
10:00-11:30 a.m., Lower Commons
Children's Tacky Light Tour
(1st-5th grades)
5:00-7:00 p.m., Offsite

Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 15, 2019
9:45 a.m., Sunday School
11:00 a.m., Worship in the Sanctuary
Sermon by Daniel Glaze
Music by the Chancel Choir and Chancel
Bell Choir
Childcare provided

TFC-Adults: Starlight Service of Remembrance & Holy Communion

Wednesday, December 18, 2019
6:15 p.m., Worship in the Chapel
5:15 p.m., Dinner in the Fellowship Hall;
Reservations required at rrcb.org/tfc
Christmas Pageant rehearsal for youth
and children
Childcare provided

College Christmas Gathering

Friday, December 20, 2019
6:00 p.m., Fisher-Ingram Home
Significant others welcome
RSVP at rrcb.org/collegersup

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 22, 2019
9:45 a.m., Sunday School
11:00 a.m., Worship in the Sanctuary
Sermon by Daniel Glaze
Music by the Chancel Choir
Childcare provided

Holiday Drop-in at the Pastor's

Sunday, December 22, 2019
2:00-4:00 p.m., Glaze Home

Christmas Eve Family Service

Tuesday, December 24, 2019
4:00 p.m., Worship in the Sanctuary
Christmas Pageant
Music by Children's and Youth Choirs
Missions Offering: Bring non-perishable
food items
Childcare not provided; children
participate in the service

Christmas Eve Candlelight & Holy Communion Service

Tuesday, December 24, 2019
8:00 p.m., Worship in the Sanctuary
Music for organ and flute at 7:40 p.m.
Candles provided
Meditation by Daniel Glaze
Music by the Chancel Choir, Chancel Bell
Choir, and Flautist Hannah Hammel
Childcare not provided

First Sunday After Christmas

Sunday, December 29, 2019
11:00 a.m., Worship in the Sanctuary
Childcare provided during worship

Christmas Decoration Take Down

Monday, December 30, 2019
Thursday, January 2, 2020
9:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Church Office Closed

December 25-26, 2019
January 1-2, 2020