

Ministers

Paul Baxley
Frank Granger
Randy Brittain
Brandon Pendry
Janet Cleland
Emily Harbin
Anne Brittain
Alan McArthur

Senior Minister
Minister of Christian Community
Minister of Music
Minister of Youth and Mission
Minister of Children, Families and Outreach
Minister of College Students
Organist and Music Associate
Pianist



First Baptist Church

355 Pulaski Street/Athens/GA/30601-2860
706.548.1359 Fax: 706.548.2302
www.firstbaptistathens.org



First Baptist Church

Athens, Georgia

December 3, 2017
11:00 a.m.

Hanging of the Green
The First Sunday of Advent

Creative Brooding:

Advent makes people whole: new people. We can also become new people in Advent. Stand up, look up, your view is too much down toward the earth, fixed upon the superficial changes and happenings of this earth. Look up, you who have turned away disappointed from heaven, see this Advent word. Look up, you whose eyes are heavy with tears and who mourn that the earth has snatched everything from you. Look up, you who are so heavy laden with guilt that you feel you cannot look up. Look up, your salvation draws near.

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 1933

*First Baptist Church is a thriving community in Christ
where we all participate in worship
and are transformed by mission.*

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, December 3

9:15 a.m.
9:45—10:45 a.m.
11:00 a.m.
4:30 p.m.
6:00 p.m.

Monday, December 4

2:00 p.m.
5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 5

12:00 noon
7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 6

6:45 p.m.

Thursday, December 7

10:00 a.m.
7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 10

9:15 a.m.
9:45—10:45 a.m.
11:00 a.m.
12:00 p.m.
12:00 p.m.

Coffee, Donuts, and Fellowship — Fanning Foyer
Sunday School and Bible Study — throughout the building
Hanging of the Green Worship Service — Sanctuary
Children's Choirs
Youth Christmas Caroling and Dinner

Staff Meeting — Farrall Conference Rm.
Next Steps Leadership Team — Gathering Area (3rd floor)

Noon Bible Study — Rm. 7 (3rd floor)
Boy Scout Troop #22 — Room 3 (3rd floor)

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal — Sanctuary

Seeker's Team — Rm. 5 (3rd floor)
Monthly Prayer and Bible Study — Chestnut Grove Baptist

Coffee, Donuts, and Fellowship — Fanning Foyer
Sunday School and Bible Study — throughout the building
Lessons and Carols Worship Service — Sanctuary
Children's Pageant Rehearsal and Luncheon — Youth Area
Young Couples Christmas Lunch & Party — Gathering Area (3rd floor)

Prayer Concerns

Kathy Barrow — Landmark, rm. 214
Richard Beeson — Menda Lambeth's father
Larry Cutshaw, husband of Evelyn Cutshaw
Harriett Dwyer — The Oaks, rm. 218
Lois Gibbs — home
Sarah Kesler — Athens Heritage, rm. 407
Gayle Noblet — knee surgery
Juanita Reddish — Alan Reddish's mother
Joyce Reynolds—home



Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God and in honor and appreciation of all Interfaith Hospitality Network volunteers for their dedication to its mission and ministry. The flowers are given by Mike and Linda Lacy.

The Sunday Messenger

Honor or remember a loved one during the **ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASONS**. A \$10 donation purchases a poinsettia plant or fruit basket. Submit donation forms (available in the Branyon Foyer no later than Monday, December 4 (tomorrow!)). Honorees will be listed in the church bulletin on Sunday, December 17. Edible decorations will be donated to Our Daily Bread.

The Children's Choirs of First Baptist Church Athens will present the Christmas musical program "**All Creation Sings — A Night of Wonder**" on Sunday evening, December 17, at 5:30 p.m. This musical program will feature the Brownie Bear Preschool Choir, Music Maker Choir, and the Joyful Singers Choir.

In early December, you will receive a **FINANCIAL STATEMENT** containing a record of all contributions made during the year. Should you have questions, please contact Cheri Rose in the church office. The revenue we receive in December is crucial to our ability to fulfill all of our mission and ministry commitments. Please make sure your pledge for 2017 is fully paid. All gifts must be received in the church office by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 29 or postmarked by December 31, 2017 to appear on your 2017 contributions statement. Pledge payments can also be submitted during the offertory or delivered to the church by hand or mail. If you need instructions on transferring stock, please contact Cheri Rose, and also make sure you initiate that gift in time for it to be received by the church before the end of the calendar year.

Our Church on Mission

Emergency Food Bank Needs:

Canned Salmon, Canned Soup, Spaghetti Sauce

FBC has committed to the Clarke County DFCS **FOSTER CHILD ANGEL TREE PROJECT** as a church-wide missions project. Specific information and a wish list for 35 foster children will be available outside the Fellowship Hall beginning today. Gifts should be returned to the Missions Room on the 2nd floor by Wednesday, December 7, at 4:30 p.m. Questions? Contact Carol Rayburn Cofer (cjraycofer@gmail.com or 770-725-6655 after 6 pm). Cash donations will also be accepted and members of the Virginia Appleton Circle will do the shopping for you!

Serving Together

Co-Deacons of the Week

December 3-9: *Jim Ebert, Tony Dillard*

December 10-16: *Pam Dillard, Jill Dawson*

Welcome Center Team

December 3: *Gayle & Ray Noblet*

December 10: *Teresa Granger, Christine Lo*

Counting Committee

December 3: *Michael Jenkins, Al Lee*

December 10: *Mike Lacy, Roy Segars*

Fellowship Team

Debbie Hargrave, Cindy & Daniel Haygood, Wayne Hogan

Usher Team

Brad Lastinger, Doug Dillard, Ches Smith, Kevin Price, Bill Horton, Wes Hogan

The Worship of God

HOPE

Invitation to Worship

Paul Baxley

Invocation

*Hymn 83

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

THE LIGHT

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Maria Baxley, Melina De la Vega, and Zachary Rawls

Leader: Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is the moment for you to wake from sleep.

People: **The time has arrived for us, the people of God, to rise and prepare ourselves for the presence of the word of God.**

Leader: For Salvation is nearer to you now than when you became believers.

People: **How near are we to God's presence? How much longer are we to wait?**

Leader: The night is far gone, the day is near.

People: **We see today the light cutting through the darkness, the light which promises us Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.**

Leader: Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light as we give witness to the prophecy:

ALL: **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.**

Anthem

Come, Emmanuel

Keith Pate/arr. James Barnard

Music Makers and Joyful Singers Choirs

Jennifer Baxley, Director; Emily Gertsch, Accompanist
Teresa Granger, Director; Margaret Earnest, Accompanist

*Advent candles, see their light, drive away the dark of night.
Hope we celebrate. This gift anticipate. Come, Emmanuel.*

Proclamation of the Light

Emma Hooper and Daniel Williamson

Anthem

Hope Will Come
Youth Choir

James Brighton

*Hope will come to a world in need. Through the eyes of a child God's people will see.
Hope will come, have faith and believe. Open your heart now; make room for the hope Christ will bring.
Peace will come in the midst of strife to a stable so bare. One still silent night peace will come.
God's truth will shine bright. Open your heart now; God's peace will bring us new life.
Peace will come to the nations. Hope will ring through the night.
For those who walk in darkness will see a great light and love will reign in the day of Jesus Christ.*

THE GREENS

Proclamation of the Greens

Livy Baxley and Zeke Williamson

Anthem

Who But the Lord?
Sanctuary Choir

Craig Courtney

*Who but the Lord can give the shadows light, can break into the dark, draw morning from the night?
Who but the Lord will hear our cry and answer, "Here am I"?*
*Who but the Lord makes blinded eyes to see, brings music to the deaf, sets the lonely captive free?
Who but the Lord will by His glory show the paths of peace?*
*O shine on us the brightness of Your face to earth's remotest end, every people, every race.
O shine on us until to each is shown Your saving grace.*

THE CHRISMON TREE

Proclamation of the Tree

Confession of Faith

Emily Harbin

Leader: Let us decorate this tree with some symbols of our faith. The Chrismons which we use represent the life and inspiration of the church in times past, the witness of the church today and the hope of the church for generations to come.

People: And as we share these symbols, let us say what we believe.

Leader: We believe in God.

People: Father, Creator, Sustainer.

Leader: And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.

People: Alpha and Omega, Light of Light, Prince of Peace, King of Kings, Lord of Lords.

Leader: Immanuel: God with us.

People: Jesus! Born of the Virgin Mary, born in Bethlehem, cradled in a manger.

Leader: Heralded by Shepherds, Magi, and angelic hosts.

People: Light of light, shining like the stars.

Leader: Glory to God in the highest and on earth...peace.

People: We believe in the Church.

Leader: The body of Christ, the communion of the saints, the people of God.

People: We believe in the Word of Life.

Leader: Sent from God: living, transforming and challenging.

People: We believe that Christ has conquered life and death.

Leader: That he was crucified, dead and buried.

People: The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Leader: We believe in the resurrection.

People: Offering Life everlasting!

Leader: Bursting forth with hope!

People: Hallelujah!

Leader: Let us offer our lives to God.

People: We do offer our lives. It is the least we can do. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE TREE

*Hymn:

Evergreen and Ever-Fragrant

STUTTGART

*Evergreen and ever-fragrant symbol of eternity,
Telling of the Christ within us, stands the wondrous Chrismon tree.*

*Light of lights to all descending, white of perfect purity,
Gold of majesty and glory crown the radiant Chrismon tree.*

*Star and crèche and herald angel tell of love and mystery,
Celebrate the Christ among us, welcomed by the Chrismon tree.*

*Cross of sacrifice and suff-'ring, crown of life and victory,
Jesus Christ our Lord revealing: honored through the Chrismon tree.*

Words © 1992 by Philip M. Young. Used by permission.

First Lesson

Psalm 80

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson:

John 1: 1-5

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

A Song for Restoration

Paul Baxley

THE SHARING

*Hymn 79

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

*Prayer of Stewardship:

Tony Dillard, Deacon

Offertory

*Response of the People

His Name is Called Emmanuel

LAAST UNS EFREUEN

His name is called Emmanuel, more wonderful than words can tell.

God is with us! Alleluia!

Born in our darkness, He is Light; born in our weakness, He is Might.

God is with us! Alleluia! God is with us! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Recognition of Commitments

Paul Baxley

Benediction

Postlude:

**Please stand, if able.*