



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

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | JANUARY 2019



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A New Year's Letter from Pastor Julie



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FROM THE PASTOR

"THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS" INCLUDES CARING FOR IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES



By Julie Pennington-Russell

New Year's blessings, FBC family. I'm thinking today about the timeless words of Howard Thurman (which are included in this Sunday's worship guide):

*When the song of the angel is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers and sisters,
To make music in the heart.*



(Continued on Page 3)

The work of Christmas... This is the line in Thurman's poem that shimmers for me and invites me to sit with this personal question: If, like the repentant Ebenezer Scrooge, I resolve to "honor Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year," *what new actions will I undertake in 2019 that reflect the love of God made visible in the life of Jesus?* (This question, by the way, is at the heart of the conversations we are having about our facilities and our prevailing mission as a church.)

This Sunday in worship, Epiphany Sunday, we will read the story, in the second chapter of Matthew's Gospel, of the "Flight into Egypt" in which, after the birth of Jesus and the visit from the Magi, an "angel of the Lord" comes to Joseph in a dream and warns him to leave Bethlehem for Egypt because King Herod is planning to "seek out the child to kill him." Mary and Joseph do leave, along with Jesus, and, according to Matthew, make their way into Egypt. Afterward, King Herod slaughters all the male children in Bethlehem under two years of age. (Matt. 2:13-18)

Matthew shows us a family that is forced to flee their homeland for fear of persecution. This is the classic modern-day definition of a refugee. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) defines a refugee as "someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war, or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group."

The Holy Family, as Matthew recounts the story, was fleeing because of a "well-founded fear of persecution" because of their "membership in a particular social group," in this case people with young children living in Bethlehem.

In 2019 we have two particular opportunities to enter into the struggle of refugees both in the U.S. and overseas (see related announcements on p. 4). In the spirit of "the work of Christmas" and in solidarity with the Holy Family, I invite you to consider participating in at least one of these:

1. **Pilgrimage to the U.S.-Texas border**, March 10-14, led by Pastor Julie and Rev. Jeana Martin, pastor of Wesley United Methodist Church in Harlingen, TX.
2. **Pilgrimage to Albacete, Spain**, July 20-27, led by Alyssa Aldape, FBC Missions Team leader Chelsea Clarke, and CBF field personnel Eddie & Macarena Aldape.

In the meantime, I ask you to take up "the work of Christmas" in this fresh, new year before us. What new actions will you undertake in 2019 that reflect the love of God made visible in the life of Jesus?

Peace and grace,



MISSION

LENTEN PILGRIMAGE TO THE US-MEXICO BORDER MARCH 10-14, 2019

Join Pastor Julie, Pastor Alyssa and Reverend Jeana Martin, pastor of Wesley United Methodist Church in Harlingen, TX, on a four-day pilgrimage to the U.S.-Mexico border during the first week of Lent, March 10-14, 2019. The pilgrimage will reflect a contemplative posture, leaving space throughout the three days to listen to the Spirit as we try to be fully present with God and with all whom we meet—immigrants and refugees, religious and social services personnel, clergy, border patrol agents, etc.



Basic info:

- Group is limited to 15 FBC participants (several have already signed up).
- We fly into Harlingen, TX, on Sunday, March 10 and return on Thursday, March 14.
- Plane tickets into Harlingen are between \$300 and \$400. We will be hosted (in pairs) by church members of Wesley UMC in Harlingen, to keep the cost of the trip as low as possible.
- You'll need a passport or an original birth certificate and driver's license or other official ID, as we are planning to cross into Mexico during our pilgrimage.
- Additional cost: We will split the rental cost of a van for traveling in the Rio Grande Valley.
- There will be some reading assignments before we depart for Texas.

If you sense God leading you to participate, please let Pastor Julie know. And please pray in advance for this trip, and for all involved in the daily struggle at the border.

FBC MISSION IMMERSION: SPAIN -- JULY 20-27, 2019

For two years First Baptist has supported Eddie and Macarena Aldape in their work with immigrants and refugees in Spain (more info: <https://goo.gl/5gE1fb>). This year, we have been invited to see and participate in their work.

The Aldapes work with immigrants and refugees coming from South America and North Africa. Their work consists of resettling families, assisting newcomers with finding jobs, and teaching English and Spanish classes. We will worship with their home church, learn about the work of migrant field workers, encourage new immigrants and refugees as they settle into their new lives in Spain, and teach ESP (English as a Second Language) and SSL (Spanish as a Second Language).

Skills Needed:

- English and Spanish Speakers
- Experience teaching and working with children
- Entrepreneurial/Small Business Experience
- An open heart and mind

This trip is open to folk actively involved in the life of the church who are at least 16 years of age. If you're interested in going, contact Pastor Alyssa for more details. We will share details on cost and day-to-day schedule soon.



GROW

WINTER FORUM

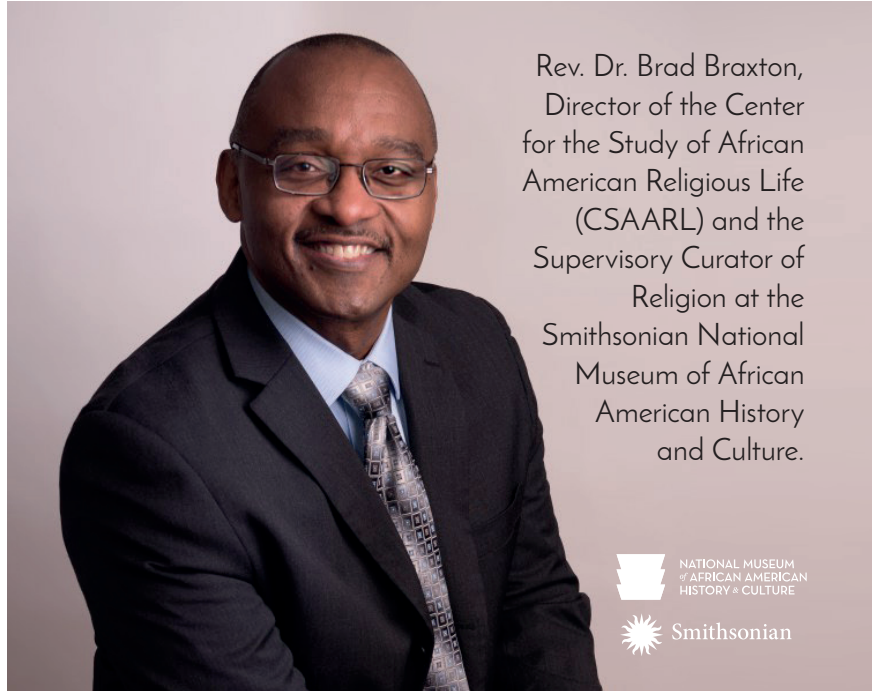
Rev. Dr. Brad Braxton

SAT & SUN FEB 9-10

Saturday: Visit to the National Museum of African American History and Culture with orientation lecture by Dr. Braxton. Lunch on your own at the museum.

Sunday:
Brad lectures during the Bible study hour and preaches in worship.

Stay tuned for more information including how to RSVP for Saturday's museum visit, as there will be a limited number of spots available.



Rev. Dr. Brad Braxton, Director of the Center for the Study of African American Religious Life (CSAARL) and the Supervisory Curator of Religion at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture.



SUNDAY MORNING SMALL GROUPS AT FBC

Reconnecting with Our Spiritual Roots

New Sunday Morning Class on Judaism Begins January 13

- **Jan. 13** Reconnecting with our Heritage: The Basics of Judaism
- **Jan. 20** Reconnecting with our Scriptural Roots: A Jewish Understanding of Scripture
- **Jan. 27** Connecting with a Rabbi: Guest Speaker, Rabbi Marc Gopin
- **Feb. 3** Reconnecting God's Family: Building Relationships between Jews and Christians



Classes begin at 9:30am each Sunday in the Library, taught by FBC member Charlie Reynolds, US Army Chaplain (Ret.)

Young Adult Bible Study: Minor Prophets of the Hebrew Bible

January-February 2019

During the months of January and February, the young adult group will discuss and explore the minor prophets of the Hebrew Bible. Bible study begins every Sunday at 9:45am in the Dawson Room (room 103/105, near the O Street entrance). Contact Pastor Alyssa for more information: aaldape@firstbaptistdc.org



WORSHIP

CELEBRATE EPIPHANY THIS SUNDAY IN WORSHIP

We conclude the twelve days of Christmas on January 6, known by Christians around the world as Epiphany. The name "Epiphany" comes from the Greek word *epiphania*, meaning "to show, make known, or reveal." We associate Epiphany with the visit of the Wise Men, or Magi, who found the infant Jesus by following a star across the desert to Bethlehem (Matthew 2) and were the first Gentiles to worship Jesus through their offerings of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Epiphany not only completes Christmas, it also fulfills it by celebrating the revelation of the Christ to the whole world.



This Week in Worship

Epiphany

Message: To Life!

Sermon Text: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Supplemental Texts: Isaiah 60:1-6;
Matthew 2:1-12

Jan 6

Join us on the first Sunday of 2019 as we celebrate Epiphany through music, prayers, the reading of Scripture, a message by Pastor Julie, the sharing of the Communion, and a special candle lighting moment to mark the new year.

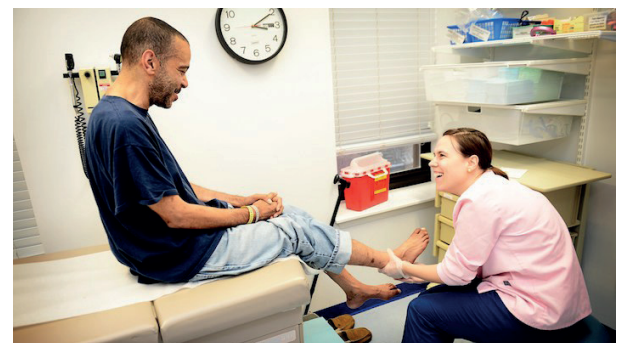
MISSION

SERVE BREAKFAST @ CHRIST HOUSE SUNDAY, JAN. 13 7AM

We invite you to be the hands and feet of Christ on Sunday, January 13th, at 7am by serving breakfast to the residents of Christ House, a medical facility serving unhoused individuals in Adams Morgan. (First Baptist serves this community on the 2nd Sunday of every month.)

Christ House is located at 1717 Columbia Rd., NW, Washington DC 20009, and volunteers are finished in time to get to FBC for Sunday Morning Bible Study and Worship.

Sign up at <https://goo.gl/4EvMXi>. If you have questions, contact our Christ House coordinators Oliver Müller and Molly Young (muller.oliver@gmail.com; mollyvyoung@hotmail.com).



MORE

GENEROSITY CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Thanks be to God—a total of 57 individuals and families have returned 2019 commitment cards for a total of \$289,208. The response of our congregation to the fall generosity emphasis has been truly inspiring, with 17 new individuals and families making first-time pledges and another 13 increasing their pledge from 2018! We are just short of our goal of 60 pledges and \$330,000. While the official Generosity Campaign ended on December 31st, you may still pledge through our [website](#), or with a pledge card (available in narthex and office area).

2019 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 2019 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%	"Tithes" 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

STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

January 1, 2016: Julie P-R

Five things you might not know about Pastor Julie:

1. In August of 1943, seventeen years before I was born, both of my grandfathers died in a series of explosions at the Sayreton coal mine in Birmingham, AL.
2. My first "real" job at the age of 16 was at a Burger King in Bossier City, LA, starting at the fry machine and working my way up to the cash register (I gained 10 pounds that year).
3. Some of my favorite movies: To Kill a Mockingbird (1962); The Lion in Winter (1968); Searching for Bobby Fischer (1993); Chocolat (2000); The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (2013); The Rider (2017).
4. Favorite place for retreat: The Monastery of Christ in the Desert (Abiquiu, NM).
5. Tim and I write each other poems for birthdays and anniversaries.



January 1, 2017: Charlie Fuller

Five things you might not know about Pastor Charlie:

1. During summers in college I worked in an engineering office for the Arkansas Highway Department.
2. In high school I dated the daughter of a man who once flew supersonic bombers. During college I dated the daughter of a man who walked on the moon. I married the daughter of a pharmacist.
3. I started college as a trumpet major and was also a math major before I switched back to music.
4. I taught high school for three years and worked for the school district maintenance department every summer.
5. In the 1990's I ran four marathons and after knee surgery I walked three more.



EVENTS

Sunday, Jan. 6 Epiphany Sunday

- 9:30am: Sunday Morning Bible Study for All Ages
- 9:30am: Young Adult Bible Study (Dawson Room)
- 10am: Chancel Choir rehearsal (Room 312)
- 11am: Worship (Sanctuary)
- 12 noon: Pot Luck Lunch (Fellowship Hall)
- 12 noon: Youth Epiphany event (Youth Lounge)
- 2pm: Worship in Spanish (Dawson Room)

Tuesday, Jan. 8

- 6:15pm: Education for Ministry (Conference Room)

Thursday, Jan. 10

- 6pm: Ordinary Time (Elephant & Castle, 19th Street, NW)

Saturday, Jan. 12

- 12noon: Basketball (Gym)

Sunday, Jan. 13

- 7am: Serve at Christ House; register here: <https://goo.gl/4EvMXi>
- 9:30am: Sunday Morning Bible Study: Reconnecting with Our Spiritual Roots, Session One (Library)
- 9:30am: Young Adult Bible Study (Dawson Room)
- 10am: Chancel Choir rehearsal (Rm 312)
- 11am: Worship (Sanctuary)
- 12 noon: Deacon's Meeting (Room 315)
- 2pm: Worship in Spanish (Dawson Room)

Tuesday, Jan. 15

- 6:15pm: Education for Ministry (Conference Room)

Wednesday, Jan. 16

- 5pm: Sandwich making for Martha's Table (Fellowship Hall)
- 6pm: Dinner (RSVP to D'O at ddillard@firstbaptistdc.org. Cost: \$8)

Thursday, Jan. 17

- 6pm: Ordinary Time (Elephant & Castle, 19th Street, NW)

Saturday, Jan. 19

- 12noon: Basketball (Gym)

Sunday, Jan. 20

- 9:30am: Sunday Morning Bible Study: Reconnecting with Our Spiritual Roots, Session Two (Library)
- 9:30am: Young Adult Bible Study (Dawson Room)
- 10am: Chancel Choir rehearsal (Rm 312)
- 11am: Worship (Sanctuary)
- 2pm: Worship in Spanish (Dawson Room)

Monday, Jan. 21

- FBC and CDC closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday

Tuesday, Jan. 22

- 6:15pm: Education for Ministry (Conference Room)

Thursday, Jan. 24

- 6pm: Ordinary Time (Elephant & Castle, 19th Street, NW)

Saturday, Jan. 26

- 12noon: Basketball (Gym)

Sunday, Jan. 27

- 9:30am: Sunday Morning Bible Study: Reconnecting with Our Spiritual Roots, Session Three (Library)
- 9:30am: Young Adult Bible Study (Dawson Room)
- 10am: Chancel Choir rehearsal (Rm 312)
- 11am: Worship (Sanctuary)
- 2pm: Worship in Spanish (Dawson Room)

Tuesday, Jan. 29

- 6:15pm: Education for Ministry (Conference Room)

Thursday, Jan. 31

- 6pm: Ordinary Time (Elephant & Castle, 19th Street, NW)

DECEMBER PHOTOS



DEACONS ON-CALL: WEEK OF JANUARY 6:



Kate Campbell

WEEK OF JANUARY 13:



Allen Norfleet

WEEK OF JANUARY 20:



Erik Smith

WEEK OF JANUARY 27:



Chelsea Clarke

FBC PRAYER & CARE

Recently Added:

- **Violet Bakare:** health
- Sharon Smith (**Clark Smith's** mother): treatments for cancer
- **Amanda Ellison:** enrolled in special pain management program in Baltimore

January Birthdays:

Jan. 1 Chelsea Clarke	Jan. 20 Doug Duvall
Jan. 5 Denny Austin	Jan. 23 Julie Geren
Jan. 8 Steve Netcott	Jan. 26 Brenda Rozier-Clark
Jan. 16 Dennis Lambert	Jan. 27 Wil McBeath
Jan. 18 Bonnie Jorgensen	Jan. 30 Grace Adigun
Roger Alford	Jan. 31 Ernest Stone

Don't see your birthday listed? Please email Zena at zaldridge@firstbaptistdc.org.

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