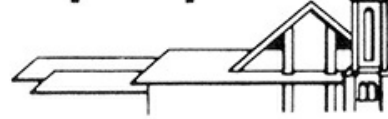


# THE BULLETIN

of the First Baptist Church in Beverly



*A progressive and welcoming Christian community!*

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Visit our Website

## Second Sunday of Advent

Join Us for Advent at First Baptist Church in Beverly

*Sunday, December 8, 2019*

8:45am: Welcome Café

9:00am: Seekers Class and Yoga Class - Childcare Provided

10:00am: Worship

11:00am: Mission 2020 Info Meeting

11:20am: Adult Education - Childcare Provided

11:20am: Children's Choir

2:00pm Caroling to the Community

4:00pm: MS Fellowship

6:00pm: SH Fellowship

*Tidings of Comfort and Joy:  
For the World*

Sermon by Rev. Julie Flowers

Scripture: Luke 2:1-5

Lighting the Second Candle  
of the Advent Wreath:

The Armstrong/Johnstone/McCay Family



Our 1st and 2nd Grade Friends will continue the creation of our Nativity Scene during worship.

## Youth Fellowship Activities for December 8th

### Holiday Shopping for Those in Need

**Middle School Fellowship: 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm ; Senior High Fellowship: 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm**

Fellowship groups will meet at the church at their respective times and then head out to do some shopping for gifts for kids whose families might welcome a little extra support this holiday season. Please come ready to shop for gifts for others – bring \$5 to donate to the cause if you can! We will return to the church for the usual pick-up times: MS Fellowship 6pm ; SH Fellowship 9pm.



Group picture including the amazing Sue Gabriel, Executive Director of [Beverly Bootstraps](#), as our Middle School Fellowship youth and adult advisors and volunteers prepared to unload over 1000 pounds of food donations collected along the route of the Beverly Holiday Parade!

### Book Group Meets at 2pm on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>

The Book Group will meet on Friday, December 6 at 2 o'clock in the church lounge to discuss Meg Wolitzer's latest novel, *The Female Persuasion*. This book is well-written and a very enjoyable read with an interesting story line that raises many contemporary issues, especially about women's ambitions and the progress women have made in defining their identity and independence in recent times. Don't feel intimidated if you haven't read the book – come for the discussion, come to help pick books for future reading, or just come to enjoy good company and Christmas cookies and cider!

### Join us for The Hanging of the Greens! The Joy Begins at 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec 6th! Join us after school and work!

Come and help us get our church home ready for the Advent and Christmas seasons!

This fun and festive family-friendly event has been designed to allow people of all ages to come and have fun and play a role in getting our church ready for the holidays!

There will be dinner starting at 5 p.m. – so come from school, errands, or work as your schedule allows, and gather around the table with your family and our church family. We will then spread out around the church to decorate every nook and cranny – there are jobs for children, grown-ups, and every one in between!

We'll end the evening all together in the sanctuary, singing favorite Christmas carols and enjoying a few seasonal movie clips and more.

Please come and join us – and invite friends and neighbors... this event is open to everyone and A LOT of fun! It's a great way to get the church ready for Advent while getting yourself into the spirit of the season, too!

*PLEASE NOTE: We DO need a count to order food AND to ensure that we have the numbers to make the event happen – so PLEASE RSVP by either writing to Julie at [jflowers@fbcbeverly.org](mailto:jflowers@fbcbeverly.org) or responding to the event on Facebook here:*

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2498569613710761/>



## Adult Sunday School Schedule

On December 8<sup>th</sup> our adult classes will wrap up the Fall season: Seeker Class at 9 a.m. with Kent Harrop; 11:20 a.m. Gospel of John with Kent and Gloria, 1 Timothy with John DeNardo. After a break for the balance of December, we will resume on January 5<sup>th</sup>.

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### Mission Trip Interest Meeting – December 8th at 11am

It's hard to believe, but summer 2020 will be here before we know it! That means it's time to GET SERIOUS about organizing for our Summer 2020 Mission Trip to Plymouth, North Carolina. On Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, there will be a BRIEF informational meeting for all those interested in this summer's trip. The group will gather in the Lounge at the rear of the sanctuary, immediately following worship. This is an opportunity to learn more about the trip, find out about deadlines to officially sign up (which will be coming up in the start of the new year), learn about fundraising opportunities and ways to get involved, and ask questions! The meeting will be brief enough to allow participants to also attend after worship classes, as well, should they wish!

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### Family Portraits by Photographer Amy Sweeney - December 8.

Did Christmas sneak up on you this year?

Professional photographer and church member Amy Sweeney will be setting up a portable studio in the gym before the service starting at 9 a.m. and will be there after the service until 2 p.m. this Sunday, December 8.

Come in for a family portrait or get photos of just the kids.



\$75 for the sitting and a link to the photos on a private gallery where you can download the images or order prints. You will have them by December 10.

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### Christmas Caroling to the Community - December 8th at 2:00pm

## Caroling to the Community Sunday, Dec 8th at 2:00 p.m.



Help us spread cheer to church members and local nursing homes. Join us for Caroling to the Community on Sunday December 8th at 2:00 - 5 p.m. ! This event is a wonderful one for all ages, and all are invited to join in spreading Christmas cheer. Those who are interested should please meet at the church, as the group will head out from there.

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# Advent 2019

## *Tidings of Comfort and Joy*

You are warmly invited to celebrate the season with us! Join in these Fun Events and Special Services:

### **Hangings of the Greens**

**Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m.**

Come and help us get our church home ready for the Advent and Christmas season! Dinner begins at 5 p.m. (come as your schedule allows) and we'll end the evening all together in the sanctuary, singing favorite Christmas carols and enjoying a few seasonal movie clips and more. Please RSVP by either writing to Julie at [jflowers@fbcbeverly.org](mailto:jflowers@fbcbeverly.org) or respond to the event on Facebook here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2498569613710761/>

### **Second Sunday of Advent**

**Sunday, December 8th | *For the World***  
**Sermon by Rev. Julie Flowers |**  
**Scripture: Luke 2:1-5**

### **Caroling to the Community**

**Sunday, December 8th at 2:00 p.m.**  
Spread cheer around Beverly. All ages invited.

### **Parents' Night Out**

**Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.**  
Drop the kids with us! They will enjoy dinner and a Christmas-themed program with singing, games and crafts. Open to the community.

### **Christmas Party for a Crowd**

**Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m.**  
All the adults of the church are invited to "crowd in" at our annual Christmas Party with Room for a Crowd at the home of Dianne and Rich Cashman (9 Dyer Road, Beverly). Bring a dish to share for a potluck dinner. In addition to sharing food and fellowship, all are welcome to participate in a festive Yankee Swap (\$15-20). Please email the Cashmans to let them know you'll be attending and what dish you plan to bring at [richanddianne@comcast.net](mailto:richanddianne@comcast.net).

### **Third Sunday of Advent | Music Sunday** **Sunday, December 15th | *For the Forgotten***

**Sermon by Rev. Julie Flowers |**  
**Scripture: Luke 2:8-20**  
Come enjoy beautiful music of a Celtic Christmas shared by our vocal and handbell choirs!

### **Longest Night Service**

**Friday, December 20th at 6:30pm**

This beautiful candlelit service is for anyone who would like a quieter and more meditative space in the busyness of Christmas time... for anyone carrying hurt or pain... for anyone who would like to gather and lift our shared prayers and hopes for ourselves, our community, and our world. The service moves from darkness to light, as we recall Jesus, the Light of the World, who enters in and touches the darkness of our night with light. Refreshments following. A wonderful event to invite a friend.

### **Christmas Sunday**

**Sunday, December 22nd | *For Our Community***  
**Sermon by Rev. Kent Harrop |**  
**Scripture: Luke 1:39-56 and Matthew 1:18-24**

### **Jesus' Birthday Party and Advent Celebration**

**Sunday, December 22nd at 11:00am**  
After worship, we'll have a party, with a potluck luncheon, Christmas crafts and of course a birthday cake!! We will close, as we always do, with the singing of Christmas carols, culminating in the rousing and joyous singing of The Twelve Days of Christmas by table!  
**What to Bring:**  
Soup and desserts will be provided. Families are asked to bring a loaf of NUT FREE sandwiches to share. Single folks are asked to bring a bag of chips or a drink.

### **Christmas Eve Services**

**Tuesday, December 24th**

**The 5:00p.m. Service:**

A Christmas service planned with the enthusiasm of children in mind.

**The 11:00p.m. Service:**

A beautiful candlelit service of lessons and carols.

### **A Service of Story and Song**

**Sunday, December 29th**

We will gather for worship at 10:00 a.m. There is childcare during the worship hour, but there are no education classes nor youth fellowship meetings on this Sunday. Happy New Year!

### **Beverly New Year: Supper and Sweets**

**Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**

Shows, supper and sweets as part of the citywide New Years Eve celebration.

### **Epiphany Sunday**

**Sunday, January 5th | *For Us All***  
**Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12**

# Christmas Party for a Crowd at the Cashmans' Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

All the adults of the church are invited to "crowd in" at our annual Christmas Party with Room for a Crowd at the home of Dianne and Rich Cashman (9 Dyer Road, Beverly). Bring a dish to share for a potluck dinner. In addition to sharing food and fellowship, all are welcome to participate in a festive Yankee Swap (\$15-20). Please e-mail the Cashmans to let them know you'll be attending and what dish you plan to bring at [richanddianne@comcast.net](mailto:richanddianne@comcast.net). Come and join us in celebrating together with your church family!

## Christmas Poinsettias

Orders for Christmas poinsettias are being taken in the church office.

**All orders must be placed by Monday, Dec. 16th.**

Each potted plant, given in memory or in honor of a loved one, will decorate the sanctuary for our Christmas services. The plants will be available to take with you following the 11 pm service on Christmas Eve, or you may leave it to be delivered to someone in our church family or community who has been unable to attend worship this Advent season.



**Each plant is \$11.50** this year, due to increasing difficulty on the part of florists to procure them in enough quantity and the rising cost on the florists' end. Thank you so much for helping to adorn our sanctuary on Christmas Sunday and Christmas Eve while also helping to honor and remember those many important people in all of your lives.

## HCP Awarded the Bid to Renovate and Restore Briscoe.

Harborlight Community Partners, a satellite ministry of First Baptist Church in Beverly received great news last week. HCP writes: "On this Thanksgiving Eve, we did not expect to have such good news to share! HCP has been awarded the bid to renovate and restore Briscoe. With development partner Beacon Communities, we will renovate this stately building so that it retains its grand facade. It will be transformed into 85 affordable homes for seniors, include 11 artist spaces and restore the historic theater. "Briscoe Village for Living & the Arts" will be a vibrant, wonderful community. We are honored and grateful to have been awarded this opportunity. Thank you to all of you for supporting this housing mission."

And don't forget to join HCP at Old Planters on 12/5 @ 6:30!

Our friends at Old Planters are supporting HCP for the month of December! Stop by for our Kick-Off night! Learn more about Briscoe and other projects HCP is working on to support home creation.



## Very Important – Don't forget to Pledge for 2020

The pledge drive for 2020 is off to a great start with \$167,000 already promised, but \$30,000 is still needed just to continue to support what the church has been doing during the current year. The church is alive and thriving, and what better indication of this than during last Sunday's service when 11 new adult members were presented to the congregation, and a new membership class is already in the works for the new year. The hope is to continue to build on the church's successes with programs for spiritual growth, social action and fun, food and fellowship. But we need the support of every one to make this happen.

If you haven't made a pledge for 2020 yet, pledge cards are available on a table in the lobby of the church, in the pew racks in the sanctuary, or by calling the church office. Completed cards can be placed in the collection plate during the worship service or mailed to the church office.

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank the special lay speakers who got the campaign off to such a successful start. New member Lauren Costa wrote a moving description of how important it was for her to find a church home where her family could flourish. Doris-Ann Vosseler described how she found First Baptist when she was looking for a larger church after her experience in a small house church (thank goodness FBC was at the beginning of the alphabetical list of denominations she was consulting – "A" is for American Baptist!), and once again Barbara Brann-Weir as her alter ego Luna Loops the clown happened to wander in during the Stepsitters children's lesson. This year Luna was accompanied by her muppet friend, Everett the Down Maine farmer who, although his crops had failed before the harvest season, still offered to contribute his last two coins. Luna was moved to contribute a thick roll of bills to the collection plate (or the "golden bowl" as she called it). Whether your contribution is modest or larger, depending on your personal circumstances, every contribution plays an important part in helping the church continue its important service into the future. Please don't forget to pledge!

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## Silent Auction Has A Very Successful Year

The silent auction, a traditional part of the Holiday Fair, is finished, the winning bidders have been notified, and the profits are totaled up. A total of 92 items were auctioned off, for a profit of \$3,824, an impressive amount that will be donated to meet the church's annual budget. Since any amount over \$3,000 is considered beyond normal expectations, the final sum was an impressive one.

Thanks to all who donated to the auction which operates on a sort of "stone soup" or Biblical loaves and fishes philosophy. So many people contributed in a variety of ways that helped make the auction a resounding success. Special thanks go to Tracey Armstrong, Glen Johnstone and their extended family for creating so many creative baskets and themed sets, to Doris-Ann Vosseler for her generous baskets and toy selections, to Karen Popadic for the many hours she spent creating a unique hanging Advent calendar, and to Shaina Stevens for her energetic canvassing of local restaurants for donations of gift cards.

And finally, thanks to every one who bid on the items. If there were no bids on so many lovely things, no money would be raised. There are no expenses in the silent auction, and every cent raised goes to the church. Whether you donated to the auction, made a bid, were a winner or just enjoyed looking, you were a part of making the auction and the fair a wonderfully successful event for church people and the community at large. Thanks to all for your support.

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## Coming Up at FBC



Thursday, December 5  
6:00pm: Celebration Ringers  
7:30pm: Sanctuary Choir

Friday, December 6  
5:00pm Hanging of the Greens

Saturday, December 7  
12:30pm: Lunch Program

Sunday, December 8: Second Sunday of Advent

8:45 am: Welcome Café  
9:00am: Seekers Class  
9:00am: Yoga Class  
9:00 am: Morning Childcare  
10:00am: Worship  
11:00am: Mission 2020 Info Meeting  
11:20am: Adult Education  
11:20am: Children's Choir  
2:00pm: Caroling to the Community  
4:00pm: MS Fellowship  
6:00pm: SH Fellowship

Monday, December 9  
6:00pm: Monday Night Supper

Tuesday, December 10  
9:30am: Staff Meeting  
7:30pm: HNS Board Meeting

Wednesday, December 11  
4:30pm: Lectio Divina  
6:15pm: Joy Ringers  
7:15pm: Harborlight Ringers

Thursday, December 12  
6:00pm: Celebration Ringers  
7:30pm: Sanctuary Choir

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**Check out all of FBC Beverly's sermons at [fbcbeverly.org/sermons](https://fbcbeverly.org/sermons)**

***Tidings of Comfort and Joy:  
For the Journey***

Sermon by Rev. Kent Harrop

Scripture: Isaiah 9: 2 - 7; Luke 2: 1 - 7



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First Baptist Church in Beverly | 978-922-3295 | [bulletin@fbcbeverly.org](mailto:bulletin@fbcbeverly.org) | [www.fbcbeverly.org](http://www.fbcbeverly.org)

STAY CONNECTED

