



THE TORCH

A Monthly Publication of First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill

August 2018

Vol. 59 – No. 11

The Pastor's Pen

During the month of August I take some personal time. I have often called it a sabbatical, which basically in the church context means a period of rest. However, though I will not be preaching on Sundays there are still meetings, training and other activities that I will be engaged in pertaining specifically to First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill. We pray that there will still be plenty of time to rest as well (Mark 6:31).

I am grateful for our preaching lineup during the month:

August 5th Minister Candice Nunn, Associate Minister – FBCCH
2018 Graduate of Vanderbilt Divinity School

August 12th Minister Denero Rahming
Student at Vanderbilt Divinity School
Graduate of American Baptist College

August 19th The Reverend Dr. Forrest Harris
President, American Baptist College
Director, Kelly Miller Smith Institute on the Black Church
Vanderbilt University

August 26th The Reverend Dr. Stacey Floyd-Thomas, Associate Professor
E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Chair in Ethics and Society
Vanderbilt University

Each of these preachers will come to us in her/his own way as God speaks to them. I am confident that each of you will be “present and accounted for” each Sunday to be blessed and to be a blessing (Psalm 95:6 – 7). Our worship is to help us hear and to heed the word of God (Romans 10:14 – 15). That is what we aim to do each Sunday. That is how we will understand God’s direction and desire for us and the community of which we are a part.

Kelly M. Smith Jr.
Pastor

SUNDAY

morning live

August 2018 Lessons

“*Paul Teaches about New Life in Christ,*” has four lessons that offer Paul’s teachings about just and merciful behaviors. Those who live the new life in Christ are called to imitate God’s just and merciful nature through their actions toward others, including their enemies.

August 5th: God’s Justice

Adult Topic
Equity for All

Youth Topic
Who Should Judge?

Children Topic
Speaking Kindly of Others

Background Scripture: Romans 2:1-16

Key Verse: Romans 2:10-11 *“but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For God does not show favoritism.”*

August 12th: Global Economic Justice

Adult Topic
Charitable Equity for All

Youth Topic
Giving Your All

Children Topic
Helping Others

Background Scripture: 2 Corinthians 8–9

Key Verse: 2 Corinthians 8:9 *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.*

August 19th: Loving and Just Behavior

Adult Topic
Equity in Conduct

Youth Topic
Unconditional Love

Children Topic
Showing Love to Others

Background Scripture: Romans 12:9-21

Key Verse: Romans 12:9 *Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.*

August 26th: Practicing Justice

Adult Topic
Equity in Character

Youth Topic
Live on Purpose

Children Topic
Living in Peace

Background Scripture: Ephesians 4:25–5:2; Colossians 3:1-17

Key Verse: Colossians 3:12 *“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”*

June
24

"Being Single and Christian"
Pastor Smith
Scriptural Text: 1 Corinthians 7:7-9
Submitted by: Beverly Brown

here are several persons in the Bible that were single, such as Jesus, Mary Magdalene, Paul, etc. One of the most significant demographic in a congregation is single individuals whether it be as a widows, widowers, divorcees, or single by choice.

Christian faith was established around the life and living principles of a single adult – Jesus Christ. The specific scripture for today recommends how a husband and wife are to handle and manage their intimacy with each other. Paul was asked to explain interpersonal relationship and suggested people should remain single as he is. He stated this because of his believe that marriage can distract from faithfully following Christ.

The three main points of the day were as follows:

Point 1 – Being single and Christian means knowing you are okay.

Single or married individuals need to realize they are a gift from God/Christ Jesus no matter their reason for being single or married. Paul made the statement because the culture at the time is that it was a sin not to be married. Singles are not to allow others to put them down or marginalized them for being single..

Point 2 – Being single and Christian means being honest with yourself.

Be honest with yourself of what you can handle practically in all situations of your life and living. Know what brings peace, joy, happiness, and respect in all aspects of one's life as you are guided by God/Christ Jesus and not just other human beings and your sexual passions.

Point 3 – Being single and Christian means living by God's plan.

Read Jeremiah 29:11. God/Christ Jesus needs to be in the plans up front whether it is spiritual, personal, in companionship, career wise-professionally, etc. Implicitly, God/Christ Jesus has a plan just for you to know how to live and conduct oneself in life and living. God/Christ Jesus plan is always for us to have healthy and wholesome relationships for both persons based upon the partner. Amen, Amen, & Amen.

July
1

" A Blessing for The Church"
Pastor Smith
Scriptural Text: Numbers 6:22-27
Submitted by: Deborah Luter

At the funeral of my father's best friend, Dr. Samuel Berry McKinney, the tribute given by his daughter Rhoda McKinney Jones was particularly moving to me. She mentioned how she and her dad every night before closing their conversation would share together the passage from Numbers 6:22 – 27. Though Dr. McKinney was in the sunset of his life, he didn't see this as the end, but a departure to a new beginning. It reminded them that no matter what, God was still blessing them. This passage was a part of a command God gave to the people of Israel through Aaron and his sons to tell them that God is blessing them. Often it is used at the end of worship services and serves as a benediction. The word *benediction* means a blessing and more specifically a blessing from God. To be blessed signifies any gift from God, which could be spiritual, earthly or bodily.

Point 1- The blessing is for the journey.

The people of Israel were preparing to head to the land God had promised them, but it was going to take them through the wilderness. God wanted them to have this assurance of his presence with them throughout their journey. They were to recite it every day.

God wants us to know that no matter what, God is blessing us on this journey.

Point 2- The blessing is God initiated.

Each line of the blessing demonstrates that it is God initiated, even though they didn't deserve God's blessing. God also initiates undeserved blessings.

Point 3 – The blessing is for divine branding

God places God's name/brand on them so that they and others know who they belong to. Branding is the process of having identifiable characteristics that shows relationship. But it also is supposed to show quality and character.

We need to show the brand that we are connected with Jesus Christ

August Deacons of the Week

If you should need pastoral assistance, contact the Deacon of the Week for assistance.

Week of	Deacon	Phone #
5	Sunny Owunnah	(615) 708-1893
12	Brian Wood	(615) 259-0623
19	Pamela Wood	(615) 259-0623
26	Carol Boone	(615) 851-1527

Blood Pressure Screenings

The Health Care Committee will be available on the 2nd and 4th Sundays to provide blood pressure screenings in the Frankie Pierce Lounge and on the lower level.

2018 Scholarship Applications

Scholarship Applications can be picked up from the church office beginning June 25, 2018. The completed application and requested materials must be submitted to the church office by the deadline date of Wednesday, August 1, 2018. If you desire an electronic copy, please let the church secretary know, and one will be forwarded to you. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

The Scholarship Committee

Help Needed!

First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill is in need of people who are willing to provide homework help to our children after school. Our church will begin offering homework help in all subject matters this school year. Help will be available Wednesdays from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Contact Jill Jones at (404) 723-5384 or Miriam Currie (615) 948-6580 to sign up if you are willing to help.

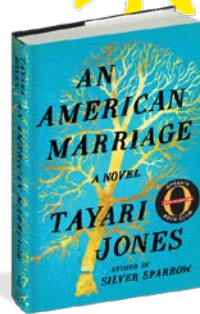
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Summer



Reading Saturdays

At 11:00 on Saturdays August 18th, and September 15th readers in grades K-12 are encouraged to come to The Hill to read and share their favorite books!



An American Marriage
For our Adult Readers, “An American Marriage” is a masterpiece of storytelling, an intimate look into the souls of people who must reckon with the past while moving forward – with hope and pain – into the future. Book club discussion: **Saturday August 4th!** “An American Marriage” is written by Tayari Jones and is an Oprah Book Club selection.

Allowing Jesus to Serve Us

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” ~Mark 10:45

Submitted by Rev. Joe Ella Darby, Ministry of Discipleship Chair

Last month, I volunteered with my sorority at the Hope Lodge; we served dinner to residents who have cancer, as well as their families. After we served dinner, I walked around and asked if I could discard any finished plates. As I approached one woman, asking her if she was finished, she grabbed her plate and said, “Oh no, I can’t have you do that.” I told her I did not mind, as I wanted to serve her. She responded that she was not used to having anyone serve her in that manner. That encounter instantly made me think about Peter in John 13. As Jesus approached Peter to wash his feet, Peter refused Jesus’ attempt to serve him in this way. Jesus wanted to wash his feet, thus doing the job of a servant. Peter however imposed his ideas onto Jesus in regards to whom Jesus was and what Jesus was supposed to do and not do.

I wonder what it would look like for Jesus to serve us today. Would we be like the lady or Peter and refuse Jesus serving us? Interestingly enough, I asked a few of my friends what they thought it would look like for Jesus to serve us. To my surprise, a few friends had a hard time with the language of Jesus “serving” us, as it seemingly felt like we would be taking advantage of Jesus by having Jesus serve us when we should be serving Him. Though Mark 10:45 tells us “the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve”, it is still hard for some of us to think of Jesus serving us. Now, I’m not suggesting that Jesus serves our ambitions, plans or desires, but I am suggesting that Jesus serves us, His disciples. In John 13, Jesus gives us a model of how we should serve each other and it is in our serving of each other that we serve Jesus. Yet it is Jesus who first serves us, even to the extent of Jesus giving his life as a ransom.

I want to propose a thought...we cannot faithfully follow Jesus’s command to serve as he served if we have not first allowed Him to serve us. So, what does it mean for Jesus to become a servant and to serve us? From taking on our burdens, healing us and meeting us in our darkest hour to giving us peace, interceding for us, and simply being present with us, Jesus serves us in a myriad of ways. Jesus even gave His own life so that we could live in freedom as God’s beloved children. One way I allow Jesus to serve me is by helping me. Let my mom tell it, asking for help is not one of my strengths. She says once I learned to walk I did not like being held and almost always wanted to figure things out on my own before succumbing to ask for help. Now, with the time and pain of maturity, I have learned the value of asking for help. And allowing Jesus to help me has definitely transformed me into a healthier person and disciple.

One key way I have learned to allow Jesus to serve me is when I have to preach. As I’ve shared many times before, I am often anxious when having to preach, as I take the preaching moment very seriously. As I cast my concerns on Jesus, I believe He is interceding for me (Hebrews 4:16, 7:25). During those times, I whisper one of my favorite verses, Isaiah 41:10, to root me—“I do not have to fear, for God is with me and is MY God. God will strengthen me and God WILL help me...” Then, when I stand to preach, I feel my help. My anxiety is lifted, my stomach stops turning, and I receive a mighty strength from the Spirit of God to do that which God has called me to do. It humbles me to have to ask for help, sadly even from God; but I am sure glad Jesus is willing to serve me by allowing me to cast all of my anxiety upon Him. I like to share that example because people often tell me I preach with boldness and little do they know that if Jesus didn’t help me, I would probably never preach or even worse, I would attempt to preach in my own giftedness and not in God’s anointing.

What about you? When you hear that Jesus came to serve you, how does that make you feel? Do you feel unworthy or maybe the opposite and feel entitled? What would it look like for Jesus to serve you? What do you need from Him? Whether you need healing, peace, comfort, courage, or whatever the need, be intentional in asking Jesus for any and everything that you need. Trust that Jesus will serve you!

There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. *Gal 3:28*

**Room In The Inn
Kick-Off Open House
Tuesday, August 28, 2018
5:30-7:00 PM
at Room In The Inn
705 Drexel Street**

This annual event is for congregational coordinators, volunteers, and *anyone* interested in learning more about the programs and services offered through Room In The Inn. Our downtown Campus will be open for tours, resources will be available to support your Room In The Inn program, and congregations will have the opportunity to register for the upcoming Winter Shelter season.

Ways for Families to Love Their Neighbors

There are many ways for children and families to love and serve people who are struggling with homelessness in our community. Here are some ideas to get you started

Make placemats or table decorations for our café or dining area to brighten up the tables. Have a drive in your neighborhood, congregation, or school to collect new men's white tube socks. Have a gently used coat drive for our participants in the fall. Collect plastic grocery sacks and bring them for our participants to put their belongings in. Collect gently used books and Magazines for our library. Write encouraging notes that we can add to a sack lunch or put with someone's mail. Talk as a family about homelessness and stereotypes and try to break the stigma surrounding the issue. Check out or purchase a book that relates to homelessness to read together as a family. There are some suggestions at loveyourneighborall.org. Think of Room In The Inn while on breaks and vacations by collecting hotel-sized toiletries (shampoo, body wash, lotion, etc.) for our shower program. Make eye contact with someone who is homeless, smile, and say "hello." Bring any unused or unwanted art supplies for our art studio at Room In The Inn.

Host an event in your area, such as a breakfast, concert, or performance and collect items for Room In The Inn (underwear, socks, toiletries) as the ticket at the door. Collect cough drops, ibuprofen, or Tylenol to help your homeless neighbors when they aren't feeling well.

Ministry of Missions and Evangelism: Rev. Dr. Arrold N Martin, Chairperson

AUGUST						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
DATES TO REMEMBER						
1	FBCCH Scholarship Applications Due					
4	Book Discussion <i>An American Marriage</i>					
18	Reading Saturdays Open to readers K-12 Bring a Friend					
BIRTHDAYS						
1	Dorothy Jarrett Benny Perry					
2	Gearldean Johnson Carl E. Jones Jr. Zuri Walker					
3	Ilene White					
4	Helen P. Anderson Robin Jones Battle Ivan R. Davis Sr. Delores Grimes					
5	Augustus Bankhead Cynthia F. Jones					
7	John Fenderson David O. Jones					
8	William "Woody" Baron					
9	Mary O. Pleas					
10	Shirley Bass					
12	Danielle Anderson Sharon Gentry Deborah Howse Paul Luter Elisha Richardson					
15	Paul Luter Elisha Richardson					
16	Pamela Wood					
18	Whitley Campbell					
21	Sylvia Burton					
22	Shanell McGoy Randall Washington					
24	Monica Carter					
25	Terrance Hurd					
27	Jane Fort Barbara Mines-Baxter					
29	Shirley Cody					
30	Richard Dinkins Emma Jean Lambert Sherika Lynch					

SEPTEMBER						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
DATES TO REMEMBER						
15	Reading Saturdays Open to reader K-12. Bring a Friend					
BIRTHDAYS						
1	Cheryl Johnson					
4	Jill Jones					
6	Allen Johnson Roald McFarland Jr.					
7	Miles Slay					
8	Clarence Christian Jr. Henry Foster Chris Lee Mcall					
10	Myka Suggs Dionn Treece Grloria Whitley					
12	Jonathan Richardson					
15	Joe Ella Darby Naonmi Griffin					
17	Ida Lewis Treva Wade					
18	Kynadi Greene					
19	BeverlyBrown					
22	Kimberly Covington					
25	Florence Kidd Carmelita Perry					
28	Carlotta Boone Clarice T. butler Miranda Christy					
29	Ivanetta Davis-Samuels					

Fridays
7:00 a.m. – Morning Prayer Call
Call In#: 712-775-8967
Code: 342779

Sundays
8:45 a.m – Sunday Morning Live!
10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

OCTOBER						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					
DATES TO REMEMBER						
1	Start of 2018-2019 Church Year					
7	Loyalty Sunday					
8	Depart for Mission Trip to Tanzania					
BIRTHDAYS						
1	Rose Busby Zelma Ewing Mercedes Faulcon Mia Washington					
4	Carmen Howse Aisha Westbrook Daisy Westbrook					
5	Celeste Williams					
7	Vernell Neely					
11	Destiny Beasley					
13	Florence Crawford Virginia P. Suggs					
14	Carrie Gentry					
15	Nicole Alexander Joshua Ivory Chandra Pleas					
17	Sheila Anderson Sean-Michael Coleman					
18	Gabriel Faulcon Joyce Laster-Hayes Brian J. Wood					
19	Charles B. Fancher					
22	Amari Basely Armani Basley Nastajionna Beasley					
23	Jeremiah Kirk Skylar Washington					
27	Una Fenderson					
28	Ebony Robinson Theresa Washington					
29	Henry Caudle Felecia Johnson Vincent Johnson					
30	Martin Currie					
31	Kyra Hayes					



(August 1-5, 2018)

God's Justice

WEDNESDAY, August 1: "Genuine Christian Behavior" (Romans 12:14-21)

THURSDAY, August 2: "Gentiles Experience Repentance" (Acts 11:15-18)

FRIDAY, August 3: "Paul's Joy at Corinthians' Repentance" (2 Corinthians 7:9-11)

SATURDAY, August 4: "Doers of the Law Are Justified" (Romans 2:12-16)

SUNDAY, August 5: "God's Righteous, Impartial Judgment" (Romans 2:1-12)

(August 6-12, 2018)

Global Economic Justice

MONDAY, August 6: "God Provides Food to the People" (Exodus 16:13-17)

TUESDAY, August 7: "The Widow's Generosity" (Mark 12:38-44)

WEDNESDAY, August 8: "Generous Self-giving of Jesus" (Philippians 2:5-11)

THURSDAY, August 9: "Excel in Generosity" (2 Corinthians 8:1-6)

FRIDAY, August 10: "Generosity Results in Mutual Thanksgiving" (2 Corinthians 9:11-15)

SATURDAY, August 11: "Support the Ministry of Church Leaders" (2 Corinthians 8:16-24)

SUNDAY, August 12: "Balance Need and Abundance Fairly" (2 Corinthians 8:7-15)

(August 6-12, 2018)

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SUNDAY, August 12: "Balance Need and Abundance Fairly" (2 Corinthians 8:7-15)

(August 13-19, 2018)

Loving and Just Behavior

MONDAY, August 13: "Many Members in One Body" (1 Corinthians 12:12-26)

TUESDAY, August 14: "Aim to Live by the Spirit" (Galatians 5:16-26)

WEDNESDAY, August 15: "Respond to Abuse with a Blessing" (1 Peter 3:8-12)

THURSDAY, August 16: "Treat Enemies with Love and Mercy" (Luke 6:27-36)

FRIDAY, August 17: "Don't Act by Human Standards" (2 Corinthians 10:1-5)

SATURDAY, August 18: "New Life in Christian Community" (Romans 12:1-8)

SUNDAY, August 19: "Behavioral Action Goals of Christians" (Romans 12:9-21)

(August 20-26, 2018)

Practicing Justice

MONDAY, August 20: "Buried in Baptism; Raised with Christ" (Colossians 2:6-12)

TUESDAY, August 21: "God's Example in All Relationships" (Matthew 5:43-48)

WEDNESDAY, August 22: "Life with Christ in the World" (John 17:14-19)

THURSDAY, August 23: "Life in the Spirit" (Romans 8:1-11)

FRIDAY, August 24: "Speak Truthfully Always" (Ephesians 4:25-30)

SATURDAY, August 25: "Replace Anger with Forgiveness" (Ephesians 4:31-5:2)

SUNDAY, August 26: "Live the New Life in Christ" (Colossians 3:1-17)

“We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer...”



PRAYER REQUESTS

Sis. Quinester Calloway
 Sis. Jan Jones Carter
 Sis. Mary Caudle
 Sis. Rosa Mimms
 Christopher Robinson
 (Esther Wright's nephew)

PRAYER LIST

Sis. Elizabeth Backus
 Wesley Common
 1110 Marshall Road #6220
 Greenwood, SC 29646

Major Alicia R. Bodie
 US Army

Deacon Jean Lambert
 755 S. Rogers Street
 Apt. 1101
 Pooler, GA 31322

Bro. J.D. Martin
 1650 Pine Tree Pass Lane
 Lilburn, GA 30047

Ms. Ella Matambo
 Macon, GA
 (Friend of the Currie Family)

Bro. Derrick McDaniel
 Christian Care Center
 Nursing Home
 202 Enon Springs Rd., E.
 Smyrna, TN 37167

Sis. Rose McDonald
 111 N. Carolina Ave. #204
 Lexington, NC 27292

Deacon Ernest Rhodes
 Bethany Healthcare Center
 421 Ocala Drive
 Nashville, TN 37211

Bro. Roosevelt & Sis. Maggie Roper
 732 Garrison Drive
 Nashville, TN 37207

Bro. Thomas Swanson
 2500 Riverside Dr.
 Nashville, TN 37216

Sis. Bertha Taylor and
 Bro. Willie Taylor
 105 Valley Green Dr.
 Antioch, TN 37013

Bro. Walter Vincent
 4824 Fairmeade Court
 Nashville, TN 37218

Sis. Leslie Williams
 2929 Old Franklin Road
 Nashville, TN 37013

In order to make our prayer list current, please let the church office know if you (or someone you know) have changed address or if someone should be added to or removed from the prayer list

Looking for a Church Home?

If you are looking for a church home, we encourage you to come and visit us! There are several ways to become a member of FBCCH.

Baptism - when a person is willing to initially express a belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and is willing to live one's life according to His will. Baptism is the symbolic initiation into the Christian faith.

Christian Experience - when a person who has previously been a member of another church chooses to unite with FBCCH, believing this to be the place for one's spiritual nurturing. These people have already been baptized and have committed a faith relationship with Jesus Christ.

Watchcare - when a person wishes to have his or her membership with FBCCH while he or she is temporarily living in the city.

Associate - when a person who has a membership in another church wishes to have a membership in FBCCH.

Restoration - when a former member chooses to rejoin FBCCH.

Our Church Vision Statement
First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill is Building, Restoring, and Revitalizing lives
through Jesus Christ.

Sermon Digest Reporters

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TORCH STAFF

Scheduling Access to Church Buildings

To all groups needing entry and use of the church, sanctuary, and Ennix-Jones Center during the week, please call the church office at 615-255-8757 in advance of your event. This is to ensure personnel are available to allow entry and to have a record for security purposes. Your cooperation is highly appreciated.

Please send all electronic correspondence to: fbcc13@gmail.com.