PASTOR’S PEN

We are beginning to make plans for our second church mission trip to Tanzania, East Africa. The dates for the trip are tentatively set for October 7 – 14, 2019. We would like to know who would be interested in going with the group this year. We are asking each person who is interested to get, complete and turn in an application that is available from the church office. It can be emailed to you if necessary. The completed applications should be returned to the church by March 3rd.

The experience is rewarding and challenging at the same time. Each person will find out both through their own experience. The key to all of it is that we will be working to strengthen the partnership we have established with the Osiligi congregation there in Longido Tanzania, as we work together to help advance their ministry there (Philippians 1:6). It was a blessing to both that congregation and our mission team. Last year we were able to take a group of 11 from Nashville. Though I say it is our second church mission trip, this is the third time we have had members of the church representing First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill in Tanzania.

In preparation to go, we will have a training session for the group to help us in understanding the purpose of our trip, practical things that need to happen to prepare for the trip and making the assignment of the task. Each person who goes will be responsible for her/his own expenses for travel, lodging and meals (some meals are included in the cost of lodging). There are those who have raised the money necessary to go through gifts and donations from others. Some chose to take care of their own expenses. The choice of the sources of income is left up to each person who goes.

We are beginning to watch airfares to see what routing will give us the best rate. Persons who are going should work to be in a position to pay the airfare as soon as we can find the most competitive fare. Other cost and expenses may be paid later. Though we do not know yet the total cost because of fluctuating airfares, I would suggest that each person be prepared to pay about $3,000 each for the total trip (flight, lodging and miscellaneous expenses). Last year we were able to save about 1/3 of that estimated cost by buying the airfare at the right time. It is important to have that flight money ready.

The work we do there may covers a range of activities from teaching, to working with children, youth, men and women. The church is also in the beginning plans of building a building which we may choose to assist in (we are talking through this with them now). The specifics tasks and activities have not been worked out. The key is having persons who are willing to help in any way necessary based on their desire, willingness and giftedness. For the most part it will not be “rocket science” but a willing heart.

We know that many will not be in a position to make the trip but will help in other ways to make the trip possible. This could include praying for the work, making donations, making/providing clothing and other items, or by helping in other ways that we find are necessary for the trip to be successful. This will again be a church-wide effort to the glory and honor of God (Matthew 5:16). Some people have already indicated their interest in going. My hope is that others of you will be praying about this and will submit the application to be considered. Your life will be enriched.

Kelly M. Smith Jr.
Pastor
When I was in the eighth grade, I took a trip to Washington, D.C. with a school group. That was my first time seeing someone on the street asking for money, saying they were homeless. I gave them almost all of my money and was scolded for doing so. I was confused as to why my giving money to someone in need was a bad thing and I was also confused as to why there were people outside of our nation’s capital seeking assistance. Being from rural Tennessee, before that trip, I had never seen anyone on the street asking for money. Or if I had, it did not catch my attention as this experience had; it was like a light bulb of awareness was turned on inside of me.

Shortly after returning from D.C., I saw a lady named Barbara Moments on the news asking for assistance to repair the roof of her homeless shelter, then Seek the Old Path in Memphis, TN, as it was damaged by a bad storm. The community rallied around her to repair the roof. Almost 7 years later, I had a chance to meet Moments when my family spent Christmas ’97 serving at her shelter. I was so excited to meet this woman whom I carried in my heart. She shared her story with me. During the process of her being licensed as an evangelist in the Church of God in Christ church, she heard the Lord ask her, “what about my common people?” She felt God tell her that her call was actually to care for the least of these, surrendering her desire to be recognized in her church as she had thought. In faith, she trusted and obeyed God, opening a shelter for women and children. Sadly, criticism came from within her church community, as some thought she was crazy to walk away from the opportunity to be elevated in ministry, choosing to serve differently.

A year later, I pursued my Master of Science in Social Work, with the dream of one day having a homeless shelter. My first internship was at a teen Runaway shelter and my second internship at a mental health facility. In both instances, I learned that addressing homelessness was more than just providing a home for people, as my eighth-grade-self thought. There are systemic issues affecting persons who were experiencing homelessness, as homelessness is an experience not an identity. I was overwhelmed. Since the eighth grade, I wanted to be like Moments, but honestly, that task of opening a shelter felt too great for me. In the following years, I volunteered with many agencies serving those experiencing homelessness and occasionally still do now. Though I never worked at the macro level with persons experiencing homelessness, I want more of God’s heart to serve right where I am called now.

I share this because I know there are many of you like me —as volunteers our heart breaks for persons experiencing homelessness we are overwhelmed by some of the realities around homelessness, yet we are excited about this season we have at FBCCH to join God at work. I am excited to be a part of a church where I, as an ordained ministry, do not have to choose between preaching God’s word congregationally and serving the least of these. My call was to preach and I sheepishly followed Jesus to licensure then to ordination. Now, I also get to follow Jesus in serving our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness in the congregational context. I’m excited about what God is birthing in the heart of FBCCH. We do not have to choose between being church members or social justice advocates, we are both; living out our faith as disciples of Jesus Christ. Let’s continue to Love God, Make Disciples, Serve Community, so we can see lives being built, restored, and revitalized through Jesus Christ.
CONGREGATIONAL CARE

We are hosting a baby shower for
Sis. Nia Tolbert!
Saturday, February 16, 2019
12:00 p.m. in the MLK Fellowship Hall
Nia is registered at tgt.gifts/NoahArk
(gift cards are welcomed)
If you’re planning to attend please RSVP to Sis. Miriam Currie (615-948-6580)

Nursery Ministry Start-up
"Children are a blessing and a gift from the LORD."
Psalm 127:3 CEV

We praise God for all the gifts of infants and toddlers that we have the opportunity to nurture as a part of our faith community. If you are interested in helping to create space for our little blessings, please join Sis. Miriam Currie on Sunday, February 24, immediately following our morning workshop.

FBCCH Fellowship of Retirees’ Annual
Thursday, February 14
11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Swett’s Restaurant
2725 Clifton Ave.
Bring Valentine’s card to exchange. All retirees are invited.
“Dutch Treat”

Ministry Announcements

Praise Dancers Rehearsal
Praise Dance class meets Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m. on the lower level of the sanctuary. For those interested in participating please contact Ms. Frankie Jackson to receive an information. Please note that when MNPS is out, there will be no practice. The rehearsal dates for February are 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th. Please remember to wear comfortable clothes! And thank you for joining in expressing God’s word through movement.

Deacons of the Week

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<tr>
<th>Week of</th>
<th>Deacon</th>
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<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Ernest Dismuke</td>
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<td>10th</td>
<td>Emmitt Hayes</td>
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<td>17th</td>
<td>Brian Wood</td>
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<tr>
<td>24th</td>
<td>Ronald McFarland Jr.</td>
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Prayer Request/Sick & Shut-in List

In order to keep 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.

Sis. Quinester Calloway
Sis. Jan Jones Carter
Sis. Mary Caudle
Sis. Rosa Mimms
Major Alicia R. Bodie
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
Deacon Ernest Rhodes

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

FEBRUARY

1 Maia Payne
2 Valinda Burks-Sidney
Geri Easley
3 Sabrina Daughtdrill
4 Wesley Currie
Jeffrey Wood Sr.
5 Thomas Swanson
6 Billie Jo Calloway
Christopher Demobreum
7 Richard Ewing
Constantine Fenderson
8 Benita Lynch
10 Golda B. Franklin
11 Antionette Bridges
David Pace
12 George Timothy Haynes
14 Stephen Daniel
15 Edward Risby Jr.
Lolita Slay
16 Cornelia Cruson
Gary M. Faulcon II
17 Hortensia McFarland
18 Tammye Hawkins
19 George Hill
20 Kalibe Lockert
21 Kendra Brown Deas
22 Andrea Boothe
Patricia Rowe-Lane
23 Kenneth Cory
Syelah Chyann Haskins
25 Bertha Taylor
27 Rachel Walker
28 Naomi Blair

MARCH

1 Dwight H. Lewis
2 Jamal Robinson
3 DeJuan Foster
4 Kathy Dr Pepper
5 Valerie Calloway
6 Gerald Schrader
7 Taura McKnight-Cheatham
8 Susan Howard
9 Taylor D. Gentry
10 Doris Dismuke
11 Mai Olive Lusk
12 Phillis Sheppard
13 Kyray Cruson
14 Willie M. Magee
15 Taylor McFarland
16 J.D. Martin
17 Sharanda N. Smith
18 Dejuan Hamilton
19 Scotty Robinson
20 Michelle Lenox
21 Miriam Currie
22 Frankie Jackson
23 Lyndsey Bass-Covington
24 Tequila Johnson
25 Retha Barbee Buchanan
26 James H. Chandler Jr.
27 Rosa Mimms
28 David S Ewing
29 William B. Ewing
30 Erica McFarland Adderly

APRIL

1 Valerie S. Hayes
2 Ronald D. Collier
3 Erica Collier
4 Tavon McKnight
5 Paul Robertson
6 Kristopher Currie
7 Elizabeth M. Backus
8 Gwendolyn H. Vincent
9 Robert Boone Jr.
10 Jimmie Franklin
11 Myah Lipscomb
12 Derek W. Howard
13 Leonia Lawrence
14 Ida Swanson Corbett
15 Francene A. Barbour
16 Dorothy Vassall
17 Marquenta B. Deaderick
18 Thomas Wood
19 Vanessa Collier Robinson
20 Quinester K. Calloway
21 Wanda Payne
22 Tiara Boothe
23 Maggie J. Rober
24 Patrick Slay
25 Esther Wright

BIRTHDAYS
Christian Education

Two new courses have been added to the Sunday Morning Live! Curriculum.

Based on the book by Angie Thomas, this study is designed to discuss issues of
- Conflict resolution
- Grief
- Gang Affiliation
from a spiritual perspective to best prepare our teenagers to recognize and confront them. Participants must be at least 14 years of age to participate and will need parental consent.

Classes begin Sunday, February 3rd.

Changing the way people are handling their money

During this 10-week study, which begins Sunday March 3rd, group members will complete homework assignments, memorize Scripture, and pray for one another.

Topics covered include:
- Getting Out of Debt
- Spending
- Saving & Investing
- Budgeting
- Giving
- Earning Money
- Training Children

The noonday class is continuing to study “God of Justice”. In addition to “God of Justice” the 6:00 p.m. students also have the option of studying “The Essential Commandment”.
## Christian Education

February 2019 Readings and Sunday School Lessons

**Theme: “Love Songs that Glorify God”**

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<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, February 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>“Live as Heavenly Citizens”</td>
<td>Philippians 3:17-4:1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, February 2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>“Guard Your Heart and Mind”</td>
<td>Philippians 4:2-9</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, February 3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt;</strong></td>
<td>“Be of the Same Mind”</td>
<td>Philippians 3:7-14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult Topic: Eyes on the Prize</td>
<td>Youth Topic: Giving Everything Up</td>
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<td>Children Topic: Personal Sacrifices</td>
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### Renounce Everything for Christ

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<tr>
<td>Monday, February 4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>“Son of the Living God”</td>
<td>Matthew 16:13-20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, February 5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>“I am the Lord”</td>
<td>Ezekiel 39:7-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, February 6&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>“Grow into a Precious Spiritual House”</td>
<td>1 Peter 1-8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, February 7&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>“Majesty of God’s Rule”</td>
<td>Psalm 93</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, February 8&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>“Rulers Astounded with the City of God”</td>
<td>Psalm 48:4-8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, February 9&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>“Build Up Each Other in Worship”</td>
<td>1 Corinthians 14:26-33a</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, February 10&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</strong></td>
<td>“Praise God’s Steadfast Love in Worship”</td>
<td>Psalm 48:1-3, 9-14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult Topic: Some Things Never Change</td>
<td>Youth Topic: It’s a Love Thing</td>
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<td>Children Topic: An Everlasting Love</td>
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### Pondering God’s Steadfast Love

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<tr>
<td>Monday, February 11&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>“God Sustains and Cares for Jacob”</td>
<td>Deuteronomy 32:10-14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, February 12&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>“Trust God, No Need to Fear”</td>
<td>Psalm 121</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, February 13&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>“The Lord Will Help You”</td>
<td>Isaiah 41:8-13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, February 14&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>“God Overpowers Adversaries”</td>
<td>Nahum 1:2-8</td>
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<td>Friday, February 15&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>“God’s Protection through Oneness”</td>
<td>John 17:11-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, February 16&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>“Deliverance from Violent People”</td>
<td>Psalm 140:1-8</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, February 17&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</strong></td>
<td>“Assurance of God’s Protection”</td>
<td>Psalm 91:1-8, 11-16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult Topic: Makes Me Want to Shout!</td>
<td>Youth Topic: Guaranteed Protection</td>
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<td>Children Topic: A Protective Covering</td>
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### Praising God’s Mighty Works

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<tr>
<td>Monday, February 18&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>“I was blindsided”</td>
<td>John 9:1</td>
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<td>Tuesday, February 19&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>“Look for the Good”</td>
<td>John 13:7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, February 20&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>“The Lord will make you holy”</td>
<td>Romans 6:1-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, February 21&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>“God’s protection through oneness”</td>
<td>Hebrews 9:17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, February 22&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>“Deliverance from Violent People”</td>
<td>Hebrews 13:12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, February 23&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>“Assurance of God’s Protection”</td>
<td>Hebrews 13:14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, February 24&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</strong></td>
<td>“Praise God for His Mighty Works”</td>
<td>Psalm 66:1-9, 16-20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult Topic: You’re in Good Hands</td>
<td>Youth Topic: Time for a Praise Break</td>
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<td>Children Topic: Rejoice! Rejoice!</td>
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### Living with God’s Loving Assurance

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<tr>
<td>Monday, February 25&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>“Guard Your Heart and Mind”</td>
<td>Philippians 4:2-9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, February 26&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>“Love and Pray for the Prosecutor”</td>
<td>Matthew 5:43-48</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, February 27&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>“A Life Worthy of God’s Call”</td>
<td>Ephesians 4:1-7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, February 28&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>“Be of the Same Mind”</td>
<td>Philippians 3:7-14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, February 29&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>“Rulers Astounded with the City of God”</td>
<td>Psalm 48:4-8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, February 30&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>“Build Up Each Other in Worship”</td>
<td>1 Corinthians 14:26-33a</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, February 31&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</strong></td>
<td>“Praise God’s Steadfast Love in Worship”</td>
<td>Psalm 48:1-3, 9-14</td>
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### Called to Humility and Hospitality

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<tr>
<td>Monday, February 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>“Wait to Enter the King’s Presence”</td>
<td>Proverbs 25:2-7a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, February 2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>“Treat the Poor and Rich Impartially”</td>
<td>James 2:1-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, February 3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>“Love and Pray for the Prosecutor”</td>
<td>Matthew 5:43-48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, February 4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>“A Life Worthy of God’s Call”</td>
<td>Ephesians 4:1-7</td>
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Reflections from our 21 Days of Pause and Prayer

The reflections in scripture and words for the past 21 days on how we as Christians should respond when the world comes to our door, whether the door of our church, or the door of our heart, have been very important to me. First, I was moved by the actions of our leaders to raise our consciousness. I had not planned to initially participate, but the words of my fellow church members caused me to reflect on the role that I should be playing in addressing this crisis. Yes, it seemed inconvenient to arise at 4am but I was reminded of the time many of those experiencing homelessness must leave their shelters and that gave me serious pause as to why I should not participate.

The scripture reading that we had were very impactful to me and each noted some of the virtues that we are encouraged to have and express:

1. Matthew 25:35-40 – the compassion that Jesus instructs us to show to the stranger, the hungry, the prisoner

2. Luke 16:19-31 – the love and kindness and kindness to the beggar and the less fortunate as Abraham reminded us

3. Acts 3:1-10 – the generosity of Peter and John to the lame beggar, providing what they could

4. Esther 4 – the courage of Mordecai and Esther in the face of uncertainty of the outcome

As we prayed each morning, the experience reinforced in me of the message that from Matthew 18:20 – “For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.” As we prayed daily, the experience helped to increase my faith and begin to think, what else can I do personally to address this challenge for our community? It was a powerful three weeks of pray, meditation and consideration of what should be our next steps to help address the challenges of homelessness in our community. So what is our Plan of Action now? Submitted by George Hill

ACT Seminar
Saturday, March 2, 2019
8 a.m.- 3 p.m.
MLK Fellowship Hall
Contact Bill or Carole McDaniel for more information.

Bro. Dwight Lewis has authored a new book, Temple’s Tigerbelles.

Join Arts and Letters Parnassus Books on Sunday, February 24 from 2pm to 3pm to celebrate this book release.
Philippians is a prison epistle, written while Paul was in jail. The church at Philippi was the first that Paul established in Europe. Paul changed from a persecutor of Christians to a follower of Christ. He charged the church to give praise and thanksgiving to God for watching over them, in spite of their imperfections.

1) Thank God for the past. Paul arrived at Macedonia; then, he went to Philippi where he was accepted and cared for, even while imprisoned. Our past ties us to where we came from and where we are going. Look to the past to secure the future. Remember those from the past; connect with the past.

2) Partnership. We all rely on each other. Church partnerships bring strength. Intentional relationships, similar goals strengthen the church.

3) Unfinished business. Verse 6 talks about working toward completion. Finish projects; prepare for retirement; our faith journey's work is never done.

If you want to know what matters to a person, read their last words especially if the words are directed to people who are important to them. There are several examples of famous people who have expressed last words pointing to their priorities in life such as Bing Crosby, John Brown, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., etc. In his last words, Jesus told his disciples what was most important to him, as seen in Matthew 28:19-20. We have clear concise directions to disciple the people of God to perfect the world for Christ. Jesus' last words give us:

1. His Vision – What will be the future? Repentance and forgiveness will be preached in His name to all nations. The Lord spoke of the disciples receiving power and they would be his witness. A witness gives testimony of what was seen, heard, and experienced; so their testimony was based on their personal relationship. We have a testimony that should be focused on our witness to the world.

2. His Strategy – A strategy is a progression of steps, so we know what method to use to accomplish a goal. The strategy was to begin at Jerusalem and move outward. The ministry was to occur in 4 distinct locations: Jerusalem (where they were, their hometown, and community); Judah (regions nearby); Samaria (the area most people avoid); and to the ends of the earth. Jesus wants us to be change agents where we are which includes our home, jobs, schools, and communities. Where is our Jerusalem? Do we see God using us, and our church, to share the gospel in our Jerusalem?

3. His Promise of Empowerment - Jesus’ last words gave us the promise of empowerment. He knew we would need power to carry out the work. It was at Pentecost when the disciples (apostles) were filled with the spirit. The Spirit empowers us to do the work. God has called us to represent Him, telling the story based on our testimony. Spreading the gospel is the major reason the Spirit of God empowers us. We have been called by God, commissioned by Jesus, and enabled by the power of the Spirit to not only fulfill our individual missions but to go as a church.
God is trying to get humankind to move to the places God wants us, which is toward Him. In Matthew 2, God guided three wise men to the birth of baby Jesus and they brought Jesus gifts. The word extravagance means outside wandering or doing something outside of the norm. The wise men went wandering outside of their norm to be extravagant. God was extravagant when he gave us Jesus, this is Christmas extravagance. This text teaches us that:

1. Christmas extravagance is about giving: This giving means you are acknowledging how that individual has impacted you or your life in an affirming manner or your appreciation for the individual. Giving is something that we do as a part of living, and a need and desire to give. The distance the men/kings traveled to deliver gifts to Jesus could be considered extravagance.

2. Christmas extravagance is about generosity: Generosity is routed in the genes and means birth or source. Some give based upon compassion or something within them. Pastor Smith shared the $30 million recently received by Spellman College. We never know the impact of giving and sharing can have on someone else’s life. Generosity does not go unnoticed. Rev. Dr. Martin was cited as another positive example for his and others willingness to donate time, spend the night, prepare meals, completing laundry, etc. for Room in the Inn.

3. Christmas extravagance is about grace: God shows us his unmerited grace because we do not deserve all of the blessings he provides to and for His people. God loves us so much that his grace for humankind is limitless. Examples of his grace included the fact that we saw 2019, the health we have, our ability to breathe, and the ability to think, etc. Grace is the unmerited favor of God even when it is not deserved. Each of us is called to reflect the character of God. God demonstrates grace in all aspects of our lives and those persons in our lives. God made a conscious choice to love all human beings even when it is not deserved or appreciated. Amen, Amen, & Amen.

The story of the Magi let’s us reflect on the approaching church season of Epiphany (a demonstration, appearance, manifestation). The Magi showed unyielding determination to reach the Christ Child, as they were packed with their gifts of Gold (symbolic of Kingship), Frankincense (symbolic of Deity), and Myrrh (symbolic of Death). Finally arriving at their destination, they beheld the child in the arms of His mother, Mary. Overcome, they kneeled and worshipped Him! From this account of the Magi’s Epiphany—that ‘moment of great revelation that changes you’, we can learn of Jesus’ real presence in the world today.

Sermon Highlights:

Seek Jesus with the same determination as the Magi.
We must set our Spiritual course for a new destiny, one that begins and ends with Jesus. We also want to be ready with our ‘gifts’ whenever we have an encounter with the Lord. Rev. Kimbrough reminded us of Pastor Smith’s Sermon last week that “the three gifts we should always bring to King Jesus are our love, our faith, and most of all our worship”. Just as the Magi were filled with adoration, praise, and devotion, we too will be filled with indescribable joy and thanksgiving when we recognize Jesus as Lord. This Spiritual Fix will be everlasting.

Seek a clean heart so that we may follow Jesus.
A ‘Spiritual Fix’ is a genuine change in the heart that can only come from God. Change, repentance, and growth can be painful, but a ‘pure heart’ is what allows us go where God goes and follow where God leads. Our prayers to God to fix us, forever changes us on the inside. We become closer to the real issues of life and we are compelled to reach out and help others. What we cannot do for another, God will do for each one of us. Our duty is to lift God up; He will draw all men unto Him.

Seek to really know Jesus, not just be an acquaintance.
We will not know Jesus through some type of quick ‘Worldy Fix’- an attempt to get a genuine feeling from an artificial source (alcohol, illicit drugs, social addictions). Nothing will satisfy our hunger or quench our thirst for Joy like a real encounter with Jesus. Our security for peace is in having an intimate relationship with Him, for Only what we do for Christ will last.
Our Vision

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

Our Mission

Love God, Make Disciples, Serve Community

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.

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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: fbcch13@gmail.com.