



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

TWICE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | NOVEMBER 2, 2017



5 ADVENT SERMON SERIES

Sundays December 3-24

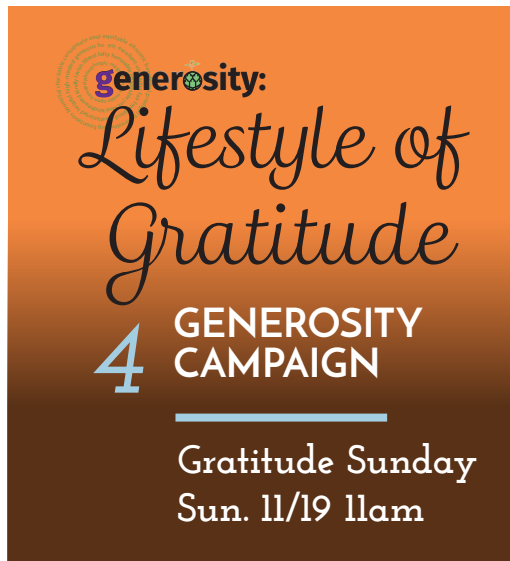
HOW WE WAIT



First Glance

3 FIRST GLANCE

Join 2 Last Sessions
11/5, 11/12 9:30am



generosity:
Lifestyle of Gratitude

4 GENEROSITY CAMPAIGN

Gratitude Sunday
Sun. 11/19 11am



4 THANKSGIVING LUNCH

RSVP Now
Sun. 11/19 Noon



3 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS SUN!

Sun. 11/5 2am



3 ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

Sunday, November 5



PASTOR JULIE
PENNINGTON-RUSSELL

THE LIGHT WITHIN

I love the autumn light. There is less of it this time of year, but oh what an exquisite light it is. The way the slanted rays filter through gold and red and cinnamon-colored leaves...it's like walking around inside a painting by Edward Hopper. Maybe John Donne was musing about the exceptional fall light as he wrote, "In Heaven it is always Autumn."

This weekend we'll "fall back" as Daylight Saving Time comes to an end. I remember from my childhood the twice-yearly ritual of resetting every clock in the house. Balanced on a kitchen stool, Mom would gently nudge the "hands" on the "face" of the big clock in the den forward or backward, depending on the season, while my brother and I reset our bedside digital alarm clocks. Today, of course, our smartphones do all the work for us while we sleep. Either way, come this Sunday afternoon at around four o'clock, we'll be struck by how little light there is. Some of us will welcome the fading of the light as we reach for a blanket and cup of hot chocolate. For others, the encroaching darkness will bring a sense of melancholy and loss. We'll miss the sun.

One autumn years ago, Robert Farrar Capon, the Episcopal priest, author,

gardener and chef, was looking at all the fruits, vegetables and spices that he had frozen, canned or dried for winter consumption. He also looked at the woodpile, ready for use against the cold. He remembered how all these things had grown because of the sun, and that all the energy now stored in them was, in fact, stored light. The sun had gotten inside the wood and in the tomatoes and beans and squash, and through them would continue to give life. Capon wrote, The days may be getting shorter but the light has gone inside things. We'll have it all winter, no matter how the sun may hide.

Capon's observation is warm encouragement for any of us who long for more light—whether it's the light of the sun or the light of God's presence. Both have a way of getting inside things. When there seems to be a lack of either on the outside where you can see, try looking within.

Sisters and brothers, as we prepare to "fall back" may the Light sustain us for the winter ahead.

Grace & Peace,

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

"The feet of saints are as much of clay as everybody else's, and their sainthood consists less of what they have done than of what God has for some reason chosen to do through them...Saints are essentially life-givers. To be with them is to become more alive."

~ Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking*



This Sunday, November 5, as the Church honors that "great cloud of witnesses" who have gone before us, we will honor and remember these brothers and sisters from First Baptist Church who have died in the past year: Bob MacMillan, Leone Rhee, Will Short, Adeline Sunday, Mary Lou Fry, Ted Farrar and Liz Porter.



THIS SUNDAY (NOV. 5): POTLUCK & BRIEF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

As is our custom on Communion Sundays, after worship this Sunday, we'll share a potluck lunch in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a dish or two to share: A-J: salad/veggies, K-R: dessert/fruit, S-Z: meat. We'll conclude our time together with a brief quarterly congregational meeting.

First Glance

SUNDAYS
9:30 - 10:30AM
(ROOM 315)



Our newcomer orientation is in full swing.

All are welcome to join in. This Sunday, November 5, we'll hear about Faith Formation at FBC from Lucy Plovnick, Faith Formation Team leader. Then, lifelong FBC member Ellen Parkhurst will lead us on a tour of the sanctuary, sharing some of the significant history of our congregation, as well as what our stained glass windows reveal about God and the Church of Jesus Christ.



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS SUNDAY

Daylight Saving Time ends this Sunday, November 5, at 2am. Don't forget to turn your clocks BACK one hour before going to bed Saturday night!

FAITH & ACTION
NOVEMBER 15 THE SILENT GRIEFS WE CARRY IN CHURCH
 Rev. Elizabeth Hagan
 Author and Pastor

7PM IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
SANDWICH MAKING @ 5PM + SUPPER @ 6PM

When we think grief, we ask: "Who died?" Yet in the church those we worship alongside hurt for countless reasons in addition to loss of loved ones. Infertility. Divorce. Suicide. Mental Illness. Estrangement from family members. And the list could keep going. Come join the conversation

on November 15th with Elizabeth Hagan, author and pastor of a spiritual memoir of her own silent grief journey, to hear and share stories about unnamed griefs in the church. Together we'll work on expanding our empathy muscles especially as the holiday season approaches.

GRATITUDE SUNDAY: NOVEMBER 19; OFFERING OF OUR COMMITMENTS IN WORSHIP

On Sunday, November 19, we will celebrate an "offering of financial commitments" in worship together. Will you take time to pray about your financial participation in what God is doing in and through First Baptist Church during the coming year?

And as an expression of intention, **all who call First Baptist their church home are asked to complete a commitment card indicating your financial commitment for 2018.** Your

pledge will remain confidential—whether you make it **here online** (<https://goo.gl/95sW8L>) or use a paper card. (If you pledge online or turn in a commitment card early, you'll still receive a pledge card in your order of worship on November 19 that you may use as a symbol of your pledge during the offering of commitments.)

2018 Generosity Commitment
 MANY PEOPLE, ONE BODY: For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. - 1 Corinthians 12:12

For the support of the church and the work of Jesus Christ in the world, I (we) estimate that I (we) will give the total annual sum during 2018 of \$ _____

I/we will be giving: Weekly Monthly Quarterly Annually

Joint Commitment
 Individual Commitment Signature _____

YOUR INFORMATION

Name(s) First _____ Last _____
 First _____ Last _____
 Street _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone () _____ - _____ Email _____

Schedule of Annual Giving					
Annual Income	Gift of 1%	Gift of 3%	Gift of 5%	"Tithe" Gift of 10%	Gift of 12%
10,000	100	300	500	1,000	1,200
20,000	200	600	1,000	2,000	2,400
30,000	300	900	1,500	3,000	3,600
40,000	400	1,200	2,000	4,000	4,800
50,000	500	1,500	2,500	5,000	6,000
60,000	600	1,800	3,000	6,000	7,200
70,000	700	2,100	3,500	7,000	8,400
80,000	800	2,400	4,000	8,000	9,600
90,000	900	2,700	4,500	9,000	10,800
100,000	1,000	3,000	5,000	10,000	12,000
110,000	1,100	3,300	5,500	11,000	13,200
120,000	1,200	3,600	6,000	12,000	14,400

*please complete other side

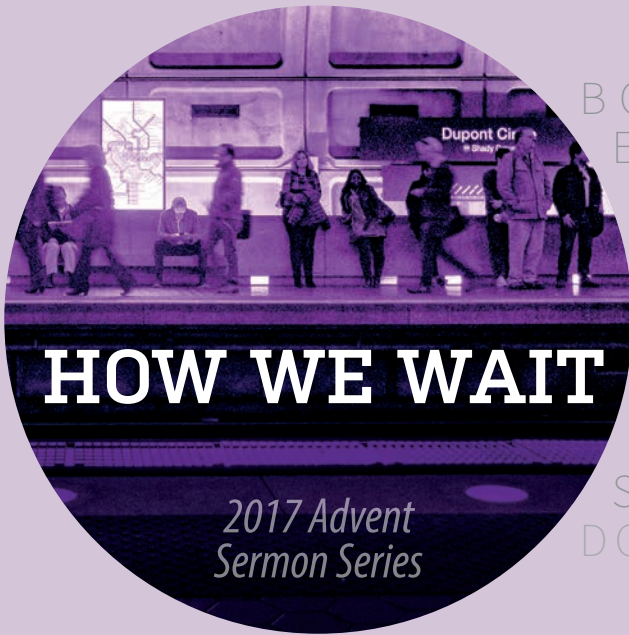
Last year, 55 individuals or families turned in commitment cards in the amount of \$310,442. (Of the 55 pledges, 19 were first-time commitments!). **Our goal this year: 60 commitments; \$330,000.**

ANNUAL THANKSGIVING LUNCH: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Chef Laval is preparing our Thanksgiving feast again this year. After worship on November 19, we'll enjoy food and friendship around the tables in Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$10/adults; \$7/children under 12. Deadline for reservations is Thursday, November 16. You may make your reservation and pay for your tickets in advance on our **website (preferred - <https://goo.gl/fhGHZx>)**, or email Church Administrator D'O Dillard (ddillard@firstbaptistdc.org) and pay at the door. **Please consider chipping in the cost of an extra meal so we**



can extend warm hospitality to all guests who join us for worship that morning. (Please note: Our Thanksgiving celebration this year will take place on Sunday. There won't be a Thanksgiving Eve service on Nov. 22.)



BORED WIDE-EYED EXCITED
 EMPTY THANKFUL WEARY
 FALTERING HOPEFUL **SINGING**
 ACHING CURIOUS PLAYFUL
 LONELY **SURROUNDED**
 WANTING WISHING FATIGUED
 BELIEVING ANGRY ASHAMED
 CONTENT QUIET SERENE
 SURE SECURE ALONE **GRIEVING**
 DOUBTING **GROUND**ED ANXIOUS

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

SUNDAYS @ 11AM

December 3

How We Wait: **WIDE-EYED**

Mark 13:24-37

December 10

How We Wait: **FALTERING**

Isaiah 40:1-11

December 17

How We Wait: **SURROUNDED**

Matthew 1:1-16

December 24

How We Wait: **BELIEVING**

Luke 1:26-38

December 24 *4PM

CHRISTMAS EVE

How We Wait: **GROUND**ED

Luke 2:1-20



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



60th Annual

*Christmas
Candlelight Carols*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2017

4:00 p.m.



1328 16TH ST NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20036 | + 202 387 2206



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 13, 2017 • 7PM

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



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



FBC WALKS TO END HIV

By Mike Henson

Eleven men and women of our FBC family spent a beautiful Saturday morning participating in the Walk to End HIV. We joined thousands of other walkers (and some runners) to raise money to support the HIV programs and services of Whitman-Walker Health in the DC area. It was a time of great fun and fellowship and an opportunity to show our love and concern for those in our community living with HIV. Our team raised \$515. Many thanks to all who contributed to this effort; there is still time to make a donation at <https://walktoendhiv.org/>.

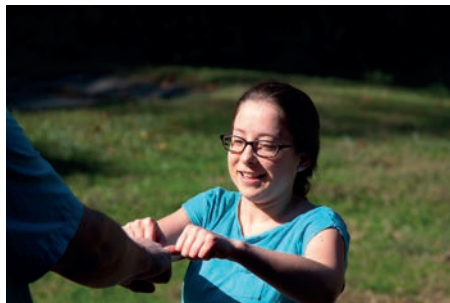


2017 ANNUAL PICNIC RECAP

By Pastor Alyssa

In the movie *Miss Congeniality*, a pageant contestant describes her perfect date as April 25th- because it's not too hot, not too cold. Well I would venture to say that October 21st, 2017 is a date for the books!

The weather was perfect for a friendly game of badminton, parachutes, and yummy food. We made a few friends while playing the parachute game and caught up with old friends over some fried chicken and sandwich fixings. Special thanks to Kate Campbell and the social committee for planning a great day in Rock Creek Park. And thanks to all those who came out and enjoyed the lovely day. Here are a few pictures from our wonderful day out. Be sure to join us next year!





BAPTISTS HONOR NEVILLE CALLAM

On October 21, more than a hundred leaders in Baptist life gathered at Memorial Baptist Church in Arlington to honor Rev. Dr. Neville Callam who will retire in December after serving 10 years as General Secretary of the Baptist World Alliance. Callam, a Jamaican, is the first black person and the first who is neither an American nor a European to lead the BWA. Among the speakers were Robert Cochran, Executive Minister of the DC Baptist Convention; Suzii Paynter, Executive Coordinator of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and Jeffrey Haggray, Executive Director, American Baptist Home Mission Societies. Pastor Julie, along with Robert and Deborah Cochran, represented First Baptist Church. The Baptist World Alliance is made up of 235 member bodies from 122 countries and territories. American Elijah Brown, 36, will assume the position of General Secretary on January 1, 2018.



CHILDREN'S MINISTER JOB OPENING

First Baptist Church of the City of Washington, DC, is searching for a creative and gifted individual who will lead and serve in the area of ministry to infants/preschoolers, older children and their families. This role includes leading and collaborating with a team of adult and youth volunteers. This person will help our church fulfill our calling in Washington:

- To know and love God,
- Befriend people on the margins of faith,
- Grow believers into mature followers of Christ, and to
- Serve our community and world in the way of Jesus.

This position is planned for 15-17 hours per week: approximately 6 hours on Sundays and 9 to 11 hours during the week, including some evening meetings and weekends. There also is the possibility of extra time during the summer (special outings; children's camp). Salary will be commensurate with related experience and skills. Job Description and More info here:

<https://goo.gl/XPEfki>

BILL LEONARD COMING TO FBC IN 2018



Save the date! Renowned Church Historian Bill J. Leonard is our Winter Forum speaker on March 4, 2018. Leonard is the James and Marilyn Dunn Professor of Baptist Studies and Professor of Church History at Wake Forest School of Divinity in Winston-Salem, NC. He is the author or

editor of some 25 books including *Christianity in Appalachia* (1999); *Baptist Ways: A History* (2003); *The Challenge of Being Baptist* (2010); *Can I Get a Witness?: Essays, Sermons and Reflections* (2013); and *A Sense of the Heart: Christian Religious Experience in the U.S.*, (2014). His newest book, *The Homebrewed Christianity Guide to Church History: Flaming Heretics and Heavy Drinkers*, was published by Fortress Press in July 2017.

Leonard writes a twice-monthly column for *Baptist News Global* and is an ordained Baptist minister. His spouse, Dr. Candyce Crew Leonard, is professor of Humanities at Wake Forest University with specialization in Spanish literature. They have one daughter, Stephanie. The Leonards are members of First Baptist Church, Highland Avenue, the oldest African American Baptist congregation in Winston-Salem.

EVENTS

Saturday, November 4

Turn clocks **BACK** one hour before bed;
Daylight Saving Time ends 2am Sunday.

Sunday, November 5

9:30am: First Glance Session Three (Rm 315)

9:30am: Bible Study for all Ages

10am: Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Rm 312)

11am: Worship (Sanctuary)

12pm: Potluck luncheon; brief congregational meeting (Fellowship Hall)

2pm: Worship in Spanish (Dawson Room)

Thursday, November 9

NO Ordinary Time. The young adult group will not meet next week for Ordinary Time as pastor Alyssa will be out of pocket.

Friday, November 10

FBC & CDC closed in observance of Veterans Day

DEACONS ON-CALL: WEEK OF NOVEMBER 5:



Rose Smith

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 12:



Chelsea Clarke

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

FBC PRAYER & CARE

Sympathy

- To Lisa Hamerstone in the death of her brother, Lane Mabbett, on October 26 in Phippsburg, ME.

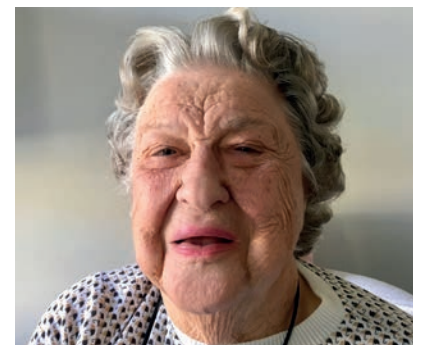
Recently Added

- Sharon McBeath (recovering from surgery on 10/31)
- Robert Lyttle (recovering from a stroke)
- Gordon Richmond (hospitalized this week)
- Carol Cook (recovering from foot surgery)

Greetings!

Longtime FBC member **Jo Clare Edwards**, who can't join us physically but keeps up with FBC through our newsletter, sends her greeting and love from her home in Springfield, VA.

Jo Clare and her late husband, Ross, joined FBC in the 1940s and were members of the Pilgrim Class. (photo by Pastor Julie)



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