



THE
First Baptist Church
OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON D.C.

TWICE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | OCTOBER 27, 2016

firstbaptistdc.org/give



3 PLEDGE CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY!

“Offering Of Financial Commitments”
This Sunday

Three Week Sermon Series **THESE 3**

To Live by **Faith**

30 October

To be Known by **Love**

7 November

To be a Voice of **Hope**

13 November

2 NEW SERIES

Oct. 30, Nov. 6,
Nov. 13

6

THANKSGIVING:
FELLOWSHIP &
WORSHIP

Lunch Nov. 20
Service Nov. 23

3

Daylight
Saving Time Ends
November 6

Set Your Clocks
Back 1 Hour Sat.

4 ADVENT: A HOLY DISRUPTION

by Pastor Julie

3

TRIP TO CUBA
FEBRUARY 3-9, 2017

Return to William Carey Baptist

Three-Week Sermon Series

THESE 3

*To Live by **Faith***

30 October

1 Thessalonians 1:1-8a

*Offering of our financial
commitments for 2017*

*To be Known by **Love***

6 November

Luke 15:1-10

All Saints Sunday

*To be a Voice of **Hope***

13 November

Acts 2:14a, 22-28

*“We remember before our God and Father your work
produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your
endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”
1 Thessalonians 1:3*



First Baptist Church
OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON

February 3-9, 2017 Trip to Cuba



Our much-anticipated return visit to the William Carey Baptist Church in Havana, Cuba, is quickly taking shape. Interested travelers should be in touch with me as soon as possible in order to begin the process of applying for travel visas from the Republic of Cuba in a timely fashion. To indicate your interest, please notify me by email (stanhastey@comcast.net) no later than Friday, November 4. In addition, each traveler must have a valid U.S. passport to make the trip. We will be limited to 8-10 travelers.



In addition, travelers are invited to meet with Pastor Julie and members of the Missions Committee on Tuesday, November 8, at 2:15pm in the Pastor's office for the first of several conversations among ourselves as we prepare for a trip we hope will result in a renewal of our relationship with one of Cuban Baptists' flagship congregations.

- Stan Hastey

Pledge Campaign Underway "Offering of Financial Commitments" This Sunday

Every person who calls First Baptist his or her church home is encouraged to complete a commitment card for 2017 ([complete online here](#)). This Sunday, October, 30, we'll celebrate an "offering of financial commitments" in worship as we bring our commitment cards to the chancel. (If you pledge online or turn in a commitment card early, you'll still receive a pledge card in your order of worship this Sunday that you may use as a symbol of your pledge.) Last year, 37 individuals and families turned in pledge cards. Our goal this year is 50 pledges. FBC's official "pledge season" extends through November. Read last week's letter to the congregation from our leadership [here](#).



Set Your Clocks Back

Daylight Saving Time Ends November 6. Remember to set your clocks back an hour on Saturday night, November 5. Enjoy that extra hour of sleep!

Fourth Annual Halloween Concert: Friday, October 28

This year's Halloween Concert is Friday, October 28, at 7 p.m. The concert will last about an hour. Performers will wear costumes, and the audience is invited to be in costume as well. Ted Gustin, Irvin Peterson, Carol Feather-Martin, Charles Pugh and others will thrill and scare us with spooky music. Bring a friend!



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY: NOVEMBER 6

"Precious in the sign of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones." (Psalm 116:15) During worship we will remember and read the names of FBC members who died this past year: Carol Ward Thomas, Dottie Bartlett, Marian Jones, Harry Farthing, Libby Cain and Jim Roger.

ADVENT: A Holy Disruption



PASTOR JULIE
PENNINGTON-RUSSELL

Pastor Julie Pennington-Russell

Earlier this year, on a Sunday afternoon in May, about 70 people gathered at Ichon Hangang Park in Seoul, South Korea, to do absolutely nothing. There was not a smartphone in sight; no texting or tweeting or checking Facebook. Motionless women and men dotted the grass, some with eyes closed, others staring at the sky. The event was the third annual [Space Out Competition](#), created in 2014 by South Korean visual artist Woops Yang. The artist's intent: to encourage social media-addicted, stressed out South Koreans to slow down.



I have a hunch that Ms. Yang would adore Advent. While certainly not a competition, the season of Advent (which is just four weeks away) means to disrupt our business-as-usual. Advent is about simplicity and more “white space” on the crowded page. Advent invites us to talk less and listen more, to pare down and pay attention. Essentially, Advent invites the harried, hurried, stressed-out people of God to pause and remember who we are and what we were made for.

What this looks like at First Baptist is the intentional letting go of unnecessary business in order to lean into the soul-reviving business of worshiping God and loving one another. During Advent we say “no, thanks” to committee meetings and business meetings in order to make room for extra helpings of worship and community.

At the leadership workshop on October 15, Geoff Abbott and Mark Nishan led us in something they called the “sticky-note exercise.”



From a list of about 50 different values, each of the 30 participants was asked to choose his or her top three and to write the values on sticky notes. This was no easy task. But when Mark and Geoff displayed everyone's sticky-note answers, my heart did a somersault. The Number One Value chosen by our core leaders was...drumroll, please...*Intimacy with God*. Of all the priorities they could have chosen, the prevailing response was: “At First Baptist, we want more of God.” Hooray.

Carlyle Marney said, “The cure for exhaustion isn't rest...the cure for exhaustion is worship.” I invite you to embrace again the “holy disruption” of Advent as we lean into God and each other.

Grace & Peace,

ADVENT



WORSHIP

OPPORTUNITIES TO EMBRACE GOD

Sundays at 11am

November 27, December 4, 11, 18 and 25

Additional Worship Opportunities:

Sunday, December 11: 59th annual Candlelight Carols at 4pm

Saturday, December 24: Christmas Eve Service at 4pm

(come as you are; bring your family)

Wednesday Nights (7pm in the sanctuary)

November 30 (led by Deborah Cochran)

December 7 (led by Alyssa Aldape)

December 14 ("Blue Christmas: a service of comfort and hope" led by Julie P-R)



COMMUNITY

OPPORTUNITIES TO EMBRACE EACH OTHER

First Sunday Potluck and "Family Life Christmas" (December 4)

Wednesday evening meals during Advent (6pm in Fellowship Hall)

Come-and-Go Open House at the Pennington-Russells'

(Sunday, December 18, 2:30-4:30pm; brief home dedication @ 3:15pm)

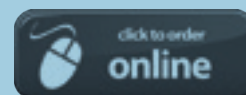
Dinner and Carol-Sing with Lon Schreiber

(Wednesday, December 21 starting at 6 pm in Fellowship Hall, after sandwich making for Martha's Table)



POINSETTIAS & GREENERY FOR ADVENT

The order form and information for ordering poinsettias and greenery to beautify our sanctuary during the Advent season can be found on our [website](#). Please submit your order and payment by Wednesday, November 23. The poinsettias will be displayed starting the second Sunday of Advent (December 11) and available to be taken home after the Christmas Day service.



SUNDAY 9:30 AM BIBLE STUDIES



New Book/ Bible Study on Ruth

The "First Thing" class invites you to join us on Sunday mornings

at 9:30am in room B-14 for a new book study: *Second Chances: Transforming Bitterness to Hope and the Study of Ruth*, by Rabbi Levi Meier. We begin each class with 20 minutes of contemplative prayer followed by a discussion based on our readings from Meier's book for the week. All are welcome. Questions? Contact Julie Pascu at 301-530-5258.

Young Adults Studying Revelation



The FBC Young Adult Bible Fellowship invites you to join us as we delve into the Book of Revelation together. We meet at 9:30 in the "Dawson Room" (just through the doors at the O Street entrance, off the hallway to your right). Paul Clark is the teacher. We'll be looking for you!



THANKSGIVING: FELLOWSHIP & WORSHIP

Annual Thanksgiving Lunch: November 20

Brief Quarterly Congregational Meeting after the meal.

Chef Laval is preparing a Thanksgiving feast on Sunday, November 20. Cost is \$10/adults; \$7/children under 12. Deadline for reservations is Thursday, November 17. You may make your reservation and pay for your tickets in advance on our [website](#) (preferred), or email Church Administrator D'O Dillard and pay at the door. Contact D'O at ddillard@firstbaptistdc.org. Please consider chipping in the cost of an extra meal, so that we can extend an invitation to all who worship with us that morning. We'll hold a brief quarterly congregational meeting at the end of the meal.

[Purchase
Tickets Online](#)

Thanksgiving Eve Service November 23, 6:30pm

Dessert Social in the Parlor following worship

Join us the evening before Thanksgiving for a simple service of gratitude and praise. We'll offer prayers and sing songs of thanksgiving. Pastor Julie will bring a brief Thanksgiving message. (6:30pm in the sanctuary)

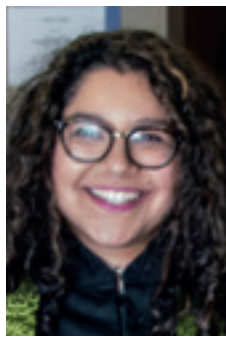
WALK TO END HIV: NOVEMBER 12

Join us in the 30th Anniversary of the Walk to End HIV on November 12. The Walk supports the services of Whitman-Walker Health, which saved thousands of lives in the early days of AIDS. Now Whitman-Walker provides diagnosis and treatment which when detected early allows for a normal lifespan for those with HIV. Please register at aidswalkwashington.org under our group First Baptist Church of Washington, D.C. Fees are \$25.00 for a walker and \$15.00 for a student/senior walker. Donations also may be made on the website. Questions? Contact Missions Committee member Julie Geren at juliegeren@gmail.com or call 703-734-9838. No admission cost.



Charlie Fuller to be Ordained November 13

Pray for our new Executive Pastor, Charles L. Fuller, as he prepares to be ordained on November 13th by the Second Baptist Church of Little Rock, Arkansas. Pastor Julie will speak at the 7:00 p.m. service along with others, including former FBC staff member Lee Fox. Charlie joined the pastoral staff of Second Baptist in 2010. He begins serving as FBCDC's Executive Pastor on January 1, 2017.



Alyssa Aldape Joining Us Soon

Pray for our new Associate Pastor for Young Adult and Youth

Ministries, Alyssa Aldape, as she concludes her ministry with First Baptist Church of Dalton, Georgia, this weekend (Oct. 29). Alyssa will begin the drive to Washington on November 5; her first Sunday in worship is November 13. Let's prepare to give Alyssa a warm FBC welcome.

Advent Devotional Booklet

This year's devotional booklet, *From Heaven Above* by Michael Hoy, will be available starting Sunday, November 20 at the Thanksgiving Lunch.



Baptist Joint Committee Symposium November 10: "Religious Liberty and the Black Church"



Howard University Divinity School, 11:30am - 2:15pm
On Thursday, November 10, the Rev. Dr. Raphael G. Warnock will headline a lecture and panel discussion, focusing on religious liberty and the black church. Both events will take place on the campus of the Howard University School of Divinity and School of Law, 2900 Van Ness Street N.W., Washington, D.C. For more than

a decade, Warnock has served as the pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, which was the spiritual home of Martin Luther King, Jr. Also leading at this event as moderator of the panel discussion is Rev. Dr. Jeff Haggray, former Senior Pastor of FBCDC. Read more about the event and RSVP for lunch (by Oct. 31) at <http://bjconline.org/howardsymposium/>



Family Life Christmas - Live Nativity During 12/4 Potluck Lunch

The FBC Children and Youth will present the annual live Nativity of Christ on the first Sunday of December after all have been served luncheon..

The children will eat first and then come backstage to dress

in their Bible times clothes to be angels, shepherds, wise men or part of the holy family. Any children visiting are also welcome to dress and join us on stage, though they will not have to speak. When the children take their places on stage and all is ready we will ask for the attention of those finishing their luncheon to hear the story of the birth of Christ proclaimed by our children. This is a special time for our children to share the 'good news of great joy for all people'. Our words are taken from "The Bright Star of Bethlehem" by David Mead. To close, the Christmas story will be read from Luke 2:1-20. ~ Deborah Cochran



EVENTS

Friday, October 28

7pm: Halloween Concert (Sanctuary)

Sunday, October 30

9:30am: Church School for All Ages

10am: Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Rm 312)

11am: Worship (Sanctuary)

2pm: Worship in Spanish (Dawson Room)

Sunday, November 6

9:30am: Church School for All Ages

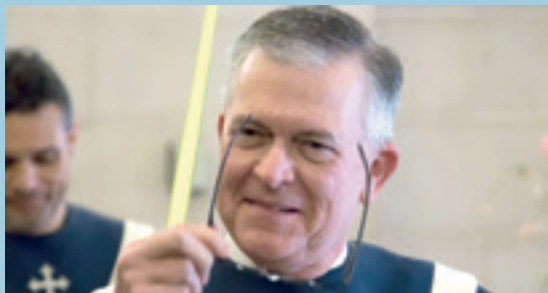
10am: Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Rm 312)

11am: Worship - Communion (Sanctuary)

12pm: Potluck Luchon (Fellowship Hall)

2pm: Worship in Spanish (Dawson Room)

DEACONS ON-CALL WEEK OF OCTOBER 30:



Mike Henson

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 6:



Rod Coates

The on-call deacon is your lay contact for prayer concerns during their week of service.

FBC PRAYER & CARE

We offer our sympathy to:

- Lola Roger in the death of husband James (Jim) Roger on October 14.

Key and Memorial Bridges Closed 5am-1pm Sunday Oct. 30

Marine Corps Marathon is this Sunday, October 30. The marathon starts in Arlington and works its way into the District. **Key Bridge and Memorial Bridge will be CLOSED** from 5am to 1pm.

Visit marinemarathon.com/media

for a map of other street closings. FBC members who normally take either bridge into DC should plan an alternate route.



Operation Christmas Child: Boxes Due Nov. 6

It's not too late! OCC shoeboxes may be filled and returned until next Sunday, November 6. Last year we sent 50 boxes to needy children around the world. We will dedicate the boxes on Sunday, November 13.

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