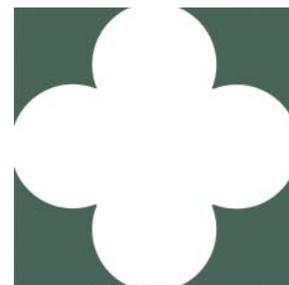


the spire

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December 2017

Exploring what it means to follow the way of Jesus Christ



seattle first baptist



Christmas is Here!

How will you choose to spend the time?

By Jim Segaar

Time. Where does it all go?

This past summer my husband Jim Ginn and I embarked on another great adventure – building a small vacation house in the Methow Valley near Winthrop, Washington. We broke ground last May, knowing that construction would consume most of our time for several months. And here we are in December. Work has gone well, and the house is “dried in.” But where did the time go? All we did all summer was build. No hikes. No bike rides. No trips. Just work.



I don't resent the time we spent on the house. Much of it has been fun, and all of it, even crawling around in the mud, has been fulfilling. I remain shocked, however, at how our project totally dominated our lives for months.

Time. We can't manufacture more. We can't demand a “do over.” We choose how to spend it, but even if we spend it wisely, when it is gone, it is gone forever.

As we enter the holiday season, we have decided to make some adjustments to our schedules. We're still working on the house, but we're also making time for singing in choir, attending church, being with friends, listening to music. And through it all we intend to focus on what is most important in our lives, and to witness the glory and beauty that is all around us, even though the world is once again going to hell in a handbasket.

I find inspiration for the holidays in the words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German theologian who was executed by the Nazis. He spoke of this season this way in *God is in the Manger: Reflections on Advent and Christmas*:

“...And then, just when everything is bearing down on us to such an extent that we can scarcely withstand it, the Christmas message comes to tell us that all our ideas are wrong, and that what we take to be evil and dark is really good and light because it comes from God. Our eyes are at fault, that is all. God is in the manger, wealth in poverty, light in darkness, succor in abandonment. No evil can befall us; whatever men may do to us, they cannot but serve the God who is secretly revealed as love and rules the world and our lives.”

'Tis the Season: Advent, Christmas, New Year, and Epiphany 2017

Advent - *What are you waiting for?*

Adult Learning

Our series for Advent is called **WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?** If you often find yourself harried and frustrated in the weeks leading up to Christmas, wishing you had figured out a way to focus more on the spiritual and less on your to-do list, you will fit right in with the conversation at 9:30 a.m. Sunday mornings in the Parlor! Your perspective and your presence will be treasured. Here's what's happening for each of the three Sundays of Advent:

- **Sunday, Dec. 3** - Cherry Johnson will lead us in an opening conversation on the theme "Time Takes Time." We will draw from advent stories, poetry, and our personal experiences and dreams, especially related to waiting as a chronological phenomenon. A few spiritual practices to try during the season of Advent will be suggested.
- **Sunday, Dec. 10** - Our very own theologian-in-resident Rev. Dr. Patricia Hunter asks that we read Isaiah Chapter 40 in preparation for her message: "Those waiting for God's promises to be fulfilled in their lives will find strength for the journey!"
- **Sunday, Dec. 17** - Cherry Johnson will continue the conversation with the theme "Time's Up!" as we explore "waiting" (outside of chronological time) as a deliberate spiritual practice.



Wednesday Evening activities

Special activities are planned for Wednesday dinners during the season:

- **Wednesday, Nov. 29** - Write what we are grateful for on pieces of paper, which will be made into paper chains for the Christmas tree in Fellowship Hall.
- **Wednesday, Dec. 6** - Make decorations to put on the Christmas Tree in Fellowship Hall or to take home. Supplies will be provided.
- **Wednesday, Dec. 13** - Pastor Jennifer Ikoma-Motzko and the youth will help us decorate cookies, which will be taken to Hilltop House.
- **Wednesday, Dec. 20** - Sing carols around the piano.



The Gifts of Darkness: An Advent Evening of Prayer

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 7 p.m., at Seattle First Baptist

Patrick Twohy, SJ and Rev. Catherine Fransson, presenters

We live in a culture of words, noise and busyness. What if we were to stop and be still? What might we hear? What gifts might we experience in the darkness? Allow yourself to let go of the "shoulds" of the season; simply pause, rest, listen and be restored at this year's contemplative ecumenical Advent Evening of Prayer.

RSVP appreciated: <https://www.ignatiancenter.org/advent-evening-of-prayer>

COST: Free will offering (\$10 suggested donation)

FREE PARKING available.

QUESTIONS: call (206) 329-4824 or email andrea@ignatiancenter.org

Sponsored by the Ignatian Spirituality Center, Seattle and Seattle First Baptist.

Christmas - *O Holy Night: The Mystery and the Glory*

Saturday, Dec. 16, 7:30 p.m.

A concert of lessons and carols featuring the Sanctuary Choir and a professional brass ensemble, led by our musicians Ben Luedcke and April Kuhr. Highlights include popular arrangements and original music by John Rutter, as well as congregational carol singing for the enjoyment of all.

Sunday, Dec. 17, 11 a.m.

A concert of lessons and carols in a worship setting, with the Sanctuary Choir and a professional brass ensemble, led by our musicians Ben Luedcke and April Kuhr.

Sunday, Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve

- 9:30 a.m. Christmas Breakfast in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome. Great food and fun for



children of all ages, plus pictures with Santa.

- 11 a.m. Christmas Pageant and an Intergenerational Worship Service of lessons and carols. Worship will include a reincarnation of the Do-It-Yourself Christmas Pageant. All are encouraged to come to worship dressed as your favorite Nativity character. Costumes will be available to borrow if you don't have a favorite of your own.
- 7 p.m. Choral Christmas Eve Service of the stories and music of Christmas, with the Sanctuary Choir and instruments. Come early for an extended musical prelude and carol sing, which begins at 6:45 p.m.

New Year's Eve and Epiphany

Sunday, Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Learning - Genjo Marinello. Abbot of Cho Bo Ji Zen Temple on Beacon Hill. Hosted by Steve Smith who considers him "Seattle's Dalai Lama." We will have a conversation about Ritual and Transitions as we say goodbye to 2017 and enter a new year.
- 11 a.m. Worship will be a service of reflection and commitment.
- 6 p.m. New Year's Eve Cabaret. Join us for a family-friendly, non-alcoholic evening of food, fun and entertainment. We will ring in the New Year at 9 p.m. (New York time) and again at 10 p.m. (New Orleans time). This will allow those with young children to celebrate early, and the slightly less young to hang out a little longer. And we all can get home before the partiers start driving.
 - Cost is \$10 per person, \$20 per family
 - Reservations required - contact the Church Office by Dec. 22
 - Entertainers - if you have a musical offering, contact April Kuhr and get your music to her by Dec. 17



Sunday, Jan. 7 - Epiphany: Wisdom from the East

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Learning - Genjo Marinello. Abbot of Cho Bo Ji Zen Temple on Beacon Hill, will once again be our guest.
- 11 a.m. Worship with Imam Jamal Rahman preaching. He is a longtime friend of SFBC and has preached for us in the past.

More Music for the Season

The following performances by other groups will take place during December at Seattle First Baptist. Tickets are required in some cases. See the attached links for further information.

Friday, Dec. 8 - Garfield High School Music Department

Messiah Sing-a-Long with full orchestra

7 p.m.

<https://garfieldorchestra.org/events/messiah-sing-along>

Saturday, Dec. 9 - Seattle Pro Musica

Winter Rose

3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

www.seattlepromusica.org

Dec. 10 and 11 - Joyful Noise

Through the Eyes of a Child

Sunday, Dec. 10 at 3 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 11 at 7:30 p.m.

www.joyfulnoiseseattle.org

Thursday, Dec. 21 - Early Music Seattle

Venetian Women: Vivaldi's Gloria and Magnificat

7:30 p.m.

<http://www.earlymusicseattle.org>

Update on Pastoral Staffing

By Pastor Tim Phillips

The Associate Pastor Search Committee has completed its work to revise and re-open the search for a full-time Associate Pastor who will have general pastoral duties with a focus on women and next generation ministries. The committee is led by Bob Sittig and Sara Tollefson and is receiving applications through December 31. The committee plans to present a candidate to the congregation around Easter (April 1).

In the interim, we are grateful for the pastoral team that continues its ministry with us. This is an update on this interim period.

Interim Associate Pastor, Harriet Platts has made application to the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation in the area of Contemplative Group leadership. If accepted she anticipates beginning this long-distance program in January, 2018. She will be serving as Associate Pastor until the middle of January and then will remain with us as a member, serving in our community as Vice President going forward.

Interim Pastor for Children, Families, and Young Adults, Jennifer Ikoma-Motzko will return to us on November 29 and stay with us through Easter, by which time we hope to have a new full-time Associate Pastor in place. The constraints on Jennifer's time will change how she continues her work but she will remain in place, barring any further decline in her mother's situation. Please keep Jennifer and her family in your hearts and prayers.

Theologian-in-Residence, Patricia Hunter will continue in her role as Theologian-in-Residence with preaching and teaching responsibilities as her time allows.

Pastor for Senior Adults David Kile is completing 40 years of effective and faithful ministry. We will honor David and Pat at lunch following worship on December 3. The Personnel Commission invites you to join in that celebration as David begins three months of sabbatical and retirement. As of December 3, David's pastoral duties will formally come to an end but we are happy and grateful that David and Pat will continue in our life together as the blessings they are to all of us. Pastor Tim Phillips will convene a conversation on senior adult programs and pastoral care after the new year.

It is the case that by the end of January, the pastoral team at SFBC will be 1 full-time person and 1 part-time person and time as available from our Theologian-in-Residence. That will be a challenge. We are blessed that Dr. Hunter will remain in her role to provide consistency in pastoral leadership and Pastor Jennifer will continue to focus her work with children, families, and young adults. Patrick will continue in his work with children's Sunday programming along with the help of other volunteer teachers to continue Godly Play. Susan Blythe-Goodman will continue her work with youth and Sue Ross has volunteered, in her role as Church Nurse, to support pastoral care.

In the face of this ongoing transition, the Diaconate asks the congregation for its prayer, support, patience, wisdom, and deepened partnership in ministry. This interim period is not only about staffing. It's about our life together. Please join us in this work to be "a community of faith united in exploring what it means to follow the way of Jesus Christ, to be a people of God and to love and care for our neighbors."

Evergreen Association Calls New Executive Minister

By Pastor Tim Phillips

At its 2017 Annual Meeting, the Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches (our "region") called the Rev. Douglas Avilesbernal as its second Executive Minister.

Our young region has been led by the Rev. Dr. Marica Patton since its inception more than ten years ago. Dr. Patton has led us through the challenges of intercultural and theological diversity, the institutional struggles of a new organization, and denominational questions about our viability and credibility. She has done all this with courage and vision.

With the retirement of Dr. Patton, we now welcome Rev. Avilesbernal into the role of Executive Minister and step with him into a new moment of our history. Rev. Avilesbernal currently serves as lead pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Norristown, PA. In that local community, he has been a major leader helping the city engage with and struggle through its first wave of immigrants since the late 1800s. In recognition of that work, Rev. Avilesbernal was appointed by the Montgomery County Commissioners to several local boards to advise and oversee the allocation of resources in ways that account for the diversity of a very large county.

Denominationally, Rev. Avilesbernal has been involved with American Baptist Xtreme Team, seeking to immerse young adults in different cultures around the world for a month at a time. His recent TED talk, "Tolerance, then end of the beginning," can be found on the TED website. His new book, *Welcoming Community: Diversity that Works*, was published by Judson Press in 2016. Rev. Avilesbernal holds a Bachelor of Music Performance from New Jersey City University and a Masters of Divinity from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Rev. Avilesbernal will begin his work with our region in January and we hope to welcome him at Seattle First Baptist Church soon after that. This is a bright moment in our future as American Baptists in the Northwest.

Christmas on the Streets

By Alyssa MacLachlan and the Outreach Commission

It's almost Christmas. That means gift giving, gift getting, and, for those who try to follow footsteps that turned ever toward others in need, a fair chunk of donating to charity.

This year, SFBC will once again join other friends in the community to collect special "stocking stuffer" items for people in our city who are sleeping rough—on the streets - and not in a shelter receiving services. In this way, we will reach beyond the boundaries of institutional charity, meet people where they are, and bring the light of God's love into dark times and places.

The following items are requested:

- AA batteries
- small flashlights/head lamps
- hand warmers
- socks
- gloves
- pocket sized tissue packs
- nail files
- nail trimmers
- travel sized hand sanitizer, toothpastes, toothbrushes, lotion, shampoo,
- travel sized shaving cream/gel
- condoms
- safety razors
- bandaids
- pocket sized emergency sewing kits
- individual serving instant coffee packets
- feminine hygiene products
- ready-to-eat soup cans (pop top preferred)



A collection box for donated items will be in the hall outside the church office through December 21. If you would prefer to make a financial donation, please mark the check "Outreach - Christmas Stockings," and make it payable to SFBC.

On December 22 at 6 p.m. we will gather at historic Washington Hall (153 14th Ave, Seattle, WA 98122, washingtonhall.org) with volunteers from other groups and communities to stuff the stockings and prepare them for distribution. All are welcome. Washington Hall is a fully handicap accessible building, however, due to construction the front access ramp is temporarily blocked. Ramp access is available through the double doors in the parking lot on the north side of the building.

Reza Aslan Speaks at SFBC

By Dennis Raymond

Seattle Arts and Lectures sponsored Reza Aslan, author of "God, A Human History," in a presentation at Seattle First Baptist Church on Tuesday evening, November 14. Aslan is a dynamic speaker, and he related some of his religious learnings and philosophy to the large audience. He was born in Iran and raised in this country as a Muslim. In young adulthood, he converted to Christianity, and is now a Muslim again.

I read his book, "Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus Christ", which caused my interest in "God, A Human History." This new book is a good introductory overview of the subject. It includes information on Aslan's and other scholars' studies into faith and religion through recorded history, and through carbon dated artifacts.

Aslan views faith as being personal for all, driven by curiosity and belief in the inner soul, leading to belief in God/gods. Through the ages, people have assigned human features and attributes to these supreme beings. Monotheism first appeared in Egypt about 1353 BCE and 1100 BCE in the Near East. Jews first adopted the god El from the Canaanites. Moses adopted Yahweh from the Midionites. The combined Yahweh-El evolved into Yahweh.

In 630 CE Muhammad sent emissaries to invite Jews and Zoroastrians to embrace Islam, and be safe. Both messages were ignored. Persia was invaded by Muslims, and Zoroastrianism was diminished in numbers and power. Jews were allowed to keep Jerusalem and their faith.

Aslan ends the book by explaining his pantheism: God is all; all is God. The book is short and educational (just 171 pages), with 79 pages of notes and 26 pages bibliography. It may whet your appetite to learn more about God outside the Bible.



Congratulations to Ankur and Deepty Jindal, whose daughter Ella Gulati was dedicated at Seattle First Baptist on Youth Sunday, November 19. The family recently moved to Seattle from Atlanta. Welcome Ella, Deepty and Ankur!

Administrator's Corner

By Darren Hochstedler

A big thank you to all who participated in the fall Stewardship Campaign. The number of pledges received is up from last year and the amount pledged is what was expected. The number of members using electronic giving has grown as well. A special thank you to those who pledged for the first time this year. Every person's financial support for the church is much needed and appreciated. Together we will continue the ministries that Seattle First Baptist is known for throughout our community. We thank you for being INVolved and INvested.

Singing Gospel with the Evergreen Association

By Nancy Roberts-Brown

For several years the Evergreen Association member churches, including SFBC, have collaborated to remember and celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King at an MLK Day worship service. A much-loved feature of these services is a combined choir performance of stirring Gospel music led by Rev. Sam Townsend of the New Beginnings Christian Fellowship. I am very happy to tell you that this tradition will be continued in 2018.

Twenty members of the SFBC choir will be participating in the combined choir, and this article is an invitation to you to sing as well. You need not be a choir member, and, as all of the music is taught in the oral tradition, it is not necessary to read music. And, from my own personal experience of singing with this choir for the past two years, I can tell you that it is incredibly fun, uplifting, and a tremendous opportunity to connect and make amazing music with fabulous folks from diverse congregations within the association.

The service itself is scheduled for Monday, January 15, 6 p.m. at New Beginnings Christian Fellowship in Kent. There will be four rehearsals, two at SFBC, from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Saturdays 12/30 and 1/6 and two at New Beginnings, from 7 – 9 p.m. on Tuesday, 1/9 and from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Saturday, 1/13. Attendance at all rehearsals is not necessary, but attending at least three out of four is important.

If you are interested, please let me know or give your name and number to Judy at the Front Office. If you are not able to sing in the combined choir, please, at least, plan to attend the service. Especially now, it is vital that we affirm and celebrate our connection with and love for our brothers and sisters of all races and ethnicities. I very much hope to see you there, whether in the choir or the congregation.

Taming Bigfoot in Seattle

By Keith Ervin

Do you wonder how your lifestyle might be contributing to the climate crisis? Or how you can reduce your impact? If so, check out Taming Bigfoot in Seattle, a contest designed to help us understand our personal carbon footprint and how we can change it.

The City of Seattle has committed to no net carbon emissions after 2050 -- and it needs our help to reach that goal.

Seven-member teams will compete to see which can reduce their carbon footprint the most (and win prizes!). Although the kickoff event won't take place until January, individuals must register in December to join teams that are now forming.

This fun, educational venture is supported by groups ranging from Earth Ministry to the Washington Environmental Council and 350 Seattle to the Seattle Office of Sustainability and Environment. It is designed for everyone, from youth to senior citizens. Each team will include someone younger than 21 and someone retired.

Together, these teams will address the climate effects of their home energy use, travel and shopping. You don't have to be a climate wonk to take this personal journey into repairing the world, or tikkun olam, as the rabbis call it.

Members of Interfaith Climate Action - First Hill (a collaboration between Seattle First Baptist Church and Bet Alef Meditative Synagogue) are actively working to make it a success.

Retired NASA climate scientist Robert Bindschadler, who documented the ominous breakup of Antarctic ice shelves, created the first Taming Bigfoot two years ago in Jefferson County. Local teams there faced the facts of their own carbon use, adopted new habits, and reduced their carbon output by 30 tons over two months.

How well can we clean up our act?

More information and a registration link are online at [<http://www.tamingbigfootseattle.org>]. Or contact Keith Ervin [keithervin@msn.com], or Elizabeth Burton, [elburton@uw.edu].

ABW News

By Shirley Wilkinson and Carole Cornell

It was fascinating to observe socks coming into Operation Nightwatch on November 12, the first day of their Sock Drive. Carole Cornell, Doug Wilkinson and I came in with 2 boxes and 2 bags of socks and all afternoon church groups arrived with boxes and bins of warm socks. The socks first went to a table staffed by 2 middle school students who were cutting open the packages. The socks were then moved over to a table where they were packed in bins that were labeled with the number of socks in each. Next we had lunch (provided) and were given a tour. We learned that there are 26 residents at the facility on 14th Avenue and over 100 men are fed and housed in shelters every night. We were impressed with the service to our community happening in this place.

On November 19 the women held their annual Bake Sale and made close to \$500.00 which will be sent to International Ministries to help support our ABC missionaries. Thank you to all of you who baked and those of you who bought.

Still to come – we are helping Outreach Commission with their project of filling Christmas stockings for our homeless neighbors.

December circle meetings:

- The next meeting for Friendship Circle is Tuesday, December 12 at 5:30 pm in Fridell Lounge. We welcome Merletta Roberts to share her clowning experiences and approach to using humor in one's life. Please join us for an evening of sharing and FUN! Contact Carole Cornell (contact information available through the church office).
- Mt. Carmel Circle meets on December 18 for lunch at 12 noon at Covenant Shores. A program by Pat Kile will follow. Contact Jean Mattson (contact information available through the church office).

Save the date: Presidents Day Weekend Snow Retreat

For more than thirty years the folks at University Baptist Church have held a winter retreat at our American Baptist Camp at Steven's Pass, Cascade Meadows, over President's Day weekend. This year we will be co-sponsoring the retreat with them! It will be February 16-19.

This is a family-friendly event and all are invited. In previous years we had to snowshoe or ski into the lodge but for several years now they have been ploughing the road so we can drive all the way in, sometimes with snow-tires or chains recommended. There will be no program, just playing in the snow; inner-tubing; games; crafts; ping pong and lots of time to read by the fire. Details coming soon. For more information contact Patrick Green.

Seattle Jazz Vespers Presents - The Seattle Buskers

Sunday, December 3 at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Back by popular demand!

We've all been there: downtown Seattle, running late with a million errands to run in a sea of crowds. But if you stop for just a minute, you will hear the distinctive sounds of street performers. Even if you don't have the time to stop by, the siren of the musicians will call to you and you will find yourself in front of a local Busker, enjoying his or her craft. These are the moments that make Seattle and life in general feel a little less hectic. Buskers come and go and while not always easy to find, there are some great local street entertainers out there if you know where to look. On December 3, at 6 p.m., Seattle Jazz Vespers will assemble some of the best Buskers in Seattle for a concert that is not only... unique but sure to please the audience. Just be sure to bring a little change.

"Busker" is an English term meaning street performer. And, there are a wide-ranging variety of buskers performing with everything from puppets to violins, the Buskers serve to enrich the Seattle's vibrant cultural community.

Some people assume that a person becomes a Busker as a result of a failed musical career. That notion is totally untrue. And it's not always about performing in the streets. What motivates a Busker is the need to make eye contact with the audience and reach out to the individuals passing by or listening. Only then, the Busker performs their heart out.

Concert coordinator, singer/song writer Jim Nason "The Emergency Folk Singer" took home his third Grand Tumbleweed Trophy in 2015 and we are please to have him and his fellow Buskers perform tonight.

Joining Jim on mop bass are Dan Schindler on ukulele, and Bob Weaver; Carly Calbero, vocalist and acoustic guitarist, winner of the Seattle Met's Battle of the Buskers competition and one of four finalists in Rolling Stone's Street to Stage competition; and the Greg Paul Trio with Greg on Banjo and voice, Dave Smith on violin and Andre Hare on bass.

December Calendar of Events

Advent Begins - Our theme is: *What Are You Waiting For?*

Sunday, Dec. 3 **Advent 1**

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Learning - Cherry Johnson leads a discussion on "Time Takes Time" - Parlor
- 10:15 a.m. Family Fellowship Hour in Youth Lounge, 3rd Floor
- 10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 11 a.m. Worship and Communion with Theologian in Residence Patricia Hunter preaching
Following Worship – Lunch honoring David and Pat Kile as David retires after 40 years of ministry
at SFBC - Fellowship Hall
- 6 p.m. Seattle Jazz Vespers - Seattle Buskers

Wednesday, Dec. 6

- 6 p.m. Community Dinner - Fellowship Hall
Dinner Activity - Make decorations to be put on the tree in Fellowship Hall or taken home.
Supplies provided.
NOTE: NO Choir Rehearsal this evening

Friday, Dec. 8

- 7 p.m. Garfield High School Music Department *Messiah* Sing-a-Long with full orchestra
<https://garfieldorchestra.org/events/messiah-sing-along>

Saturday, Dec. 9

- 9 - 11 a.m. Choir and Orchestra rehearsal - Sanctuary
- 3 and 7:30 p.m. Seattle Pro Musica, *Winter Rose* - www.seattlepromusica.org

Sunday, Dec. 10 **Advent 2**

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Learning - Theologian in Residence Patricia Hunter will speak about "Those waiting for God's promises to be fulfilled in their lives will find strength for the journey!" - Parlor
- 10:15 a.m. Family Fellowship Hour in Youth Lounge, 3rd Floor
- 10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 11 a.m. Worship with Pastor Jennifer Ikoma-Motzko preaching on Mark 1.1-8 "Prepare the way of the Lord..."
- 3 p.m. Joyful! Noise, *Through the Eyes of a Child* - www.joyfulnoiseseattle.org
- 4 p.m. Labyrinth - Fellowship Hall

- Monday, Dec. 12
7:30 p.m. Joyful! Noise, *Through the Eyes of a Child* - www.joyfulnoiseseattle.org
- Tuesday, Dec. 12
7 p.m. Advent evening of prayer co-sponsored with Ingatian Spirituality Center. Reception to follow. Cathy Fransson will speak, along with other speakers. Free parking is available in the lot adjacent to the church.
- Wednesday, Dec. 13
6 p.m. Community Dinner - Fellowship Hall
Dinner Activity - Pastor Jennifer Ikoma-Motzko and the youth will help us decorate cookies, which will be taken to Hilltop House.
7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- Saturday, Dec. 16
9 a.m. - noon Choir and Orchestra rehearsal
7:30 p.m. Choral Concert of Lessons and Carols, featuring portions of "Gloria" by John Rutter
- Sunday, Dec. 17 Advent 3**
9:30 a.m. Adult Learning - Cherry Johnson continues the Advent conversation with a theme of "Time's Up!" - Parlor
10:15 a.m. Family Fellowship Hour in Youth Lounge, 3rd Floor
10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
11 a.m. A combined Worship service and Choral Concert of Lessons and Carols
- Wednesday, Dec. 20
6 p.m. Community Dinner - Fellowship Hall
Dinner Activity - Sing carols around the piano
7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- Thursday, Dec. 21
7 p.m. Diaconate - Parlor
7:30 p.m. Early Music Seattle, *Venetian Women: Vivaldi's Gloria and Magnificat*
<http://www.earlymusicseattle.org>
- Sunday, Dec. 24 Advent 4, Christmas Eve**
9:30 a.m. Christmas Breakfast - Fellowship Hall
Note: No Adult Learning today
11 a.m. DIY Christmas Pageant and Intergenerational Worship Service - all are welcome. Lessons, carols, and a reincarnation of the *Do-It-Yourself Christmas Pageant*
6 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
7 p.m. Choral Christmas Eve Service featuring lessons, carols, and candlelight.
Music by the Sanctuary Choir
- Monday, Dec. 25 Christmas Day**
Office Closed
- Tuesday, Dec. 26 Boxing Day**
Office Closed
- Wednesday, Dec. 27
No programs this week
- Sunday, Dec. 31 New Year's Eve**
9:30 a.m. Adult Learning - Genjo Marinello, Abbot of Cho Bo Jin Zen Temple on Beacon Hill, will lead a conversation about Ritual and Transitions - Parlor
11 a.m. Worship with Pastor Tim Phillips preaching during a service of reflection and commitment
6 p.m. New Year's Eve Cabaret - a family-friendly, non-alcoholic event. \$10 per person, \$20 per family. Reservations required. Contact the church office.
- Monday, Jan. 1, 2018 New Year's Day**
Office Closed

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“Thank You” from the Tollefsons

Dear Family and Friends,

As we walked out of the Sanctuary to Fellowship Hall on Sunday after the children and youth service we were humming “We Shall Overcome,” thinking of some of the things we must overcome and the wonderful kids who minister to us. Thank you to all who participated in so many ways.



Then we walked downstairs—my understanding was that we were going to add cake to coffee hour to celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary. Later that afternoon we left the church carrying mementos of the day: balloons, cards, a bit of cake, flowers, a powerful 1/16 scale antique tractor and lovely memories of the kind words spoken. We felt warmed and deeply happy.

Thank you for such an extended family. Oh, yes, we also also felt a tad bit stunned—in the nicest way! Thank you, thank you. —Virg and Sue Tollefson

Online Extras

We have even more information about seasonal events at Seattle First Baptist on our website, including links to some of the music our choir will sing at its concert and other musical events taking place at SFBC in December: <http://www.seattlefirstbaptist.org/christmas-2017.html>