

THE VOICE

1823 AUGUSTA STREET, GREENVILLE, SC 29605 • 864-232-2712

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Women's Fellowship

CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

Saturday, December 9

9:30-11:00 am

Fellowship Hall

Join us in a time of ladies fellowship at a Christmas brunch on Saturday, December 9 from 9:30-11:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. It will be a beautiful time together as we usher in the Christmas season with speaker Esther Burroughs, Christmas music provided by Mary Beth Smith, and a delicious brunch. You will not want to miss this time of celebrating the ladies in our church. There is no cost for this event. Please RSVP by calling the church office.



Esther has a holy calling as she travels, encouraging women and families of all ages with God's Word and lessons on life's journey. Her passion is calling women to an intimate walk as His beloved child. Out of the overflow of God's love in her heart, the Word of God in her life, and the Spirit's power, she is compelled to leave a legacy of faithfulness in His family, His community, and His world. She cherishes time with Bob, her husband of over 57 years, gardening, and walking their bundle of love and energy, a Yorkie named Little Missy, in their neighborhood in Greer, SC.

Mary Beth loves leading worship through the music ministry at Grace Church in Powdersville, SC. Her passion is sharing her love for the Lord through song. She will celebrate 11 years of marriage to her husband, Josh, this December. They have two children, Isabella, seven and Emma Kate, four. They enjoy spending time together as a family. Some of their favorite things to do include going to Disney World, trips to Krispie Kreme and the Bob Jones Christmas music sing-a-long.



December Calendar

3 SUNDAY

-Christmas Fellowship
Event (3:00 PM)

9 SATURDAY

-Women's Fellowship
Brunch (9:30 AM)

10 SUNDAY

-Deacons Meeting
(9:15 AM)
-Coordinating Council
Meeting (12:15 pm)

13 WEDNESDAY

-ARBC Christmas Dinner
(6:00 pm)

14 THURSDAY

-Friendly Neighbors
(12:00 PM)
-Finance Committee
Meeting (5:00 pm)

15 FRIDAY

-Live Nativity (6:30 &
7:45 PM)

21 THURSDAY

-Youth Christmas Party
(12:00 PM)
-Administrative Team
Meeting (5:30 PM)

24 SUNDAY

Christmas Eve Worship
(5:30 PM)
NO MORNING SERVICE

25 MONDAY

-Merry Christmas!
CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED

26 TUESDAY

CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED



We have reached the busiest time of the year for most of us. We are preparing our homes with the decorations of the season. We are buying presents for our loved ones to give them at Christmas. We are making arrangements to host friends and family members. We are pulling together donations of winter clothes, food, and money as we remember those in our community and around the world who are in need. We are also preparing our hearts to celebrate the coming of Christ.

"Come thou long-expected Jesus." Those are the words of the hymn we traditionally sing this time of year. They echo the prayers of our hearts, that

Christ would continue to come to a world who desperately needs to know and see him at work. In the midst of all the preparations and celebrations of the season, it may be challenging for us to actually pause and reflect upon the ways that we have seen Christ at work in this past year.

It is fitting that the Season of Advent comes in the middle of our congregation's season of vision. Advent is a season of waiting, watching, and listening for the Messiah. It requires finding time and space to contemplate God's desires for this world, for our lives, and for our community of faith. During the "hustle and bustle" of this season, these are things we need to actively seek as we discern God's path for our future.

We need to find time to focus on God's voice. With all of the sounds of the season, it is important to seek out and enjoy silence. Like the prophet Elijah, we may need to filter out the noise and chaos to hear God in the silence and stillness. Like Christ, himself, we may need to remove ourselves, find space to be alone and to pray. Find time at the very beginning or end of the day to turn off the television, put down your phone, turn off all of the lights except for the Christmas tree and the fire, and take a moment to give thanks and to breathe. You may just hear God speaking to you.

As you are focusing on God's voice, listen for God's will. The discernment process we are going through as a congregation is a model for us as individuals as well. We are committing to listening for God's desires and to laying down our own. So go to the scriptures, and listen for the things that are loving, uplifting, and that may make the world a better place. Listen to how the example of Christ offers you a better way.

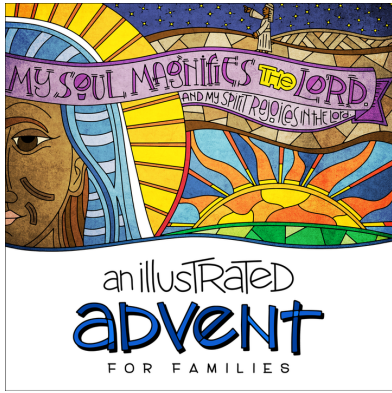
Once you have discerned God's path, commit to following God's way. If we truly celebrate the Messiah at Christmas, we must contemplate what difference his coming makes in our actual lives. How should our life be different because of Christ? Embracing this season makes life's goal to do the things God desire us to do, nothing more, nothing else, nothing less.

As we continue to prepare for and celebrate this joyous season, remember to focus on God's voice, listen for God's will, and follow God's way. Doing so will enable us each to thrive in the coming months and years as we live into God's desires for our lives, our church, and our world.

Peace,

Rev. W. Mattison King

News from our Minister to Families



As Advent approaches, I would like to invite you and your family (of all ages) to join with me in a special time of prayer and faith formation as we prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of Christ. This resource includes weekly devotions based on familiar Christmas hymns, includes a special Advent activities calendar, and a special Advent wreath craft. If you would like a copy of this devotional guide sent to you and have not already received one, please let me know!

For Christmas this year, we would like to gift you and your family with a “Family Faith Activities Jar.” This jar is an easy way to jump-start family faith

discussions at home and can be used with ages five through high school. Even if your little one isn’t yet five, I absolutely encourage you to pick one of these up and try it out!

Traci Smith, author of *Seamless Faith, Simple Practices for Daily Family life* created this fun way to engage our families in conversation and spiritual practices. She writes, “This jar will contain 48 practices that can be rotated through daily, weekly, or sporadically! There are twelve mindfulness practices, twelve prayer practices, twelve gratitude practices and twelve questions that lead to discussion about God.”

Use the Practices:

- 1. Decide when your family will go through the practices. Some times that seem to work for families: at dinner, before bed, or once a week (Saturday Mornings, for example).*
- 2. Each time your family decides to use the faith activities jar, one person will take a practice from the jar and read it (pre-readers can select the practice and have someone else read it.)*
- 3. Take turns answering the question or doing what the card suggests.*
- 4. Put the used card in a drawer until you’ve gone through all 48 cards, then replenish the jar.*
- 5. Try to encourage family members to not read the cards in advance — just dive in and choose!*
- 6. Don’t give up on this activity! Some questions will resonate with your family more than others.*

These jars will be available in my office beginning on Sunday, December 17th.

I hope that you all experience the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love of Christ throughout this special season and beyond.

Grace and Peace,
Bridget

YOUTH
GROUP

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 AND 17
4:00 PM

YOUTH
CHRISTMAS
PARTY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21 • 12-3 PM



Mark your calendars and join us for all of our exciting Christmas Events happening at Augusta Road!

CHRISTMAS FELLOWSHIP EVENT!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 • 3:00 PM

Mark your calendars for our Christmas Fellowship Event on December 3 at 3:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. The event will include cookie decorating, hot chocolate bar, games & prizes, caroling to our home bound members, and a time of Advent reflection.

CHURCH-WIDE

Christmas Dinner

DECEMBER 13

6:00 PM

ADULTS \$8
CHILDREN/YOUTH \$5
FAMILY MAX \$25

We hope you'll make plans for our annual Christmas Dinner on Wednesday, December 13 at 6:00 PM.

Menu: Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes, Glazed Baby Carrots, Baby French Green Beans, Parmesan Butter Biscuits, Assorted Desserts, Tea & Coffee

Christmas Eve

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 • 5:30 PM

ARBC SANCTUARY

We would love for you and your family to join us for our Christmas Eve service on Sunday, December 24 at 5:30 pm! We'll all gather for a time of worship and communion in the sanctuary. We hope you can make it to this special time as we celebrate the Christmas season!

Live NATIVITY

December 15 | 6:30 & 7:45 PM

ARBC will host its annual "live nativity" performance for friends and neighbors, featuring real stable animals, a reading of the Christmas story, sing-along carols and hymns, and a free pancake dinner following each performance.

Senior Adults



December Birthdays

2	Matt King	18	Kaleb Smith
16	Lou Nell Eady	22	Clista LeGrand
16	Julie Miller	27	Joy Beeks
17	Kay Patrick	28	Deborah Holloway
17	Melvin Pearson	28	Tara McFalls
17	Shirley Wilkie		

Weekly Contributions

NOVEMBER 5	\$10,563.02
NOVEMBER 12	\$8,824.00
NOVEMBER 19	\$10,187.00
NOVEMBER 26	\$1917.00
AVG. WEEKLY GIVING:	\$7,872.76
WEEKLY NEED:	\$8,647.25

Dear Augusta Road Friends,

Thank you so much for your kind recognition of my five years of service to this blessed church. I have made so many new friends and share the love of God with you. You have offered prayers in time of trouble and grief and I am always amazed at your kind words of encouragement and thoughtfulness. I love all of you and pray God's richest blessing for you.

Brenda Arrowood



WE COLLECTED A TOTAL OF 89 BOXES FOR OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD THIS YEAR! THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND GENEROSITY!

Please Remember in Prayer

- James Swanner is ill and under Hospice Care at his home.
- Jim Childress, father of Alethea Peebles, passed away Sunday, November 13.
 - Eston Rogers has suffered a fall and injured his shoulder.
- Floride Carter is scheduled for knee replacement surgery on Friday, December 1st. She will go to National Healthcare in Mauldin for rehab after surgery.
 - Gary Romanstine has pneumonia and bronchitis. He is being treated at home.
- Nouna Lee (former elderly long-time member) is now hospitalized in Columbia; potential blood clots on her lungs.
- John and Teresa Brady's nephew, Kale Jeffries, is in ICU at GHS recovering from a stroke.
 - Michael Delaney, Barbara Hawkins' brother - colon cancer.
- Carroll Clark, sister of Mary McGee and Johnny Ashmore, has been diagnosed with cancer.
 - John Brown, Jean Page's nephew, has throat cancer.
- Katie Farmer, niece of John Brady – ongoing health concerns in St. Louis.

ARBC's VOICE (USPS 037500) is published monthly by ARBC
VOICE, Augusta Road Baptist Church, 1823 Augusta Street,
Greenville, SC 29605. Periodicals postage paid at
Greenville, SC Postmaster. Please send address changes to
Augusta Road Baptist Church, 1823 Augusta Street,
Greenville, SC 29605.
Volume LIV No. 12 December 1, 2017



Church Staff

Rev. W. Mattison King, *Senior Pastor*
Dr. Barry L. Combs, *Minister of Music*
Rev. Bridget Kokolis, *Minister to Families*
Brenda Arrowood, *Administrative Assistant*
Laura Koone, *Communications Assistant*
Jane Harrison, *Church Pianist*
Rev. Clinton Flowers, *Organist*
Cordell Golden, *Custodian*

WCEP Staff

Phyllis Duchinski, *Director*
Preschool Education Program
Mary Dell Fletcher, *Director*
After School Program

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
9 am - 5 pm
Friday
9 am - 12 pm