

The BULLETIN

of the First Baptist Church in Beverly



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Join Us In Worship At First Baptist Church in Beverly!

Sunday December 17, 2017

9:30 a.m. – Jesus' Birthday Party

The entire church is invited to join us before worship to celebrate Jesus' birthday! We'll gather in Wilbur Hall for a continental breakfast, engage in Christmas crafts (suitable for all ages and skill levels), and sing our favorite Christmas carols, including the ever-popular *Twelve Days of Christmas*. Don't forget to save room for birthday cake!



Since it is a birthday party, we invite you to bring a gift in honor of baby Jesus of new, unwrapped children's pajamas in all sizes, to be given to Family Promise.



11:00 a.m.: Worship & Multiage Children's Class

**Now More Than Ever We Need
The Shepherds**

Luke 2:8-17, Psalm 23

Beth Loughhead, preaching

A family of friends will light the candles of our Advent wreath: **Sue Kingston, Karen Wood, and Vici Riel-Smith**.

Children in grades 2-5 will be adding to the nativity scene.

12:00 p.m. – Children's Choir

4:00 p.m. – Middle School Fellowship Christmas Party

The party is at the home of the **Winn Family**. Youth are asked to please bring a holiday snack to share, as well as a wrapped, silly gift (\$10 limit) for a Present Pass.

6:00 p.m. – Senior High Fellowship Christmas Party

The party is at the home of the **Mott Family**. Youth are asked to please bring a holiday snack to share at the party, as well as a wrapped, silly gift (\$10 limit) for a Yankee Swap.

This Week At FBC:

Friday, December 15

6:00 p.m. – Crowd Christmas Party

Saturday, December 16

12:30 p.m. – Lunch Program

Sunday, December 17

9:30 a.m. – Jesus' birthday party

11:00 a.m. – Worship (**Beth Loughhead**, preaching) and multiage children's class

12:00 p.m. Children's Choir

4:00 p.m. – MS Fellowship Christmas Party

6:00 p.m. – SH Fellowship Christmas Party

Monday, December 18

6:00 p.m. - Monday Night Supper

6:30 p.m. Church Home

7:00 p.m. – Shelter Fest meeting

8:00 p.m. – Messiah Concert at First Parish

Tuesday, December 19

9:30 a.m.- Staff Meeting

12:30 p.m. - Lunch Program

7:00 p.m. – Safety Training

Wednesday, December 20

7:30 a.m. - Lectio Divina (at the church)

6:15 p.m. – JoyRingers

7:15 p.m. – Harborlight Ringers

7:30 p.m. – Trustees Meeting

Thursday, December 21

6:00 p.m. – Celebration Choir

7:00 p.m. – Longest Night Service

7:30 p.m. – Sanctuary Choir

Saturday, December 23

12:30 p.m. - Lunch Program



Monday, December 18

8:00 p.m.

First Parish Church

225 Cabot St. Beverly



Crowd Christmas Party

Friday, December 15 at 6:00 p.m.

All the adults of the church are invited to "crowd in" at our annual *Christmas Party with Room for a Crowd* at the home of **Dianne and Rich Cashman** (9 Dyer Road, Beverly). Bring a dish to share for a potluck dinner. In addition to sharing food and fellowship, all are welcome to participate in a festive Yankee Swap (\$15-20). Please e-mail the Cashmans to let them know you'll be attending and what dish you plan to bring at richanddianne@comcast.net or contact **Beth Loughhead** at bloughhead@fbcbeverly.org if you have any questions regarding the evening. See you there!



Longest Night Service

Thurs. Dec. 21 at 7 p.m. at FBC

This candlelit service, sometimes called Blue Christmas, includes periods of quiet designed for contemplation and reflection, as well as piano music by **Dr. Esther Chang**. We will lift up prayers for our world and welcome the healing and hope we find in community. *Anybody* who might appreciate the opportunity to enjoy quiet and peace during this busy holiday season is welcome to join us. The service may also offer comfort and hope for those dealing with grief. Co-hosted by First Baptist, Saint Peter's Episcopal Church and First Parish.

Give the Gift of Heat

We encourage all to stop by the "Gift of Heat" board at the rear of the sanctuary. Each donation to the Gift of Heat will be distributed by Beverly Bootstraps to help individuals and families in our community stay warm this winter. This annual program can be a significant source of assistance and your gift is greatly appreciated! Cash or checks (made out to FBC) are accepted and can be dropped off or mailed to the church office, or you are welcome to place your donation in the offering plate during Sunday worship. We will gather the donations and forward one total check to Beverly Bootstraps. Donations will be accepted through January 7, 2018.

Advent Season

This Advent season we are decorating a Christmas tree at the back of the sanctuary. *Before each service*, while you chat or enjoy a cup of coffee, *please also create a themed ornament!* Or you can donate a theme-based ornament for the tree. In addition, there are strips of paper on which you can write a thought, poem, or haiku about the theme. After they have been displayed, they will be made into a paper chain to decorate the tree. Each week's theme is noted in italics below.

Friday, December 15
6PM: Christmas Party With Room For A Crowd

Sunday, December 17: Now More Than Ever We Need *The Shepherds*

9:30AM: Jesus' Birthday Party: including breakfast, crafts, carols, and a cake!
11AM: Worship and Children's Multiage Class
4PM: Middle School Fellowship Christmas Party
6PM: Senior High Fellowship Christmas Party

Monday, December 18
8:00PM: Messiah Concert at First Parish

Thursday, December 21: Now More Than Ever We Need *Tidings of Comfort and Joy*

7PM: Longest Night Service

Sunday, December 24: Now More Than Ever We Need *The Star*

11AM: Worship
5PM: Worship (a service planned with the enthusiasm of children in mind)
11PM: Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 31: Now More Than Ever We Need *Newborn Hope*

11AM: Worship
2PM-8PM: Fundraiser: Beverly's New Year
*No Sunday School or Fellowship, but there will be childcare during the 11AM service.

Sunday, January 7: Now More Than Ever We Need *Wise Ones (Magi)*

11AM: Worship and Children's Multiage Class
*Classes for all ages and fellowships resume!

Silent Auction is a Big Success

Now that the final bids are tallied and the lucky winners have picked up their items, it's clear that this year's silent auction was a big success. A total of 82 items were sold, and the earnings of \$3,650 surpassed the goal of \$3,000 and brought in \$500 more than last year's auction. Thanks to the many people who donated items, made bids and participated in making this such a successful event. Special thank-yous go to **Brian Gregory** and the Boston Private Bank and Trust Company, who arranged the donation of Bruins tickets in luxury seating with special restaurant access; to **Magaly Gerena** and the Boston Ballet for tickets to "The Nutcracker"; and to **Luella Hayes** who created individually designed holiday floral arrangements.

Over the years, gift baskets have become a trademark of the FBC silent auction. This year, 32 baskets were auctioned off, bringing in a total of \$1,426. Special thanks go to **Tracey Armstrong** and **Glen Johnstone**, who surpassed even their own high standards for originality of themes and aesthetics of design, to **Doris-Ann Vosseler**, for her generosity and creativity, to the Sunday school classes and Celebration Ringers, and to the many individuals who created baskets on their own. The baskets add color and interest to the display tables and, after the fair ended, many people outside the church commented on the overall attractiveness of the FBC fair.

There are no expenses for the silent auction, so all the proceeds go directly to benefit the programs and service of the church. Thank you so much to all for making this such a rewarding enterprise this year, and a lot of fun too.

Spiritual Life Retreat

June 8 - 10th, 2018



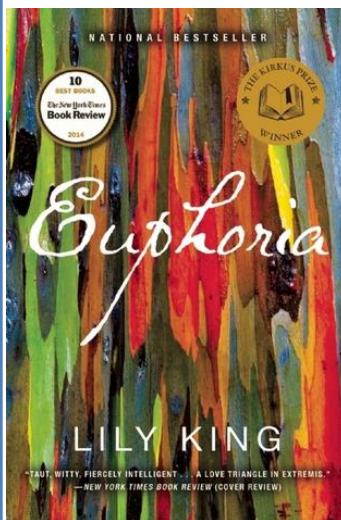
Hallelujah Farm is a restored 17th century farm and retreat center set in the hills and meadows of the southwestern corner of New Hampshire, in the small town of Chesterfield. It is a quiet place to find peace in contemplation, strengthen friendships, feed your soul with the beauty of natural surroundings and enjoy the slower pace of country life. Your FBC Spiritual Life Team is hosting this event. Limited to 20 people. Contact **Kent Harrop** at kharrop@fbcbeverly.org or **Bryan Vosseler** at bryanvosseler@gmail.com to reserve your place. Cost is \$225 per person for two nights with comfortable lodging, six delicious meals, and a great program. Sliding scale is available to ensure affordability. Consider letting your family and friends know that a great Christmas gift would be sending you on this retreat! To learn more about Hallelujah Farm, visit their website at hallelujahfarm.com.

Christmas Poinsettias

Orders for Christmas poinsettias are being taken in the church office. All orders must be placed by Sunday, Dec. 17. Each potted plant, given in memory or in honor of a loved one, will decorate the sanctuary for our Christmas services. The plants will be available to take with you following the 11 p.m. service on Christmas Eve, or you may leave it to be delivered to someone in our church family or community who has been unable to attend worship this Advent season. Each plant is \$9.75.

Book Group Schedules *Euphoria* for its Next Meeting

Friday, Jan. 12 at 1:00 p.m. in the lounge



Although the Book Group is now enjoying the Christmas season and anticipating new reading material in their stockings, they've already selected *Euphoria* by Lily King for the discussion at their next meeting.

Euphoria refers to the elation that scientists feel when they make a significant breakthrough in the research they've been conducting for many years. The book deals with three anthropologists, each with different scientific methods, who meet in New Guinea where they are studying the cultural values of tribes in the deepest jungles.

The conflict that arises from their differing approaches to research, their personal interactions and love interests, as well as attempts to understand peoples whose traditions are very different from those of their western culture, makes for interesting and thought-provoking reading.

The female main character is based on Margaret Mead, the revolutionary anthropologist who wrote *Coming of Age in Samoa*. Lily King is a writer from Maine whose books have gained a national following and several prestigious awards.

The Book Group always welcomes new members. People can come to a single session to discuss a book that interests them, or can join as a continuous member.

If your New Year's resolution is to do more reading, consider joining this group and sharing in a lively discussion!

Shelter Fest: Good Music • Good Cause • Good Time



January 27 from 12:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

A music festival at FBC featuring local bands and benefiting Harborlight Community Partners. General admission \$10 for the full day. Food and support provided by A&B Burger.

Join FBC for "Supper & Sweets" at Beverly's New Year!

Sunday, Dec. 31 from 2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.



Join your friends at FBC while we serve up "Supper & Sweets" during the 24th annual Beverly Main Street's New Year Celebration, a downtown fair including train rides, video game trucks, arts and crafts, and a magic show. First Baptist will continue its tradition of offering celebrators respite from the cold by selling hot meals, snacks, and desserts. Events are held from 3:30-7:00 p.m., while our fundraiser will run from 2:00-8:00 p.m.

Plans are well underway, but we need YOU to help make them happen!

FBC New Year's Volunteer Coordinators, **Beth Loughhead** and **Cindy Shupp**, are in need of volunteers to help heat things up by taking orders, dishing up dinner, acting as cashiers for the event, and serving sweets to our revelers. And of course, we'll need several more volunteers to help us clean and restore the church to its natural order. Shifts are 2:00-5:00 p.m. and 5:00-8:00 p.m. If you are not available for an entire shift, we are grateful to have whatever time you can spare! If you are willing to pitch in, please let them know as soon as possible by calling 978-922-3295 ext. 104, or by emailing Beth at bloughhead@fbcbeverly.org or Cindy at cjshupp@verizon.net, or you can speak to them before or after Sunday worship. The proceeds from this year's event will benefit the 2018 Mission Trips.

For those who are interested in purchasing admission buttons for all the details on Beverly's New Year Celebration, including where to buy your admission buttons, be sure to visit beverlymainstreets.org. Buttons are discounted to \$5 until Dec. 20, when they return to their regular price of \$8.

2018 PLEDGE DRIVE IS OFF TO A TERRIFIC START

The first two weeks of the 2018 pledge drive brings wonderful news: \$175,701 has already been raised! This is a remarkable outpouring of support and enthusiasm for the church's missions. But in order to reach the amount needed just to continue our current projects, \$20,000 is still needed, and of course it would be great to surpass that amount so that more can be initiated in the new year ahead. If you have not pledged yet, please fill out a pledge card, available in the pews or from the church office, and place the card in the Sunday offering plate or mail it to the church office. The commitment of those who have not pledged yet will determine the ultimate success of the pledge drive. Please help it to be the best ever!



The need for financial support of the church is now greater than ever. During November's Concerns and Celebrations, so many people spontaneously came forward to express their gratitude for having the church in their lives. At the following night's City Council meeting, where a zoning change was being presented by **Andrew De Franza** on behalf of creating new housing for 75 needy and homeless families, the church was recognized as the founder of Harborlight Community Partners, as well as being the forerunner of Beverly Bootstraps, and a government official commented on how much the City Council was looking forward to welcoming **Julie Flowers** as a new member in January. It's clear that the church continues to play a vital role in the lives of its members and the lives of those in the community. Your pledge and commitment to supporting its budget makes this possible.

And, yes, a week later, the City Council voted to approve the zoning change so FBC's affordable housing history moves forward.