

Sunday Morning Sermon Series

Come join us at 10:45 a.m. as Pastor Chris is continuing a series of messages on December 4th and December 18th from the book of 1 Peter.

~ December 4 ~

Following His Steps - 1 Peter 2:21-25

~ December 11 ~

Associate Pastor - Ken Hillard

~ December 18 ~

Husbands and Wives - 1 Peter 3:1-7

~ December 25 ~

“Mary, Did You Know?”

Sunday Evening Sermon Series

You are invited to join us at 6:00 p.m. as we finish up on December 4th with the fifth Sola of the Christian Faith.

~ December 4 ~

Fifth “Sola” Only to God’s Glory

~ December 11 ~

Associate Pastor - Ken Hillard

~ December 18 ~

Christmas Cantata “One King

~ December 25 ~

No Evening Service

Mike & Darla Cornell Trio

We enjoyed a concert from Mike, Darla and Patty on November 13. Our crowd was small, but enthusiastic, and all were blessed by their music. They sang some “toe-tappers, hand clapping” and some beautiful selections with a powerful message. It was an uplifting evening of praise and worship.

Pray for their ministry, as they spread the love of God through songs.

Harvest of Memories

On October 29th we had our Harvest of Memories party. We had a potluck dinner with a apple dessert contest. We played name that tune, put puzzles together and matched baby picture with high school picture. Some people dressed in their favorite time period and everyone had a great time.

Operation Christmas Child

The Women on Mission had a great time on Saturday the 12th. We had a great pot luck and then 14 women wrapped and stuffed 34 shoe boxes with wonderful stuff for the Samaritan’s Purse’s Children’s Christmas Program. Thank you all for your donations.

Thanksgiving Dinner

The time and place for a great get-together was on November 16th at 5:00 p.m. here at the church. We celebrated Thanksgiving with turkey and all the trimmings and there were 41 people enjoying time with each other. Thank you to all of you who helped make this a great success. It was so good to be able to have a lovely fellowship with believers. We are so blessed.

Open Door Mission Caps/Socks

Thank you to those of you who made caps and bought caps and socks for the men and women at the Open Door Mission. They really look forward to this time of the year and are very pleased in receiving the caps and socks. Thank you to those who came and wrapped 114 caps. Thank you for helping those in need.

Women’s Cookie Exchange

Saturday, December 17th
10:00 a.m.

Wouldn’t it be great to have a fantastic variety of homemade treats to enjoy this season with minimal work and money spent? How does this wonderful idea work? Each person brings 5-6 dozen of her favorite cookie. We will then put some of the cookies in decorative containers to be delivered to our shut ins and to some Afghan businesses in little Kabul. The remainder we will fill our own containers and take home a variety. How cool is that? The cookie exchange will take place at Diane Varady’s home. If you need more information please call the church office at (510) 276-3688.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

HISHEART HISHANDS HISVOICE



Week of Prayer - December 4 - 11



The Lights of Christmas

These are the words of a testimony that I heard at a Christmas church service years ago:

Christmas Eve started cold and dark. It was still dark and I drove to work with my headlights on. Throughout the day, my mind was not focused on waiting tables. I was thinking about Christmas. The restaurant served few customers so I didn’t get much in tips. This soured my mood since I had hoped to take home some extra money for the holidays.

After work, I shuffled to my car and turned on my headlights. The idea of leaving home in the dark and returning home in the dark depressed me more. Then I began seeing Christmas lights. Every porch along the highway seemed to twinkle with green, red and white lights. Our family had a small Christmas tree, but no outside lights.

I felt bad for my husband, for myself, but especially for my children. Looking at lights on house after house and feeling sorry for myself. I prayed aloud “God, why can’t I have Christmas lights like these?” Even as I prayed this, I felt worse. After all, I was a Christian. I should not be coveting my neighbor’s possessions.

As I topped the last hill before my driveway, I saw the most dazzling display of them all. But his display was not affixed to a house. The Christmas lights shone in the sky. Burst in my eyes were spectacular reds and yellows blending into blues. High frosty vapor trails added garlands of white to the display. Enclosing this sunset was a velvet blue with the first twinkling stars of night. I bowed my head. “God, forgive me, how magnificent is your creation! Electric lights pale in your brightness. Thank you for reminding me of the true light that overcomes darkness. Let my neighbors keep their artificial lights. Your Christmas light in the sky is sufficient for me.” I laughed, bundled my winter coat around my shoulders and walked briskly into the warmth of my home.



Sunday School 9:30 am
Morning Worship 10:45 am
Evening Worship 6:00 pm



Wednesday Evening Family Fellowship
5:00 p.m.

“Pray for Our Men and Women in Uniform”

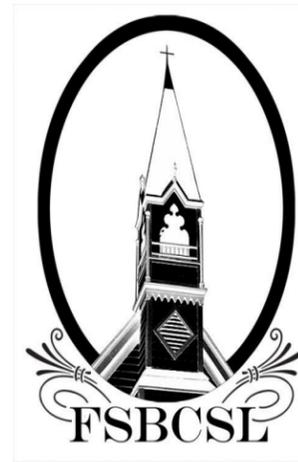
Devon Henesley - Grandson of Jean Johnson
Branch - Navy Rank - 2nd Class
Assignment - Virginia Beach

December Calendar

- 4th - Church Council - 5:00 p.m.
- 5th - Christmas Caroling - 6:00 p.m.
- 7th - Wednesday Dinner & Fellowship - 5:00 p.m.
- 10th - Christmas Around the World Party - 4:00 p.m.
- 11th - Lord's Supper - 6:00 p.m.
- 12th - Rest Home Ministry - 11:00 a.m.
- 14th - Wednesday Dinner & Fellowship - 5:00 p.m.
- 17th - Men's Breakfast - 8:30 a.m.
- Women's Cookie Exchange - 10:00 a.m.
- 18th - Christmas Cantata - 6:00 p.m.
- 21st - No Wednesday Activities
- 22nd-31st - Office Closed
- 22nd - Open Door Mission - 6:15 p.m.
- 25th - Christmas Day
- 25th - No Evening Service
- 26th - Rest Home Ministry - 11:00 a.m.
- 28th - No Wednesday Activities



- 3rd - Clarence Silva
- 3rd - Amelia Taylor
- 6th - Dean Marshall
- 18th - Roberta King
- 19th - Holly Hickman
- 20th - Brent Bonner
- 24th - Holly Brewer
- 24th - Chris Foreman
- 24th - Mabrie Huff
- 25th - Cathy Garaventa
- 26th - Jervance Moses
- 27th - Jean Johnson
- 30th - James Blazin
- 30th - Lisa Villafuerte



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Three December Christmas Events at First Southern

Christmas Around the World

**Saturday, December 10
4:00 pm**

Let's travel around the world for Christmas this year! Does Korea celebrate Christmas like we, Americans, do? Philippines? El Salvador? Is the food different for Christmas? What special games are played in these countries? Join us for "Christmas Around the World" party and find out the answers to these questions. Of course, you are asked to bring your favorite Christmas dish to share as well. Do you have a costume from another country – do wear it! Artifacts from another country, bring them for display or you can decorate a table with them. Call the church if you want to decorate a table. We have openings for 3 more tables.

Christmas Caroling

**Monday, December 5th
6:00 p.m.**

You are invited to join us as we go Christmas Caroling. We will meet at the church and travel as a group. Typically we visit about six homes and sing a few songs in front of each house. It's a great way to spread cheer during this Christmas season and to put a smile on everyone's face. Afterwards, we warm up by sharing cookies and beverages.

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Return Service Requested



You're Invited to A Christmas Cantata

"One King"

**Sunday, December 18th
6:00 p.m.**

Come and bring your friends and family to this musical Celebration of Jesus Christ. Following the cantata join in our candlelight procession to commemorate this light that came into this world. Refreshments will follow.

