



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

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FEBRUARY 2019

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March 16, 2019

GROW

WINTER FORUM: BRAD BRAXTON TO LECTURE & PREACH ON FEBRUARY 10

WINTER FORUM

SUNDAY FEB 10

**9:30AM - LIFTING THE VEIL: RELIGION,
REPARATIONS AND RECONCILIATION**

11AM - THE VALUE OF KNOWING WHO YOU ARE

Though all of the tickets have now been reserved for the tour of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, there is still the opportunity to hear Rev. Dr. Brad Braxton teach and preach on Sunday, February 10:

- **9am:** Coffee, pastries and fellowship
(side-chapel of the Sanctuary)
- **9:30am:** Lecture by Dr. Braxton: *Lifting the Veil: Religion, Reparations and Reconciliation*, based on 2 Cor. 3 & 2 Cor. 5
(Sanctuary)
- **11am:** Worship, Dr. Braxton preaching: *The Value of Knowing Who You Are* Text: 1 John 3:1-2
(Sanctuary)

More info: <https://goo.gl/XEW6qq>



CONNECT & SERVE W/NSBC

FBC & NSBC TEAMS TO MEET WEDNESDAY, FEB. 20

On November 7, 2018, twenty-two men and women from First Baptist Church and Nineteenth Street Baptist Church met at NSBC for prayer, conversation and the planning of joint ventures between our two churches in the following areas: worship, social & racial justice, and the writing of a new, combined history. On **Wednesday evening, February 20**, FBCDC will host the second meeting from 7-8:30pm. There is still time to join in! **Reach out to Pastor Julie if you'd like to be on one of the three teams.**



- **Worship:** Leslie Alford & Kenyatta Hobson, co-leaders
- **Social & Racial Justice:** Kate Campbell, Rhonda Glaude & Cheryl Coleman Hall, co-leaders
- **History:** Janice Osborn & Louise White, co-leaders

FBCDC and NSBC share a 217-year history, much of it strained by issues of racial injustice. With God's help, we are writing a new chapter together. In August of last year, our two churches gathered for a prayer walk and communion together at the MLK Memorial. We will come together again on April 18 for a Maundy Thursday communion and foot-washing service. Stay tuned as plans develop.

SANDWICH MAKING & JOINT DINNER WITH NINETEENTH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH, FEBRUARY 20



At 5pm join us for our monthly service project as we make sandwiches for those in need, distributed by Martha's Table through McKenna's Wagon.

We have invited our friends from Nineteenth Street Baptist Church to enjoy dinner with us beginning at 6 pm, catered by Chef Laval. Cost: \$8; please be sure to RSVP to ddillard@firstbaptistdc.org. so we'll have enough food.



SERVE

DEACON NOMINATIONS BEGIN FEBRUARY 10

It's almost time at First Baptist Church to nominate new deacons who will begin service in May. **During the 15-day period between Feb. 10 and Feb. 25**, FBCDC members are invited to offer the names of up to 6 church members who demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Gal. 5:22-23), and who embody characteristics of servant leadership. **Nominees, as well as those nominating, must be full members of FBC.** A copy of the current FBC directory is available in the Library (2nd floor) and in the Narthex.



This year's deacon election will fill four, 3-year terms ending in 2019, and one, 1-year term ending in 2020. Nomination forms will be provided in worship on three Sundays: February 10, 17 and 24. Or you may submit names by email to office@firstbaptistdc.org. **All nominations must be received by 5pm Monday, February 25.**

Individuals not eligible for election as new deacons:

- (1) *Deacons completing their 3-year term of service in 2019:* Kate Campbell, Sadye Doxie, Erik Smith and Rose Smith.
- (2) *Deacons serving terms of service ending in 2020 and 2021:* Lilia Abron, Didier Ahimera, Chelsea Clarke, Doug Duvall, Philip Hawkins, Allen Norfleet, Wilma Prince and Kathy Whatley.
- (3) *Life Deacons:* Adrian Harward, Steve Netcott and Ellen Parkhurst.

Following the nomination period, the Deacon Selection Team, comprised of Kate Campbell and other deacons, in conversation with Pastor Julie, will prayerfully review all nominations and begin reaching out to individuals.

Deacon Election Timeline:

- February 10 - 25: Deacon nominations received
- After Feb. 24: Deacon Election Team meets; begins reaching out to nominees
- May 2019: New term of deacon service begins

DEACON MINISTRY AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

The word "deacon" comes from the Greek word *diakonos*, which means "servant." There are many references to deacons in the early church. Deacon ministry was developed in response to specific needs within the corporate life of the church itself, and its inspiration was no less the example of Christ himself, who "came not to be served but to serve."

At First Baptist Church, deacons are actively engaged in the mission of the church. They promote peace, reconciliation and the spirit of cooperation and unity in this body. They model the ministry of presence by their regular participation in worship and in other events in the life of the church. They offer pastoral care and help lead in worship. They are faithful in their financial support of the church. They participate in diaconate meetings and training events. As a foundational priority, deacons endeavor to follow Jesus Christ themselves through personal practices of discipleship.

PARTNER

FBC PARTNERING WITH KELLY DUNLAP



by Lucy Plovnick
Faith Formation Team Leader

Dear Friends, as many of you will recall, back in July FBC offered a congregational blessing to Kelly Dunlap as she prepared to leave us to attend Duke Divinity School in Durham, NC. While in Washington, Kelly was an active member of FBC, and you may remember her from her participation in our Young Adults Group, her work as a part of the Sunday sound crew, her involvement in a contemplative listening group led by Pastor Julie, and her willingness to open her home as a hostess for some of FBC's Summer of

Fun activities. Our church is partnering with Kelly as she works toward her MDiv degree through a Duke program called "Celebrating God's Call." As a part of this program, our church presented Kelly with a financial scholarship of \$1,000 toward her studies, which Duke is matching.

Kelly is starting her second semester at Duke. I hope you will enjoy reading Kelly's letter to our congregation sharing her experiences thus far in Divinity School. It fills me with joy that our church has been able to offer support and encouragement to Kelly as she pursues her studies. Please join me in praying for Kelly as her work at Duke continues.

HOPE FOR THE CHURCH: UPDATE FROM DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL

As Kelly Dunlap's sending church, FBC is offering support through the "Celebrating God's Call" initiative at Duke Divinity School.

Dear Church Family,

I am writing to you as I settle into my second semester at Duke Divinity School. In some ways, this experience is what I expected: reading late into the evenings, navigating differences of opinions, learning all sorts of interesting

"Perhaps the greatest gift has been the affirmation of my hopes for church and my role within it."

ideas and stories, and trying to find the balance between being a successful student, a good friend, an active citizen, and cooking up something other than PB&Js. But a few unexpected gifts

have energized my spirit in surprising ways during my short time here.

Perhaps the greatest gift has been the affirmation of my hopes for church and my role within it. I've found people who are engaged in and articulating the importance of the work that has been stirring deep within me for years. It's as though lamps have been lit on the path that I first walked with hesitation, and I now walk with anticipation.

Another unexpected gift has been my professors' deep convictions about, and commitment to, the church. To be



PARTNER

honest, I expected to find cynical academics who were more interested in the idea of God than the building of his kingdom. Instead, I've been amazed by the vibrant faith among even the most brilliant academic minds. It has been immensely encouraging to know that we are working towards the same vision.

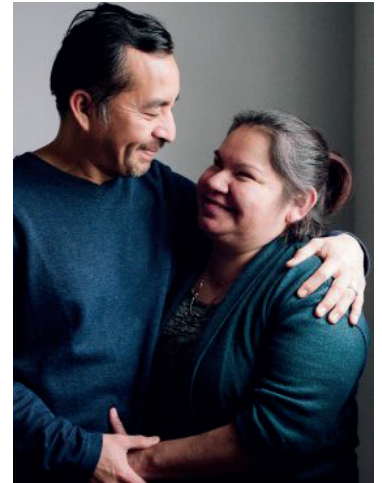
Of course, this school is not perfect. But just as God works through our personal weaknesses, I have seen God's Spirit—that unexplainable divine goodness that overwhelms the deep and dirty trenches of life—at work in this community. Let me tell you about Samuel.

Samuel, the father of a 19-year-old son and husband to a very ill wife, was living in protective sanctuary at a local church when he was ambushed and arrested by ICE agents last fall. This led to protests and advocacy efforts, organized in large part by divinity school alumni and students, calling for his release. Less than one week later, Samuel was deported to Mexico. His community mourned publicly and faithfully.

Samuel was a divinity student. Before entering sanctuary, he felt a call to preach and began classes at this very school. In order that Samuel could continue his education after entering sanctuary, the Hispanic-Latino/a Preaching Initiative actually relocated its classes to the church where he lived. Learning this and watching Samuel's story moved me deeply. I was in awe of God's work through these leaders and I felt anger that this faithful man's call to preach and to support his family had been made so difficult by an unjust immigration system. I became even more grateful for the privilege of being able to live and learn among this community, with men like Samuel and those who cared so deeply for him and about creating a more just world through the power of God's love.

I continue to watch the many wonderful ways you are sharing this love throughout DC. It played no small part in sending me here. I still feel your encouragement and prayers and am cheering you on.

With anticipation and gratitude,
Kelly



Samuel with his wife, Julia, in February 2018. Photo by Anna Carson DeWitt

SERVE

SERVE BREAKFAST AT CHRIST HOUSE FEB. 10

We invite you to be the hands and feet of Christ on Sunday, February 10th, 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).

WORSHIP

LENT BEGINS MARCH 6

We call the season before Easter "Lent". There is nothing religious about that word; it's simply an old English word for springtime, when the days begin to lengthen. But the church picked it up and, just as Spring is a time when the earth comes alive and is renewed, Lent became, over time, a season of spiritual rebirth and renewal as we make our way toward Easter Sunday.

Ash Wednesday is March 6

Join us March 6th at 7pm as we begin the season of Lent together at the Ash Wednesday worship service. "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return." (Gen. 3:19) For nearly a thousand years, these words have been spoken to believers as the sign of the cross is traced on their foreheads with ashes, a sign of our mortality and repentance. (Dinner at 6 pm, catered by Chef Laval.) Can't make it to the Ash Wednesday evening service? Pastor Alyssa will offer the imposition of ashes on the front steps of the church (16th Street) that morning from 8am until 10pm.

Sunday Mornings in Lent: "Love's Last Words"

March 10 - April 21, 11am

There are seven expressions attributed to Jesus Christ as he hung on the cross. Beginning Sunday, March 10, through Easter Sunday, we will stand together beneath the cross and listen to the dying words of Jesus.

Lenten Vespers on Wednesday Nights

Wednesdays @ 7pm, March 13 - April 10

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.

LOVE'S LAST WORDS

2019 LENTEN SERMON SERIES
SUNDAY MORNINGS @ 11AM

forgive

March 10
Luke 23:26-34a

with me

March 17
Luke 23:35-43

son...mother

March 24
John 19:23-27

thirsty

March 31
John 19:28-29
Charlie Fuller Preaching

why?

April 7
Mark 15:25-34

your hands

April 14
Luke 23:44-49
**PALM
SUNDAY**

finished

April 21
John 19:29-30
**EASTER
SUNDAY**

MORE



SAVE THE DATE: WESTMINSTER CHOIR AT FBC MARCH 16

Please mark your calendar for Saturday, March 16, 7:30pm. FBC is hosting the Schola Cantorum of Westminster Choir College (NJ). Our own Kevin Biggins is a graduate of Westminster, and we look forward to having this esteemed group visit us during their spring tour. More information about the Schola Cantorum here: <https://goo.gl/cbP6PV>

YOUTH

We are going to
PASSPORTchoices
camp!

June 30 - July 5, 2019

Passport Info Session

12:45PM in the Fellowship Hall

February 10, 2019

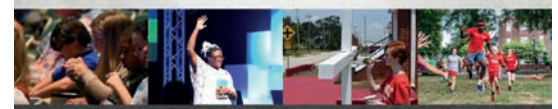
Bring your own lunch

PASSPORT INFO SESSION FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Parents and Students are invited to meet for lunch in Fellowship Hall after worship on Sunday, February 10th for Passport Info! We'll go over camp requirements, info, and questions for our week in Greensboro. Contact Pastor Alyssa at aaldape@firstbaptistdc.org to RSVP.

FEARLESS

STAY AWAKE. STAND FIRM. BE BRAVE. LOVE ALWAYS.
1 CORINTHIANS 16:13-14



EVENTS

Saturday, Feb. 2

12noon: Basketball (Gym)

Sunday, Feb. 3

9:30am: Sunday Morning Bible Study:
Reconnecting with Our Spiritual Roots,
Session Three (Sanctuary)
9:30am: Young Adult Bible Study (Dawson Room)
10am: Chancel Choir rehearsal (Room 312)
11am: Worship (Sanctuary)
12 noon: Pot Luck Lunch (Fellowship Hall)
12:30pm: Quarterly business meeting
(Fellowship Hall)
2pm: Worship in Spanish (Dawson Room)

Tuesday, Feb. 5

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

Saturday, Feb. 9

8am: Winter Forum: Tour at National Museum of
African-American History & Culture
(Reservations filled)
12noon: Basketball (Gym)



Sunday, Feb. 10

7am: Serve at Christ House; register here:
<https://goo.gl/4EvMXi>
9am: Coffee and light breakfast
9:30am: Winter Forum: lecture by Dr. Brad Braxton
9:30am: Young Adult Bible Study (Dawson Room)
10am: Chancel Choir rehearsal (Rm 312)
11am: Worship (Sanctuary) Winter Forum
Dr. Braxton preaching
12 noon: Deacon's Meeting (Room 315)
2pm: Worship in Spanish (Dawson Room)

Tuesday, Feb. 12

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

Thursday, Feb. 14

6pm: Ordinary Time
(Check with Pastor Alyssa for location)

Saturday, Feb. 16

12noon: Basketball (Gym)

Sunday, Feb. 17

9:30am: Sunday Morning Bible Study:
Reconnecting with Our Spiritual Roots,
Session Four (Sanctuary)
9:30am: Young Adult Bible Study (Dawson Room)
10am: Chancel Choir rehearsal (Rm 312)
11am: Worship (Sanctuary)
12:30pm: Church Council meeting (Room 315)
2pm: Worship in Spanish (Dawson Room)

Monday, Feb. 18

FBC and CDC closed: Presidents' Day holiday

Tuesday, Feb. 19

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

Wednesday, Feb. 20

5pm: Sandwich making for Martha's Table
(Fellowship Hall)
6pm: Dinner (RSVP to D'O at
ddillard@firstbaptistdc.org. Cost: \$8) with
guests from Nineteenth Street Baptist Church
(NSBC) (Fellowship Hall)
7pm: FBC and NSBC Team Meetings
(Fellowship Hall)

Thursday, Feb. 21

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

Saturday, Feb. 23

12noon: Basketball (Gym)

Sunday, Feb. 24

9:30am: Sunday Morning Bible Study for All Ages
9:30am: Young Adult Bible Study (Dawson Room)
10am: Chancel Choir rehearsal (Rm 312)
11am: Worship (Sanctuary)
2pm: Worship in Spanish (Dawson Room)

Tuesday, Feb. 26

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

Thursday, Feb. 28

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

MORE

FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT TEAM UPDATE

The Facilities Improvement Team continues to meet and work to discern Holy Spirit working through God's people. We have begun to respond to the input given to us from both the questionnaire process in November and the town hall meetings in December. We are seeking to hear God speak through all of us to discern what the core purpose and mission of First Baptist Church truly is. We're working to discover what God would have us do and be in this particular place and time. What are the unique assets that God has placed at our disposal? What are the unique challenges of this time and place? What are the unique opportunities that we have to act as God's hands and to speak as God's voice at 16th and O? How can we be the presence of God at this particular intersection of both place and time in God's world? And what will all that mean as we address our physical space? We are hoping to have a detailed update and possibly a proposal for the church at the annual meeting on May 5. We continue to ask for your prayers as the process continues.



PRAYER & CARE

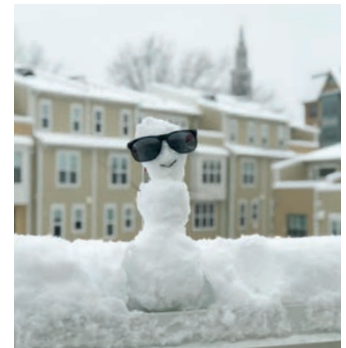
SYMPATHY TO:

- **Philip Hawkins** and family in the death of his children's grandfather, Ed Windsor, who passed away unexpectedly on Jan. 22 in Georgia at age 79. Pray for Ed's widow, Emily, his three daughters, 5 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild.
- **Jay Guenther** and family in the passing of his mother, Nancy Harmon Guenther, on January 20 in North Carolina.
- **Don Pless** and family in the passing of his wife Hazel on Jan. 13; viewing and visitation on Feb. 2 from 2-4 pm at Murphy Funeral Home (4510 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA); funeral service and burial to be announced

RECENTLY ADDED:

- **Chuck Prichard**: being treated for a blood clot
- **Harry Haynesworth**: heart attack, recovering at home
- **Ana Gooch** has been moved from GW Hospital to the Transitional Care Center Capitol City, located at 2425 25th St., SE, Washington, DC 20020. She is on 3 South, Room 336B. Center's phone number is 202-889-3600.
- Joe Kleban (friend of **Christina Whitehouse-Suggs**): brain tumor surgery in FL on Jan 17
- Seth Anderson (**Paul Nelson's** cousin): receiving treatment for non-Hodgkins, large B cell lymphoma
- **Juan Vaughn** (FBC's maintenance tech): at home recovering from burns received on Jan. 7
- Randy and Judy Hawkins (parents of **Philip Hawkins**): both facing serious health challenges in Georgia

JANUARY PHOTOS



DEACONS ON-CALL: WEEK OF FEBRUARY 3:



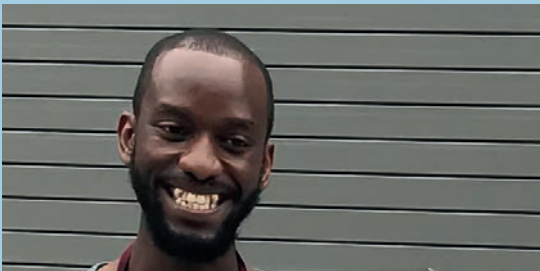
Kate Campbell

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 10:



Sadye Doxie

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 17:



Didier Ahimera

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 24:



Doug Duvall

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:

Feb. 2 Ed Fry	Feb. 11 Beryl Dennis
Feb. 4 Mary Jane Sennett	Feb. 17 Modupe Ogunnaike
Feb. 6 Abigail Adigun	Feb. 18 Allie Mae Fones
Janet Brooks	Feb. 19 Janice Osborn
Feb. 8 Amanda Tyler	Feb. 21 Kara Suggs
Dave Ryder	Feb. 22 Phelps Behrendt
Feb. 10 Charles Cates	Amy Ordoveza
Charlyne Stadel	Feb. 26 Paul Nelson
Richard Turner	Feb. 28 Diane Boiler

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

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