

First Baptist Church of the City of Washington D.C.

“Every Member Engaged in Ministry...”

June 29, 2016

Wednesday, June 29

11:00 Staff Meeting

Saturday, July 2

11-6 Building open

5:00 Mosaic Worship/Side Chapel

Sunday, July 3

DOC: Stan Hastey, 202-751-0764

9:30 Church School

10:00 Choir Rehearsal/Room 312

11:00 Worship - Communion

Sermon: *“Be Free”*

Pastor Julie, preaching

12:00 First Sunday Potluck and Origami

2:00 Church of the Good News of Salvation,

Rev. Saúl García, Dawson Room

The benevolence offering this Sunday will go to victims of the flooding in West Virginia and families of those slain in Orlando.

Monday, July 4

**BUILDING CLOSED
IN OBSERVANCE OF
INDEPENDENCE DAY**

Recent Additions

To our prayer list:

Violet Bakare

Libby Cain

Sadye Doxie

Amanda Ellison

Bettie and Stan Hastey

Will Short

Ki Johnson, grandson of Laval and

Frankie Sanks

Gordon Richmond

Ernest Stone

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

2016 General Assembly:

“Christ’s Love Compels Us”

I’m grateful for the opportunities First Baptist gives to your staff to participate in various Baptist gatherings. Next week Deborah Cochran (with Robert) will travel to Vancouver, BC, to take part in the annual gathering of the Baptist World Alliance. And last week I had the chance (along with our summer intern Brittany Graves) to join about 2,500 Christ-followers at the annual General Assembly of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in Greensboro, NC. *Thank you* for these opportunities.

In 1991 the love of Christ compelled a significant group of faithful, forward-looking Baptists to form the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Twenty-five years later we gathered to celebrate that founding, and all that God has done since that time. A few highlights from last week:

CBF 25th Anniversary Campaign

Last week CBF launched the “public phase” of its 25th Anniversary Campaign, which aims to raise \$12 million by June 2017. To date, over \$8.5 million has already been raised. The campaign focuses on increasing endowments to support three goals that have been priorities throughout CBF’s 25-year history:

-Sustaining Global Missions (\$6 million)

-Forming Healthy Churches (\$4 million)

-Nurturing Young Baptists (\$2 million)

The Campaign will also provide generous grants to CBF states and regions to support their ministries in these three areas.

Baptist Women in Ministry

Brittany and I joined about 400 women, men, youth and children at the annual Baptist Women in Ministry worship service and luncheon. Under the leadership of Pam Durso, author and Baptist church historian, BWIM has grown significantly as an organization. And while opportunities for women in church leadership continue to open up at an incremental rate, numerical evidence shows that the pace is speeding up a bit. *The following numbers represent the Alliance of Baptists, Baptist General Association of Virginia, Baptist General Convention of Texas, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the DC Baptist Convention (numbers for American Baptist Convention USA and Progressive National Baptist Convention are not included here):*

(continued on page 2)

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (continued from page 1)

- Since 2011, 232 women have been ordained to the gospel ministry. The largest number of ordinations took place in North Carolina (57), Georgia (52), Virginia (35) and Texas (24).
- In 2005 there were 102 women serving as pastors and co-pastors of Baptist churches; by 2015 the number had increased to 174.
- The overall percentage of women students at CBF-affiliated seminaries and divinity schools has increased from 40.4% in 2010 to 44.5% in 2015.

Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty

Brittany and I attended the annual Religious Liberty luncheon sponsored by the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty. This year's featured speaker was Brent Walker, Executive Director of the BJC, who will retire at the end of this year. The Baptist Joint Committee is the only faith-based agency devoted solely to religious liberty and the institutional separation of church and state. Since 1936, the BJC has continuously provided reliable leadership on church-state issues as it has fulfilled its mission of protecting both the free exercise of religion and defending against its establishment by government. *(See page 6 in today's Update.)*

Of course some of the real highlights for me were the serendipitous conversations and hallway hugs with friends and fellow ministers through the years. I came away refreshed and grateful to be a part of the Baptist community. Again, thank you for making it possible for me to take part.

Grace and peace,

Julie



Pastor Julie and friends from Mid-Atlantic CBF at the Religious Liberty Luncheon.

Brittany and Julie join young CBF leaders at the Women in Ministry luncheon.



Your Deacon "on call" for this week

This week's deacon on call is Kate Campbell. If you have prayer requests this week, you can reach Kate at 202-821-3390.

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) Reflections

by Brittany R. Graves, Summer Seminary Intern

Since starting my internship at First Baptist Church D.C. this summer many people have mentioned vacationing to, retiring in, or the beauty of North Carolina. Last week I was blessed with the opportunity to go to Greensboro, North Carolina for the first time! I joined Pastor Julie for the 25th Anniversary of the CBF and attended my first CBF General Assembly. Upon arrival at the venue there is one thing I learned and was affirmed of as the week continued, Pastor Julie is beloved. As she reunited with dear friends and ministry partners, I had the pleasure to meet more people than I ever could've imagined. I am grateful for the connections made and the relationships that will continue after last week's General Assembly.

During the week I attended the Baptist Women in Ministry Annual Gathering, worship services, breakout sessions, and celebratory lunches and dinners. I spent time with friends from Truett and met alumni from Truett's first graduating class 25 years ago. Among my favorite moments of the conference were supporting preachers Mary Alice Birdwhistle and Emmitt Drumgoole during the Academy of Preachers workshop, witnessing the ministry and celebration of Brent Walker's retirement at the Baptist Joint Committee luncheon, and participating in a Truett dinner with more than 100 current students and alumni. Above all, I enjoyed building new relationships and witnessing several likeminded people who are eager and willing to discuss relevant ministry topics. It was a joy and a pleasure to go to my first CBF General Assembly, and I hope to attend many more!



Season of Prayer Verse: Romans 8: 2

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

Read - Reflect - Respond - Rest - Remain

The Update: Changes Coming in July

Bi-weekly newsletter with a new, fresh format

Starting July 14th the Update will be emailed on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month (with paper editions sent to those without email). This schedule is a return to our former practice of publishing a bi-weekly newsletter rather than every week. In addition to the new publication schedule, the Update will have a fresh, new look.

When: The first new edition will be sent on **Thursday, July 14th**. In addition, an email containing time-sensitive announcements will be sent every Thursday in the “off” weeks. More announcements also will be posted on our website.

Why? A bi-weekly schedule will free up our office staff for other mission-critical tasks and projects.

Goal: To keep our church family connected with each other and informed about the movement of God inside and outside our church.

First Sunday Potluck—July 3rd

On Sunday, July 3, our next potluck luncheon will be held in Fellowship Hall. Please bring family members, friends and co-workers to worship with you, and bring enough food to share with our many guests.

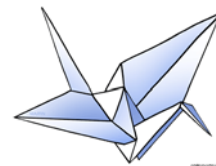
A-J: dessert and fruit

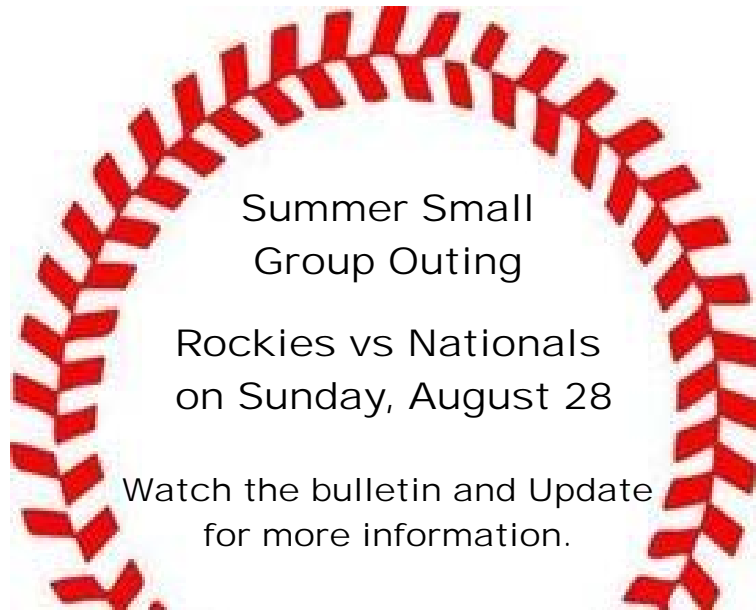
K-R: meat

S-Z: salad and vegetables

Origami at the Potluck—July 3rd

Near the end of our potluck this Sunday, our own FBC origami expert, Bettye Robinson, will be on hand to teach us the Japanese art of Origami—folding paper into shapes. To ensure that she has enough supplies, please register for this fun family activity by calling or emailing Julie Pas-cu at 301-530-5258 or juliepascu@starpower.net. Bettye welcomes all ages. Feel free to stick around and learn a new art form!





Summer Small Group Outing

Rockies vs Nationals
on Sunday, August 28

Watch the bulletin and Update
for more information.

By the Numbers

- 129:** Worshipers on Saturday evening and Sunday morning, June 25-26
- 100:** Adults, youth and children who gathered on Sunday, June 26, for Bible study, conversation, choir rehearsal and friendship
- 15:** Baptist bodies represented on the board of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty. Check them out at <http://bjconline.org/supporting-bodies/>



Sprucing Up...

Many thanks to Allen Norfleet and Chelsea Clarke for planting new flowers around the outside of our campus last weekend.

What is Religious Liberty?

“Religious liberty” is the freedom to believe and exercise or act upon religious conscience without unnecessary interference by the government. Just as religious liberty involves the freedom to practice religion, it also means freedom not to practice religion. If you can’t say “no,” your “yes” is meaningless.

Just like any freedom, religious liberty is not without limits. As the old saying goes, “My right to swing my fist ends where your nose begins.” Some religions involve beliefs or practices that conflict with other laws, such as compulsory education laws, animal protection laws and anti-drug laws. In those cases, legislatures and courts must step in to determine how to accommodate sincere religious beliefs while protecting other government interests, including protecting those who may not share the same beliefs. So, when government makes exceptions for religious exercise, it must look out for the rights and well-being of others who may be detrimentally affected.

The Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty advocates a “golden rule” of religious liberty: Do not ask government to promote your religion if you don’t want government to promote somebody else’s religion; and do not permit government to hinder somebody else’s religion if you don’t want government to hinder your own religion.

How is religious liberty legally protected in the United States?

The U.S. Constitution protects the freedom of religion in a distinct way, allowing people with vastly different beliefs to live peaceably together.

The first 16 words of the First Amendment have two protections for religion. The prohibition on an **establishment** of religion keeps the government from advancing or privileging religion. The protection of **free exercise** keeps the government from unnecessarily interfering with religious practice.

The First Amendment keeps government neutral — neither helping nor hurting religion, but allowing people to practice their religion (or practice no religion). Additional protections exist in various federal, state and local laws.

First 16 words of the
First Amendment:
**Congress shall make
no law respecting an
establishment of religion,
or prohibiting the
free exercise thereof**

What about the separation of church and state?

The phrase “separation of church and state” is not in the Constitution. It is shorthand for the protections in the First Amendment and for a deeper truth: religious liberty is best protected when the institutions of church and state remain separated and neither tries to perform or interfere with the essential mission and work of the other.

People of faith generally agree that government should not unduly restrict religion. But, government promotion of religion is problematic. When government tries to aid religion — financially or otherwise — it also tends to regulate religion and often waters it down, robbing religion of its vitality. Decisions on religious matters are best left to individuals and houses of worship. As soon as government starts to meddle in religion or take sides in religious disputes — favoring one religion over another — someone’s religious liberty is denied and everyone’s is threatened. The separation of church and state ensures religious liberty in the United States.

Why do Baptists care about religious liberty?

Baptists believe that we are inherently free to choose whether to worship God and follow Christ without efforts by the government to advance or restrain religion. This historic commitment to religious liberty for all people can be traced back to 17th century England and Colonial America, where Baptist leaders called for complete religious freedom. Baptists declared that the government was powerless to control conscience and was incompetent to dictate spiritual matters.

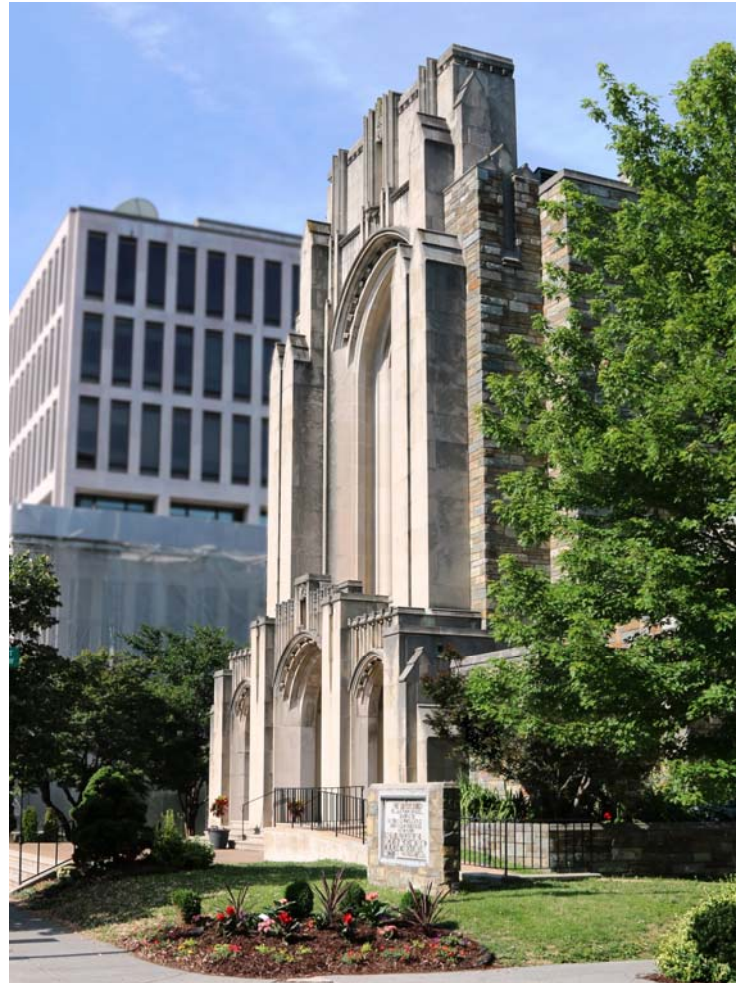


The fight for religious liberty is an effort to prevent the government from doing what even God will not do: coerce faith.

A threat to *anyone's* religious liberty is a threat to *everyone's* religious liberty.

Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty
BJCOnline.org • Facebook.com/ReligiousLiberty • @BJContheHill

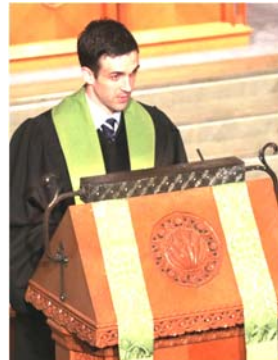
Scenes from Sunday ...



Scenes from Sunday continued...



From left to right:
Susan Carmello-Golden, Pastor
Julie, Brian Ellis, Jatoe Bestman-
Sapee and Sam Hill.



Calendar of Events

WEDNESDAY, July 6

11:00 Staff Meeting/Conference Room

SATURDAY, July 9

11:00 - 6:00 Building Open
5:00 Mosaic Worship/Side Chapel

SUNDAY, July 10

9:30 Church School for all ages
10:00 Choir Rehearsal/Room 312
11:00 Worship
 Pastor Julie, preaching
12:30 Diaconate Meeting/Conference Room
2:00 The Church of the Good News of Salvation,
 (Spanish Language) Rev. Saúl García,
 Dawson Room

Save the Date Fall Fellowship Cookout/Picnic

Mark your autumn calendars! The Fall Fellowship picnic is Saturday, September 24, at Rock Creek Park. We'll share more details as the date approaches.

*Lectionary Readings
for
Sunday, July 3
Seventh Sunday
after Pentecost*

*2 Kings 5:1-14
Romans 8:1-8, 12-17
Luke 10:1-11
Psalm 30*

CHURCH STAFF:

Julie Pennington-Russell, Pastor, jpr@firstbaptistdc.org
Deborah Cochran, Associate Pastor, dcochran@firstbaptistdc.org
Lawrence P. Schreiber, Organist-Choirmaster, lschreiber@firstbaptistdc.org
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