



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

TWICE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FEBRUARY 15, 2018

CONCENTRIC CIRCLES OF PEACE

2 NEW CLASS WITH LESLIE & ROGER ALFORD BEGINS 2/18 THE FINE ART OF CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION

Sundays @ 9:30-10:30am: February 18 - April 1, 2018



4 LENTEN VESPERS
WED @ 7PM

Dinner @ 6pm
Feb. 21- Mar. 21



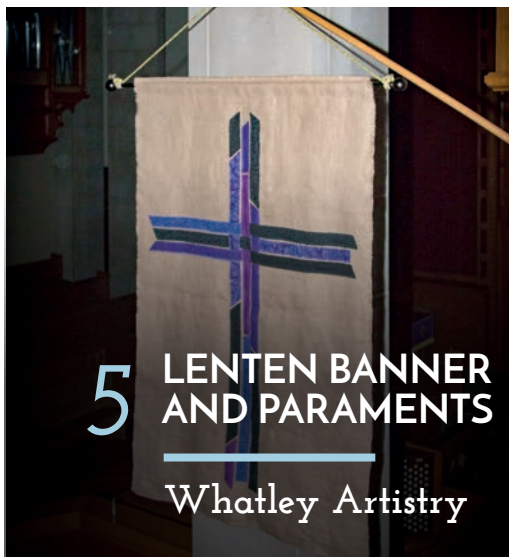
3 WINTER FORUM:
BILL LEONARD

Sunday Morning
Mar. 4 @ 9:30am



5 PALM SUNDAY
MARIACHI PARADE

On Our Streets
Mar. 25 @ Noon



5 LENTEN BANNER
AND PARAMENTS

Whatley Artistry



IMMERSED IN LOVE

6 LENTEN SERMON SERIES
TELLING OUR STORY THROUGH BAPTISM

Sundays @ 11am: February 18 - April 1, 2018

New 6-week Sunday Morning Class During Lent (begins Feb. 18)

CONCENTRIC CIRCLES OF PEACE

Meditating on the Fine Art of Conflict Transformation

Led by Leslie & Roger Alford

You are warmly invited to join our Lenten adult devotional hour, from **9:30-10:30am on Sunday mornings** over the course of *six Sundays, to reflect and prepare for a collective, spiritual journey. Taking some poignant cues from a handful of inspiring peacemakers, including the notable German pastor, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, we will pause each Sunday during Lent to allow for four "moments."

Each week we will listen for four distinct "P's" of spiritual formation:

- a spiritual **practice**
- a transformative **process**
- a devotional **prayer**, and
- a poetic word from the prayer book of the Bible, the **Psalms**

We will begin each class with a brief, intentional time for group members to share with one another. We shall conclude each class with a moment for live, gentle, meditational music to help us along our way. This class in spiritual formation hopes to reflect God's light in such a way that God's beauty might be seen more clearly and felt more dearly.

We will look and listen for the work of peace in three concentric circles:

- 1st Circle: The spiritual communion/relationship between the individual and the present Christ.
- 2nd Circle: The spiritual relationship or communion between two or more persons interpersonally.
- 3rd Circle: Ways in which the even wider concentric circle of the peace of Christ is taking shape out in the local/global fields.

We hope you'll join us in this quiet, inward Lenten journey and see where it might lead!

* February 18, 25; March 11, 18, 25 (Palm Sunday); April 1 (Easter Sunday)

3rd Floor
ROOM 315



GROW

WINTER FORUM

SUN MAR 4

with Bill Leonard

**THE FUTURE OF
CHRISTIANITY IN AMERICA:
IS THERE ONE?**

Winter Forum Sunday Schedule (March 4)

- 9am** Pancake Breakfast in Fellowship Hall (free; catered by Chef Laval)
9:30am Bill Leonard teaches adults and youth: *The Future of Christianity in America: Is There One?*
11am Bill Leonard preaches in worship: *Vintage Jesus (John 2:1-17)*

Renowned Church Historian, and long-time friend of FBCDC, Bill J. 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 and 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.

Supplemental reading before Winter Forum (by Bill Leonard)

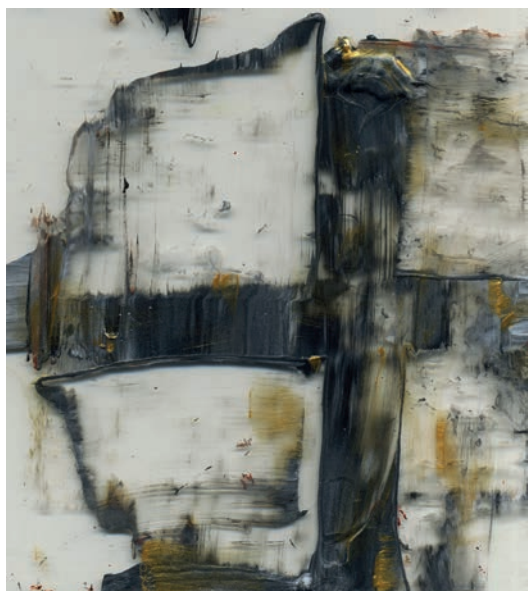
We have received 20 copies of both *The Challenge of Being Baptist* (\$20) and *The Homebrewed Christianity Guide to Church History: Flaming Heretics and Heavy Drinkers* (\$10). Contact D'O at ddillard@firstbaptistdc.org to purchase one or both books, or purchase on Sunday mornings in the Narthex after worship.

Additional articles by Bill Leonard:

- https://baptistnews.com/article/baptist-brokenness-reconciliation-revolution/#.WoWYmaZP_9
https://baptistnews.com/article/separation-church-state-yes-sort/#.WoWArmaZP_9
https://baptistnews.com/article/2018-fervent-frightened-prayer/#.WoWAKWaZP_9
https://baptistnews.com/article/africa-white-supremacy-churchs-silence/#.WoWA7GaZP_9

WORSHIP

LENTEN

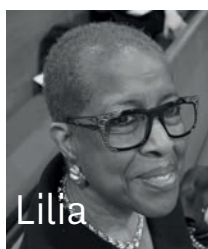


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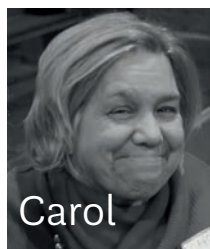
*Wednesdays @ 7pm
February 21 – March 21
FBC Sanctuary*

These 45-minute worship services will offer a simple, meaningful opportunity to pause in the middle of the week to connect with God and receive fresh inspiration. Each service will feature someone from FBC sharing a piece of his or her faith story, as well as musicians from our congregation.

Date	Faith Story	Musician(s)
Feb 21	Lilia Abron	Cindy Fuller
Feb 28	Kevin Biggins	Paul Nelson, Zena Aldridge
Mar 7	Carol Nicholas	Robert Cochran, Kimberly Galva
Mar 14	Roger Alford	Christina Whitehouse-Suggs
Mar 21	Oliver Müller	Charles Pugh, Kevin Biggins



Lilia



Carol



Oliver



Paul



Robert



Christina



Kevin



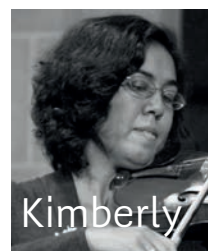
Roger



Cindy



Zena



Kimberly



Charles

WORSHIP



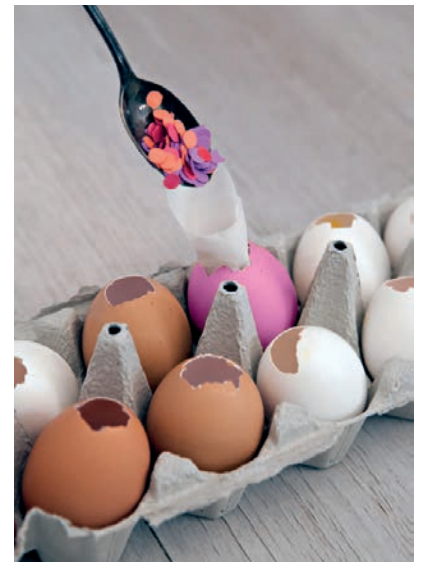
PALM SUNDAY MARIACHI PARADE

You're invited to join us on Sunday March 25th, for a Palm Sunday Parade! "Mariachi Ay Ay Ay" will return to lead us in song as we circle our DuPont Neighborhood waving palm branches. Wear your walking shoes and join us as we let our neighbors know that they are loved.

CASCARONES

Last year it was a treat to see our church folk participate in the wonderful tradition of cracking cascarones on the heads of friends and family. And now that we've done it one year, I look forward to this year's bounty of egg shells! Just in case you don't know what a cascarone is- a cascarone is a hollowed out chicken egg decorated, filled with confetti, and topped with a piece of tissue paper.

On Easter Sunday, one -with the best intentions of course- cracks a cascarone on a friend's head, signifying colorful showers of God's grace and blessings. Cascarones are a Mexican Easter tradition dating back to the mid-1800s and used mostly in towns on the Mexico/Texas border. During the 40 days of Lent, I'd like to invite you to save your washed eggshells and drop them off with me, Alyssa Aldape. The week before Easter, the youth will gather to put together cascarones to share with our church family on Easter Sunday!



Don't Forget: Save your eggshells and drop off hallowed and rinsed out eggshells with pastor Alyssa.

Cascarone Count 2018: 12 egg shells (250 needed)

OUR LENTEN BANNER AND PARAMENTS

During the solemn church season of Lent, we focus on repentance, prayer and self-reflection. Our banner suggests the "sackcloth and ashes" often associated with personal failures and mourning in the Old Testament. A somber, limited color palette of torn strips of cloth on burlap picks up this theme. The banner, paraments and stoles are the gift of Jac and Kathy Whatley.



2018 Lenten Sermon Series

IMMERSED IN LOVE

Telling Our Story through Baptism

Feb 18 **We Are Born** | *John 3:1-8*

Feb 25 **We Are Washed** | *Ezekiel 36:25-28*

Mar 4



Mar 11 **We Are Clothed** | *Galatians 3:23-29*

Mar 18 **We Are Welcomed** | *Ephesians 4:1-6*

Mar 25 **We are Buried** | *Mark 10:35-45*
(Palm Sunday)

After Worship: Neighborhood Mariachi Palm Parade

Apr 1 **We are Raised** | *Romans 6:1-11*
(Easter)

Historically in the Christian movement, the season of Lent, the forty days leading up to Easter, was a time when new believers prepared for their baptism. During the Lenten season this year at First Baptist Church, we are following the example of the early church by remembering together our great story as followers of Christ through the image of baptism. All the major themes of a believer's story are visible every time we baptize: birth, cleansing, new "clothes", community, burial, resurrection. Join us as we remember our story.

CONNECT

COMBINE WORSHIP AND COMMUNITY ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS IN LENT

Two Dinner Options!

Prefer to eat early? Enjoy a delicious meal prepared by Chef Laval at 6pm in Fellowship Hall. Cost: \$8.00. RSVP to D'O Dillard, ddillard@firstbaptistdc.org each week by Monday at 5pm or make a standing reservation for all five suppers during Lent.

Prefer to eat later? Each week after vespers, all who'd like to join in are invited to walk as a group to one of the many nearby restaurants.

ILLUMINATION PROJECT: CONTINUING CONVERSATIONS

On February 9, the Governing Board of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship voted unanimously to replace an 18-year-old policy barring "the purposeful hiring of a staff person or the sending of a missionary who is a practicing homosexual" with a new policy that does not mention sexual orientation. Another motion to accept the 43-page final report—including an implementation plan—of a two-year **Illumination Project** which was assigned to listen to various voices in CBF life on matters of human sexuality also passed. The vote has inspired conversation among Baptists, some of which may be found on the websites of Baptist News Global and Ethics Daily, including this **blog** by Pastor Julie. The Illumination Project Committee was chaired by FBCDC's Executive Pastor, Charlie Fuller. Both Charlie and Julie invite any in our congregation who'd like to talk more about the Illumination Project to reach out to them.



THIRD SUNDAY LUNCH YOUTH

All 7th-12th grade youth are welcome to join pastor Alyssa for lunch after the service this Sunday! Meet Alyssa in the narthex after service and together we'll go to a local spot.

ORDINARY TIME

During the season of Lent, we will meet at FBC for Ordinary Time. Bring your dinner or snack and we'll discuss the theme of rebirth as we journey to the cross together. All are welcome. 6PM- 8PM in the Meadow's Room and/or courtyard (weather permitting).

SERVE

SANDWICH MAKING FEB 21

Our monthly sandwich-making activity is scheduled for next Wednesday, February 21. It's a great way to get to know fellow FBC'ers as we make sandwiches for distribution by McKenna's Wagon, sponsored by Martha's Table. We'll start at 5 pm and finish by 6. Plan to stay for dinner at 6 pm and Lenten Vespers at 7pm. Questions? Contact D'O at ddillard@firstbaptistdc.org



GIVE

BENEFIT PERFORMANCE

Please support the National Center for Children and Families (NCCF) while enjoying a wonderful dinner and performance of Disney's "Newsies," the Tony award-winning musical, to benefit the youth in the Greentree Adolescent Program (GAP).

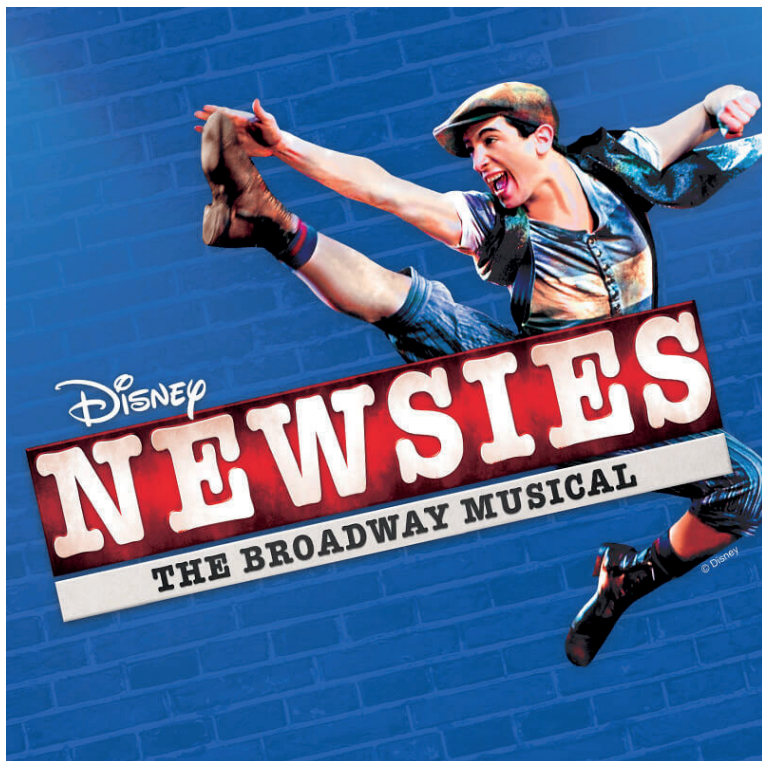
Sunday, May 6 at 5 pm
Toby's Dinner Theatre
Columbia, MD

Tickets, including dinner, show, and gratuity, are \$58 per person (\$10.00 tax deductible).

The NCCF (formerly Baptist Home for Children) is a private, non-profit agency serving the national capital area. Residential programs serve:

- homeless families
- victims of domestic violence
- vulnerable adolescents.

You may also make a contribution so that the youth from GAP may attend as our guests. Checks should be made payable to the Board of Church Representatives, NCCF. Reservations or checks are due by March 18, 2018. For tickets or donations, please call Bonnie Jorgensen (301-649-4804).



ADVOCATE

A.C.T. NOW!

awaken confront transform

RALLY TO END RACISM

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, ON THE NATIONAL MALL

50th Anniversary of the Assassination of MLK

On April 3-5, 2018 the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA and partners will gather in Washington, D.C. for a historic event to mark 50 years since the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on April 4, 1968, and to launch its Truth and Racial Justice Initiative. The Rally to End Racism is a launching point for a comprehensive, multi-year program to address racism in our nation. Pastor Julie is serving on the fundraising committee for this event. Many volunteers will be needed from local congregations. Stay tuned for ways you can help.

Schedule At-A-Glance for April 3-5, 2018

Tuesday, April 3: Ecumenical Worship Service in the Orthodox Tradition

- 6:30 p.m.: St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 2815 36th St., NW, Washington, D.C., 20007

Wednesday, April 4: ACT to End Racism Rally on the National Mall

- 7-8 a.m.: Silent Prayer Walk to the National Mall
- 8-9 a.m.: Interfaith Service
- 9 a.m.-4 p.m.: Rally and Call to Commitment

Thursday, April 5: National Day of Advocacy & Action



Serving as a leading voice of witness to the living Christ in the public square since 1950, the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA (NCC) brings together 38 member communions (including the Alliance of Baptists) and more than 35 million Christians in a common expression of God's love and promise of unity.

<http://www.rally2endracism.org/>

EVENTS

Sunday, February 18

9:30am: Church School for All Ages

10am: Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Rm 312)

11am: Worship (Sanctuary)

2pm: Worship in Spanish (Dawson Room)
(Note: the Church Council is not meeting)

Monday, February 19

FBC offices closed in observance of Presidents' Day

Tuesday, February 20

6:30 pm Education for Ministry (Conference Room)

Wednesday, February 21

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

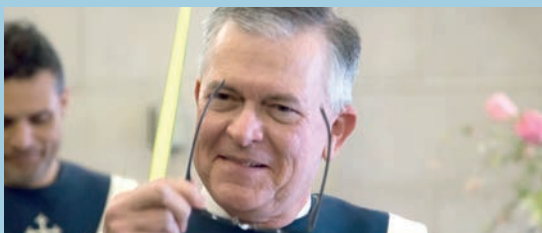
6pm: Dinner (Cost: \$8; menu: beef stew. Fellowship Hall)

7pm: Lenten Vesper Service (Sanctuary)

Thursday, February 22

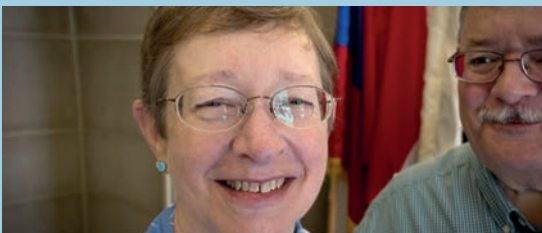
6pm: Ordinary Time (Meadows Room/ Courtyard)

DEACONS ON-CALL: WEEK OF FEBRUARY 18:



Mike Henson

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 25:



Kathy Whatley

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

FBC PRAYER & CARE

In the World:

- Pray for the families and teachers at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL, in the wake of Wednesday's mass shooting. **Andrew Blasi** (from our congregation) graduated from MSDHS and grew up in that community. Pray for **Andrew** as well, and for his family.

Sympathy to:

- **Lucia Pollock** in the death of her sister, long-time FBC member and chorister, **Eleanor Pollock**, on February 14. Eleanor went into hospice care earlier this week.
- **Steve Hunter and wife Veronica** in the passing of Steve's dad, **David Hunter**, on January 16. A celebration of David's life will take place Sunday, February 25 at 1pm in the FBC sanctuary. Please remember also David's daughters, Cheryl Ann, Karen and Jan and their families.

Recently Added

- **Becky McBeath**, injured in a recent fall

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