BEREA First Baptist Church

Reflections

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NEWSLETTER www.bereafbc.org (864)246-1921

In the midst of the busyness of the Christmas season, what can we do to orient our hearts towards Christ?

PAUSE. The Christmas season always sneaks in after Thanksgiving and all of a sudden we find ourselves hustling and bustling with the chaos of the Christmas season. Everybody and everything wants our time and attention. And sometimes it feels like you're barely holding on—you're not sure you can add anything else to your plate. You are pouring out your time and attention on so many things. The idea may seem counterintuitive, but maybe less is more, in this situation. It isn't about squeezing every last drop of festivity out of the season, but rather about stopping the doing and taking time to remember.

REFLECT. What is the reason—the purpose—of all these holiday…things…that we do? In a word: Christ. The phrase "Reason for the Season" can start to feel trite and contrived, and yet it is a slogan because it points to a very real Truth: Christ came to save us from our sins. And Christmas is a time of remembering that God kept his promise, he sent us a Savior, and he brought us Peace. It all started at Christmas.

REJOICE. What should be our response to this? Well, "worship" might be the best word the English language offers us for an appropriate response to what God did in and through Christ for us. Our response should have a special flavor this time of the year, though—that of rejoicing! We rejoice because our God is one who keeps promises. We rejoice because our God is one who made a way where there was none.

RESPONDING AS ONE CHURCH. Our Christmas program this year is special because it is not just about Christmas music or about the choir singing carols. Rather, this year we have ministries from across our church body coming together to rejoice and celebrate Christ's birth together. Our children will help lead us in song, and our students will lead us in worship. Our Hispanic ministry will share a couple of songs from their cultural heritage. Our musicians will play for the glory of the King who came so long ago, and our singers will help us remember and rejoice as one people in the great King who humbled himself in a manger.

So, please, set aside time to join us for **Christmas at Berea** this year. We want to invite you to set aside an hour to **Pause, Reflect, and Rejoice**. Invite your friends, neighbors, co-workers, family – anyone you can reach out to! And let us take time to stop and remember—and rejoice in the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ. - Zach Jones

Christmas Eve Ministry

Supporting Families in Need

If you're planning to donate money or want to help shop and deliver gifts for those in need this Christmas season we need to know of your commitment by this Sunday. Please label all donations as **Christmas Eve Ministry** and place them in the ushers baskets following the service or drop in the offering box in the Welcome Center. For more information, reach out to Dennis Paxton at dennis@bereafbc.org or call 246-1921.

Lottie Moon Bake Sale

December 14, Following the Children's Musical

If you would like to provide baked goods for the annual bake sale, please text REGISTER to 864-660-7739. Items need to be dropped off in the Welcome Center by 5:30 on December 14!

Welcome New Members

Brandon and Heather Murray
Saylor Grace
19 Fairlawn Cir.
Greenville, SC 29617

Deacons Meeting

Monday, December 1, 7:00 pm
In the Chapel

Grandmothers In Prayer

Sunday, December 7, 4:00 pm
In the Fellowship Center

Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study

6:30 pm in the Fellowship Center
Killing Sin: Conquer the One Thing That is Defeating You
Written by Karl Clauson
Led by Pastor Chad

Friendship Group

Tuesday, December 16, 11:00 am
In the Fellowship Center
Guest: Josh Durham and the Berea Friendship UMC Flock of Friends
Meal: Ham, Pineapple Casserole, Broccoli Casserole, Banana Pudding
Reservations Required by Thursday, December 11. Call the office at 246-1921.

Week of Prayer for International Missions
November 30—December 7
Our Goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering: $12,000

Grief Share
Surviving The Holidays

Saturday, December 13
10:00 am—12:00 noon
Fellowship Center

When you're grieving a loved one's death, the holidays are especially painful. **You are not alone.** In this one-time, 2-hour seminar, find support from people who "get it" when it comes to grief, especially during the holidays, and leave with:

- **Practical, simple strategies** for navigating social events, emotional triggers, and changed traditions.
- **Words to say**—gain guidance for responding to others when you don't feel up to celebrating.
- **Hope**—discover ways to move through the holidays after loss with honesty, grace, and support.

Cost: $10 donation for the Holiday Survival Guide, but scholarships are available. Sign up in the Welcome Center or at bereafbc.org/register.

Child Development Center Volunteers Needed

We have a great opportunity to strengthen our church's connection with the Child Development Center, which shares the Gospel with children and families. Volunteers are needed to rock babies, provide music, read, and assist with crafts from 2:30 to 4:30 pm weekdays. For more information contact Dawn Maness at dawn@bereafbc.org or 864-483-7732. Sign up online at bereafbc.org/register or in the Welcome Center.

Our CDC is Hiring!

If you know of someone who might be interested please contact our director, Donna Miller at 294-9001 or Dawn Maness at 864-483-7732 or dawn@bereafbc.org.

Weekly Opportunities

SUNDAYS

8:15 am	Special Time of Prayer
9:00 am	Connect Groups
10:15 am	Morning Worship
6:00 pm	Small Group Meetings *(reach out to Pastor Chad for more info)*

WEDNESDAYS

5:15-6:00	Supper
5:55-6:25	Grades 1-5 Choir
6:30-7:30	Kidzlife, Ages 3 - Grade 5 Adult Bible Study Adult Bible Study/Spanish
7:30	ESL Class
6:30-7:45	Student Worship Doors open at 5:45, Pick up at 7:45.
7:35-9:00	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAYS

7:00 am	Men's Prayer Time

Sympathy

Sympathy is extended to the family of John Hamilton.

Reaching Center

For the month of December we are asking for food donations of
Canned Fruits or Mixed Vegetables.

Wednesday Night Suppers

We offer three ways to sign up for supper: Go to bereafbc.org/register; call the office at 246-1921; or sign up on Sundays in the Welcome Center. The cost for a meal is $6. You can choose from a home cooked meal or chick-fil-sandwich or nuggets & chips.

December 3: Hotdogs, Fries, Baked Beans, Coleslaw
December 10: Fried Chicken Fingers, Mac & Cheese, Green Beans, Red Potatoes
The deadline to register is noon, Mondays.

Thanksgiving From the Gil Family

Philippians 1:3-5

"I thank God every time I think of you. In all my prayers for each of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the very first day until now…" As a family, we are truly blessed and grateful to be part of this wonderful church family. You loved us from the very first day and throughout our journey! Now that our extension has been approved by the power of our King Jesus, we cannot miss the chance to express our THANKS. We were blessed so abundantly that we struggled to keep up with sending thank-you notes to all of you. That's why we are sharing our love and gratitude through this bulletin. Thank you for every prayer, every hug and word of encouragement, every card and gift card, every prayergram, your tears, your care, your love, and your offerings from individuals, families, small groups, and our larger community! To those who signed and those who contributed a blank envelope filled with blessings and encouragement, we appreciate you all. May our gracious God bless you more and more. Let us conclude with verse 6 of the same passage, "…being confident of this, that HE who began the good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Together for His Glory! With love, The Gils