



# FBC NEWS

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## “Jeanne, is it True That Santa Doesn’t Bring Gifts to Some Children at Christmas?”

I was asked this question just before FBC’s Christmas Eve children’s service. I had to say, “Yes, that’s true,” as I offered a hug to the eight-year-old little boy doing the asking. This was about a decade ago, and the young man is now a teenager. I’m sure his question had much to do with what he knew about his friends’ Christmas lists as they’d talked on the playground at school. I’m sure he thought that so much had changed since he’d been living in a refugee camp, surely there might just be a benevolent Santa who would bring him gifts in America.

As I’ve listened to refugees who are parents talk about their experiences in refugee camps, safety was a great concern. Parents were concerned about the survival of their children, and the return of a sense of peace in their daily lives. Material gifts to amuse paled in comparison. Enough food, enough shelter, enough medical care for basic survival were cause for belief in God’s good care. Also, trust for God’s infinite benevolence to care for those living and dead toward an eternal reunion with God and with one another was the daily spiritual nourishment every family could give their children, no matter their economic situations. When children have been mached as you carry them on your back, clinging to God’s promise to restore what has been lost is all important. Trusting God’s promises becomes a daily practice of worship on the way to that ultimate day of wholeness when all that has been loved and lost is recovered again. Peace will be restored to our hearts and our minds and our bodies. Children who come to learn this in their families can carry peace with them as a comfort and a shield in times of trouble.

**Don’t Forget the Community  
Christmas Movie Night,  
December 20th, 4:30-6:15 pm  
in Ferrell Hall**

Remember to see Jeanne about how you can participate in this special Thursday community meal. We are still looking for donations of food for this evening of providing a bit of peace and fun for our community.

This year’s devotion guide is about God’s concern for our peace. God loved us so much that he sent his only begotten Son, Jesus, to give his life instead of giving up on God’s message of love for the world. Even if it killed him, Jesus wanted us to know that God, the maker of the world, loves us, is for us, and hopes for all of humanity to love one another in peace. That is the gift that we should be helping our children and ourselves learn to expect at Christmas. We should be yearning for God’s peace to come at all times to all situations that maim and kill our bodies and our spirits. If that was the gift associated with Santa’s coming, I could have said to my young friend, “Santa brings God’s peace for every child!” As we continue this Advent journey together, I pray that God in Christ will daily teach us how to be good givers of forgiveness and reliable love in a world in need of peace, and we will think about the gifts we give one another and our children as we are going. The words we say, the traditions we create, the meanings we assign, and the love and forgiveness we share all work together to shape the lives of those around us. May God find us faithfully preparing at all times to give and receive the peace of Christ!

## **Adult Know, Grow, Show Last Wednesday at Noon: What Aspect of Relationship with God Nourishes Your Love of God Now?**

Last week Larry facilitated a discussion of discernment among those gathered. Participants were asked to consider how they knew God in the beginning of their relationships with God and how those relationships of knowing God had changed over the years. It became evident that the way God was presented to us in our early years could easily obscure or make manifest God’s benevolence for us. There was also the discovery that without our continuing to converse with God and other believers about our life tasks and experiences, our vision of God and our trust of God could be less than God intends.

## Among Our Family

### —In the Hospital—

**MWH:** Patsy Braswell

### —Sympathy To—

Ellen Jarrell in the death of her daughter, Courtney

Tina Abel in the death of her daughter's father, Marvin Dent, on November 30th.

Ken and Steve Thomas in the death of their father, Walter Thomas

## Coming up

### Saturday, December 8

To Reach a Minister After Office Hours, please call 540-300-1442  
SIXERS to Massanutten

### Sunday, December 9

8:30am Worship  
9:45am Sunday School  
11:00am Worship  
12:30pm Kirundi Worship

### Monday, December 10

9:30am Women's Bible Study  
11:00am McRae/Person/Smith Circle Meeting  
11:45am Scott Circle Lunch  
12:15pm Scott Circle Meeting  
2:00pm Revelation Handbell Rehearsal

### Tuesday, December 11

10:30am ESL Classes  
11:00am Community Café

### Wednesday, December 12

10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry  
11:30am KNOW,GROW,SHOW Luncheon  
5:15pm Snack Supper  
6:00pm KNOW,GROW, SHOW For All Age Groups  
7:00pm Sanctuary Choir

### Thursday, December 13

10:00am Community Café  
10:30am ESL Classes

### Friday, December 14

11:00am Yoga

### Saturday, December 15

To Reach a Minister After Office Hours, please call 540-300-1442  
7:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast

### Sunday, December 16

8:30am Worship  
9:45am Sunday School  
11:00am Worship  
12:30pm Kirundi Worship

## A Church Funny

Sign in the church nursery:  
"We shall not all sleep,  
but we all shall be changed"  
I Corinthians 15:51

## Responsibilities for December 9

### —Greeters Schedule—

Princess Anne St: Darrell Caldwell, Kathy Jones  
Sanctuary Door: Jim Wiltshire  
Caroline Street: Ron & Pixie Cleaver  
Children's Area: John Ingram  
Youth Area: Volunteer from Youth Class

### —Deacons—

**8:30am**

Anne Nuckols (Lead),  
Tony Overby, Rick Frank, Chuck Ellis  
David & Anne Pierce(W)  
Chris Hylton, Kathy Jones(B)

**11:00am**

Pat DiCecca (Lead),  
Jack & Phyllis Marcom, Berena Paul,  
Jean English, Ndayihaya Abel,  
Bob Dungan, Alex Lowman  
Sarah Bush King, Burnie Parker(W&B)

### —Ushers—

**8:30am**

Rosemary Dodd, Kyle Loving,  
Jerry Rice, Kyle Smith

**11:00am**

John & Mary Wayland Lawson,  
Dewey & Judy Lowman,  
Winston Ward, Clarene Woodward,  
Buddy Updike, Keith Snider, John Garnett

### —Bus Driver—

Dean Goff



### For Thursday Community Meals!

Sign up each Sunday in the Welcome Center. Share potatoes, toppings, and your time as we serve our neighbors together in the name of Christ

## Welcome to New Members



Mike & Linda Hayslett



Bill & Jenny Pasenelli



Dan & Becky Gahr

## Nominations for Board of Trustees Are Being Received

Nominations for the Board of Trustees are being accepted during the months of November and December with election occurring at the business meeting in January. Terms of service are for two years commencing on February 1.

The primary function of the Board of Trustees shall be to make any and all decisions necessary for the smooth functioning of the Church between regular and called business meetings of Members.

If you wish to nominate someone, please confirm their willingness to serve and then submit their name to the church office. Please contact Dennis Sacrey for further info.

## Stewardship Summary

Ministry Budget	
Weekly Needs	\$25,794
Sunday, December 3	\$44,243
Y-T-D Total	\$1,106,959
Ahead/Behind Budget	-\$131,123
BUOH in Missions	
Weekly Needs	\$2,885
Sunday, December 3	\$2,121
Y-T-D Total	\$84,359
Ahead/Behind Goal	-\$54,122
Capital Fund	
Sunday, December 3	\$701
Y-T-D Total	\$28,996