



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

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PASTOR JULIE'S NEW
COLUMN  Baptist
News
Global

TWICE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | DECEMBER 8, 2016



3

CANDLELIGHT CAROLS

Sunday, December 11, 4pm





BLUE CHRISTMAS

A SERVICE OF HOPE AND COMFORT

*Are you struggling this Christmas because of loneliness, stress or grief?
This hour of hope and comfort may be the best gift you receive this year.*

You are warmly invited

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2016 • 7PM

The service will be held in the Sanctuary. Casual dress. Childcare provided.



1328 16th Street NW Washington, D.C. 20036



THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

59th Annual Christmas Candlelight Carols

Sunday, December 11, 2016

Instrumental Prelude—4:00 p.m.

(Brass, Organ, Timpani)

The Runnymede Singers

Erica Haman, Director

Steven Schwarz, Accompanist

The First Baptist Church Chancel Choir

Lawrence P. Schreiber, Organist-Choirmaster

Neil Holliker, Assisting Conductor

The Holy Family Tableau

Julie Pennington-Russell, Pastor

Deborah Cochran, Associate Pastor for Children and Families

Free and open to the public.

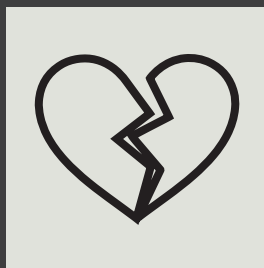
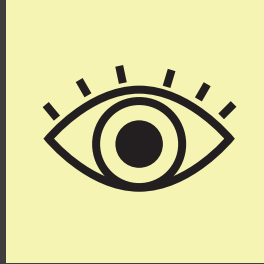
Church: 202.387.2206

www.firstbaptistdc.org

Valet parking provided.

1328 Sixteenth Street (at "O"), NW

Washington, D. C. 20036



GIFTS FOR EVERYBODY

November 27 ***A Gift in the Flames***
Malachi 3:1-5

December 4 ***A Gift from a Wild-Eyed Street Preacher***
Matthew 3:1-12

December 11 ***A Gift for the Ignored***
Luke 1:46-55

December 18 ***A Gift for the Wrecked***
Matthew 1:18-25

Christmas Eve ***A Gift in Flesh and Blood***
4:00 pm *Luke 2:1-20*

Christmas Day ***A Gift that Looks Like God***
11:00 am *Titus 3:3-7*



ADVENT

THE PAUSE THAT HEALS US

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS IN DECEMBER

Worship @ 7:00 on Nov. 30, Dec. 7 & 14

November 30: Pausing for Love

December 7: Pausing for Peace

December 14: Pausing for Hope

(“Blue Christmas” service for those who grieve, see page 2)

December 21: Carol Sing with Lon

(After supper in Fellowship Hall)

Church Family Supper:

6 pm, every Wednesday night during Advent

(November 30, December 7, 14, 21)

Prepared by Chef Laval. Cost of the meal is \$8.00



WORSHIP ON CHRISTMAS EVE

Saturday, December 24, 4pm

Join us for this family-friendly hour of worship featuring special elements for children, a reading of the Christmas story, the music of organ and choir, and a Christmas Eve meditation by Pastor Julie. We'll conclude the service with the lighting of congregational candles, celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

WORSHIP ON CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday, December 25, 11am

This year we celebrate on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Join us for this hour of joyful worship as we echo the angels' song: Glory to God in the highest! And on earth peace, goodwill to all. (No Church School today. Choir rehearsal at 10:30am.)

Following
the
Star



d365.org

[Following the Star](#) is sponsored by three denominational partners: the Congregational Life office of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, the Youth and Young Adult Ministries of the Presbyterian Church (USA), and the Youth Ministries Office of the Episcopal Church. This daily online devotional with music, scripture, and reflection invites us to pause, listen, think, pray, and act, and can be subscribed to or visited on a daily basis.

Advent Devotional Book



This year's Advent devotional booklet, "From Heaven Above," by Michael Hoy, is based on Martin Luther's hymn of the same name. The author looks at a gift that comes each week of the season: love, hope, peace and life. The devotionals are available in Fellowship Hall, the Narthex, and the 2nd Floor literature table.

January 8, 2017 Celebration of Deborah's Ministry

The FBC family will gather after worship on Sunday, January 8, to honor and bless our Associate Pastor for Children and Families, Rev. Deborah Cochran. Deborah is retiring at the end of December. She joined the pastoral staff on February 17, 1998. Plans are underway. Stay tuned for more information. (Because of the New Year's holiday, our "first Sunday" potluck will take place on January 8, as part of our celebration of Deborah.)

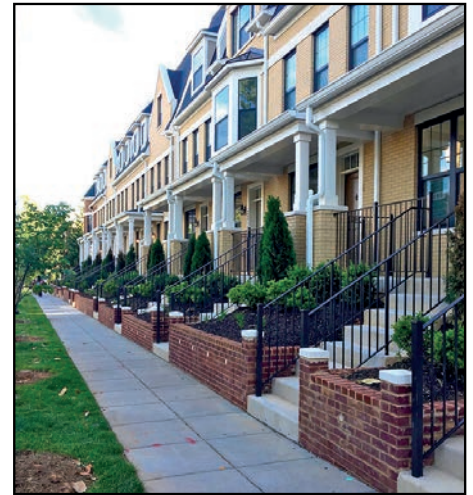
Wednesday Suppers During Advent

Our tradition of Wednesday evening supper during Advent continues on December 14 and 21. Please make a reservation for the nights you wish to attend (cost, \$8 per meal) by e-mailing D'O Dillard at ddillard@firstbaptistdc.org. Dinner is served at 6pm, followed by Advent worship at 7pm in the Sanctuary.

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE AT THE P-RS'

December 18, 2:30 - 4:30pm

From Pastor Julie: Tim and I invite our church family to our home for fellowship and refreshments on Sunday, December 18. Come and stay, or come and go, according to your schedule. At 3:15 we'll pause for a "house blessing" as we dedicate our home to God. All are welcome! (Fyi: access into our house, as well as to restrooms, involves climbing some stairs.) 3322 7th St. NE, Washington. We live two blocks from the Brookland Metro station (red line); street parking available on 7th, and on Lawrence and Kenneth Streets.



GENEROSITY CAMPAIGN: MAJOR THANKS!

We give God the glory for the wonderful response to this year's Generosity Campaign (to date, 18 pledges more than last year; over \$313,000). We also acknowledge and give thanks for the dedication and hard work of a number of FBC members

and friends. Pastor Julie's six generosity sermons provided the campaign's spiritual framework.

Stewardship

Committee members

Rochelle Howard, Rob

Marus and Kathy Whatley-with

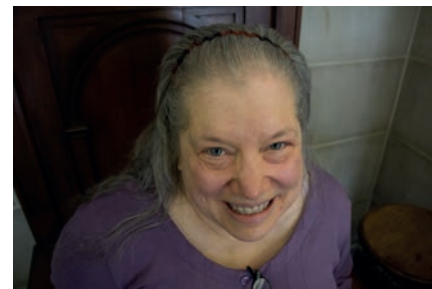
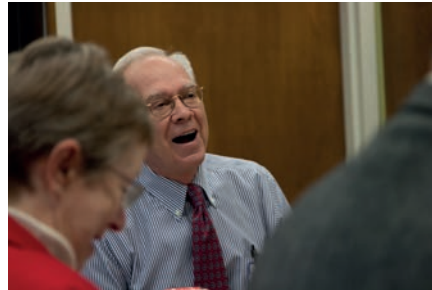
guidance and support from Moderator Lucy Plovnick and Treasurer Mike Henson-worked with staff members Tim Pennington-Russell, D'O Dillard and Jean Weber to provide excellent promotional material. We heard God speaking through each of those who provided our weekly generosity stories during worship. Heartfelt thanks to these and to all who, in some way, shared in this effort.

Clearly the Spirit of Christ is moving within the First Baptist Church, prompting us to say with Isaiah: "*This is the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our sight.*"

~ Dennis Lambert
Stewardship Committee Chair



FACES OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH



DIACONATE TEAM BEGINS CONVERSATIONS ABOUT FBC'S PRACTICE OF INCLUSION

For decades, the FBCDC congregation has included active members -- including many people serving in leadership roles -- who identify as members of the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) communities. However, the church for most of its existence did not have any formal policy about just how fully LGBT people could be involved in the life of the church.

In 2004, in the context of discussions around human sexuality, the church overwhelmingly voted in favor of a membership policy. It explicitly affirmed that all are welcome in Christ's body and that the only criterion for membership at FBCDC is faith in Christ.

In the last two years, our congregation has again begun an intentional conversation about further clarifying the role of LGBT people at FBCDC, including celebrating their marriages and families. The Diaconate has appointed an Inclusion Team to more closely study the issue and make recommendations to the congregation.

This team held its first meeting in mid-October. At that meeting, the team agreed to a process that will include:

- Examining Scripture and history and praying together for God's guidance;
- Studying how peer congregations have handled this issue in recent years;
- Holding small discussion and discernment groups with the congregation in the early part of 2017;
- And making a recommendation for an Inclusion Policy for the full congregation to discuss and consider.

The goal is to get the FBC family to talk to, and learn from, each other and reach a conclusion that ensures all of us are heard, valued, and loved. You'll be hearing more about the specifics of the process soon.

Team members are (l to r): Zena Aldridge, Kate Campbell, Rob Marus, Steve Netcott, Rod Coates, Paul Clark and, not pictured, Pastor Julie. Please reach out to any team member if you have ideas or recommendations to help us as we consider how best to become God's Beloved Community!



Inclusion Team announces two listening sessions planned for January, 2017, facilitated by team members:

- Sunday, 1/ 22 (after worship)
- Saturday, 1/28 (10am)



The FBC Children and Youth presented the annual live Nativity of Christ on the first Sunday of December.

EVENTS

Sunday, December 11

9:30am: Church School for All Ages

10am: Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Rm 312)

11am: Worship (Sanctuary)

2pm: Worship in Spanish (Dawson Room)

4pm: 59th Christmas Candlelight Carols (Sanctuary)

Wednesday, December 14

1:30pm: Church Staff Meeting

6pm: Dinner (Fellowship Hall)

7pm: Blue Christmas: A Service of Comfort and Hope (Sanctuary)

DEACONS ON-CALL WEEK OF DECEMBER 11:



Paul Clark

WEEK OF DECEMBER 18:



Mel Doxie

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

FBC PRAYER & CARE



Abigail and Grace Adigun were baptized on November 20. From the water each made their profession of faith:

Abigail: "Today I publicly share my devotion to Christ with my fellow congregation. I am ready to fulfill my commitments as a Christian. When I am baptized, I am strengthening my spiritual relationship not only with Christ but with my church as well. Today I share my proclamation that Jesus is my savior."

Grace: "Jesus is my savior and it is time for me to truly become his daughter."

Sympathy:

...to **Kevin Pinckney** and family in the death of his mother, Marnie Pinckney, on November 29 in Takoma Park. (Kevin's father, Theodore Pinckney, died on September 28.)

...to **Harry Haynesworth** in the death of his niece Margaret in South Carolina.

Church Staff

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