



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

TWICE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | JANUARY 13, 2017

3 **DEFINING MOMENTS**

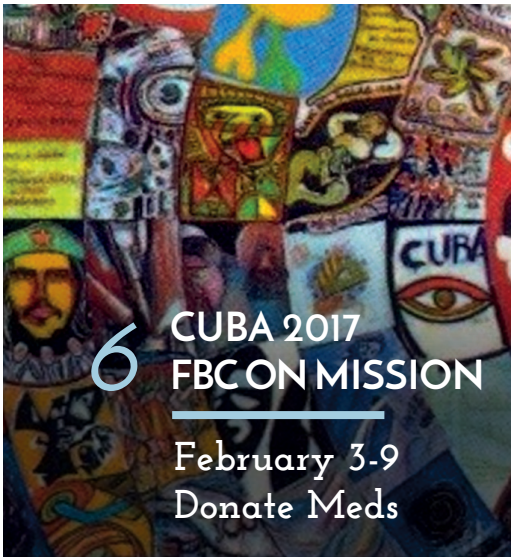
Winter Sermon Series

January 22 - February 19



SUN 11AM

*What will my life be about?
What kind of person will I be?*



6 **CUBA 2017 FBC ON MISSION**

February 3-9
Donate Meds



6 **YOUTH & PARENTS MTG**

February 10, 7pm
Pascu Home

WINTER FORUM

7 **WINTER FORUM GLENN HINSON**

February 25,26
Prep for Lent



2 **JULIE'S 2017 GOALS**

Happy New Year

4 **FBC INCLUSION CONVERSATIONS TO BEGIN**

RSVP/Principles for Conversations



FROM PASTOR JULIE



PASTOR JULIE
PENNINGTON-RUSSELL

Happy New Year, FBC Family. As I did last year, I'd like to share with you a few of my aspirations for the year ahead. I hope to fulfill as many as possible, as God gives me strength, while remembering that the essence of life is found in the journey, after all.

Goals in 2017

For First Baptist Church

- Preserve sufficient weekly time for prayer, Bible study, writing, reading and sermon preparation
- Offer attentive, supportive pastoral care in our congregation and community
- Discern new avenues at FBC for practicing radical hospitality, authentic community and sacrificial service
- Pay attention to nurturing a healthy, focused, collaborative staff atmosphere
- Continue meeting monthly with church officers (Deacons, Church Council, Personnel) for planning and friendship
- Continue making headway on overdue facilities improvements (with our lay teams)
- With our lay teams, examine and evaluate some of FBC's systems

Personal Goals

- Lean into God. (Paying attention to my own journey with Christ is the most significant thing I can do for FBC.) This past year, in addition to my practices of prayer, Bible study, journaling and observing a weekly Sabbath, I benefitted from monthly meetings with my spiritual director, and in the fall I participated in a 6-week e-course on contemplative prayer through the Shalem Institute. I plan to take two personal prayer retreats in 2017. Love and support Tim and nurture our marriage; schedule regular date nights
- Love and support Taylor as he continues settling in DC
- Love and support Lucy as she prepares to graduate from Carson-Newman in May
- Visit at least 10 DC museums, monuments or galleries this year
- Exercise regularly (Hooray for the Metro!)
- Continue meeting monthly with my spiritual director
- Continue meeting our neighbors in the Brookland neighborhood; host one neighborhood mixer in our home this year

Investment in Broader Communities

- Discern the role God is calling me to play as a faith leader at this moment in our city and nation
- Begin serving on the Board of Directors for the D. C. Baptist Convention
- Continue serving on the Faith Based Advisory Committee of the D. C. Attorney General's Office

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What will my life be about? What kind of person will I be?
These questions often find an answer when we arrive
at what we call “defining moments”—times or
circumstances that require us to make a choice.

DEFINING MOMENTS

Winter Sermon Series



January 22 *Matthew 4:12-23*

Stay or Go?

January 29 *Matthew 5:1-12*

With the Stream or Against?

February 5 *Matthew 5:13-20*

Ready or Not?

February 12 *Matthew 5:21-37*

Fractured or Whole?

February 19 *Matthew 5:38-48*

Retaliate or Show Love?

SUN 11AM



THE
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OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

Inclusion Conversations About to Begin

First Baptist Church strives to be an inclusive community for all people who want to follow Jesus. In 2014, the church held intentional small-group conversations regarding people who identify with the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) communities, and how those people fit into our life together. Those conversations were predicated on confidentiality and the fact that nothing said in those meetings would be repeated outside those meetings or used as part of any policy decisions down the road.

In the ensuing period, many members of the congregation have expressed a need to more clearly define ourselves. Some have pointed to our membership policy, which states that nobody presenting themselves for membership at First Baptist Church should be "examined" or given a doctrinal test on any issue; a profession of faith in Christ is the only criterion for membership in our congregation. Some have also raised questions about our wedding policy, which neither explicitly allows nor prohibits same-gender wedding ceremonies to be performed by our ministers or in our facilities.

This month we will begin in earnest talking to each other about how we envision our congregation with regard to LGBT inclusiveness, with an eye

toward further clarifying who we are as a community of Christ-followers. The prevailing hope with these conversations is to get the FBC family to talk to, and learn from, each other and reach an outcome that ensures all of us feel heard, valued, and loved.

These groups will be set up with the same ground rules—which emphasize respectfulness, love, and confidentiality—as the 2014 conversations (**see page 5**) with one exception: the facilitators of these groups will record sentiments expressed in the conversations and share those sentiments (without identifying by name who expressed any particular view or opinion) with the FBC Inclusion Team. The Inclusion Team will use the information gleaned from these conversations to inform any recommendations they may make to the Diaconate and the full FBC congregation on what our next steps should be with regard to inclusiveness of LGBT members.

Participants in the groups will be prompted to answer two discussion questions:

- (1) "First Baptist Church already welcomes as members—including many who are serving in leadership roles—Christians who identify as members of the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) communities. How do you feel about guaranteeing to all members, without exception, the ability to participate in all of the blessings and benefits of membership, including marriage and parent and child dedications?"
- (2) "What process would you like to see the congregation use as we discern this issue? Would it involve a congregational vote on a new inclusion policy or a change to an existing policy? Would it involve some sort of consensus conclusion about policy that did not rely on a vote? Would it involve further discussion, Bible study, or topical study of the issue? Or would the ideal process you envision for discerning issue look like something else altogether?"



**PLEASE
RSVP**

Because these conversations will take place in small groups, participants must RSVP so that we can provide enough facilitators. Please RSVP using the button to the right, or contact Administrator D'O Dillard (ddillard@firstbaptistdc.org; 202-387-2206 x245).

RSVP RIGHT NOW >>

Guiding Principles for Inclusion Conversations

As we begin in earnest talking to each other about how we envision our church family when it comes to inclusiveness of all people, we will use the below principles to guide our small-group conversations.

The prevailing hope with these conversations is to get the FBC family to talk to, and learn from, each other and reach an outcome that ensures all of us feel heard, valued, and loved. Each participant's contribution to their small-group conversation will remain confidential. The facilitators will listen for the sentiments shared within their groups to gauge the congregation's aggregate thoughts on LGBT inclusiveness. These aggregate thoughts may be shared and explored at a later time as the congregation continues to discern and reflect on LGBT inclusiveness.



AGREEMENTS FOR OUR TIME TOGETHER

1. We will speak for ourselves and from our own experience.
2. We will use descriptive-- not evaluative or inflammatory-- language and will refrain from using language which is blaming.
3. We will allow others to speak for themselves with no pressure to represent or explain a whole group.
4. We will listen with respect.
5. We will listen with resilience (i.e. "hanging in there" when we hear something that is hard to hear).
6. We will set aside the need to persuade others to agree with us.
7. We will not criticize the views of others or attempt to persuade them.
8. We will not interrupt except to indicate that we cannot hear a speaker.
9. We will "pass" if we do not wish to speak.
10. We will participate within the time frames suggested by the facilitator.
11. If in our dialogue we refer to other people by name-- people who are not present-- we will show them the same respect that we intend to show each other. We will also not speak for them.
12. When we leave the discussion, we promise only to share what we have said in the group with others and not share the identities or identifying details of another's story.
13. When we leave the discussion, we will not speak in a derogatory or demeaning manner about anyone present.



FROM PASTOR JULIE

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2]

- Attend the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship General Assembly in Atlanta, GA (summer)
- Attend the Biennial Mission Summit of American Baptist Churches USA in Portland, OR (summer)
- Continue participating in events and gatherings of the Mid-Atlantic CBF
- Get to know Tee Boddie, General Secretary of the Progressive National Baptist Convention
- Invest in a new friendship with at least one imam and one rabbi
- Visit FBC's local police station
- Reach out to our neighbors at the Australian Embassy

I invite you to make goals of your own for 2017! And may all of our aspirations and actions honor God and embody the way of Jesus.

Every blessing,



FBC ON MISSION: CUBA 2017

PLEASE DONATE OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICINES

We are sending a team to Cuba February 3-9 with the principal objective of renewing our congregational partnership with Iglesia Bautista William Carey in Havana. The team is requesting donations of over-the-counter medicines (pain relief, cold & flu, digestive aids, antihistamines, etc.) to take with them. Donation baskets are available in the narthex, fellowship hall and 2nd floor office welcome area.



And please pray for these First Baptist travelers to Cuba: Alyssa Aldape, Chelsea Clarke, D'O Dillard, Elnora Dooms Boe, Ron Dooms, Julie Geren, Stan Hastey, Mike Henson, Becky McBeath, Shirley McBeath, Ellen Parkhurst, Lon Schreiber and Julie & Tim Pennington-Russell.

WE'VE RESCHEDULED!

PARENT & YOUTH GATHERING

LET'S GET TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER AND EAT SOME PIZZA! MEET AT JULIE AND DAN PASCU'S HOUSE

5312 MCKINLEY ST. BETHESDA, MD

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 10, 2017 7:00 PM

RSVP BY FEBRUARY 7, 2017 BY EMAIL AALDAPE@FIRSTBAPTISTDC.ORG



Young Adult Chili Cook Off

JANUARY 20, 2017

7:00PM

1406 10TH ST. NW

[Learn more](#)



NEW METRORAIL HOURS TO BEGIN JULY 1, 2017

On December 15th, Metro's Board of Directors, after consideration of nearly 16,000 comments from the public, voted to approve the following hours of service for the Metrorail system effective July 1, 2017

Monday – Thursday	5:00am to 11:30pm
Friday	5:00am to 1:00am
Saturday	7:00am to 1:00am
Sunday	8:00am to 11:00pm

**WINTER FORUM:
FEBRUARY 25 & 26
SPIRITUAL
PREPARATION FOR
LENT**

*With Contemplative Sage
Glenn Hinson*

Does the pace of your life sometimes feel like a trap? Do you find yourself craving more silence and peace in your life? Do you desire a deeper, more honest relationship with God?

Spiritual wholeness is like anything precious: it requires attention on our part. Plan to take part in this year's Winter

Forum with renowned spiritual guide E. Glenn Hinson. Glenn has been compared to Frederick Buechner, Wendell Berry and Thomas Merton. This may be the best gift you give your soul in 2017.

WINTER FORUM

Spiritual Preparation for Lent
with Glenn Hinson

FEB 25-26

**Feb 25: Saturday Mini-Retreat at FBC: Spiritual Preparation for Lent
with Glenn Hinson**

Please bring a Bible and a journal or diary (something for writing or doodling).

- 9:30am Gathering for coffee & pastries
- 10:00 **1st Presentation:** "Letting Go" (Phil 4)
Silence for meditation and/or doodling
- 11:00 **2nd Presentation:** "Fasting from the Internet" (Rom 12)
Silence for meditation and/or doodling
- 12:00 Lunch catered by Chef Laval
- 1:00pm **3rd Presentation:** "Facing Our Temptations" (Luke 4)
Silence for meditation and/or doodling
- 2:00 **4th Presentation:** "What Will We Do with Our Fear?" (Matt 6; 1 Jn 4)
- 2:30 Sharing of insights from our meditation
- 3:00 **Communion**

Feb 26: Sunday morning with Glenn Hinson

- 9:30am "The Top Ten Things My Life Has Taught Me"
(Adult & Youth classes meet together)
- 11:00 Message in Worship: "Pursuing an Elusive God" (Exod 24; Matt 17)

EVENTS

Monday, January 16

* Bldg. Closed (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)

Wednesday, January 23

1:30pm: Church Staff Meeting

5pm: Sandwich Making for Martha's Table
(Fellowship Hall)

6:30pm: FBC Children's Ministry Team
Meeting (Church Library)

Friday, January 20

* Bldg. Closed (Inauguration Day)

Sunday, January 27

9:30am: Church School for All Ages

10am: Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Rm 312)

11am: Worship (Sanctuary)

2pm: Worship in Spanish (Dawson Room)

DEACONS ON-CALL WEEK OF JANUARY 15:



Jean Bell

WEEK OF JANUARY 22:



Rod Coates

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

FBC PRAYER & CARE

Sympathy:

...to Jatoe Sapee and family in the death of Jatoe's step-father, Rev. Robert Richard, who died on December 21 in NC.

THANK YOU

Many thanks from your church staff to all who contributed to the Staff Christmas Fund this year. We appreciate your support and encouragement! ~ *The FBC Staff*

OFFICE CLOSINGS FOR FEDERAL HOLIDAYS

FBC offices and our CDC are closed Monday, January 16th in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, and Friday, January 20 for the Presidential Inauguration.

WED 5PM SANDWICH MAKING, SOUP & SANDWICH DINNER

All are welcome to help prepare 400 sandwiches for Martha's Table this Wednesday, January 18 at 5pm in Fellowship Hall. Afterwards we'll enjoy a dinner of soup and sandwiches prepared by Chef Laval. RSVP for dinner by e-mailing D'O Dillard at ddillard@firstbaptistdc.org by noon Tuesday, January 17.

Church Staff

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