



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

TWICE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | AUGUST 10, 2017

2 WHAT'S YOUR STORY? YOUNG ADULT RETREAT

September 22-23



2 HOSPITALITY IN PERU: PLAYING UNO

Maddie
McBeath



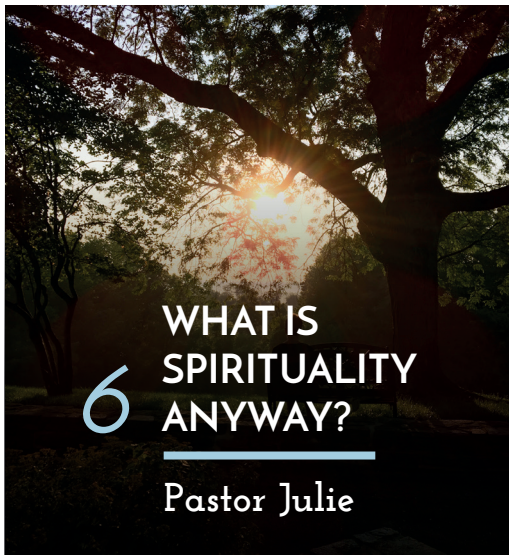
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Saturday 6pm
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FAITH & ACTION

3 AUGUST FORUM: FAITH & ACTION CHRISTIANS AND MUSLIMS

Sun., Aug. 13 9am - Steven D. Martin

First Baptist DC Young Adults Fall Retreat
Bryce, VA

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

September 22-23, 2017

RSVP By September 8, 2017

Cost: \$25

They made us feel at home by showing us part of their world such as traditional basket weaving and working at their stand in the local market.

Although the language barrier was hard sometimes, our host family always found a way around it. Our favorite way to do so was playing cards. By the end of the trip I became fluent in all Spanish terms concerning the game UNO. This was our host dad's, Poncho, favorite activity and it allowed all of us to have fun together without worrying about the language barrier. Staying with them was one of the best parts of my trip because it allowed me to fully immerse myself in their culture, and it was all due to their patience and warm hospitality.

Young adults are invited to spend a day away from the city hustle and lean into a small sabbath in the woods. We'll get to know one another through sharing our stories and the ways we've seen God at work in our lives. Join us! September 22-23, 2017 We leave Friday evening and return Saturday night. The cost is \$25. RSVP by September 8th. Contact Pastor Alyssa for more information.



HOSPITALITY IN PERU: BY MADDIE MCBEATH

This summer, a group of 15 girls and I went with our school to Ollantaytambo, a small town situated in Sacred Valley, Peru. While we were there, we partook in local volunteer work and were lucky enough to visit spectacular Incan ruins. For part of our time in Ollantaytambo, my friend Amanda and I stayed with a host family, which I was very nervous about considering I speak no Spanish, while

Spanish was all they spoke. As soon as we met them, our host family couldn't have been more hospitable.



AUGUST FORUM

FAITH &

ACTION

Every Sunday in August • 9:30-10:30 • Breakfast starting at 9:00 • Fellowship Hall
This year during the month of August, we will examine some of the most complex global issues of our day through the lens of Scripture and ask together, "How does my faith in Christ direct my actions?"

AUGUST 13

Christians and Muslims in Relationship

Rev. Steven D. Martin, Director of Communications and Development,
National Council of Churches USA

"After I made my first film in 2001 entitled, *Muslims in Appalachia*," I have been concerned with the beautiful people that make up the Muslim community, both their rich life and culture, and the dangers they face as America becomes more anxious. In this session I will bring my perspective on my experiences with Muslims around the world and how the teachings of Jesus have shaped my work with this community."

Steven has served United Methodist Churches as pastor for twenty years and is a graduate of Candler School of Theology. He brings his expertise in theology, the intersection of faith and politics, and media production to bear upon today's most challenging problems. He has produced several films for public television, including *Muslims in Appalachia*; *Islam in America After September 11th*; *Theologians Under Hitler*; *God With US: Baptism and the Jews in the Third Reich*; *Elisabeth of Berlin*; and most recently, *Islam in America: The Christian Truth*. His writing has appeared in America's top national media outlets including the *Washington Post* and *USA Today*. He speaks frequently at churches, seminaries, and conventions across the US.



AUGUST 20

Religious Liberty Based on Compassion

Charles Watson Jr.

Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty

"My theology didn't have an answer for why children were dying. As a chaplain intern at Children's Hospital of Atlanta, I wept, prayed and mourned with families at the lowest point of their lives. I learned that the pain didn't care about the religion of the family, but that their faith was sometimes their only hope. In this session I will explain why compassion should compel us all to be religious liberty advocates."

Charles Watson Jr. is the Education and Outreach Specialist of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty in Washington, D.C. His work is focused on expanding the base of support for religious liberty and engaging the next generation of advocates. A graduate of The Citadel, Watson earned a Master of Divinity degree at Mercer University's McAfee School of Theology. He previously served as the Children's Director of Buckhead Baptist Church in Atlanta and as a hospice chaplain resident, endorsed by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Watson is a veteran of the United States Air Force.



AUGUST 27

Sitting With the Trauma of Racism

Rev. LeDayne Polaski, Executive Director,

Bautistas Por La Paz (Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America)

"I came to an interest in trauma through my interest in conflict transformation. Unaddressed traumatic experiences underlie much of the painful conflict we experience. As I have delved further into antiracism work, I have become convinced that White America's unwillingness to acknowledge and address trauma is at the heart of the US's seeming inability to move forward on issues of race and racism. In this session we'll explore why and how we might sit with our trauma and that of others long enough to be transformed and changed."

LeDayne became BPFNA's Executive Director in 2015, having served the organization in a variety of roles since 1998. A life-long Carolinian, she is a graduate of Furman University in Greenville, where her commitment to issues of peace and justice began. She received an M.Div. in 1993 from the Divinity School at Duke University in Durham, NC, and was ordained in Durham at Watts Street Baptist Church. LeDayne and her husband, Tom, a professor of mathematics at Winthrop University, are active members of Park Road Baptist Church in Charlotte.





JOIN ROCHELLE HOWARD FOR WINE & CHEESE ON THE ROOFTOP



Join Rochelle Howard on Saturday night, August 12 for wine and cheese on the rooftop of the General Scott Building at 1 Scott Circle NW, Washington, D.C. Just bring yourself and be ready to enjoy some great fellowship as we watch the sunset over a panoramic view of the nation's capital. Please RSVP by August 11 at the link below; the event is limited to the first 25 people that RSVP: <https://goo.gl/k3sGeC>

NEW! - U.S. NAVY BAND CONCERT TUE 8/22 7:30PM

Join Kate Campbell for a free U.S. Navy Band concert on Tuesday, Aug. 22, at 7:30 p.m. at the U.S. Navy Memorial. The program will include jazz, rock, show tunes,



country and traditional hymns and features the Navy Ceremonial Guard and Drill Team. The memorial is on Pennsylvania Avenue NW, between 7th and 9th streets, next to the Archives/Navy Memorial/Penn Quarter Metro station. Seating is provided. No need to RSVP, but questions can be directed to Kate at kgc484@yahoo.com. The band's website is www.navyband.navy.mil.

NO ORDINARY TIME THIS WEEK

We will not meet this week for Ordinary Time as Pastor Alyssa will be out of town. Next week we will be at Dinh Tran's home for dinner! See y'all next week.



DONATE SCHOOL SUPPLIES (NCCF)

School Supplies - We are collecting school supplies for the National Center for Children and Families (NCCF) during the month of August. Your participation in this annual drive will help to provide the items that the children and

youth need to begin the school year successfully. Look for the collection box just inside the O Street entrance.

Please help by purchasing supplies from the following list: No. 2 pencils, pens, colored pencils, crayons, markers, glue sticks, highlighters, pencil bags and boxes, calculators, rulers, protractors, compasses, scissors (left and right handed), notebook paper, spiral notebooks, black & white composition books, loose-leaf notebooks, folders, binders, dictionaries, thesauruses, backpacks (grades K-12).

If you would prefer to make a monetary gift, please contact our church's representative to the NCCF, Bonnie Jorgensen (301-649-4804). Thank you for caring about the disadvantaged children and youth of the NCCF.



SANDWICH MAKING AND SUPPER WED 8/16 5PM

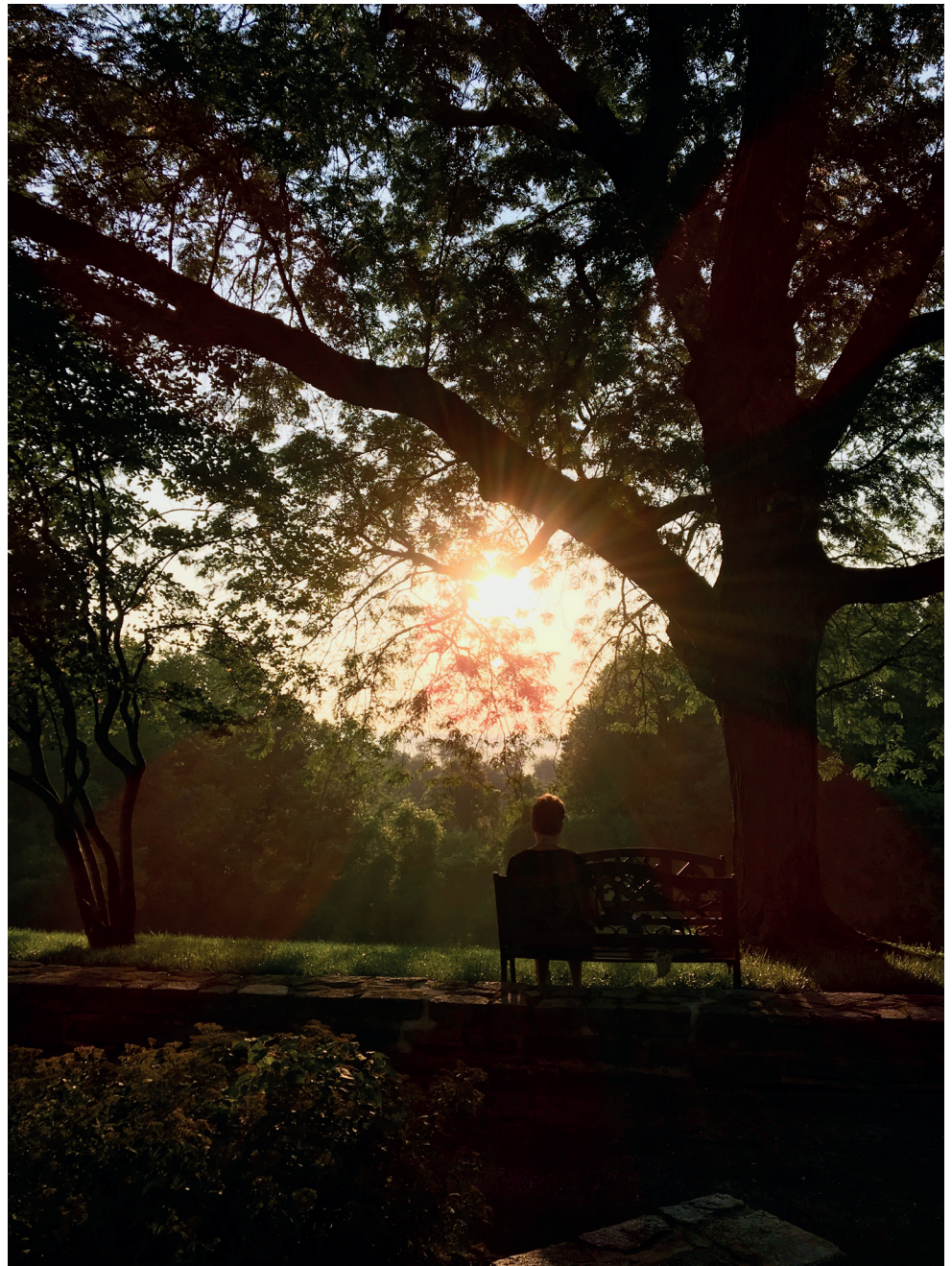
Our next scheduled time to make sandwiches for Martha's Table is Wednesday, August 16, beginning at 5 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. It's a great way to help those in need and get to know fellow FBC members and friends. This month, sandwich making is followed by a summer supper prepared by Chef Laval. Please RSVP to D'O Dillard at ddillard@firstbaptistdc.org.

WHAT IS SPIRITUALITY ANYWAY?



PASTOR JULIE
PENNINGTON-RUSSELL

“Spirituality is not focused on information gathering. Mostly, spirituality is about learning to pay attention.”



On July 11, I joined ten pastors from up and down the Atlantic seaboard for a 7-day clergy retreat guided by leaders from the Shalem Institute. Thank you, church family, for supporting my participation in the 18-month Shalem program, *Going Deeper: Clergy Spiritual Life & Leadership*. For seven days my new friends and I “leaned back into our spiritual hearts” as Tilden Edwards puts it (Tilden founded the Shalem Institute in 1973 and has served as a spiritual guide for thousands of men and women). We

prayed in silence. We prayed aloud. We walked slowly. We woke early to greet the sun. We paid attention to the sounds of crickets; the sight of deer in the meadow; the steady rhythm of our own heartbeat. All of these felt like *gift*.

Talk of “deepening our spirituality” often raises this question:

What is spirituality anyway? Aren’t we offering it through our church programs and worship?



Well, in a way, yes. And in a way, no. Spirituality is a about relationship. It's about having an opportunity to experience God's presence. Many churches offer opportunities to increase knowledge *about* God and a better understanding of belief systems, along with programs to support these systems. This is not to say that people can't experience God's presence through a study of theology and Scripture. But often these experiences remain in our *head* without ever making it down to our *heart*.

Spirituality is not focused on information gathering. Mostly, spirituality is about learning to pay attention. It's about learning to be fully present, moment by moment, to the God who loves us. We can be present with God in any place at any time.

It's not so simple to live a simple life. Since the mid-1900s the pace of living has increased exponentially,

with an ever-increasing emphasis on speed, rapid delivery, multitasking and constant availability. Our spiritual equilibrium, which depends on our deep, continual grounding in God, is under daily, even hourly, attack. As a result, there seems to be a steady reaching on the part of churched and unchurched people for the things that nurture the spirit.

I would love for you to join me on this pilgrimage. In the months ahead I hope to help us create new opportunities for addressing our individual and collective hunger for God. I can't wait to see what the Spirit will do.

Peace and grace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie".



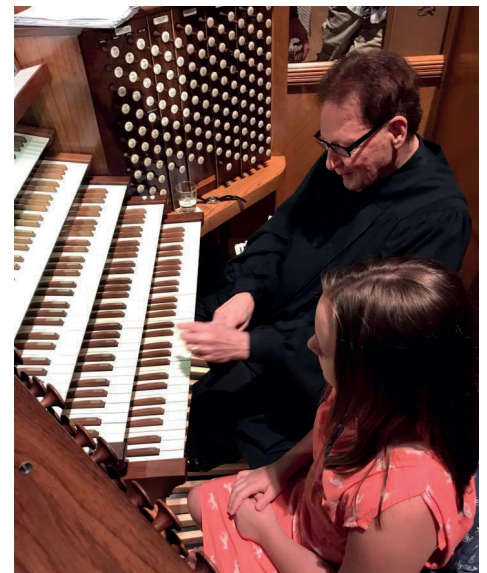
PASSPORT MISSIONBase REFLECTIONS

by Darnysha Nard

This summer I had the opportunity to serve alongside Passport Camps, an organization that empowers young people to grow into what God has called them to be – disciples.

Working with youth is always something that I have enjoyed. This summer I was asked to work on an intimate team of four people, including myself, in Washington D.C. Our intention was to inform the students about poverty and food injustice and the impact it can have on people's lives. The students spent half of their days learning about statistics, systemic issues and the importance for advocacy, and the other half of their days were spent working in food banks, prep kitchens, and building relationships with people who have experienced homelessness and are trying to get a fresh start.

My job was not to dictate how these students performed, instead, I had to trust that they would do good on their own accord. Each day started and ended with prayer and scripture that focused on love, rightful actions, and hospitality. And each day, at dinner time, I would sit at the table with these students and they would share funny stories, newly learned facts, and moments of inspiration from the day. It was during these moments I was reminded of how big God is. God is bigger than my worry and my want to control everything. God was with these students as they traveled, learned and lived out our motto for the week "love kindness." God was present in the testimonies shared with the students, and God was present when they shared them with me. This summer I am grateful for a God who is bigger than all the issues, and who is present within each of us while we strive for a better world and better understanding. I am grateful for a God who creates disciples out of all people, and who lets love be the foundation of it all.





Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis

Rev. Brian McLaren

CONVERGENCE GATHERING AUGUST 18-19 IN NYC

In the fall of 2016, FBCDC received an invitation from Brian McLaren, a prominent Christian pastor, author and advocate, to participate in a year-long program called The Convergence Leadership Project. The CLP is geared toward developing young leaders in progressive Christian congregations who will “work together, pray together, and grow together, living out the teaching and example of Jesus in this critical moment in history.” With encouragement from our Moderator and Deacon Chair, four young adults volunteered

to participate: Kate Campbell, Chelsea Clarke, Allen Norfleet and Lucy Plovnick. Alyssa Aldape, stepped up to serve as pastoral staff liaison.

Next Thursday, August 17, Alyssa and Kate, along with Julie and Tim P-R, will take a Megabus to New York City where the first of three Convergence gatherings will take place at Middle Collegiate Church in Manhattan. They’ll stay in guest rooms at Metro Baptist church on Thursday and Friday evening and return to DC Saturday night.

Please pray for them as they join other Christian leaders from around the country. Read more about Convergence here: (<http://convergenceus.org>)



Alyssa Aldape



Allen Norfleet



Lucy Plovnick



Kate Campbell



Chelsea Clarke

EVENTS

Sunday, August 13

- 9:00am:** August Forum Breakfast
(Fellowship Hall)
- 9:30am:** August Forum: Faith & Action with
Steven D. Martin
Adults and Youth (Fellowship Hall)
- 9:30am:** Sunday School for Children
- 10:30am:** Chancel Choir Rehearsal
(Rm 312)
- 11am:** Worship (Sanctuary)
- 12:30pm:** Deacon's Meeting (Conf. Room)
- 2pm:** Worship in Spanish (Dawson Room)

Wednesday, August 16

- 5pm:** Sandwich Making (Fellowship Hall)
- 6pm:** Dinner (Fellowship Hall -- Courtyard,
weather permitting)

DEACONS ON-CALL: WEEK OF AUGUST 13:



Wilma Prince

WEEK OF AUGUST 20:



Kathy Whatley

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

FBC PRAYER & CARE

Sympathy

To Ed Fry and daughters Susan, Anne, Mary and Karen and their families, in the passing of **Mary Lou Fry** on August 9. A service honoring and celebrating the life of Mary Lou Fry will take place next Tuesday, Aug. 15, at 10:00 a.m. at Fairfax Memorial Funeral Home, 9902 Braddock Rd, Fairfax, VA 22032. Reception following at Parkwood Baptist Church: 8726 Braddock Rd, Annandale, VA 22003. Visitation with Mary Lou's family will take place Monday evening, Aug. 14, from 6-8 pm at Fairfax Memorial Funeral Home.



New Requests

- **Don Proia**—recovering from back surgery on August 7

Thanks Be to God!

- **Carolyn Roebuck's** mother, Ilva Violet, has been declared cancer-free
- **Adrian Harwall** was back at church last Sunday after a lengthy recovery from a fall last spring

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