



# The Torch

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, CAPITOL HILL  
DECEMBER 2020 – VOLUME 62 NUMBER 3

## PASTOR'S PEN

Well, this Christmas will be different for sure! There have been reverse parades where the floats and performances are stationary, and the people pass by in their cars. There have been virtual lightings of Christmas trees. There have been reruns of previous Christmas programs on TV, such as with the Radio City Music Hall Rockettes. Black Friday was “Bleak Friday” for stores as shoppers avoided going to malls and stores and shopped online instead. And the list goes on of how this Christmas season has already been different and will be through the rest of the year.

Christmas has had to fall in line with all of the other major holidays this year. Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Fourth of July, my birthday 🎂, Labor Day, Memorial Day, Veteran's Day, Halloween and Thanksgiving have all had to respect that there is a pandemic going on that has radically changed how we do things. A year ago, most people hadn't even heard of Zoom. Now Zoom has become one of our best friends, giving us some sort of connection – virtually - with those whom we used to connect with personally. It is a different kind of year indeed.

But once we get through the disappointment of having to do Christmas differently, we can use this year as an opportunity to refocus our understanding of what this season is really intended to be.

- We should be reminded that Christmas is in the season of Advent, which comprises the four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Day. It is the season of excitement for the birth of Jesus Christ, as well as a season filled with hope and anticipation for the second coming of Jesus Christ ([Isaiah 9:6](#)). Our anxiousness about when will “all of this (pandemic) be over” should be comforted by being reminded of the presence of Christ now and beyond the pandemic. Our hope rests in that assurance.
- The birth of Christ was God's creative way of entering creation, as a human being, to remind us that God loves us and will constantly care for us ([Luke 1:26–38](#)). We should find our own creative ways, safe and socially distanced, to show our love for others. Love is demonstrated in our doing what is good for the health and wellbeing of others.
- The first Christmas, when Christ was born, was not a big affair. The Bible tells us that it was about a woman named Mary, who gave birth to a child who was named Jesus, in a manger in Bethlehem. Joseph, who was engaged to Mary was there. The only visitors beyond the angels were shepherds who were taking care of sheep that night and were told that the Savior had been born ([Luke 2:4–20](#)). (The wise men did not come to see Jesus for another 2 years – [Matthew 2:1–16](#)). But the story of the first Christmas places the focus on Jesus. Not on anything or anyone else. Not on presents, parties, parades, or other people. It was on Jesus and what his birth means to the world. This year we can let Jesus truly reclaim our focus. Let Christ be the center of our Christmas. Let us spend the season reminding ourselves that as challenging as this year has been Christ is our hope.

Merry Christmas. May your season be filled with gratitude for the love of God exhibited in the birth of Christ. That is a “different” which truly makes a difference.

Kelly M. Smith Jr.  
Pastor

# DISCIPLESHIP MOMENT

## Grief, COVID, and the Holidays Part II of II

*“Jesus Wept.” ~John 11:35*

Submitted by Rev. Joe Ella Darby, Assistant to the Pastor for Discipleship

As we continue part II of our focus on grief, I want to remind us of the definition for grief and mourning that is being used. I use the definitions coined by Dr. Alan Wolfelt. He defines *grief as what we think and feel whenever something we value is harmed or taken away* and *Mourning is the outward expression of the grief we experience inside.*

As we grieve forward well, meaning, how we continue to think and feel about our loss, we have to integrate that loss into our lives. At some level, we will always grieve the loss of our loved ones. This is called our grief journey. If the relationship was special to us, we will think affectionately about them and miss them. And when we express our grief, it allows our wounds to heal properly. Mourning is an active part of our grief journey. We have to mourn our grief. Now, too often, we limit the mourning process to crying. Though crying is usually the primary way of mourning, if someone is not a natural crier, then the public absence of tears may cause a measure of anxiety for them and others. No need to worry, just like everyone grieves differently, we too mourn differently. We just need to mourn. When we do not outwardly express our grief, then our grief will come out in potentially unhealthy ways. In an attempt to numb the pain and hurt, we unintentionally numb ourselves to where we can't feel anything. We distance ourselves from others, we live in fear of going deeper, or we isolate and run away. We make vows to never experience heartbreak again. When we keep our feelings and thoughts bottled up, we may begin to drink to numb the pain, begin risky behaviors due to feelings of hopelessness, or even begin addictive behaviors as a means of escape. Please understand that feelings buried alive NEVER die.

So, if mourning is healthy and necessary, how do we mourn without fearing that we will never be able to pull ourselves back together? How do we continue on our grief journey while integrating loss into our lives? One way is by including rituals into our grief journey.

Wakes, funerals and memorial services are traditional public rituals; yet rituals are not limited to the public arena and can be personal and private. A ritual is a set of meaningful actions that you perform regularly with mindful awareness and intent. This in itself can lead to powerful health and well-being benefits. Here are a few rituals to help us integrate our losses into our lives:

**Write an affirmation** and draw from the experiences with what or whom was lost, as a way of healing and facilitating the creation of a new normal. Create an affirmation statement that honors the experience, even if it was a complicated experience, and affirm your desire to allow that experience to help you as you journey forward differently.

**Light a candle** for the loved ones you lost. As the candle burns, express gratitude for their light. Honor their light that still shines in and around you.

**Set a place** for them at the table for the holidays. For some this sounds “over the top” but for others it is a physical way of honoring and holding space for that loved one who will be missing from the table.

**Keep a gratitude journal** to remind you of all the things for which to give thanks, even small things like your favorite holiday drink at Starbucks. It matters.

**Embrace the hurt** and choose to welcome it as a friend. Honor how you feel if and when you're triggered. Scream. Pay attention to your breathing. Talk to God. Believe that the sting will not last always.

**Make a Christmas ornament** or fill a stocking of items to giveaway in your loved one's honor.

**Pace yourself and take care of you!** Psalm 30:11 says God will turn our mourning into dancing. But remember, this will happen at the appropriate time. We must mourn before we can dance!

# MISSION AT YOUR DOORSTEP



*“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6*

Submitted by Dr. Arroll N. Martin, Assistant to the Pastor, President, ABCOTS

As you are reading this today, Thanksgiving has come and gone, and many of you are preparing for Christmas. We all have much to be thankful for, not only on the fourth Thursday in November, but every day of our lives.



As part of the Thanksgiving tradition, the Ministry of Missions provided Kroger gift cards for twenty-five families that reside in the Andrew Jackson Apartments, Cheatham Place Apartments, and the John Henry Hale Homes. One-hundred turkeys were also provided to the residents of the Nashville Rescue Mission for Thanksgiving dinner. Donations are still being accepted.

Join us in our winter coat drive. This year winter coats will be provided for the children of Cheatham Place Apartments and Andrew Jackson Apartments. To keep our members safe during COVID19, and out of the malls, simply make a donation and coats will be purchased.



May you all have a wonderful Christmas  
and may the **“Prince of Peace”** bring

JOY  
to the world

# DECEMBER NEWS & EVENTS

## Community Care Holiday Volunteer Opportunity

**Project Love Strong:** I am very grateful to have partnered with **Project Love Strong**, a local Black-owned nonprofit, for their 3rd annual *Hoodies for the Homeless* drive, which has already been covered by News Channel 5 and 92Q FM. First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill's (FBCCH) Community Care Team has generously agreed to get involved as well. If you would like to help us serve persons experiencing homelessness, please partner with us in one (or both) of the following ways.

- Make a monetary donation to Project Love Strong. Project Love Strong is a 501(c)3 tax deductible nonprofit. [Click Here to Donate](#)
- Volunteer and join us on the day of the event for this year's *Hoodies for the Homeless* drive to pass out hoodies and other essentials. The event day is **Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.** at the War Memorial Plaza. Ideally, all the volunteers will be wearing HERO hoodies to show up and show out as a team. The hoodies are \$65.00 + Shipping. [Click Here to Purchase Your Hoodie](#)



If you have any questions, please contact Sekou Writes at 917.532.5640 or at [sekou@sekouwrites.com](mailto:sekou@sekouwrites.com)

### Deacons of the Week for December 2020

Week of	Deacon	Phone#
6 <sup>th</sup>	Beverly Brown	(615) 391-3737
13 <sup>th</sup>	Ernest Dismuke	(615) 876-3522
20 <sup>th</sup>	Emmitt Hayes	(615) 790-7312
27 <sup>th</sup>	Brian Wood	(615) 259-0623

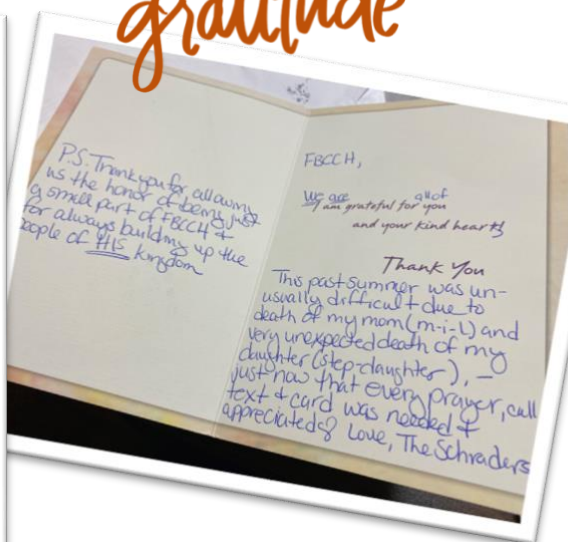
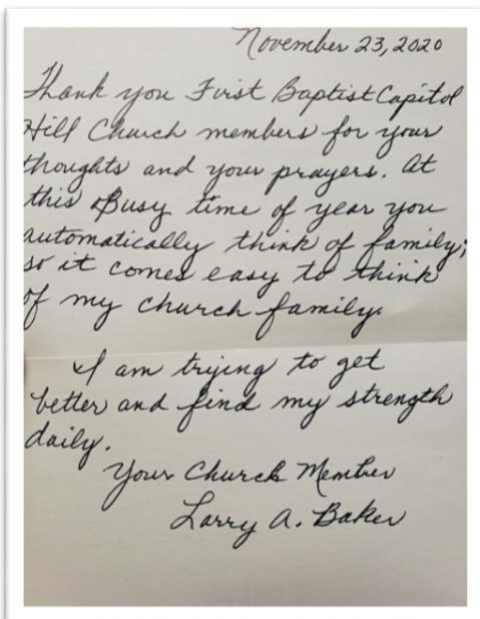
Due to Covid-19 protocols and recent administrative mandates at the Knowles Assisted Living Center, the Shepherd's Ministry will not observe its annual Christmas party with the residents this year.

We wish the residents and staff a blessed and happy Holiday Season. Merry Christmas to all!



Submitted by: Sis. Conra Collier

## Expressions of gratitude



To our FBCCH Family:

This is to express our sincere gratitude to you for your many expressions of sympathy following the untimely passing of our beloved husband, dad, grand dad, and other relatives. It is a comfort to know that the deep pain and sorrow that we feel are shared by so many. Please keep us in your prayers.

**The Charles B. Fancher,  
 Sr. Family**

# 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.**

Deacon Richard Dinkins  
Sis. Jan Jones Carter  
Sis. Rosa Mimms  
Major Alicia R. Bodie

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

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

Bro. Derrick McDaniel  
Good Samaritan Health & Rehab  
500 Hickory Hollow Terrace  
Antioch, TN 37013

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

Sis. Maggie Roper  
Green Hills Health & Rehab  
3939 Hillsboro Circle  
Nashville, TN 37215

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

Sis. Dorothy Vassall  
4646 Skylark St NE  
Lacey WA 98516

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

## B I R T H D A Y S

### DECEMBER

- 1 Kayla Cruson  
Gary Faulcon
- 2 Barbara Dougherty
- 3 Kelly Copeland  
Deborah Luter  
Ilee Wade
- 4 Linda Thompson  
Torrie Washington
- 5 Ashley Glotta
- 7 Bernice Barnes  
Tondrick Chandler  
Vicki Todd-Stubbs
- 8 Corey Grimes
- 14 Brenda Duff  
Nia Tolbert
- 15 Bettye Springfield
- 17 Leon Deaderick  
Barry Hobbs  
Myles Sidney
- 18 Vonda McDaniel
- 22 Ivan Davis, Jr.
- 23 Gloria T. Westbrook
- 24 Breanna Grimes  
Cora Johnson
- 25 Valerie Robinson
- 31 Jacqueline Knight

### JANUARY

- 1 Elizabeth Davis
- 2 Gabriel Bryson
- 5 Kelando Townsend
- 6 Tamia C. McKnight  
Diane Robertson
- 7 Timarion J. Smith  
Betty Wilson
- 9 Bobby Lovett
- 11 Marshawn Miller
- 13 Karen Brown
- 14 Kathy Harrell  
Ronald McFarland, Sr.  
Becky Swanson
- 15 Nina Lockert  
Brooke McFarland
- 20 Jessie Carter, III  
Jessica Powell  
Kathleen Wilkinson  
Sean Wood
- 21 M. Inez Crutchfield
- 22 Jason Robertson  
Diantay Powe Westbrook
- 24 Esq. Robert Greene  
Lueatrice Lovett  
Adrian Samuels
- 26 Evelyn Gaines-Guzman  
Carole McDaniel
- 27 James Lowe, III
- 28 Noah Kirk
- 29 Hortense Jones  
Lance Molette
- 31 Virginia W. McClain  
Evan Smith-Erving

### FEBRUARY

- 2 Valinda Burks  
Geri Easley
- 3 Sabrina Daughtdrill
- 4 Wesley Currie  
Kourtlynn Greene  
Jeffery Wood, Sr.
- 6 Billie Calloway
- 7 Richard Ewing, IV  
Constantine Fenderson
- 8 Benita Lynch
- 12 George Timothy Haynes, II
- 14 Stephen Daniel
- 15 Ed Risby, Jr.  
Lolita Slay
- 16 Johnny Allen  
Cornelia Cruson  
Gary Faulcon, II
- 17 Hortensia H. McFarland
- 18 Tammye Hawkins
- 19 George Hill
- 21 Kendra Deas
- 22 Andreana Breveard  
Patricia Lane
- 23 Kenneth Cory  
Syelah Haskins
- 24 Christopher Beard
- 25 Myshia L. Deaderick
- 27 Christopher Demonbreum
- 28 Dwight Lewis

# Christian Education

## December 2020 Readings and Sunday School Lessons

<u>DAY</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>
<b>Called Before Birth</b>		
Tuesday, December 1 <sup>st</sup>	“Blessed and Chosen In Christ”	Ephesians 1:1-14
Wednesday, December 2 <sup>nd</sup>	”Christ, Head over All People/Things”	Ephesians 1:15-23
Thursday, December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	“In the Family Line of David”	Matthew 1:6b-15
Friday, December 4 <sup>th</sup>	“God Anoints Jesus as King”	Hebrews 1:6-9
Saturday, December 5 <sup>th</sup>	“Jesus, Creator and Eternal Ruler”	Hebrews 1:10-14
Sunday, December 6 <sup>th</sup>	“Expectations of Jesus before His Birth”	Hebrews 1:1-5, Matthew 1:1-5, 16-17
<b>Adult:</b> Fulfilling One’s Calling	<b>Youth:</b> Legacy to Live	<b>Children:</b> The Heir of Promise
<b>Called Before Birth</b>		
Monday, December 7 <sup>th</sup>	“A Sign of God’s Promise”	Isaiah 7:10-15
Tuesday, December 8 <sup>th</sup>	“Called as Light to the Nations”	Isaiah 42:1-9
Wednesday, December 9 <sup>th</sup>	“Called to Mission before Birth”	Isaiah 49:1-9
Thursday, December 10 <sup>th</sup>	“Children of God Love One Another”	1 John 2:28; 3:10
Friday, December 11 <sup>th</sup>	“Simon Foretells Jesus’ Ministry”	Luke 2:34-38
Saturday, December 12 <sup>th</sup>	“Mary, in the Linage of Ruth”	Ruth 4:9-17
Sunday, December 13 <sup>th</sup>	“The Miracle of the Holy Spirit Conception”	Matthew 1:18-25
<b>Adult:</b> Called to Participate in a Promise	<b>Youth:</b> Born with a Promise	<b>Children:</b> A Special Promise
<b>A Regal Response to Holy Light</b>		
Monday, December 14 <sup>th</sup>	“Midwives Frustrate Pharaoh’s Decree”	Exodus 1:15-22
Tuesday, December 15 <sup>th</sup>	“God Answers Solomon’s Dream”	1 Kings 3:5-14
Wednesday, December 16 <sup>th</sup>	“Insight into the Meaning of Dreams”	Daniel 1:8-17
Thursday, December 17 <sup>th</sup>	“In Christ No Divisions Allowed”	Galatians 3:25-29
Friday, December 18 <sup>th</sup>	“A Gracious Ruler Is to Come from Bethlehem”	Micah 5:1-5
Saturday, December 19 <sup>th</sup>	“A Successful Return from Egypt”	Matthew 2:19-23
Sunday, December 20 <sup>th</sup>	“Safe in the Midst of Danger”	Acts 4:32; 5:11
<b>Adult:</b> International Honor for King of the World	<b>Youth:</b> Honoring the King of the World	<b>Children:</b> Respect and Honor
<b>Called To Prepare The Way</b>		
Monday, December 21 <sup>st</sup>	“A voice cries, ‘Comfort My People’”	Isaiah 40:1-5
Tuesday, December 22 <sup>nd</sup>	“John the Baptist Is the Greatest”	Matthew 11:2-15
Wednesday, December 23 <sup>rd</sup>	“The Baptist’s Testimony of Faith”	John 1:19-34
Thursday, December 24 <sup>th</sup>	“Jesus, the Father’s Beloved Son”	Matthew 17:1-8
Friday, December 25 <sup>th</sup>	“In John, Elijah Has Come”	Matthew 17:9-13, Malachi 4:4-5
Saturday, December 26 <sup>th</sup>	“John Baptizes Jesus in the Jordan”	Matthew 3:13-17
Sunday, December 27 <sup>th</sup>	“John Prepares the Way for Jesus”	Matthew 3:1-12
<b>Adult:</b> Get Ready	<b>Youth:</b> Preparing by Modifying our Direction	<b>Children:</b> Prepare for Change
<b>Called To Proclaim</b>		
Monday, December 28 <sup>th</sup>	“Live by God’s Word”	Deuteronomy 8:1-11
Tuesday, December 29 <sup>th</sup>	“Jubilee-the Year of God’s Favor”	Leviticus 25:8-17
Wednesday, December 30 <sup>th</sup>	“The Miracle of the Meal and Oil”	1 Kings 17:8-16
Thursday, December 31 <sup>st</sup>	“Naman’s Leprosy Is Healed in the Jordan River”	2 Kings 5:1-14
Friday, January 1 <sup>st</sup>	“Jesus Overcomes the Devils’ Temptations”	Luke 4:1-13
Saturday, January 2 <sup>nd</sup>	“Jesus is Driven Out of Nazareth”	Luke 4:23-30
Sunday, January 3 <sup>rd</sup>	“Jesus’ Mandate for Ministry Is Announced”	James 2:1-13
<b>Adult:</b> An Amazing Ministry	<b>Youth:</b> Ministering to Those in Need	<b>Children:</b> Listen; Be Amazed

# MINISTRY OF STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT

## Sermon Digests

October  
25

“Great is the Lord” –  
Sermon from August 6 1972  
(Late) Pastor, Rev. Dr. Kelly M. Smith, Sr.  
Psalm 145:1-3  
Submitted by: Beverly M. Brown

### Context:

#### **A Song of Praise. Of David. (ESV)**

*Psalm 145:* <sup>1</sup>I will extol you, my God and King,  
and bless your name forever and ever.

<sup>2</sup>Every day I will bless you and praise your name  
forever and ever.

<sup>3</sup>Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and  
his greatness is unsearchable. God wants positivity,  
firmness, authenticity, and truth, in humankind's acts  
and not just their intellectual actions

There are (3) main sermon points:

**Point 1. The greatness of God is shown in his mighty acts.** These are not acts of wishful thinking or behaviors, but moral acts and actions displayed in the great universe of God/Christ Jesus. God/Christ Jesus' divine interventions are for all to have freedom and to be released from the oppressed and abuse afflicted upon others in the world. No matter the picture of unfavourability painted by history, God can always shine through issues presented in life and living.

**Point 2. The greatness of God is shown through his eternal nature.** He is everlasting for all generations, presently and those to come. He is dependable, unchanging, consistent, and will intervene to prevent His children from being whipping posts by those that are perceived to be in power. God/Christ Jesus is faithful and no fact is greater than His word.

**Point 3. The greatness of God is learned through experience.** He walks with His people in both good and difficult times. You can take your burdens and storms to Him and leave them with Him for resolution. He can and will take you through any situation and circumstance. His greatness can be seen in the beauty of nature, a beautiful painting or poetry, and He can rescue society and culture, no matter the obstacles. He is just that great. Amen, Amen, Amen.

November  
1

“The Secret of Contentment”  
Pastor Kelly M. Smith, Jr.  
Philippians 4:10-14  
Submitted by: Deborah Luter

What is contentment? Contentment is how you handle you when you are in the midst of things you cannot handle. Now we must confess that contentment has been hard to come by this year. With a raging virus that cannot be contained by the current response of government and people who do not heed the warnings regarding it, and with a nation filled with unrests because of racism and systems of oppression.

And yet, the Apostle Paul, who at the time of writing this letter to the people of Philippi, says he had found the secret of contentment. But what Paul is saying here is that the secret is not focusing on the circumstances but on that which is still within your power to control—and that is yourself.

#### **Point 1-The secret is found in community.**

The Apostle Paul found contentment because he knew how to appreciate his community. It was those with whom he felt a connection. Those who shared his values and supported his beliefs. He expresses his appreciation for them NOT because he was in need. There was no restlessness in his spirit that was abated because they sent something to take care of his need. But the secret of contentment was knowing how to appreciate that there are those who cared about him.

#### **Point 2-The secret is found in comprehension.**

How can we learn the secret of contentment?

- Find the beauty in every moment
- Be thankful
- Every situation is temporary
- Keep looking forward
- Remember that God is faithful

#### **Point 3-The secret is found in Christ.**

Sometimes there is an ambiguity about what may be referenced in somethings. Some of these ambiguities are because we don't know the context or the circumstances that the person may be referring to. When it comes to us there ought not to be any question about who brings us contentment. People ought to not have to guess or figure or wonder about it. It ought to be evident in how we carry and conduct our lives. Jesus Christ should be evident in our lives as the one who gives us contentment. Thus, when we cite the words of the Psalmist in Psalm 23 and 27, others will know that is where we get our contentment.

November  
8

**“Space for Healing”**  
**Pastor Kelly Miller Smith Jr.**  
**Matthew 11:28-30**  
 Submitted by: Adreinne Fancher

We have all dealt with physical healing. Once beyond the pain, we sometimes forget the injury. Emotional and spiritual pain can be more difficult to move beyond. Connecting with Jesus to find the healing we need to go forward is the importance of finding space to heal. People need space to heal – particularly this year! Jesus wanted his disciples to understand that when Life is heavy, when wounds are more than we can manage, that’s when we should come to Him!

**Point 1. The healing space needs to have an open invitation.** COME TO ME, all who are weary. Jesus gives an open invitation for everyone to come. Jesus did a lot of physical healing: the blind, the crippled, the leper – people knew to go to Jesus. There were also those under political and religious oppression. Everyone’s pain or sickness is not the same, but Jesus can handle it all. Some people struggle in private. All who are willing to lay their burdens before the Lord are WELCOME. When we Christians are judgmental of others, we give the impression that those who struggle are not welcome. Christians ought to help people see that we are willing to accept and help all. The Church and the Christian faith should be a hospital for personal healing.

**Point 2. The healing space needs to provide rest.** Jesus says the healing comes through finding rest. Life can weigh us down, but Jesus offers rest. All things need rest to continue functioning. Maybe this year was an opportunity for us to rest. Jesus’ rest is relief from Life’s burdens. Sometimes, the doctor’s prescription is simply rest to allow the body to heal.

**3. The healing space needs to break old patterns.** Learn how to live Life in a way that is healing! Sometimes that means giving up old, destructive habits. Jesus asks people what they want because the healing may not be solely the elimination of the ailment. Maybe the true healing is not related to the physical complaint. Once you have been through your healing, there ought to be something changed in you. When you know God has touched your life, you ought to change your patterns, so you don’t need to be healed again. When we trust in the Lord, our burdens will be light. Jesus on the cross reminds us that He is willing to take all of our burdens. He arose to carry our burdens every day. You will find rest for your soul!

November  
15

**“Joy in the City”**  
**Pastor Smith’s 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
**Rev. Dr. Edward L. Branch**  
**Acts 8:5-8**  
 Submitted by: Kathy Harrell

Are you still engaged in the pursuit of happiness? Lots of people are. Most of us do what we do because we just want to be happy. And isn’t happiness a privilege that everyone should have?

Yet, today, it is ‘unhappiness’ that is at an epidemic proportion. All of us have experienced unhappiness for different reasons. Whether it is from our jobs, our families, our neighborhoods, or our relationships, people are unhappy. Our efforts to achieve happiness are often impeded by so many issues that confront us every day. Racial inequity, economic deprivation, political corruption, social turmoil, and now, the pandemic effects of having little to no fellowship of worship or family gatherings, makes people unhappy. Unhappy people make unhappy cities, states, and nations.

But today’s scripture gives us encouragement and hope. It lets us know how one man’s ministry turned a hurt and broken city into a place of great joy. Just as the Holy Spirit had the power to heal ancient Samaria, It still has the power today to transform any and all cities into places of great joy.

**Point 1. It takes the presence of God’s anointed to transform our cities into places of great joy.** An anointed is one who has found their rightful place in carrying out the will of God. But the focus is not about the person; it is all about Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit within them. This is what Pastor Smith brings to his ministry at First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill.

**Point 2. An open and warm reception of the Message and the messenger contributes to transform our cities into places of great joy.** When God’s people show love and honor to God’s anointed, they show love and honor to God. Our minds and hearts must be open to our Pastor. Well received and warmly embraced makes the work of God’s anointed so much easier in moving us from current unsettling realities to places of great joy.

**Point 3. Meeting the needs of the less fortunate contributes much to transforming our cities to places of great joy.** Teaching, healing and touching lives; to do justice and love mercy; compassion for the ‘least of these’; deliverance for all...this is how our Pastor helps us to transform our city into a place of great joy. ‘For the Spirit of the Lord is upon him’. This is good news!



# First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill

625 Rosa L. Parks Boulevard at Nelson Merry Street | Nashville, TN 37203

[www.firstbaptistcapitolhill.org](http://www.firstbaptistcapitolhill.org)

**Kelly M. Smith Jr., Pastor**

## Our Mission

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

## Our Vision

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.

## Torch Staff

<b>Editor-in-Chief</b>	Kelly M. Smith Jr.
<b>Editor</b>	Conra G. Collier
<b>Church History Editor</b>	Bobby L. Lovett
<b>Member Spotlight Editor</b>	Sharanda Smith
<b>Reporter-at-Large</b>	Carole McDaniel
<b>Chair, Ministry of Communication</b>	Sharon Dixon Gentry

### Sermon Digest Reporters

Beverly M. Brown	Susan Howard
Kathy Harrell	Sheila Littleton
Adrienne Fancher	Deborah Luter

### Proofreaders

Evelyn Fancher  
Lueatrice Green Lovett  
Carole McDaniel

### 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: [fbch13@gmail.com](mailto:fbch13@gmail.com).