

**THE BEACON**  
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**MEMBERS IN ACTION**

January 9

**Deacons of the Week:**  
 Becky Campbell, Offertory Prayer  
 Mathias Richardson, Visitor Outreach  
**Children's Worship:** Elana Roach  
**Security:** Jimmy Cooley and Rusty Smith

January 16

**Deacons of the Week:**  
 Bob Lingle, Offertory Prayer  
 David Stoddard, Visitor Outreach  
**Children's Worship:** Lisa Wallace  
**Security:** Kevin McCoy and Adam Gahters

**BIBLE STUDY SERIES:**  
**THE BOOK OF AMOS**  
 Wednesdays at 6:00 PM in the Chapel



307 S. Manning Street, Anderson, SC 29624  
 CHURCH OFFICE — 224-1622

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER — 224-2635

Office Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 9:00 - 4:00; Fri. 9:00 - 3:00

MINISTER ON CALL: (after hours & weekends)

Call: 224-1622, Press 6, leave name, number and a brief message  
 and the MINISTER ON CALL will return your call promptly.



Facebook: FirstBaptistAnderson  
 Twitter: FBCAndersonSC  
 Website: andersonfbc.org

**MISSIONS**

**CHRISTMAS MISSIONS OFFERING**

Lottie Moon International Missions Offering (SBC)  
 and Global Missions Offering (CBF)

Our 2021 goal: \$6,000

Given: \$4,130

**DEACONS' MINISTRY**

**DEACONS' MEETING**

Sunday, January 30  
 11:30 AM in the Chapel

**WOMEN'S MINISTRY**

**THE MARGARET WILLIAMS BIBLE STUDY**

Tuesday, January 25  
 10:00 AM in Room 212  
 Mission focus for January is the South Main Street  
 Chapel and Mercy Center

**NEW MEMBER**

**WELCOME!**



**Diane Kaiser**

**CONDOLENCES**

Bess Kelly and family on the passing of her brother,  
 Ken Kelly, on December 17, 2021

Guy Eichman and family on the passing of his  
 mother, Maxine Eichman, on December 26, 2021



**FIRST BAPTIST**  
 ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA

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**THE BEACON**

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**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SERVED, DONATED, AND PRAYED  
 FOR OUR ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S DAY COMMUNITY MEAL**



## Epiphany

I have a cousin who has nine children, which means that many of my Christmas memories as a child include gatherings with family in Shreveport, LA, with a baby present. Being a cousin, aunt, uncle, or grandparent of a baby at those kind of gatherings are great, aren't they? You can hold them, rock them, play with them, make them laugh, feed them, let them sleep on your shoulder. But sometimes I'd be holding one of my baby cousins and they would start to get restless, or fussy, or maybe if they'd just been fed they would spit up or start...rumbling. In those moments I'd jump up to go find the baby's mom or dad to be "the parent;" to do those less fun things that are nevertheless a part of life with a newborn.

Sometimes, Christmas can feel a bit like those family gatherings. On the Church calendar, we have twelve days of Christmas before Epiphany; twelve days in which to joyfully revel in the birth of Jesus. While that joy should affect change in us throughout the rest of the calendar, there is also an inherent danger to be wary of at Christmas. Just like the baby in a family, we love to stare down at baby Jesus. We are transfixed by that idyllic scene, the babe lying in a manger. But baby Jesus is easy to love. Because baby Jesus asks nothing of us. The problem is, baby Jesus grows up. Soon we will find him out in the world, being the presence of God to those around him. He will love those on the margins, and challenge those in authority. And most terrifying of all is he then tells us to do the same.

While we are not Jesus's parents, we cannot get stuck at the side of the manger, unwilling to get our hands dirty. We can't only adore the Christ-child, and then go running for help when the "real work" to which we are called begins. This is why Epiphany, "the Appearing," is so important in our spiritual lives. Through the story of the wisemen, we both honor the birth of Jesus, while at the same time recognizing how the inbreaking of God's presence on the lives of these magi carried them across the world. They answered the call of God that came in the form of a star in the sky, following it to the feet of Jesus, who already was no longer a baby; a Jesus who had already grown up a bit. Their journey required them to "get their hands dirty." Because the faith they were called to, and the faith *we* are called to, is one that is participatory. Josh read the prayer of St. Teresa of Avila this past Sunday in worship: "Christ has no body now on earth but yours. No hands but yours. No feet but yours." So in this new year, may those hands and feet grow dirty and calloused from use, as we embrace the joy of the birth of Jesus, yet courageously follow the dusty roads down which he goes on to walk.

Grace and Peace,  
Chris



### *Reflecting on Our Longest Night Service*

For the past several years, Christmas has been a hard time for me and my family. My dad's death a few weeks before Christmas in 2018 was very difficult for us. The pain of loss comes in a variety of forms: grieving a loved one, increased isolation from the pandemic, health concerns, and financial concerns. This pain can seem more pronounced in the season when it seems people should be filled with happiness and joy. When I was preparing to go to our church's first-ever (and my first-ever) Longest Night Service on December 21st, I was fearful of the emotions that might be brought up.

My fears were unfounded. The Longest Night Service was, in fact, a very reverent and meaningful experience that made me feel grateful for the memories I have. During the service we enjoyed beautiful music and meaningful scriptures and remarks that served as a reminder that we are not alone in our struggles. The most moving part of the service for me was when each person attending had the opportunity to light a candle on the altar and speak the names of the people they were missing.

Christmas is a wonderful time to cherish those who showed us how to live like Christ and this service brought a good deal of light to the longest night.

-Sacha Hunt

## PLEASE NOTE

### SPECIAL CALLED BUSINESS CONFERENCE

Please make plans to join us this Sunday, January 9, at 11:30 in the sanctuary for a Special Called Business Conference. The Building and Grounds and Stewardship committees will be putting forward a motion to replace the chiller and compressor that runs the air conditioning in the education building. Please join us immediately following Sunday School this Sunday, January 9.

### ALL-COMMITTEE MEETING CANCELED

Thank you to everyone who had made plans to attend our All-Committee meeting on January 22. However, due to the sharp increase in COVID cases in our area, we are canceling that meeting. The ministers will be in touch with the different committees in order to set up a preliminary meeting for this year. If you have any questions, please let Chris know.

## CHURCH WIDE MISSIONS OPPORTUNITY

The Margaret Williams Bible Study circle is supplying some needed items to the South Main Chapel and Mercy Center this month and invite you all to make this a church-wide mission effort. Choose from the list of requested needs and put your contribution in the designated drop box in the vestibule.

For information call Emmie Hazle [376-8765](tel:376-8765)

All contributions will be collected after the Sunday services on January 16th & 23rd, and will go to support the ministry of the South Main Chapel and Mercy Center.

#### The list of items requested include:

Travel size Deodorants	Mens gloves, any type
Hand warmer packets	Umbrellas
Wash cloths and Towels (New)	Disposable wrapped plastic cutlery packets

Cream Soups: Mushroom, Chicken, and Celery