

THE BEACON
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OPPORTUNITIES AT FIRST BAPTIST

Sunday, November 19
 9:30 AM Worship
 10:30 AM Sunday School
 11:30 AM Deacons Meeting (Deacons Conference Room)
 5:00 PM Youth Friendsgiving

Monday, November 20
 1:00 PM Staff Meeting

Tuesday, November 21
 7:00 PM Young Adult Bible Study

Wednesday, November 22
 No School
 No evening Choir Rehearsals, Kids or Youth Activities

Thursday, November 23 — Thanksgiving Day
 No School
 Church Office Closed

Friday, November 24
 No School
 Church Office Closed

Sunday, November 26
 9:30 AM Worship
 10:30 AM Sunday School
 5:00 PM Youth Group and Dinner

Monday, November 27
 1:00 PM Staff Meeting

Tuesday, November 28
 10:00 PM Margaret Williams Bible Study (Room 212)
 7:00 PM Young Adult Bible Study

Wednesday, November 29
 5:30 PM Handbell Choir (Above the Chapel)
 5:45 PM Children's Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal
 Youth Group (Gym)
 7:00 PM Youth "Homework and Hangout" (Gym)
 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, November 30
 12:00 PM Bible Study Lunch (Fellowship Hall)

Saturday, December 2
 2:00 PM Parent's Day Out and Kid's Christmas Party



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

Rev. Naomi Black-Bass, Minister of Youth and Connections
 Mr. Mike Darby, Housing Ministry Manager
 Mrs. Shannon Griffin, CDC Director
 Mrs. Ramona Hallman, Organist
 Miss Kendra Hamilton, Musician in Residence
 Mrs. Lesley Hudgins, Financial Manager
 Dr. Josh Hunt, Pastor
 Rev. Chris Liles, Associate Pastor
 Rev. Cara Morgan, Minister to Children and Senior Adults
 Mrs. Sharon Royals, Communications Manager
 Mr. Jamie Smith, Asst. Music Director
 Mrs. Kelly Smith, Pianist
 Mr. Addrian Wilson, Minister of Music
 Mr. Greg Wilson, Facilities Manager

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.



FirstBaptistAnderson
 FBCAndersonSC
 andersonfbc.org

MEMBERS IN ACTION

November 19

Deacons of the Week:
 Pat Vickery, Offertory Prayer
 Catherine Wilson, Visitor Outreach
Children's Worship: Timothy Clardy
Nursery: Becky Campbell
Security: Alan Oxendine and Chad Waters

November 26

Deacons of the Week:
 Anne Whitney, Offertory Prayer
 Janet Geisel, Visitor Outreach
Children's Worship: Cathy Drew
Nursery: Tracey Ramsey
Security: Dean Cate and Jeff Neal



FIRST BAPTIST
 ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA

307 South Manning Street, Anderson, South Carolina 29624 864.224.1622 / andersonfbc.org

THE BEACON

November 17, 2023 Volume 62 Issue 22



JOIN US THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON!

HANGING OF THE GREEN

December 3 - 9:30 AM

HEAVEN'S LIGHT

December 6 - 6:00 PM

Presented by the FBC Children's Choirs Followed by Refreshments in the Rock Room

A CHRISTMAS TAPESTRY

December 10 - 9:30 AM

Presented by the First Baptist Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

December 21 - 6:00 PM

CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE

December 23 - 7:00 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

December 24 - 9:30 AM

Sunday School classes have the option of meeting on Christmas Eve. Many of our classes have elected not to meet, so we will not offer childcare after worship. But if your class has indicated a desire to meet that morning, please know that you are welcome to do so!

From One Minister to Another...

A couple of days ago, I heard a pundit on TV suggesting that the coming election year will be the most divisive in recent history. That statement was jarring to me because it's not like our recent elections have been kind and conciliatory. With that in mind, as Thanksgiving approaches, I've been thinking about how I can honor God with my gratitude, and how that gratitude might affect the way I experience the predicted political storms in the next year.

For this season of gratitude, and into this year of division, this simple prayer keeps coming to my mind: "May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be pleasing in your sight, oh Lord, my strength and my redeemer." (Psalm 19:14) It's not a prayer that asks that God would find anything we say or think pleasing. It's a request that God would help us to say and to think pleasing things. Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, "Often we combat our evil thoughts most effectively if we absolutely refuse to allow them to be expressed in words."

Paul cautions the Ephesians (4:27) not to "give the devil a foothold." Instead, you should "let all bitterness, wrath, anger, and slander be put away from you." That may mean changing the way you speak. It may mean changing the way you think. It may be changing the people you spend time around. Instead, Paul says, use your words to build others up: speak "only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." (Eph 4:29)

"Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me" is a terrible lie, though we so often speak as though our words don't have power. Words really can hurt others. Our words can grieve God.

As we venture into this tumultuous year, ask yourself this: if someone compiled all of your communication for the next year—every word you spoke, note you wrote, email or text you typed, or social media post you shared—what would they conclude about you? What kind of person would they figure you to be? Would they conclude that you are kind? Would they see that you are godly? Would they see you encouraging others? Would they see that you build people up?

During COVID, Chris and I led a virtual book study on Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Life Together*, which was a compilation of his thoughts on how to live in Christian community. (The videos are still available on our website if you're interested in the study!) One of Bonhoeffer's rules of thumb was not to say anything negative about someone who wasn't present. Don't be critical of someone who isn't there with you. That's a tough teaching, but what a wonderful start in honoring God with what we say!

This Thanksgiving and throughout this coming year, let us adopt a spirit of gratitude, use words that build others up, and pray that the meditations of our hearts would be pleasing to God, who both strengthens and redeems us.

Peace of Christ,



MORE EVENTS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

YOUTH MINISTRY

YOUTH FRIENDSGIVING

November 19 — 5:00-7:00 PM

Meet at Naomi's apartment and bring a side to share.

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 17 — 3:00-6:30 PM

We'll have dinner and then do a Scavenger Hunt Downtown. Bring a gift to swap.

YOUTH CHRISTMAS MOVIE MARATHON

December 20 — 6:00-11:00 PM

We will be watching Christmas movies and doing Christmas activities

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

MARGARET WILLIAMS BIBLE STUDY

November 28 — 10:00 AM — Room 212

Our mission focus will be the Patrick Harris Psychiatric Hospital

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

SENIOR ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY

Thursday, December 14

Noon in the Fellowship Hall

Catered by Fosters Main Events at the Beehive

Cost: \$10

Bring a wrapped Christmas ornament

Food, fun, fellowship, and Christmas caroling
Sign-up deadline: Friday, December 8th by 3:00 PM

MEN'S MINISTRY

MEN'S MINISTRY DINNER/STAGE SET UP

Monday, December 4 — 6:00-7:00 PM

Following supper, volunteers will help set up the sanctuary stage extension in preparation for upcoming Christmas programs.

CHOIR MINISTRY

CHRISTMAS CHOIR REHEARSAL AND LUNCH

Saturday, December 9 — 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

DRESS REHEARSAL

Wednesday, November 29 — 6:00 PM

PARENT'S DAY OUT & KIDS' CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday, December 2 — 2:00-7:00 PM

Wear your Christmas PJs! Crafts, Activities, Hot Dog Dinner, and Christmas Movie
Needed: adult and youth volunteers, especially from 2:00-5:00 PM for crafts/activities

MISSIONS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Wednesday, December 13 — 5:45 PM

Caroling at the Wilmary (Elementary Age) and Christmas-themed activities and snack time.

COMMUNITY EVENT

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, November 19 - 5:00 PM

Boulevard Baptist Church Sanctuary

For those interested in singing in the choir, please arrive by 4:15 PM for practice.
Music will be provided.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

STEVIE JEAN BOULWARE

Born November 6, 2023

Proud Parents: Garrett and Kelsey Boulware

Siblings: Cooley and Lewie

Grandparents: Steve and Debbie Hand

DOROTHEIA IRENE WIMPEY

Born November 9, 2023

8lbs 9oz 20 3/4in

Proud Parents: Aaron and Hannah Wimpey

Big Brother: Wilson Wimpey

Grandparents: Addrian and Kim Wilson