

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, December 20	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship (Advent III -Joy)
	3:00 pm	Christmas Caroling
Tuesday, December 21	10:30 am	Staff Meeting
Thursday, December 24	5:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service
Friday, December 25	All Day	Merry Christmas!

The third Sunday of each month, we collect an offering for the **Food Pantry** of Thermal Belt Outreach Ministry. This offering directly helps feed hungry families in Polk County. You may give to this offering as you exit **today**.

Join us today for Christmas Caroling! We'll meet at the church at 3:00pm and carol 'round the neighborhood. Afterward, we'll share the traditional Christmas chips and salsa at El Sureno.

The Christmas Eve Service will be at 5:00pm on Thursday, December 24. Please join us for carols, communion, and candlelight.

The Church Office will be closed on **Monday, December 28**, and **Tuesday, December 29**. Please have all contributions and year-end financials to the church by **December 27**. The office will also be closed on **Monday, January 4**.

Give the Gift of Food – Because we are no longer using live poinsettias in the sanctuary due to allergy concerns, you may give a food box to Thermal Belt Outreach Ministry in memory or in honor of someone. The cost of each box is \$20. Envelopes are provided for this and may be found at the entrances to the sanctuary.

Coat Drive – We are collecting coats, sweaters, and hoodies – new or used. There is a large collection box in the closet opposite the Lair Sunday School classroom. Each time the box is full, we will take the coats to Thermal Belt Outreach. Give the gift of warmth this year!

You may still sign **Ministry Team** sheets (green) and **2016 Giving** slips (blue) and place in the offering plate, or sign up for a Ministry team in the Sunday School foyer.

December 13, 2015

Weekly Budget Giving	\$ 7,764	I Love My Church	\$ 100
Weekly Budget Goal	\$ 6,640	Christmas Food Boxes	\$ 120
YTD Budget Giving	\$ 323,537		
YTD Budget Goal	\$ 332,000		

<p>First Baptist Church 125 Pacolet Street PO Box 1287 Tryon, NC 28782 Email: tryonfirstbaptist@gmail.com Website: tryonfirstbaptist.org Phone: 828.859.5375 Pastor's Cell: 828.899.1386</p>	<p>Church Staff The Reverend Dr. Jeff C. Harris, Pastor The Reverend Candace Wilson, Minister of Music and Christian Formation Kay Greene, Pianist E. Leslie Raymond, Organist John Spinks, Sexton</p>
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First Baptist Church

December 20, 2015

Eleven O'Clock in the Morning

Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Worship of God

Music for Gathering Kay Greene

Prelude *The Promised Savior* -James Southbridge

Congregational Call to Worship *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

*Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning,
 Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! The Child of our longing.*

*Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,
 He opens wide the heav'nly door and lives now inside us forever.*

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Lighting of the Advent Candles The Umphlett Family

Elizabeth was barren with no hope for a child, but then a baby filled her womb. The presence of new life filled her with hope.

May the light of Christ fill us with hope.

Elizabeth did not know why Mary came rushing through her doors, but the leap of her unborn child filled her with the knowledge of the Lord. The knowledge of the Lord filled her with peace.

May the light of Christ fill us with peace.

John the Baptist, while in the womb of his mother, expressed the joy of generations to come. The faith of Mary filled the unborn babe with joy.

May the light of Christ fill us with joy.

In a moment filled with hope, in a moment filled with peace, in a moment filled with joy, Mary opens her mouth to sing, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior..." Mary rejoices in the God who loves the oppressed; Mary rejoices in the God who loves the hungry. Mary a maiden, Mary unseen by the powerful of the world, is filled with the love of a God bent on overturning the world with a teenage girl and newborn babe.

Like the first disciple Mary, let the light of Christ fill us with love.

Sung Response *O Little Town of Bethlehem* ST. LOUIS
O holy Child of Bethlehem! Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today!
We hear the Christmas angels, The great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

Opening Prayer
God of love, we thank you for bringing the light of Christ into the world. May the love shared by Elizabeth and Mary serve as a beacon for our own affections. May we, like Mary, create love that exalts the lowly and makes low the proud. May we all bear the light that changes the world. Amen.

†Hymn of Praise 88 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* MENDELSSOHN

†Passing of the Peace Jeff Harris
The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Children's Time "Mr. Skip" Williams
(Kindergartners and preschoolers leave for Children's Church after the Children's Time)

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer Jeff Harris

The Chancel Choir
presents
Do Not Fear! The Light Has Come to Us
Compiled by Candace B. Wilson
Leslie Raymond, piano Jodi Harris and Jeff Harris, narrators

Prologue

Old Testament Reading Micah 5:2-5a (p. 818)

†Carol 86 *O Little Town of Bethlehem* ST. LOUIS

Litany of Celebration
The prophet Micah foretold the place of the Savior's birth, the one who would lead his people to celebrate freedom from sin.
Lead us to Bethlehem once more as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.
Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead your people like a flock!
Lead us as you led the shepherds to a manger as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.
Stir up your might, blessed Holy One, and come and save us!
Lead us, with your angels, to proclaim the Good News as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Restore us, O God; let your face shine that we may be saved!
Lead us by the shining star as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.
For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders!
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, lead us to celebrate Christmas.

Meditation
Waiting -Pepper Choplin

Narration
Angels Are Making Their Rounds -Pepper Choplin

Narration
Night of the Father's Love -arr. by Pepper Choplin

Gospel Reading Luke 2:8-16 (p. 58)
O Come, Little Children -arr. by Ruth Elaine Schram

Meditation
Offertory Prayer
Offertory *Be a Gift to a World in Need* -Tom S. Long/Allen Pote
†Doxology 100 (Refrain) *Gloria in Excelsis Deo!* GLORIA

Song of Response *Christ Is Born, Nowell!* -Pepper Choplin
(Congregation is asked to join the choir when indicated.)
Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

† Benediction Jeff Harris
† Choral Response *Nowell, Nowell, Nowell!* -Pepper Choplin
† Postlude *Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow* -Lloyd Larson

If you are a guest, we are grateful that you are here. Please complete a welcome card (found in the pew pocket) and place it in the offering plate, so we can send you a written word of greeting. As you exit, we have a small gift to offer in appreciation of your presence with us.

Hearing assistance devices are available in the narthex.

Acolytes for today's service are Ella Waldman and David Amitrano.

Meditations and narrations for today's worship were adapted from *Lights, Symbols, and Angels!* by Cynthia E. Cowen, CSS Publishing Co., Inc. and *Night of the Father's Love* by Pepper Choplin, Lorenz Publishing Company.