



An Unprecedented Advent Offering Opportunity

I am so excited about the coming Advent season. While we are not fully past the pandemic, vaccines and continued vigilance with safety protocols have made gatherings easier and safer for this holiday season. I am looking forward to a powerful season of Advent worship and I invite you and your friends to join us in person and/or online as we prepare for the coming of our Savior.

I also want to invite you to join me in a truly unprecedented Advent offering opportunity. As you know, our local community and other communities around our nation have been hurting at deep levels throughout the pandemic. Our staff, Vision Team, Compassionate Missions Partnerships Team, Stewardship Committee, and many others have been praying for a unique way to show God's love and compassion to our city this year. Furthermore, during the pandemic, our Benevolence designated fund (designed to help hurting people in need) has grown so large that our Stewardship Committee and staff feel it is necessary to share some of these resources with our community during this unprecedented, challenging season.

After considerable prayer and conversation, a significant opportunity has emerged. In order to show the love and compassion of Christ, we feel led to give a \$50 gift card to every teacher, custodian, bus driver, cafeteria, and worker associated with Yates Elementary, Gildersleeve Middle, and Menchville High School. In doing so, we will touch the lives of over 400 stressed, emotionally drained, and exhausted persons in our city. This effort will take over \$20,000. We will seed our offering with extra funds from our Benevolence account, but the rest will come from our generosity as a people.

Why schools? Why teachers and other school workers? Our church has a rich tradition of loving our community through serving our schools. Our partnership with Yates Elementary is known across our city. You regularly contribute school supplies, host breakfasts for the Yates staff, share in helping needs of hurting families connected with Yates, and even provided so much hand sanitizer last year that we had to share it with other schools as well. School partnership is part of our congregational DNA.

Loving our schools is needed now more than ever. You have read the articles in the paper, seen on our local TV stations, and noticed on social media how shorthanded our district is with bus drivers and teachers. Perhaps you have talked with teachers who have retired early because the strain was overwhelming. Maybe you

remember listening to the testimonies of some of our own FBCNN teachers as they discussed teaching during the pandemic in our worship services this past September. Teachers, bus drivers, school leaders, indeed, many school workers are struggling with their emotional health, frustration, and fatigue. What an opportunity to inject the hope of Christ into the lives of so many who are broken and struggling!

Now, you will still have the opportunity to give to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering or the CBF offering for Global Missions this season. However, this Love Our Schools Advent Offering is time sensitive. If we are going to get the gift cards in the school workers hands before Christmas Break, we need your gifts by Tuesday, December 14.

If we receive more funds than are needed, we will serve even more schools. However, we will not give partial gifts to a school. We will bless every faculty member and bus driver at each school we serve. We will start with Yates, Gildersleeve, and Menchville because they are in our neighborhood. Any extra funds provided will be used to bless other schools as well.

450 school workers means we need \$22,500 to serve all three schools. We already have a strong start. With God's help, we can do this. We can spread hope and compassion to school workers who have experienced too little of both over the past 20 months.

Let's join together to Love Our Schools this Advent season.

--Randy Shepley

A HUGE Thank You To Everyone Who Helped With PORT!

We fed and provided sleep for 48-66 people each night. God blessed us with wonderful partner churches and organizations that provided meals and extra volunteers. I just wanted to take a minute to thank those who coordinated, those who volunteered, those who prayed for our PORT guests, the wonderful officers from Newport News Sheriff Department, and the cleaning crew. THANK YOU!

Our church was also used as the site for a news report about PORT on News Channel 3! The Compassion Ministry was hard at work while Channel 3 was filming so they got to be part of the report. Lynne Finding, Executive Director of LINK Hampton Roads, Sheriff Lt. Kandyce Gross, Randy Shepley, and Nikki Reid were interviewed by Angela Bohon. You can look up the story on the News Channel 3 website or click [here](#) to view the story and read more about this mission (and see a few familiar faces).

Save the Dates

Nov. 25 Happy Thanksgiving!

Nov. 23-26 Church Office Closed-
There will be no First News next week

Dec. 6 USAF Heritage Band Concert

Dec. 12 Sing We Noel: The Music of
Christmas. Join us for a carol sing
along!

Dec. 15 Cookies, Cider, and Carols

Dec. 17 Virginia Symphony Orchestra
performs Handel's Messiah (Tickets
required)

Getting Ready for Christmas

You have probably noticed that everywhere you go many people and stores are getting prepared for Christmas. Here at FBCNN, we are getting the building ready as we approach the season of Advent. The windows have been cleaned inside and out, and there are other cleaning projects and repairs being done. Scaffolding has been placed in a couple of areas around the building so that some worn out mortar can be replaced. We appreciate your patience while these projects are being done and look forward to sharing this time of Thanksgiving and Advent with our church family

New Bible Study Opportunity

Are you looking for a new Bible Study opportunity? CBFVA (Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Virginia) has a brand new one in their Imagine Bible Studies series on the book of Ezra which can be accessed by clicking on this [link](#). There is no registration and you can read the lessons at your own pace. The second lesson was written by our very own Randy Shepley!

Weekly Worship Opportunities

Join us for worship in person or online Sunday, November 21 at 8:30am or 10:30am! Randy Shepley will be leading us in worship.

If you have any technical difficulties watching the service on Facebook Live, please send us a direct message on Facebook so we can help troubleshoot the issue.

The following is a list of weekly events that can be accessed on the First Baptist Church of Newport News Facebook page. Learn more about children's events on Facebook and youth events on their Instagram page- @fbcnnyouth. The 8:30 and 10:30 Sunday worship services are uploaded to our [website](#) each Monday, and can be accessed by clicking on the Resources tab.

Sundays

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study
9:30 a.m. Children's Bible Study
9:30 a.m. Infant-Preschool Bible Study
9:30 a.m. Youth Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
10:30 a.m. Extended Session - infants through age 4
12:30 p.m. Hispanic Worship

Mondays

7:00 p.m. Young Single Adults

Wednesdays

5:00 p.m. Library Open
5:30 p.m. Mid-Week Café
6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. Adult Spiritual Formation Groups
6:30 p.m. Youth Group Gathering and Worship
6:30 p.m. Children's KMotion (Music, Missions, and Fun!)
7:30 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

[FBCNN Facebook Live Videos](#)

If you do not have a Facebook account you can watch services on our Vimeo page by clicking on the link below.

November 14

[8:30am](#)

[10:30am](#)

Make a financial contribution to FBCNN today by clicking on the Donate link.

DONATE

Update on Security System

The door access control system is scheduled for installation the week of November 29 - December 3. On Wednesday December 8th, we will issue, via a newsletter article, instructions for how the access cards will be issued. Stay tuned!

Donation Opportunity for Those with IRA Required Minimum Distributions (RMD)

Congress has approved a permanent charitable giving tax break, known as the "IRA charitable rollover". The rollover is available for those who are 70 1/2, though if your 70th birthday is July 1, 2019 or later, you do not have to take withdrawals until you reach age 72. You can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA of up to \$100,000 to a charity, such as First Baptist Church. The donation will count toward your IRA required minimum distribution.

The distribution is not recognized as income on your tax return. As such, you do not take a donation deduction either. With the change in the recent Tax Legislation, the Standard Deduction has doubled thus itemized charitable deductions will no longer be needed to be kept track of. By donating all or part of your IRA RMD to the church, you receive the benefit of a reduced Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) in that the RMD to charity is not taxed, which helps the opportunity of obtaining lower cost for your Medicare Part B and Prescription Drug premiums.

The distribution must come directly from the IRA account to the church not through the owner of the account. Let our Financial Services Coordinator, Monica Garcia, know how you want the contribution designated, such as the General Fund.

Rick Eloffson, Treasurer FBCNN

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