



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

TWICE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FEBRUARY 17, 2017

# WINTER

# FORUM

**2** WINTER FORUM  
WITH GLENN HINSON

February 25,26 - Preparation for Lent




**5** ASH  
WEDNESDAY

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March 1  
7pm



**6** INCLUSION  
TEAM

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Conversations  
Update



**7** FURMAN  
SINGERS

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March 5  
In Worship

YOUTH LUNCH OUT EVERY

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**THIRD SUNDAY!**

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**8** YOUTH  
LUNCH OUT

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February 19



**3** SIX DAYS IN HAVANA  
(STORY WITH PHOTOS)

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By Pastor Julie

# 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 (\$8)
- 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)

**You must register in advance for the Saturday mini-retreat (by Feb. 21).**

Register online ([www.firstbaptistdc.org](http://www.firstbaptistdc.org)), in your Sunday Bible study class, or by contacting Church Administrator D'O Dillard in our church office. (202-387-2206, ext. 245; [ddillard@firstbaptistdc.org](mailto:ddillard@firstbaptistdc.org).) **Reserve your free childcare.**

**RSVP  
by Tuesday,  
Feb. 21**



## FROM PASTOR JULIE



JULIE PENNINGTON-RUSSELL

# SIX DAYS IN HAVANA

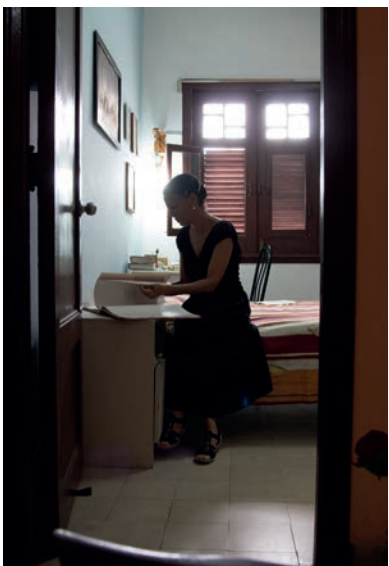
Our JetBlue flight touched down at 1:15 pm on February 3, 2017, at José Martí International Airport, about 15 km from Havana. Legally, we were traveling as official guests of the Office of Religious Affairs of the Cuban Communist Party. But it was Pastor Dorilín Tito and the brothers and sisters of Iglesia Bautista William Carey (William Carey Baptist Church) who welcomed us at the airport with open arms and hosted us during our six days in Cuba.



DANIEL, PASTOR DORILÍN & DANIELLE TITO



The purpose of this trip was largely relational. Though we've been in a partnership with William Carey Baptist Church (WCBC) for more than 15 years, it had been a number of years since we'd been in regular contact. WCBC is in the Vedado area, a central business district and urban neighborhood of Havana, not far from the Plaza de la Revolución. We stayed in the church's dormitory-style guest rooms and ate our meals in their fellowship hall. Cuban food is simple, fresh and flavorful: papaya, guava and pineapple; rice and beans; chicken, pork and fish in small portions; plantains, sweet potatoes, yams and yucca.



My favorite moments in Cuba, hands down, were the ones we spent simply getting to know the people. On our first full day in Havana we split up into teams of two, accompanied by English speakers from WCBC, and made home visits to church members who live within walking distance. Tim and I made two home visits—first, with a family whose 101-year-old grandmother worked for years as a housekeeper for U.S. personnel at Guantanamo; then, with two sisters, both retired professors of chemical engineering. We laughed, cried, prayed together, exchanged simple gifts and drank “tuKola” (Cuba’s answer to Coke).



[SIX DAYS IN HAVANA CONT.]

On Sunday we worshiped together—a joyful, energetic experience, culminating in the sharing of communion (including a wonderful communion hymn in Spanish to the tune of Simon & Garfunkel’s Sound of Silence). Later in the afternoon we formed a large circle in the church’s outdoor courtyard and engaged a two-hour conversation with



WCBC church leadership. Two young WCBC members interpreted for the whole group.

At the end of our week in Cuba, our team departed for the States with great affection for these brothers and sisters, and a desire to keep our partnership with WCBC alive in the years ahead. Your generosity to the First Baptist Church budget is making it possible for us to give a monetary gift to WCBC of approximately \$3,000 in support of their ministry to senior adults in the congregation and neighborhood. Because of the low income of most Cuban citizens, many older adults without children or family often have difficulty putting food on the table. Supporting these “adults of the third age”, as they refer to senior adults in Cuba, is the church’s highest priority at the moment. It’s a privilege to be able to partner with them in this ministry.



You’ll be hearing from different Cuba team members in the coming weeks, as we share stories of God’s faithfulness among the people of Cuba.

Peace and grace,

*Julie*

**MORE  
CUBA PHOTOS  
ON PAGES 9-11**



# Ash Wednesday



MARCH 1, 2017 7PM

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, DC

# INCLUSION TEAM UPDATE

On January 22 and 28, fifty congregation members participated in small-group discussions on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) inclusiveness--specifically regarding marriage and baby dedications. The Inclusion Team would like to thank all the participants for sharing so thoughtfully and respectfully. In March, the Inclusion Team will offer a "make-up session" for those who were unable to attend either of the previous small-group discussions. Please watch for further details if you would still like a chance to participate.



The Inclusion Team also expresses appreciation for team member Steve Netcott, who recently travelled to attend a seminar at the First Baptist Church of Greenville, S.C., led by the church's Senior Minister, Dr. Jim Dant. First Baptist Greenville went through a discernment process on the congregation's LGBT inclusiveness from 2014 to 2016, and Dr. Dant offered the wisdom gained from the experience to other churches going through similar processes. First Baptist Greenville did not have a typical up-or-down vote, but instead the congregation reached a consensus that it would not discriminate against LGBT people in the life of the congregation with regard to marriage, participation in church leadership and the life of the congregation, and pastoral leadership. Principles gleaned from the seminar include:

- Avoiding imposing an artificial timeline on the discernment process;
- Not prescribing a pre-determined goal or ideal outcome for the congregation;
- Exploring congregation members' hopes and fears for the future;
- Avoiding a "business" approach to church decision-making (including use of up-or-down votes and Robert's Rules of Order) in favor of small-group discussions, sharing in a vulnerable way, building trust and reaching consensus.
- Rather than concentrating on individual thoughts and feelings, or on what actions we as individuals think our church should or should not take--focusing instead on discerning what God is doing among our church family in regards to our relationship with members of the LGBT community.
- In keeping with our Baptist identity, aiming for an outcome that does not "force" a belief or set of beliefs on any individual.



The Inclusion Team plans to consider these principles as we move forward in the discernment process, and we will share further details soon.

*The Inclusion Team includes Zena Aldridge, Kate Campbell, Rob Marus, Steve Netcott, Rod Coates, Paul Clark, Rev. Alyssa Aldape, Rev. Charlie Fuller and Rev. Julie Pennington-Russell.*

# MARCH 5: FURMAN SINGERS IN WORSHIP AT FBC

Furman Singers is recognized as one of America's premier collegiate choirs, touring annually throughout the Southeastern United States. Over its 70-year history, the Furman Singers has achieved a national and international reputation for choral excellence. Beginning in 1974, biennial summer concert tours abroad have taken Furman Singers to many of the great churches and cathedrals of Europe. Under the direction of Dr. Hugh Floyd, the Singers have performed in Austria and the Czech Republic, England, Wales, Ireland and Germany.



## Annual Benefit for National Center for Children and Families

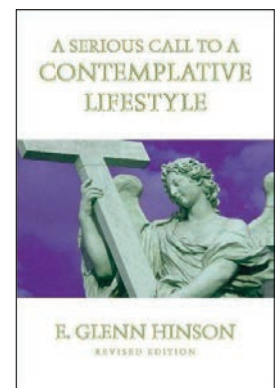
Sunday, May 7, 2017

Please help to support NCCF while enjoying a wonderful dinner and performance of "Beauty and the Beast" to benefit the youth in the Greentree Adolescent Program (GAP) on Sunday, May 7 at Toby's Dinner Theatre of Columbia, MD at 5 pm. Tickets, including dinner, show, and gratuity are \$56 per person (\$10.00 tax deductible). The NCCF (formerly Baptist Home for Children) is a private, non-profit agency serving the national capital area. The residential programs serve homeless families, victims of domestic violence and vulnerable adolescents. Other programs include treatment foster care, social services for family reunification, parenting education, independent living, and stabilization of families in the

community. If you cannot attend, but would like to make a contribution so that the youth from GAP may attend as our guests, we would be very grateful. Checks should be made payable to the Board of Church Representatives, NCCF. Please make your reservation or make a contribution by March 19. For tickets or donations, please contact Bonnie Jorgensen: [bonnie.jorgensen@gmail.com](mailto:bonnie.jorgensen@gmail.com), (240-418-2788).

## Young Adult Bible Fellowship Group—Sunday Book Study

The Young Adult Bible Fellowship Group is discussing Glenn Hinson's book, *A Serious Call To A Contemplative Lifestyle*, in preparation for his joining us this year for Winter Forum (Feb. 25-26). Two key questions from last week: "Where or how does the supernatural find a place in our everyday lives?" and "How does the world around us conceptualize God?" Our study from Hinson's book continues for the next four weeks. All are welcome! Paul Clark, teacher/facilitator.





## Save the Date:



The **Cooperative Baptist Fellowship** will have their annual General Assembly in Atlanta, GA at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta. Make your reservations now at the CBF [website](#).



The **American Baptist Churches** Biennial Mission Summit will meet in Portland, Oregon, June 30-July 2, 2017. For more information and registration details, visit their website.

<http://americanbaptists2017.weebly.com/register.html>

**PASSPORT Camps** will use our facilities to host their **MissionBASE** camp this summer. Camp staff will live at the church and we will have different youth groups coming in to DC to experience missional engagement in an urban setting.

PASSPORT will be here:  
June 25-30; July 2-7; July 9-14;  
July 16-21; July 23-28



Every third Sunday of the month, Alyssa and the youth will meet up after church for lunch and fellowship. This gives the youth group a chance to get to know each other over a meal and a time to mentally unwind before the school week begins! Meet Alyssa in the narthex after the church service this Sunday, February 19th and let's get some lunch!



## Advocacy in Action: March 6-9, 2017

*Justice. Freedom. God's Mission.*

There's still time to register for Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's annual Advocacy in Action conference here in Washington. Explore advocacy as a faithful expression of Christian mission. Develop a biblical basis for advocacy. Meet CBF partners who are actively involved in advocacy, including Bread for the World and the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty. Learn how to be an effective advocate—locally, nationally and globally. (FBC DC is hosting one of the conference gatherings on Tuesday morning, March 7th, in Fellowship Hall.) More information at <http://www.cbf.net/advocacy-in-action/>.





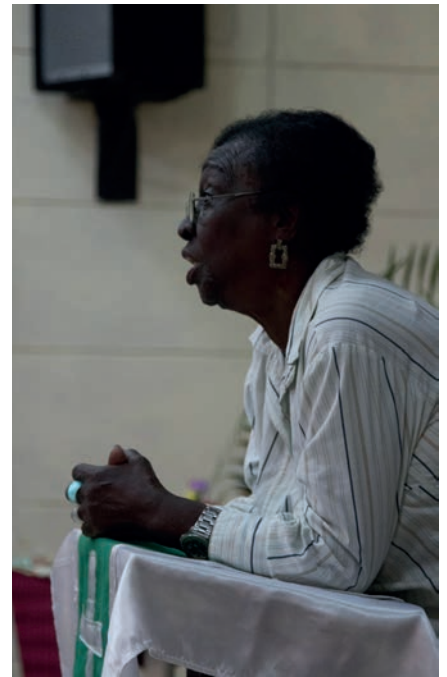
# CUBA MISSION TRIP













## EVENTS

### Sunday, February 19

9:30am: Church School for All Ages

10am: Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Rm 312)

11am: Worship (Sanctuary)

12:30pm: Cuba Team Debrief (Fellowship Hall)

2pm: Worship in Spanish (Dawson Room)

### Monday, February 20

All Day: Church Office Closed

### Saturday, February 25

9:30am-3:30pm: Winter Forum Mini-Retreat

## DEACONS ON-CALL WEEK OF FEBRUARY 19:



Rose Smith

## WEEK OF FEBRUARY 26:



Kate Campbell

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

## FBC PRAYER & CARE

### Sympathy:

...to Wilbur Wright and D'O Dillard in the death of Wilbur's brother, Linwood C. Wright, Sr. on February 6 in Elkins Park, PA.

### New Baby:

...Jasmine Modupe Ogunnaike was born February 15, 2017 to Tayo and Zahra Ogunnaike. Proud grandparents are Kessington and Modupe Ogunnaike.

### OFFICE CLOSED PRESIDENTS' DAY

The church office and building will be closed Monday, February 20th for Presidents' Day.

### END-OF-YEAR GIVING STATEMENTS

Due to a technical problem, we were delayed in distributing some of our giving statements. If your last name begins with the letters A - G, you should have already received your statement. If your last name begins with G - Z, your statement will be mailed by the end of this week (2/17). If you think your statement is in error, please contact D'O. Thanks for your patience!

**GIVING**  
STATEMENTS

### Church Staff

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Executive Pastor

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Associate Pastor for Young Adults & Youth

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Organist-Choirmaster

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