

## Bring a Friend to Bethlehem

**Sunday, December 12 at 9:45am  
Payne Fellowship Hall**



Join us for our annual family Christmas breakfast! There will be pancakes, crafts to make, a photo booth station, and more. We will also hear the wonderful story of the birth of Jesus.

**We hope to see you, and remember to  
Bring a Friend to Bethlehem!**

## Sing We Noel: The Music of Christmas



Join us on Sunday, December 12 at 5 PM in the sanctuary as we ring in the Christmas season with *Sing We Noel: The Music of Christmas*. This Christmas concert will include various music groups from our church family presenting the music of Christmas. You will hear selections performed by First Baptist Preschoolers, K-Motion Kids, Youth Praise Team, Joan Monroe Handbell Choir, Sanctuary Choir, Beth Tomassetti, Wendy Buck, Hispanic Praise Team, and Transformed. It will be an evening of holiday music that will surely get you in the spirit of Christmas!



## Cookies, Cider, and Carols

Looking for a good old-fashion Christmas carol sing? Join us on Wednesday, December 15 at 6:30 in Payne Hall for *Cookies, Cider, and Carols*. Bring your Christmas spirit, wear your favorite Christmas attire, and be ready to spread Christmas cheer through song.

# Letter from Susie Webb

November 17, 2021

Dear Church Family,

Working at First Baptist Church for the past 14 years has been an amazing part of my faith journey, yet it is time for me to announce my resignation effective December 31, 2021. As you know, my daughter Campbell has had many health issues this year, and I need to devote much of my attention to her as she heals from her bone marrow transplant and adjusts to getting back to somewhat of a normal lifestyle.

Jeff and I are extremely appreciative of the leave of absence you have granted me as it has given me time to live with her in the hospital and attend to her needs for these past 7 months. Your generosity and kindness are beyond measure, and we will forever be grateful for your support and prayers during this time.

It has been a joy to work with the children, families, and entire congregation of First Baptist. From VBS to camps, Bible study to playground, I have enjoyed living out the calling God has given me to serve our church family and community through First Baptist. I will miss working with our incredible staff, as they have been friends, encouragers, and so much more. I must also say "thank you" to Randy for your support, coaching and challenging me to grow and develop as the leader God has called me to be.

Thank you for loving the children and young families of our church and community. Thank you for serving in Vacation Bible School, teaching Sunday School and missions, chaperoning camp, grilling hot dogs, manning inflatables, giving our children great Christ-like role models, and so much more. It has been a joy serving with you. Thank you for supporting me and my family.

With love and thanks,

Rev. Susie Webb

## A Word from Randy

This is a sad day. Susie Webb's resignation as our Associate Pastor of Children and Facility Management is difficult for our church and staff. Susie is a gifted minister and colleague. She is known throughout our state and region for her aptitude in Children's ministry. In fact, for the past three years, Susie has served as a faculty member of the Baptist General Association of Virginia (BGAV) Children's Ministry Certificate Program. In the BGAV and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Susie is recognized and highly regarded for her ministerial leadership. She has mentored and served as an example to many other women in ministry. Finally, Susie has been an extraordinary teammate. The way she collaborates, supports, listens, and connects the whole of our staff together will be missed by our staff and church as a whole. We will miss Susie's servant leadership.

And yet, Susie's decision is the right choice for her and her family. We are so grateful for Campbell's progress, and yet, there are many days, months, and even years remaining until she is fully healed. Susie will get to be with her, Jeff, and Carter as each new step of Campbell's journey arrives. I am so grateful for how Susie has served as a minister on our staff, I am grateful for Campbell's continued progress, and I am grateful for Susie's prayerful wisdom in making this decision to step away from professional ministry at this time. It is the best choice for her and her family.

While we will miss Susie, we are grateful to have Sharon Hertzler serving as our Interim Director of Children's Ministry. Sharon is doing an excellent job! The children and their families in our church ministries are in great hands. This is a great time to get involved in our Children's Ministry. If you would be willing to serve with our children, please connect with Sharon and she will help you find your spot. We are especially in need of some volunteers during our Wednesday night Children's K-motion time!

I am also very grateful for you, our dear church family. You have generously cared for the Webb family over the past seven months. You have prayed, sent cards, given gifts cards, bought t-shirts, worn bracelets, and done so much more to support Campbell, Susie, Jeff, and Carter. On your behalf, the Personnel Committee worked out a paid Leave of Absence so that Susie could be with Campbell from Norfolk, to Newport News, to Durham, and soon, back home again. Your generosity to Campbell and her family has been overwhelming. Thank you!

Speaking of generosity, if you are looking for a way to financially support Campbell and her family, please check out the article below regarding the Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA) campaign for Campbell. This has been set up by Susie and Jeff and is managed by a couple of close friends. Unlike other giving campaigns, the organization does not make a profit on these gifts and your gifts are tax deductible. Please check it out and consider helping the Webb family in this way. Thank you and continue praying for Susie, Campbell, Jeff, and Carter in the days ahead.

## **A Great Way to Help Campbell Webb Now**

*Church Family,*

*Many of you know that Susie and Jeff Webb's daughter, Campbell, has been battling leukemia since the spring. The family has suffered tremendous heartbreaks and prolonged hospital stays, but on September 7th, Campbell was blessed with a bone marrow transplant. The journey will continue to be long, and challenges no doubt lay ahead, but we are rejoicing about Campbell's road to recovery.*

*As your prayers have been the greatest gift, cards, Facebook messages, and gift baskets have also blessed the Webbs. That being said, many of you have asked about other ways to support this special family.*

*In response, Jeff and Susie have partnered with the Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA). COTA is a nonprofit organization that receives tax deductible contributions to help offset transplant-related expenses. Transplant families, like the Webbs, are the beneficiaries of COTA funds.*

*If you would like to find out more about this organization or give to COTA in Campbell's honor, please visit [www.COTAforCampbell.com](http://www.COTAforCampbell.com). The site also features personal updates and future fundraising events specific to COTA in honor of Campbell. Contact Lisa Mason for more information, [lmason@fbcnn.org](mailto:lmason@fbcnn.org).*

## Staff Birthdays for December

**12/7** - Randy Shepley

Take a moment to wish Randy a very happy birthday!

## Thanksgiving Bags

Due to your generosity, we were able to help fifteen families have food for Thanksgiving this year! Thank you!

## Advent Offerings

We THANK YOU for your contributions in this Advent season. We had a great start but we still need your help. Together we can do this. There are three opportunities for giving this year:

- Loving our local community by making a special donation that will be used to give a gift card to every teacher, school worker, and bus driver for Yates, Gildersleeve, and Menchville. (These donations will need to be received by December 14 in order for us to get the gift cards to them before Christmas break.)
- Loving our international community by making a donation to Lottie Moon Christmas offering
- Loving our international community by making a donation to CBF Global Missions

Please be sure to designate the specific Advent Offering on your donation.

## Update on Security System

The door access control system installation began on Monday. On Wednesday December 8th, we will issue, via a newsletter article, instructions for how the access cards will be issued. Stay tuned!

## Save the Dates

**Dec. 6** USAF Heritage Band Concert  
Cancelled due to circumstances beyond our control..

**Dec. 12** Family Christmas Breakfast  
9:45am in Payne Fellowship Hall

**Dec. 12** Sing We Noel: The Music of Christmas (See article for more information)

**Dec. 15** Cookies, Cider, and Carols (See article for more information)

**Dec. 17** Virginia Symphony Orchestra performs Handel's Messiah ([Tickets required](#))

## Weekly Worship Opportunities

Join us for worship in person or online Sunday, December 5 at 8:30am or 11am! 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 11 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

11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship

11:00 a.m. Extended Session - infants through age 4

12:30 p.m. Hispanic Worship

## New Online Giving Platform

As we move forward, we would like to inform you that we are switching our Online Giving Platform to Subsplash. This new platform offers substantially lower transaction fees, ACH transactions, and an option for donors to cover the cost of online giving so that your entire offering can go to the work and ministry of the church. Subsplash will also provide a phone and TV app for our church that will integrate with our website and become a home for our sermons, media, group messaging and notifications, and event information. We are excited to go on this new journey with you! Click on this [link](#) to give now. Please let us know if you have any questions.

**If you need offering envelopes for 2022 please contact Monica at [monica@fbcnn.org](mailto:monica@fbcnn.org) or 757.930.0911.**

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

**DONATE**

### **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 21

[8:30am](#)

[10:30am](#)

November 28

[8:30am](#)

[11:00am](#)

## 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 Elofson, Treasurer FBCNN

# Staff Contact Info

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