

# 1st CONNECTIONS

WWW.FBCGAINESVILLE.ORG

Dear Church,

I will admit that having a five-year old around does make Christmas more fun and more exciting. However, Christmas is full of meaning for anyone, any age. Christmas means **hope**. Our celebration of Christ's birth is our affirmation that we are not alone and on our own in this vast universe, that God is very much involved in the whole creation and in your life and mine.

Christmas means **peace** and gives full voice to our longing for peace within, peace among one another and among the nations. If only world peace could occur, even for a short time, in our lifetime.

Christmas means **joy**. Happiness depends on circumstances; joy is much more substantial, rooted in the connection you have with God and your confidence in God – no matter what happens around you.

Christmas means **love**. Actually, the greatest Christmas verse is "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son..." Jesus is the gift of love given by God to all of us for one reason: to show us the real nature of God in spite of our many distortions and misperceptions of who God is.

These four characteristics of Christmas are the ones we will focus on for the four Sundays leading up to Christmas Day. May all four be part of your life now and through the year to come.

Your friend & pastor,

*Bill Coates*

2016  
Living  
Christmas  
Tree  
December 8th-11th

Get your FREE tickets at  
[www.fbcgainesville.org](http://www.fbcgainesville.org),  
the church music office, or email  
[mckinney.cathy@gmail.com](mailto:mckinney.cathy@gmail.com).

\*Please bring canned food items  
to donate when you attend the  
performances!

## Community Travel Opportunities 2017

Interested in traveling with friends or meeting  
new friends?

### 6 DAYS IN ICELAND IN JUNE

Land of glaciers, roaring rivers, majestic waterfalls  
and breathtaking natural wonders. Limited to a  
small group, only a few spaces left!

### 7-DAY MEDITERRANEAN & ADRIATIC CRUISE IN SEPTEMBER

Includes Athens, Santorini, Montenegro,  
Sicily, Naples, and Barcelona

Email Bill Coates at  
[billcoates@mindspring.com](mailto:billcoates@mindspring.com)  
or call at 770-534-7354.

## WORSHIP

WATCH LIVE: [fbcgainesville.org](http://fbcgainesville.org) LISTEN LIVE: 99.3FM

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4th

**Second Sunday of Advent**  
**WHEN GOD RULES US**

OT: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 NT: Romans 15:1-9

**MUSIC MEDITATION:**

*What We All Want for Christmas Is Peace*  
Haley Hulsey, Solo

**OFFERTORY PRAISE: Emmanuel Bell Carol**  
Sanctuary Ringers (10:50am)

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Alicia Donnell, Flute Solo (8:30am)

**CHORAL WORSHIP: Be Still**

Hope Choir (8:30am) Sanc. Choir & Orchestra (10:50am)

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11th

**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**WHEN GOD CONFUSES US**

OT: Isaiah 35:3-6, 10 NT: Matthew 11:2-11

**OFFERTORY PRAISE: Joy to the World**

Mark Green, Piano

**CHORAL WORSHIP: Christmas Angels**  
Sonlight High School Vocal Ensemble

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18th

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**WHEN GOD COMES TO US**

OT: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

NT: Matthew 1:18-25, Romans 1:1-7

**MUSIC MEDITATION: The Gifts We Give**

Jerry Johnson, Solo

**OFFERTORY PRAISE: O Come, All Ye Faithful**  
Exaltation! Orchestra (10:50am)

Della Ruth Johnson, Organ Solo (8:30am)

**CHORAL WORSHIP: Mary, Did You Know?**  
Rejoice Choir (8:30am) Sanctuary Choir (10:50am)  
With Brooke Burt, Solo

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24th

**Christmas Eve Service of Carols and Candlelight**  
**5:30pm in the Sanctuary**

**GRACE AND LIGHT**

OT: Isaiah 9:2-7 NT: Luke 2:1-14

**MUSIC MEDITATION: O Holy Night**

Caroline Coleman, Solo

**CHORAL WORSHIP: Visit Us, Emmanuel**  
Adult Vocal Ensemble

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25th

**Christmas Day | 10:30am in the Sanctuary**  
**WHEN THE KINDNESS OF GOD APPEARED**

OT: Psalm 96 NT: Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7

**MUSIC REFLECTION: Go Tell It On The Mountain**  
Bruce Fields, Solo

**MUSIC MEDITATION: All Is Well** Joyful Hearts Trio  
**OFFERTORY PRAISE: Hark, the Herald Angels Sing**  
Piano Duet, Amy Hulsey and Mark Green

**CHORAL WORSHIP: Come On, Ring Those Bells**  
*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*  
Sanctuary Choir

# December

## 01 THURSDAY

### Quilts for Kids Monthly Workshop

10:00am-2:00pm at the Family Life Center (no cost)  
Contact: Betty Wright: [northeastga4k@gmail.com](mailto:northeastga4k@gmail.com).

## 03 SATURDAY

### Contra Dance

Lessons at 7:30pm and dance is 8:00pm-11:00pm.  
\$10 adult/\$5 teens + non-dancers/\$20 family max/  
FREE for children. [www.atgaga.com](http://www.atgaga.com).

## 04 SUNDAY

### 1st @ 1st Luncheon

After 10:50am Worship in the Banquet Hall.

### Family Christmas Program

6:30pm in the Sanctuary. This program will feature the Student Orchestra, Children's Choirs (Grades 1-5), Sonlight Middle and High School Ringers, and the Sonlight Choir singing from the LCT.

## 06 TUESDAY

### FLC: Christmas Craft Workshop

10:00am - 2:00pm at the Family Life Center. Get in the Christmas spirit by joining us for some Christmas music, crafting and hot chocolate/ coffee! Supplies and instruction are provided in the cost of the workshop. Register with Gin at [fbc.gainesville@gmail.com](mailto:fbc.gainesville@gmail.com) by Wed, Nov 30th to RSVP!

## 07 WEDNESDAY

### Younger Children's Christmas Program

6:00pm in Quadrant A of the Banquet Hall.

### Last Night of Fall Wednesday Activities

## 08 THURSDAY

### FLC: Mom's Morning Out

OPEN HOUSE: 6:00pm at the FLC. Meet our new MMO instructor, register your child and see what our revamped program has to offer! Contact: Gin at [fbc.gainesville@gmail.com](mailto:fbc.gainesville@gmail.com). Mom's Morning Out: Tues and Thurs from 9:00am-1:00pm.

### Living Christmas Tree

7:30pm in the Sanctuary.

### Canned Food Drive

Please bring canned food items to donate as you attend the Living Christmas Tree!

## 09 FRIDAY

### Living Christmas Tree

7:30pm in the Sanctuary.

## 10 SATURDAY

### Living Christmas Tree

4:30pm in the Sanctuary.

## 11 SUNDAY

### Deadline to Return Angel Tree Gifts

### Living Christmas Tree

4:30pm and 7:00pm in the Sanctuary.

## 12 MONDAY

### Estes-Dozier Missions Meeting

10:15am in the Parlor. We will have lunch and a shower for The Rooster's Perch whose vision is to create opportunities for adults with disabilities. Items for the shower include art supplies, magic markers, items for jewelry making, craft paint, and cork board. Please bring a casserole for lunch, drinks and dessert will be provided.

## 16 FRIDAY

### Angel Tree Distribution

10:00am in the Banquet Hall Lobby.

### Children: Christmas Party

5:30pm - 8:30pm in the Banquet Hall. RSVP by December 14th at [www.fbcgainesville.org](http://www.fbcgainesville.org)!

### Youth: Christmas Lock-In

7:00pm-7:00am in the Youth Area. We'll go ice skating and enjoy food and games. Invite a friend! Cost: \$20, Sibling discount: \$10. Bring a pillow, PJs, and a snack. Register: [fbcggyouth.org](http://fbcggyouth.org).

## 17 SATURDAY

### Hall County Correctional Institute Christmas Worship Service

5:00pm-8:00pm. Depart from the South Portico at FBC. You may ride the bus or follow. RSVP with Janet Early at [jearly14@gmail.com](mailto:jearly14@gmail.com) (18 & older).

## 19-23 MONDAY - FRIDAY

### FLC: Christmas Camp for Kids

9:00am - 12:00pm at the Family Life Center. Children will play reindeer games, make Christmas crafts and enjoy treats at this fun, Christmas camp for kids! Cost is \$50 per child for the week and includes crafting supplies, snacks, and fun! (18 mo-12 years) Please register at [fbcgainesville.org](http://fbcgainesville.org) or [fbc.gainesville@gmail.com](mailto:fbc.gainesville@gmail.com).

## 23 FRIDAY

### Church Office: CLOSED

## 24 SATURDAY

### FLC: CLOSED

### Christmas Eve: Carols and Candlelight

5:30pm in the Sanctuary. Come sing traditional carols and enjoy special music as we light 1,300 candles to celebrate our Savior's birth.

## 25 SUNDAY

### Christmas Day Worship

10:30am in the Sanctuary.

## 26 MONDAY

### Church Office and FLC: CLOSED

## 31 SATURDAY

### FLC: CLOSED

Church Finance Office Open to Receive Year-end Gifts 8:30am - 5:00pm.

## NEW MEMBERS



*Alicia and Wesley  
Freeman*



*Phil Dennis*



*Dave and Landy  
Johnson*



*Jessica Smith*

## Sympathy

Family and Friends in the death of  
**Marge Freeman**

Judy Wilson in the death of her brother  
**Harry Edward Martin**

Family and Friends in the death of  
**Tom Durrett**

Eddie Kinsey in the death of his wife  
**Gibby Kinsey**

Betty Pool in the death of her husband and  
Janet Roper in the death of her father  
**Leland Pool**

Michelle Dowdy in the death of her mother  
**Sarah Morlock**

Joan Bridges in the death of her  
great-grandson **Cody Roper**

Ken Smith in the death of his father  
**George Smith**

## SAVE THE DATE: *January*

- 01 Sunday Worship and Communion  
10:50am in the Sanctuary, no 8:30am
- 01-08 Family Promise Host Week
- 04 Wednesday Activities Resume
- 05 FLC: Quilts for Kids Workshop  
FLC: Body Stewards Kick-Off
- 08 1st @ 1st Luncheon
- 09 Estes-Dozier Missions Meeting
- 12 FLC: Ageless Grace Timeless Fitness
- 13-16 Students: Faith in 3D Conference
- 14 FLC: Contra Dance
- 20-21 Women: The SUMMIT  
with Rachel Held Evans
- 27 Adults with Seniority: Lunch Bunch