



DECEMBER 2006

COLUMBIA CATALYST

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 12

Christmas at Columbia

*Repeat the
Sounding
Joy!*

Columbia's Christmas Musical Presentation
Saturday, December 9
Sunday, December 10
7:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve at Columbia

In the Morning At Falls Church

8:30 a.m. - Contemplative Worship

9:45 a.m. - Contemporary Worship

11:15 a.m. - Traditional Worship

In the Morning At Crossroads

10:30 a.m. - Contemporary Worship

In the Evening: At Falls Church

5 and 7 p.m.: Carols and Candlelight Service

In the Evening Crossroads

6 p.m. - Contemporary Christmas Eve Service

A JOURNEY FOR ADVENT

Advent, the season of preparation, is here! How will you choose to prepare your heart for Christmas this year? How will your family make room for the Christ of Christmas to enter into your thoughts and traditions this year?

*"What more can God do with us if we prepare our hearts,
Take time to be still and feel God's gift of life,
To look around us to see where God is working,
See the lives He is touching, To feel His touch as He is molding us.
Let God bring about in you a new gift, New life, New hope, New dream,
It's time to claim that we are ordinary people made extraordinary by God's love...
And the gift of His son!"* Max Lucado

As you prepare for Christmas you are invited to experience the

Journey to the Manger: A Prayer Labyrinth Experience, at Columbia @ Crossroads

December 13, 6-9 p.m.

December 14 & 15, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., and 6-9 p.m.

December 16 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

This year the team has prepared a special family experience and would like to encourage and invite families to come walk together on Saturday.

Reservations are necessary to walk the Labyrinth.

For a reservation to walk and pray the labyrinth stop by the Information Desk at the Falls Church Campus; Information table at the Crossroads Campus; or contact Betsy Pankey, 703 534-5740, ext. 263; bpnkey@columbiabaptist.org

For more on Advent, see page 4

AVAILABLE IN THE COLUMBIA BOOKSTORE

This month, we're offering a quick list format to give you some ideas of how we can help you in the Columbia Bookstore to offer Christmas gifts that can make a difference. Please remember that we can have books sent directly to your recipients, already gift wrapped, for only \$2!

The NCV Grace for the Moment Daily Bible, Softcover

Spend a year reading the Bible with Max Lucado! With this Bible, Max Lucado will guide you through the Scripture day-by-day, with daily readings from the Old and New Testaments, Psalms, and Proverbs, plus a devotional insight.

Soul Cravings: An Exploration of the Human Spirit

By Erwin Raphael McManus

Erwin McManus believes all of us are on a similar life-journey. Ultimately in the furthest reaches of our inmost being, our souls truly yearn after God. In *Soul Cravings*, McManus carefully demonstrates our need for something greater than ourselves while gently directing spiritual seekers and new believers to the existence of God and our need for Him.

Best Of Bluegrass Gospel, 3 CD Set

Somebody that you know loves Bluegrass Gospel music! Ask around—you just might be surprised.

The Journey: How to Live by Faith in an Uncertain World

By Billy Graham

Billy Graham is respected and loved around the world. And this work is his magnum opus, the culmination of a lifetime of experience and ministry. Chapter by chapter, Graham leads us on a journey in faith. With insight that only comes from a life spent with God, *The Journey* is filled with wisdom, encouragement, hope, and inspiration for anyone who wants to live a happier, more fulfilling life.

A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23

By Phillip Keller

Your Columbia Bookstore manager absolutely loves this book, and recommends it highly. This is one that you just need to read.

God's Little Princess: ICB Devotional Bible

By Sheila Walsh

Your 4- to 7-year-old "princesses" long to be loved and adored, and give their heart to their hero. God is that hero! The characteristics focused on in this Bible storybook will help your little girl blossom into the princess she was created to be. Featuring a cover accented with sparkly "jewels," this age-appropriate storybook is irresistible inside and out! Virtues to create beauty such as compassion, sharing, and truth are highlighted in fun and engaging ways. The perfect format for girls to learn about their destiny as a daughter of their King.

NIV Boy's Bible

At last—a Bible designed just for 8 to 12-year-old boys! Focusing on Luke 2:52 ("And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men"), this is the ultimate Bible for pre-teen boys. 252 notes help young men grow "Deeper, Smarter, Stronger, and Cooler" in the Lord. "Make It Stick" sections provide journaling and doodling opportunities. "Get a Load of This" notes add background insight and sometimes humor. "Grossology" sections highlight "gross and gory" Scripture tidbits.

True Images: The Bible for Teen Girls

Designed for teen girls, ages 13 - 16, *True Images* is interesting, relevant, and fun. But don't let the fun format fool you - this is a serious Bible that is as sincere about your walk with God as you are. Everything in these pages is designed to help you build a closer relationship with him and to help you discover his will for all areas of your life, including dating, family, friendships, work, sports and so much more. Following Jesus isn't stuffy or theoretical - it's as practical and down-to-earth as you can get.

Revolution: The NIV Bible for Teen Guys

From the Back Cover:

In case you didn't know, you're in a war. Your enemy is dead serious. He wants you to think the battle raging around you is no big deal. It is a big deal. Your life, your relationships, your world—it's all a big deal, and it takes a big, God-filled heart to make a difference.

But this is a Bible! Yeah—a Bible like none other you've ever read, for today's teenage guy going toe-to-toe with a hard-hitting world. A world God knows all about. He's the authority when it comes to understanding girls, sex, communication, drugs, divorce, relationships, success, parents, popularity, peer pressure and everything else guys face. He also knows what makes you tick, he loves you more than you can ever imagine, and he wants you to experience a life of purpose, power and impact. The features in this Bible will strengthen you and hone your spiritual fighting edge.

BOOKSTORE HOURS



Sundays 8 a.m.—1 p.m.

Mondays 6 p.m.—9 p.m.

Wednesdays 4 p.m.— 7:30 p.m.

Other hours, by request

You may also place an order by emailing:

bookstore@columbiabaptist.org

Remember: Anything can be special ordered and, if requested, shipped directly to your home.

The Columbia Bookstore uses the same distributors as major book chains — if they can get it, we can get it!

EVERY MEMBER A MINISTER—SPOTLIGHT ON SHOP-N-SHARE AND THE CCM FOOD PANTRY TEAM

This month we spotlight a wonderful ministry to our local community. Our Food Pantry is housed on the first floor of Columbia's 301 N. Washington Street building, on the corner of Great Falls Street. This special place provides food every Saturday morning to those in our community who are in need. In 2006 alone, this ministry has handled over 800 visits from over 200 individuals representing over 30 countries, providing 3,176 bags of groceries plus gas vouchers, clothes vouchers and bus tokens. What an impact!



Shop-n-Share's famous Blue Bins can be found throughout the church building.

This hands-on ministry is a joint effort by many at Columbia and begins when Columbians donate food, placing it in the "blue bins" that are located throughout the church. Nonperishable food can be donated at any time, and is always needed. (A current food list is available at www.columbia-gospel.org/pantry).

We are also able to provide fresh bread thanks to Rick Zabel, who faithfully drops off multiple loaves each Saturday morning.

Once the food is donated, volunteers bring the food from the church to the food pantry; this generally occurs after church on Sundays. Current volunteers include individuals from Greg James' and Debbie Baucom's Sunday School classes, the youth, and the Schafer family.

Once Saturday morning arrives, others teams begin to do their part. Teams gather about 9:15 a.m. to get prepared for the opening rush, praying together to begin the day. The food pantry opens at 9:30 a.m. and generally clients are waiting for the doors to open. The clients are welcomed into the waiting area where they fill out a form, offered in English and Spanish, which includes their name, address and phone number, number in household and names and ages of children, country of origin, religion (optional), language spoken at home and asks if they are homeless. The volunteers greet the clients and go over the forms with them to see if there are any special needs (Do they have special diets or food allergies? Are there infants in their home? Do they have a can opener?)

Based on the size of the family and any special needs, bags of groceries are prepared for them. The bags are brought out to the clients and team members ask if they can pray with them. Often this is a very meaningful time for both the client and the volunteer. In fact, clients have been known to return asking specifically for prayer. This is also what makes Columbia's food pantry different from other secular organizations; we seek to show them the love of Christ as we meet their physical needs.

During slow periods, the teams pre-pack bags for future clients and stock shelves with food donations. In the future, the team hopes to help the clients in other ways such as helping them find jobs, homes and linking them with county and state resources.

There are also opportunities to serve during the week. For example, Tom Collins performs a significant role by entering all the clients into the CCM database and providing other administrative support and Tom and Beverly Dameron shop at the Capital Food Bank, which is necessary when shelves become bare.

What are some of the blessings from this? They are numerous! "My biggest blessing is when we really connect with someone, especially in prayer. It's marvelous how the Holy Spirit directs us to pray for just the right (though unspoken need) for a client." says Betsy Pankey, who helps direct the 3rd Saturday of each month.

Georgi Hall, who directs the 4th Saturday, says her biggest blessing is, "Seeing the smile on the faces of the clients and their children. Hearing people say "God bless you!" and "Wait till my children see all this food! Our shelves were almost empty". I also enjoy praying with our clients and getting to know them on as individuals and friends."

When asked about why others should serve, Betsy replies, "New volunteers are welcomed with open arms and hearts by our wonderful team, who will guide you and find just the right way for you to serve."

Dana Stewart reminds us that, "The CCM ministry has something for everyone. You can work on Saturday distributing the food and praying with our clients, you can donate items every Sunday, you can use your administrative skills to assist with paperwork, data upkeep and you can help us integrate other ministries into CCM so that our clients and neighbors know that Columbia is here to help their family spiritually and with their basic needs."



Glen Smith and Jamie Burley, two of our faithful First Saturday Lay Ministers

To learn more about CCM, please contact Georgianna Hall - 703-532-3070 grdrbch@verizon.net or Dana Stewart 703-671-7183 dadac2227@cox.net. If you would like to find other serving opportunities at Columbia, please contact Jeanine Aronowitz, Director of Lay Ministry.

Some of CCM's dedicated lay ministers include:

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Clare Tunbridge | 1st week Team Leader | |
| Joe Helvey | 2nd week Team Leader | |
| Betsy Pankey | 3rd week Team Leader | |
| Georgi Hall | 4th week Team Leader | |
| Jamie Burley | Peggy Carlson | Kristin Clifton |
| Tom Collins | Bill Fry | Joyce Herb |
| Jeff Huett | Janis Lenderman | Eleanor Powell |
| Barbara Sampar | Mary Sereno | Debbie Shelley |
| Glen Smith | Dick Snyder | Dana Stewart |
| Jill Strickland | Helen Truong | Dorothy Wise |
| Rick Zabel | | |

Families that serve together:

- Janine, Doug, Micah and Caleb Cook
- Tom and Beverly Dameron
- Jim, Linda, Ethan and Anna Claire Frye
- Scott, Kathy and Becky Schafer

THOUGHTS ON ADVENT

By **Sandi Rogers**

Our family has observed Advent since I was a child. My sense of anticipation and expectation intensifies even before the season officially begins. I just can't wait each year to un-wrap a new set of Advent candles and place them in our wreath on the dining table!

The Advent season is such a natural time to involve children in activities at home that will directly connect with the worship and bible study they will experience at church. An Advent wreath is both a wonderful reminder and amazing tool to teach children. It can be placed on the center of the family table and with reading and the lighting of the candles and your family can share a wonderful time of devotion and spiritual formation as you experience the movement of Advent together.

The word Advent means "coming" or "arrival". It is the season of preparation for the coming of the Christ Child at Christmas. It symbolizes the spiritual journey of individuals and the body of Christ, as we affirm that Christ has come, that He is present in our lives today and that He will come again.

Advent is the season of preparation for Christmas, not just the celebration of the day. In the Christian calendar, the Christmas season does not begin until December 25th and lasts until January 6. It is important to understand that Advent and Christmas have different

emphases. There is a progression to the movement of Advent that encourages us along the journey toward Christmas.

The first two Sundays of Advent emphasize expectation and longing, a time of preparation for celebration. Without this anticipation, the season becomes one long celebration without any context for that celebration and with little contact with the reality of life that gave birth to the season in the first place.

The third Sunday of Advent, which is usually the Sunday of Joy, we can begin celebrating, not because it is all finished, but because the promise is moving to reality, because we have heard from God and have His promise in concrete terms. It is in this movement from distant longing in the first week, to hope and immediate expectation in the second, to Joy and proclamation in the third week, which prepares us for praise and celebration on the fourth Sunday as we move into the Christmas Season. If done well, this movement will take us along in the journey of our lives, as we enact our own experiences in worship. It is this journey that gives us a context for the celebration of Christ's birth.

May you find ways to make this journey together this year through Advent experiences; a wreath, a calendar, or a walk on the Labyrinth - a "Journey to the Manger."

SMALL GROUPS— THE BEST GIFT TO GIVE ... YOURSELF

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Every day they continued to meet together...they broke bread in their homes and ate together...and the Lord added to their numbers daily those who were being saved." Acts 2:42; 46-47

Columbia has incredible potential for growth and transformation as we build a network of small groups. Have you ever had a dream about what Columbia might look like if we were all connected to the body of Christ through a small group, allowing each one of us an amazing opportunity to live our core values by sharing life together? We have. And, we believe that we can experience an unbelievable oneness of spirit as

lives are being transformed through our community of faith.

We never just drift into spiritual transformation. And pursuing a life of transformation cannot be done solely on our own. If we honestly want our lives to be transformed by our Abba, we need to intentionally invest in this process. We need to become a part of a small group where through His Spirit and Truth, we can grow together and be transformed into His image.

As you celebrate Jesus this Christmas season, remember that allowing others to see deeply into our lives is one the greatest gifts we can ever give. To share life with those around us, to invest in building authentic community, to explore our biblical foundation, to become more constant in

our prayer life -- can happen in a small group. Maybe the gift God wants to share with you is "doing life" with a small group who will provide an environment where God can transform your life. If you are not part of a small group at Columbia, it may be the best gift you give yourself this Christmas...the best gift you give the body of Christ.

Listen to what other are saying about what God is doing in and through their small group experience:

We waited until school started to visit the Couple's Ignition group. How warm the welcome was when we crossed the threshold of our hosts' home! We look forward to "doing life" with our new Ignition Group.

IGNITION! A NEW CHILDREN'S MINISTRY MODEL IS TAKING OFF

In response to a vision and challenge cast by Pastor Baucom on October 1 to gathered lay ministers, parents, and staff involved in Columbia's Preschool and Children's ministries, a spirit of excitement has caught hold and is taking off. In this interim period without a full-time pastor for children and families, Columbia's lay ministers have begun to create their own leadership model for lay-led ministry for the children.

Underpinned by prayer and undoubtedly guided by the Holy Spirit, a strategic concept for a **Children's Ministry Lay Council** quickly took shape for the Grade 1-5 team and spread to the Preschool team to form a unified approach to children's ministry. As currently envisioned, the council will consist of Grade School and Preschool leaders for each of several ministry areas. Each team leader will, in turn, gather together a team of Columbians impassioned and gifted to carry out the goals and focus of that ministry area. At the very center of the council are **Columbia's Core Values** to serve as the touchstone for all ministry efforts. How exciting to consider the possibilities for coordinating Grade School and Preschool ministries, intentionally imparting our core values to the children, and drawing more and more persons to use their various passions and gifts in this ministry! Having a team of leaders to facilitate this permits a flow of persons in and out of leadership roles and permits leaders and participants to focus on the area of God's choosing for them.

The currently identified ministry areas are Ignition Groups, Missions, Discipleship, Music, Family Integration and Resources, Special Events, Communications and the role of Facilitator. **Family Integration and Resources** is likely the newest focus to children's ministry and stems from the previously identified desire for additional parental resources and familial connections throughout the Columbia body. Who knows what amazing things God has in store!

The initial structure of the council will undoubtedly change over time. Those who are involved on the ground floor of this lay-led, team ministry approach are excited about what the Holy Spirit is doing in our lives—individually and collectively – and in the lives of the children entrusted to our care. Do you have a passion or gift to share? We invite you to jump on board and be involved as much as you feel led to be! Watch for announcements of upcoming meetings or contact Janine Cook (Grade School), Anne Harper (Preschool) or Sandi Rogers (Pastor, Faith Formation) for more information.

CENTRI-KID CAMP 2007

If you missed it last year... DON'T miss it this year!

2007 dates for camp: **July 16 - 20, 2007**

Skycroft Conference Center Middletown, MD

Cost: \$ 270 (**\$50.00 deposit due at sign-up**)

Centri-Kid offers a camp experience that will grab and capture children's hearts through high-energy worship, interactive, kid-friendly Bible study, and lots of fun! Centri-Kid is far from your typical summer camp! Designed especially for **kids who have completed 3rd, 4th, 5th, or 6th grade**, Centri-Kid got its start in the summer of 2000 with 300 people in attendance. Since then, Centri-Kid has grown to over 17,000 campers in 40 locations across the country!

This year's theme is **Super Speedway!** Life is fast. It's hard. It comes at you from many different directions, but with God at the wheel kids learn to carefully navigate those difficult turns. Don't delay, sign-up today!

Contact: LuAnn Carrig – Lay Leader for Children's Ministry summer camp 703-237-3957, Bobaluresort@aol.com.

Our goal this year is to take 20 students (and 5 adults!)

A STORY FROM CROSSROADS ...

By Eric Noble

My wife Erin and I have been at Columbia for over two and half years. One of the things that we enjoy most about Columbia is the warm welcome and the ability to build relationships in a number of ministries such as the Gospel Choir and the various Bible studies offered at Columbia. That is why we jumped at the chance to help build a similar atmosphere at Columbia's Crossroads Campus. We are actively involved in the praise and worship team and have joined with others at Crossroads to begin a Sunday morning 9:15 Bible study and Middle School Bible study. It is great to be able to use the talents God has given us at a place that believes everyone is a minister.

We look forward to the joy and enthusiasm of Pastor Greg and the rest of the congregation at Crossroads each Sunday and start each week with a better sense of



Columbia @ Crossroads is located at 3245 Glen Carlyn Road, in Bailey's Crossroads.

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THE PARKING LOT

In Columbia's main parking lot, many new guest parking spots have been added. These teal and white signs which read, "Reserved for Columbia Guests - Welcome!" are an important part of our Warm Welcome to Columbia.

When was the last time you arrived brand new to a church? Looking for a parking spot can be very intimidating and frustrating when someone is already on-edge about coming to a new church. Having an open and clearly marked spot is a huge relief and adds to their positive first impression of our church.

Help us honor our guests by providing them plenty of clearly marked parking close to the church building.

You may park in these spots during the week.

And for you, we have Park and Ride!

Remember, members and regular attenders are **strongly encouraged** to use our Park and Ride shuttle. This top notch service allows you to park in the Kaiser Permanente parking garage (on Park Street between N. Washington Street and N. Maple Avenue) and take a mini-bus to church.



Two shuttles run continuously from 8:15 am - 12:45 pm. Drop-off and after-church pick-up is on N. Maple Avenue at the covered entrance to the church.

Even if there is a spot in the lot when you arrive, consider leaving it for others. We need YOU on the BUS!

Many Thanks to...

Many thanks to our wonderful Parking Team who clearly marks the parking lot and the drop-off/pick-up locations with blue signs every Sunday morning. Way to go Randy Williams, team leader, Ewell Unthank, Rick O'Meara, Bob Weaver, Joey Dishun and Craig Lowrance! Thank you for helping us provide a warm welcome to our guests every Sunday by providing them a place to park. For more information about how you can help us in this critical ministry, including serving as a **parking lot greeter**, a role we would like to add to our team, please contact Randy Williams (rawillia2@verizon.net or 703-241-2828) or Jeanine Aronowitz.

PLAN NOW TO JOIN US IN THE NEW YEAR FOR THE COLUMBIA WAY

The Columbia Way Class is **very strongly** encouraged for all Columbians. This class, taught by Dr. Baucom and other church leaders, provides you an understanding of Basic Christianity, Baptist distinctives, Columbia's Core Values and Mission Statement, Columbia's structure and history, an overview of Columbia's ministries and an opportunity to connect to Columbia through ministry, Bible studies and fellowship.

Join us on Sunday evenings starting January 14th for this very important class. We will be meeting from 6:00pm - 7:30pm in room #229. We will not meet on SuperBowl Sunday. Childcare through age 5 will be provided if requested prior to the first class.

RSVP to Michelle Rhodes at 703-534-5740 x284 or mrhodes@columbiabaptist.org or Jeanine Aronowitz at 703-534-5740 x272 or jaronowitz@columbiabaptist.org.

Please plan to join us if you are new to Columbia or if you have attended for many years but have not yet been able to take the course. You will be VERY glad you did!

COLUMBIA ON THE BIG SCREEN

Do the previews before the previews at the movies usually annoy you? Well, now you've got a reason to get to the movie theater early and pay attention to those slides on the screen. Columbia is advertising throughout the holiday season at two area National Amusements theaters, Lee Highway Multiplex and Fairfax Corner 14—Cinema De Lux! Be sure to catch a flick at one of these locations and watch for our ad. Feel free to yell out, "I go there! And I love to ignite passion for Jesus Christ from metro Washington to the world!"

THE SANDWICH GENERATION: CARING FOR ELDERLY PARENTS

As a faith community, we are here to support each other through the various challenges of life. Caring for elderly parents is among the most challenging. Many of you today find yourselves in the role of parent to your parents as well as parents to your children. It can be a very challenging time in life as you juggle the tasks required by both. Some of you have elderly parents living in your home and others travel great distances to maintain contact and supervision of your aging parents' living situation. Probably most devastating of all is the time when your parents no longer recognize you and even see you as the "enemy."

There are many helpful resources available to support you in your journey with aging parents. Nancy Walker, Pastor for Congregational Care, maintains a lending library of books on the subject. Feel free to contact Nancy to arrange to look at the books and to borrow ones you feel would be most helpful to you. Contact Nancy at 703-534-5740, x266 or nwalker@columbiabaptist.org.

Titles include:

- Caring for Yourself While Caring for Your Aging Parents (How to Help, How to Survive)**
- Coping with Your Difficult Older Parent (A Guide for Stressed-Out Children)**
- Caring for Your Aging Parents (A Common Sense Guide for Transforming a Difficult Time into a Loving, Cooperative Relationship)**
- Are Your Parents Driving You Crazy? (Getting to Yes with Competent Aging Parents)**
- Caring for Your Parents (The Complete AARP Guide)**
- Elder Rage (How to Survive Caring for Aging Parents)**
- Caring for Your Aging Parents (When Love is Not Enough)**
- Changing Places (A Christian's Guide to Caring for Aging Parents)**
- Doing the Right Thing (Taking Care of Your Elderly Parents Even if They Didn't Take Care of You)**

YOU'VE GOT MAIL!

On Wednesday, November 22, Columbia sent a mass (bulk) mailing to 150,000 homes in Northern Virginia, promoting the presentation of *Repeat the Sounding Joy* and Columbia's Christmas Eve Service schedule.

We hope that by sending these postcards you will be even more encouraged to invite your friends, neighbors and co-workers to Columbia this Christmas season. Outreach studies show that a *personal invitation* is still the most effective method for bringing new persons into a community of faith but that mass advertisements (such as mailings, newspaper ads, and other promotions like having Columbia on the big screen — see opposite page) help reinforce or 'legitimize' that invitation.



While Eric Reiser and Jason Wade prepare to load vehicles with the mail trays, Kristin Clifton explains who will go to which post office. Kristin especially enjoyed this project because it required maps, spreadsheets, and color-coding.

Each of us has a reason for making Columbia our church home. Whether it's the authentic community or the Christ-exalting worship, warm welcome or intentional caring, we encourage you to invite others to experience what keeps bringing you back.

(Special thanks to those who helped get this mailing out the door: Bob Brody, Donna Groover, Alvaro Monroy, Chicho Morales, Eric Reiser, and Jason Wade.)



Eric Reiser and Chicho Morales helped move trays of mail on and off the scale. All the mail trays had to be checked in and weighed at Merrifield's central bulk mail entry unit before they could be delivered to individual post office branches.

Mailing By The Numbers:

150,000 postcards in 87 trays weighing a total of 2,970 pounds, delivered by 5 vehicles to 18 post offices.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN TO STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER

Tuesday Morning Bible Study, 7:30 – 8:30 a.m., Room 230 *The Real Mary* by Scot McKnight

Enjoy some coffee or tea and an amazing intergenerational group of women as they discover that *The Real Mary* was an unwed, pregnant teenage girl in first century Palestine. She was a woman of courage, humility, spirit, and resolve, and her response to the angel Gabriel shifted the tectonic plates of history.

Join popular Biblical scholar Scot McKnight as he explores the contours of Mary's life, from the moment she learned of God's plan for the Messiah, to the culmination of Christ's ministry on earth. McKnight dismantles the myths and also challenges our prejudices. He introduces us to a woman who is a model for faith, and who points us to her son.

**Pillars of Faith Fellowship Breakfast
December 9, 8:30 a.m. , Columbia@Falls Church, room 229**

The women of Columbia are invited to a potluck breakfast to hear one of our pillars of the faith, Anne Tomas, share how God is working in her life. Bring your favorite breakfast casserole, muffins, fruit or whatever you like to eat for breakfast. We will share our food and the rich fellowship we have in Christ. Sponsored by the Women's Ministry Team

**Believing God, a Beth Moore Study – Women's Ignition Group,
Wednesdays starting January 23rd, 6-7:30 p.m., room 229.** (Bring your dinner with you!)

Drawing from the "heroes of the Faith" in Hebrews 11, this study examines the lives of Abraham, Moses and others who believed God. Through their examples, Beth explores what it means to know and truly believe God as described in Isaiah 43:10, and encourages women to deepen their own trust in God and receive a fresh word from Him. This powerful resource will lead participants to a more active, living faith . . . one that begins with . . . believing God.

OUR LANGUAGE CONGREGATIONS

Arabic Congregation

Sunday 5:30 pm Worship, Chapel
Friday 7:30 pm Bible Study, Rm 108

Brazilian Congregation

Saturday
7:00 pm Encontro de Adoracao, Chapel

Hispanic AM Congregation

Sunday
9:30 a.m. Culto en Espano, Chapel
11:30 am Escuela Dominical Rm 309
6:30 pm Estudio Biblico, Rm 309
Wednesday 7:00 pm Culto de Oracion, Chapel

Hispanic PM Congregation

Sunday
2:30 pm Bible Study, Rm 127
3:30 pm Worship, Stephenson Hall
Wednesday 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting, Rm 308

Korean Congregation

Sunday
11:30 am Worship, Chapel
1:30 pm Bible Study, Rm 103
Wednesday 7:30 pm Rm 309

Russian Congregation

Sunday 1:30 pm Worship, Chapel
Wednesday 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study, Rm 109

Vietnamese Congregation

Sunday
2:00 pm Bible Study, Rm 109
3:30 pm Worship, Chapel
Thursday 7:30 pm Prayer Meeting, Chapel

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
D E C E M B E R			2 0 0 6			1 National Youth Workers Convention, Charlotte Travelers to Leesburg Outlet, 10am Chick Flick Night, 6 pm Student Ministry Staff Party, 7 pm Single Adult Christmas Party, 8 p.m.	2 National Youth Workers Convention, Charlotte
3 National Youth Workers Convention, Charlotte Faith Formation Christmas "Do", 3 pm	4 National Youth Workers Convention, Charlotte Ministry Coordinating Council (MCC), 6:30 pm, Rm 222	5 College/Young Adult Bible Study, 6:30 p.m., 3rd Floor Bldg 301	6 Regular Wednesday Evening Activities Preschool Ministry Team Sub Group Mtg, 6:45 pm, Rm 201	7 Deacons Meeting, 7 pm, Rm 229 Preschool Sunday School Task Force Mtg, 6:30 p.m., Rm 230	8 Repeat the Sounding Joy, Open Dress Rehearsal, 7:30 pm, Sanctuary	9 Pillar of Faith Breakfast, 8:30 am, Rm 229 Repeat the Sounding Joy, 7:30 pm, Sanctuary	
10 HS Seniors Lunch, 12:30 p.m. Women's Ministry Team Mtg, 12:30 p.m. Rm 201 Repeat the Sounding Joy, 7:30 pm, Sanctuary Reception to follow	11	12 Hope of No. VA Christmas Party, 6 pm, Stephenson Hall College/Young Adult Bible Study, 6:30 p.m., 3rd Floor Bldg 301	13 Journey to the Manger: Prayer Labyrinth—Crossroads Campus Regular Wednesday Evening Activities	14 Journey to the Manger: Prayer Labyrinth—Crossroads Campus	15 Journey to the Manger: Prayer Labyrinth—Crossroads Campus Cox Sunday School Dept Christmas Social, 6 pm, Stephenson Hall	16 Journey to the Manger: Prayer Labyrinth—Crossroads Campus	
17 Finance Committee, 12:30pm, Rm 229 Middle School—WIRED— Ice Skating & Christmas Party, 3 p.m. HS—Beyond the Edge— Christmas Party, 6 p.m.	18 Discipleship Ministry Team, 7 pm, Rm 201	19 College/Young Adult Bible Study, 6:30 p.m., 3rd Floor Bldg 301	20 Regular Wednesday Evening Activities	21 Remembrance Lunch, 12 p.m. Rm 229	22	23	
24 Regular Sunday A.M. Worship Schedule Carols & Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, 5 & 7 pm, Falls Church Campus Contemporary Christmas Eve Service 6 pm Crossroads Campus	25 Christmas Day—Bldg/ Offices closed	26	27 No Wednesday Dinner or Evening Activities	28	29	30	
31							

**WEDNESDAY
DINNER
MENU**

December 6
 Herb Marinated Roast Beef
 Cheesy, Bacony Red Bliss Potatoes
 Green Beans with Bacon and Onions
 Garden Salad
 Dinner Rolls
 Strawberry Jell-O with Whip Cream
 Kids Menu: Beef with Gravy, Cheesy Potatoes, Green Beans, Strawberry Jell-O

December 13
 Teryaki Chicken
 Stir Fried Rice
 Glazed Carrots with Candied Walnuts
 Asian Style Cabbage Salad
 Orange Cake
 Kids Menu: Ravioli, Steamed Carrots and Chocolate Pudding

December 20
 Home Style Meatloaf
 Mashed Potatoes
 Succotash
 Tossed Salad
 Parker House Rolls
 Apple Pie with Ice Cream
 Kids Menu: Spaghetti with Meatballs, Succotash, Apple Pie with Ice Cream

Every Week at Columbia

Sundays

8:30am Contemplative Service
 9 am—11:30 am Columbia Café, Rm 229
 9 am—9:40 am Children's Choir
 9:45am Celebration Service & Ignition Groups
 10:30 Columbia @ Crossroads Worship Service
 11:15 am Classic Service & Ignition Groups
 4:00 Gospel Choir Rehearsal, Rm 124
 6pm Unplugged (Gr 6-8) Rm 142
 Beyond the Edge (Gr 9-12) 301 N. Washington
 Divorce Care for Adults, Rm 127
 DC4Kids, Rm 338

Mondays

9 am Little Lambs, Rm 235
 10:30am Mother's Heart Bible Study, Rm 229

7pm Columbia @ Greenspring Worship Service

Tuesdays

7:30am Women's Bible Study Rm230
 9 am Little Lambs, Rm 235
 10am Joy Singers Rehearsal, Rm 229

Wednesdays

5:15-6:50pm Wednesday Family Dinner, Stephenson Hall
 5:45—7:30 Children's Programs
 6pm Women's Bible Study, Rm 229
 6:30pm MidWeek Manna, Sanctuary
 Soul Café, Stephenson Hall
 Orchestra Rehearsal, Rm108
 Men's Bible Study Rm 323
 Iron Men Bible Study, Rm 127

7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir, Rm124

7:45 pm Wednesday Connections—Single Adult Bible Study, Rm 229

8pm Celebration Worship Rehearsal, Stephenson Hall

Thursdays

7am Men's Bible Study, Rm 230
 7pm First Place Bible Study, Rm 127

Fridays

9am Laity Prayer Group, Rm 203
 9 am Little Lambs, Rm 235

Saturdays

9:30am-noon Columbia Center for Missions Open
 6:29 Worship, Stephenson Hall

COLUMBIA BAPTIST CHURCH

103 West Columbia Street
Falls Church, VA 22046-3481
Phone: 703-534-5700
Fax: 703-536-6757
www.columbiabaptist.org
Dr. Jim Baucom, Senior Pastor



IGNITING PASSION FOR JESUS CHRIST
FROM METRO WASHINGTON TO THE WORLD

“KINDLING” SPIRITS

Ministerial Contacts...

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<i>Columbia Institute of Fine Arts Director</i>	
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<i>Evangelism Fellow</i>	
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<i>Pastor for Faith Formation</i>	
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<i>Director of Missions & Evangelism</i>	
Nancy Walker	ext. 266
<i>Pastor for Congregational Care</i>	
Ryan Walker	ext. 254
<i>Worship Leader, Celebration Service</i>	
Jim Watson	ext. 255
<i>Pastor for Worship, Music and Arts</i>	

A Catalytic Word from Dr. Jim Baucom, Senior Pastor

To be “home for the holidays” (that’s “holy days”) is a cultural ideal to which we cling. We envision ourselves around the Christmas tree with people who we love, opening gifts and sharing memories. Schmaltzy images like this adorn the silver screen each year and replay on our television sets as Christmas approaches. If our actual lives do not live up to the idealic Norman Rockwell prints of popular advertisement, the result is often depression and despair. We imagine that everyone else “has it,” and we don’t.

Many who live in Metro DC do not feel at “home for the holidays.” Some never knew the advantage of “Christmas Story” homes. Others have seen their homes wrecked by divorce or discord. The scores of single adults in our area are looking for significant community. Others have lost loved ones in the past year or two and feel quite alone. The vast majority of persons who live in Metro DC are far away from the places they call home, and they miss their extended families even as they love their lives of significance in the nation’s capitol. For all of these reasons, it is important that it be true that “When you are at Columbia, you are home for the holidays.”

Columbia is your church family, a connection the Bible describes as thicker than blood. Those who come to Columbia find “Authentic Community” (one of our ten core values) during the holidays and throughout the year. We go out of our way to ensure that each person who attends Columbia discovers the real meaning of Christmas: God’s precious gift of His only Son, Jesus Christ.

We have planned some great family reunions for you this Christmas, and we hope that you will bring others to be part of our family during the holidays. Plan now to invite people who need real family to “Repeat the Sounding Joy” on December 9 and 10, to our Christmas Eve services on December 24, and to each weekend worship celebration that marks the Advent of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. People need family; people need Columbia! Welcome home for the holidays.

On Fire for Jesus Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. Jim