

# First News



## Cookies and Carols

Looking for a good old-fashion Christmas carol sing? Join us tonight Wednesday, December 11 at 6:30 in Payne Fellowship Hall for *Cookies and Carols*. Bring your Christmas spirit, wear your favorite Christmas attire, and be ready to spread Christmas cheer through song.



## 2025 Proposed Budget Vote

Tonight, December 11 at 6:15pm, come out to vote on the 2025 proposed budget. This will be a vote without discussion since a question-and-answer session was held last Wednesday.



## Sing We Noel: The Music of Christmas

Join us on Sunday, December 15 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, Impact: Youth Praise Team, Joan Monroe Handbell Choir, Sanctuary Choir, Swingin' Singers, Beth Tomassetti, Wendy Buck, Hispanic Praise Team, and Transformed: Sanctuary Praise Team. It will be an evening of holiday music that will surely get you in the spirit of Christmas!

## Fun at Bring a Friend to Bethlehem Family Breakfast

Children and their families had a wonderful time at the Bring a Friend to Bethlehem family breakfast on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> during Sunday Bible Study. Joyanne Manning cooked delicious sausage, hash browns, and pancakes, complete with a pancake toppings bar. The children helped tell the Christmas story by reading through the alphabet from the book "N is for Nativity." The children had a lot of fun making their own ornaments by filling clear balls with sequins, pompoms, bells, and lots of "snow." All of the children went home with an advent sticker book to build their own little town of Bethlehem and count down to Christmas Day. Many thanks to all who helped with the event, especially Karon Garcia, Tracy Houston, Kathy van Rijn, Patty Patton, Diane Boyette, and the FBCNN Youth.

## December Mission Project & PORT Sign Ups Beginning

During December, we will be collecting packages of new socks and underwear, and new or gently used coats in large and extra-large sizes. Please bring these items to the sanctuary foyer, preschool foyer, or to the church office. All of these items will go to support the homeless during our week of PORT (People Organizing Resources Together). PORT is a homeless shelter hosted by churches in Newport News and provides dinner, breakfast, and a safe place to stay overnight. We will be hosting January 8-15, 2025. If you would like to volunteer, please click on the button below to register. If you have any questions or would like to find out more about PORT, contact Nikki Reid, [nikki@fbcnn.org](mailto:nikki@fbcnn.org).

**Thanks for Volunteering!**

## Additional News from FBCNN

### Upcoming Events

**December 11** - Proposed 2025 Budget Vote at 6:15pm in Payne Fellowship Hall followed by Cookies and Carols at 6:30pm (see articles above for more details)

**December 12** - Peninsula Mobile Food Bank will be handing out food to those in need in our parking lot at 1:30pm. If someone you know is in need of food assistance, please let them know about this opportunity.

**December 15** - Sing We Noel Christmas Concert at 5pm (see article above for more details)

### Ways of Giving Thanks (cont'd.)

Hispanic service grew at a similar percentage during this time frame. We have continued to see worship growth during 2024 as well. In addition, our Vacation Bible School attendance grew 61% from 2023. Our adult choir, Ladies Bible Study, K-motion Children's Group (Wednesday Nights), Wednesday night mom's group, Wednesday night Hispanic Bible Study, and Wednesday night youth ministry are all seeing steady growth, our Preschool continues to thrive, and our influence in the community, state and world for the Kingdom of God continues to grow. Our impact on Yates Elementary School, support for the local classical music

**December 20** - Virginia Symphony Orchestra will be performing Handel's Messiah in our sanctuary at 7:30pm. Tickets are required and can be purchased on [the VSO website](#).

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## December Staff Birthday

December 7 - Randy Shepley

Take a moment to wish him a Happy Birthday!

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## Swingin' Singers This Week

The Swingin' Singers will rehearse at 10am tomorrow. After rehearsal, they will go to a Christmas Luncheon at Dino's in Denbigh.



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## Ways of Giving Thanks

As we approach the conclusion of 2024, we would like to thank you for the generous giving you contribute to our church budget. Without your generosity, we cannot Embrace God, Embrace One Another, and Embrace Our Neighbors. Your generosity honors God and serves people. Thank You!

As you are aware, the end of the calendar year is the most important time for church giving. During November and December, we historically give 22% of our general fund offerings. Last year, for example, we gave \$270,000 in November and December to our general

scene, and partnership with the NNPD for the sake of our whole community continues to gain notice and affirmation. These are only a few of the ways God is at work in us.

We need your financial help to continue and expand this good work. Please consider giving generously to our General Fund before the end of 2024. Every dollar you give goes to expand the kingdom work of our congregation. Please be as generous as you can so we can grow the generosity of our EMBRACE. THANK YOU!

Other ways to give:

### IRA contributions

Generally, distributions from a traditional IRA are taxable when received. However; you can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) 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 and it is not recognized as income on your tax return. As such, you do not take a donation deduction either. The distribution must come directly from the IRA account to the Church not through you the owner of the account.

### Donating stocks

Gifted stock avoids federal capital gains tax and most donors can also claim an income tax deduction for the stock's full market value (state income tax deductions may also be available in some areas).

When a donor gives appreciated securities (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, etc.) to FBCNN, FBCNN can sell the securities and pay no taxes, leaving 100% of the donation for ministry (rather than the donor selling the securities, paying up to 29.8% in Federal and Virginia income tax, and giving only the after-tax amount for FBCNN's ministry).

fund in order to close the gap in our budget giving. This year, in order to meet our budget for 2024, we will need to give \$305,840 in November and December. Yes, this is a little more, but it is certainly possible. Even more important, we know all things are possible

for the God who “owns the cattle on a thousand hills.” We believe God will provide and empower us to reach our November and December needs this year, just as God did last year and in previous years.

We are thankful God is growing our church family. We do not have our statistics compiled for 2024, but we know that from 2021 – 2023, our English-speaking worship service attendance grew 27%. Our  
(continued on next column)

Contact your broker and let our Financial Services Coordinator, Monica Garcia know how you want the contribution designated, such as the General Fund.

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### Need Church Envelopes?

If you need offering envelopes for 2025, please let Monica know, [monica@fbcnn.org](mailto:monica@fbcnn.org) or (757)930-0911.

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

**Donate**

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## Weekly Worship Opportunities

Join us for worship in person or online Sunday, December 15 at 8:30 and 11am! Pastor Randy Shepley will be leading us in worship.

The Sunday worship services are streamed directly to our [website](#) and can be accessed by clicking on **Upcoming Live Stream** tab located on the home page. If you miss a service, you can click on **Sermon Library** in the **Resources** tab to select the service you missed. (Services are listed in chronological order with the most recent on top.)

The following is a list of weekly events. Learn more about children's events on Facebook and youth events on their Instagram page-@fbcnnyouth.

### Sundays

- 8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 9:45 a.m. Adult Bible Study
- 9:45 a.m. Children's Bible Study
- 9:45 a.m. Infant-Preschool Bible Study
- 9:45 a.m. Youth Bible Study
- 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship
- 11:00 a.m. Extended Session - infants through age 4
- 11:00 a.m. Hispanic Bible Study
- 12:30 p.m. Hispanic Worship

### Mondays

- 7:00 p.m. Young Single Adults



### **Wednesdays**

6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal  
6:30 p.m. K-Motion & Youth  
6:30 p.m. Hispanic Prayer and Bible Study  
7:30 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

### **Thursdays**

10:00 a.m. Swingin' Singers

Click on the button below to watch the worship service from 8:30 or 11am this past Sunday.

**December 8**

## **Staff Contact Info**

Randy Shepley, Senior Pastor, [rshepley@fbcnn.org](mailto:rshepley@fbcnn.org)

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