



The Torch

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, CAPITOL HILL
AUGUST 2021 – VOLUME 62 NUMBER 11

PASTOR'S PEN

I am excited about the preachers for August. Actually, I am always excited about the preachers who preach for us. We have been blessed over the years by the quality of the messages we hear from the preachers, whether they are our own, or guests. This year's August lineup is no exception.

- August 1 – The Reverend Dr. Elliott Cuff, President, National Baptist Congress of Christian Education of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.
- August 8 – Minister Janiece Williams, Ujima Intern at First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill
- August 15 – The Reverend Dr. Latisha Reeves Henry, Associate Minister, Abyssinian Baptist Church, Jacksonville, FL
- August 22 – Minister Chris Harris, Ujima Intern at First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill
- August 29 – The Reverend Dr. George W. C. Lyons Jr. Pastor, Gillfield Baptist Church, Petersburg, VA

Please be reminded that the sanctuary is open on Sunday mornings for worship services for any persons who wish to come. We ask that those who come will continue to wear masks and practice social distancing. Our online services will still remain an option for those who are not comfortable coming back to the building. Regardless of which mode of worship you choose it is my prayer and desire that worship in a manner that enables you to draw nearer to presence of God and we worship God in Spirit and in truth ([John 4:24](#)).

Mark on your calendar October 3, 2021 as "Loyalty Day and Homecoming Sunday". This will also mark the beginning of our church year and renewed beginnings in our building. We invite you to come share in the building for our worship service at 10:00 a.m. We will consecrate our officers and dedicate the renovation work we have just completed (we will still have the services online for those who prefer to watch it through either Facebook Live or our streaming services). As we get closer to the date, we will let you know what provisions are being made for Sunday School.

Following the worship service everyone is invited to go downstairs to the tour the new office wing of the church building and other areas that we have renovated (including the new elevator!). Downstairs Bro. Bill McDaniel and others will prepare food for us to eat and give us time to fellowship with each other. Weather permitting you will have the option to either eat inside or outside. Games will also be there for the children to enjoy.

FBCCH still maintains a sensitivity to the concerns created by the pandemic. We keep monitoring it to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all who share with us. With that in mind, please consider joining us as we begin again worshipping, serving, sharing and fellowshipping together as a church family ([Psalm 122:1](#)). We look to see you October 3 (if not before!).

Kelly M. Smith Jr., Pastor

DISCIPLESHIP MOMENT

Meet Disciple Lynn Stewart

"I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." ~Psalm 91:2

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

How did you feel when Pastor Smith intentionally started moving us from membership to discipleship?

I had an air of excitement because I had not been in an environment where this was taught. Though there were things that I needed and wanted to learn, I was still excited.

How have you grown as a disciple since we have made this shift?

I have become more aware of discipleship and engaged in some reading on it. I want to continue to learn about it and grow in it. I've increased in my spiritual practices. I already prayed daily, but I prayed more. Overall, I started doing more things to help others.

What are some spiritual practices that you enjoy?

I get up in the mornings when it's quiet and spend time with God. I read my daily devotional, write prayers or compile segments of prayers, I journal daily, and I watch two preachers online every day and have so for years. I also take notes of sermons that I hear.

I walk every day and meditate, I also pray and reflect during Tai Chi. I listen to my gospel music probably every day; my family is big into music. I serve my community, church family, and friends. I enjoy visiting people every week, making phone calls, and sending cards. I make and deliver flowers to the sick and shut in. Visiting people is one of the things I really enjoy. Though I've always done this, my visits have increased since I've been back at FBCCH which was in 2017. I just really enjoy having the opportunity to serve.

How would you encourage others in their discipleship journey?

I would encourage others to participate in prayer calls. I get something out of the prayer calls, and I would hope others would as well.

What is your favorite scripture?

My favorite scripture is Psalm 91. For a while, I repeated this psalm daily. Years ago, I used to read passages according to what I needed at the time. During a hard season in my life, I was encouraged to read Psalm 91 as I prayed for God's protection. It just explains a lot and the more I read it, the more I understood it. I encourage others to read [Psalm 91](#).

As I reflected on these questions about discipleship, I wrote this prayer. I hope it is a blessing to others.

'My heavenly Father, thank you for the breath of life you've given me. Breathe new life into me today. How grateful I am to be closely connected to you every day and in every way. Enable me, Heavenly Father, to hear that still small voice speaking to my heart so that I will follow your leading in my journey to becoming a good disciple. Help me to recognize the gifts and talents you've placed in me and I commit to using them responsibly in your honor through helping others.

Help me to study and follow your teachings and the wisdom and teachings of others that will help me in my journey to becoming a good disciple. So that I can one day, share that good news to someone on their journey. Just for today, let me be a blessing to someone and continue in my spiritual practices daily because I am so very grateful to be closely connected to you.

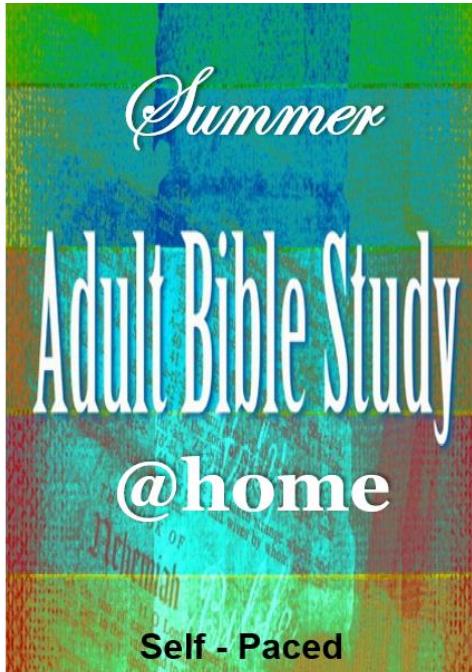
Thank you, Heavenly Father, for another amazing day, full of so many blessings. In Jesus' name, Amen'.

AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS

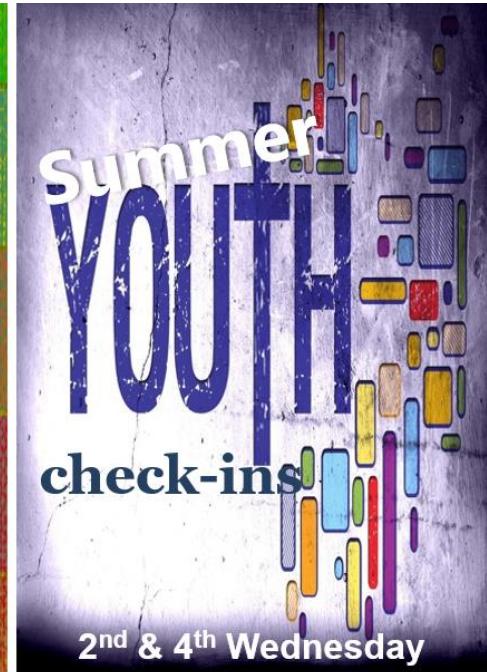
We are delighted to now have weekly in-person Sunday Morning Worship Service in our sanctuary! We ask that you wear masks and practice social distancing while in the building. We will continue to offer our online worship experience as well for those who prefer that option. Either way, we look forward to you joining us!!



2nd & 4th Sunday



Self - Paced



2nd & 4th Wednesday

Please refer to Tuesday's '*Briefs from The Hill*' for additional information and connection links for each activity and/or lesson downloads.

Deacons of the Week for August 2021

Week of	Deacon	Phone#
1 st	Ronald McFarland, Sr.	(615) 331-0564
8 th	Sunny Owunnah	(615) 708-1893
15 th	Pamela Wood	(615) 259-0623
22 nd	Carol Boone	(615) 851-1527
29 th	Derek Howard	(615) 717-5835



Please remain in prayer for Pastor Smith's physical and spiritual restoration during his annual sabbatical.

Prayer Request/Sick & Shut-in List

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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

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

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

BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST

- 1 Dorothy Jarrett
- 2 Geraldean Johnson
Carl E. Jones, Jr.
Zuri Walker
- 3 Ilene White
- 4 Helen Anderson
Robin Battle
Ivan Davis, Sr.
Delores Grimes
Catherine Lovett
- 5 Augustus Bankhead
- 6 Paiton Williams
Paris Williams
- 7 David Jones, Jr.
- 8 William Baton
- 9 Gwendolyn Harris
Mary O. Pleas
- 10 Shirley Bass
- 11 Joey Faught
- 12 Danielle Anderson
- 15 Brian Jones
Paul Luter
Elisha Richardson
- 16 Pamela Wood
- 17 Doris Freeman-Hull
Deborah Howse
- 18 Sylvia Burton
- 22 Christopher B. Easley
Shanell McGoy
Randall Washington
- 24 Monica B. Carter
- 25 Terrance Hurd
- 26 Junior Breveard, III
- 27 Jane G. Fort
Barbara Mines
- 30 Richard Dinkins
Sherika Webb

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Cheryl Johnson
- 2 Elijah Daughdrill
- 4 Jill Jones
- 6 Ronald McFarland, Jr.
Michelle McGriff
- 7 Miles Slay
- 8 Clarence Christian, Jr.
Henry Foster
- 9 Katelyn Johnson
- 10 Dion Treece
Gloria Whitley
- 12 Jonathan Richardson
- 13 Allen Johnson
- 15 Joe Ella Darby
- 16 Christopher Johnson
Donna Rice
- 17 Naomi Griffin
Treva Wade
- 18 Kynadi Greene
- 19 Beverly Brown
- 22 Kimberly Covington
- 23 Warren Robertson
- 25 Florence Kidd
Carmelita Perry
- 28 Carlotta Boone
- 29 Ivanetta Samuels

OCTOBER

- 1 Rose Busby
Zelma Ewing
Mercedes M. Faulcon
Mia Washington
- 2 Sondra Anderson Dade
- 3 Imani Chatman
- 4 Carmen Howse
Aisha Westbrook
- 5 Celeste Williams
- 7 Mackenzie Wood
- 12 Rosa Gayles
- 13 Florence Crawford
- 15 Nicole Alexander
Joshua Ivory
Chandra Pleas
- 17 Sheila Anderson
Sean-Michael Coleman
Vernell Neely
- 18 Gabriel Faulcon
Brian Wood
- 22 Darryl Doughty
Ariana Washington
- 23 Jeremiah Kirk
- 24 Arrmani Beasley
Arrmari Beasley
- 25 Ty'Ki Beasley
Ty'Kia Beasley
- 27 Una Fenderson
- 28 Ebony McCall
Theresa Washington
- 29 Henry Caudle
Felecia Johnson
Vincent C. Johnson
- 30 Martin Currie
- 31 Kyra Hayes

Christian Education

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August 2021 Readings and Sunday School Lessons

<u>DAY</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>
Sunday, August 1 st	Salvation for All Who Believe “Salvation Is for All People”	Romans 10:18-21
Adult: Seeking Confidence	Youth: A Gift for Everyone	Children: A Gift for All
Monday, August 2 nd	The Meaning Of Faith “Love of Money Is the Root of Evil”	I Timothy 6:6-10
Tuesday, August 3 rd	“Control Your Own Body”	I Thessalonians 4:1-7
Wednesday, August 4 th	“Abraham Father of the Faithful”	Acts 7:2-7
Thursday, August 5 th	“Worthy Examples of the Faithful”	Hebrews 11:4-7, 17-27
Friday, August 6 th	“Actions of Faith in Daily Life”	Hebrews 13:1-9, 17-19
Saturday, August 7 th	“Like Jesus, Offer Sacrifices to God”	Hebrews 13:10-16
Sunday, August 8 th	“The Living Actions of Faith”	Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Adult: The Example of Heroes	Youth: Real-live Faith	Children: True Heroes
Monday, August 9 th	A Persevering Faith “Save your Life by Losing It”	Mark 8:31-37
Tuesday, August 10 th	“Respond to Abusers with Blessings”	I Peter 3:9-19
Wednesday, August 11 th	“Be Faithful until Death”	Revelation 2:8-11
Thursday, August 12 th	“Sanctified by Christ’s Sacrifice”	Hebrews 10:1-10
Friday, August 13 th	“The Inner Life of New Believers”	Hebrews 10:11-18
Saturday, August 14 th	“Approach God with a Pure Heart”	Hebrews 10:19-22
Sunday, August 15 th	“Act in Ways that Preserve the Faith”	Hebrew 10:23-36
Adult: Keep Going	Youth: Hold On to Your Faith	Children: Hold On
Monday, August 16 th	A Conquering Faith “Testing Our Love for God”	Deuteronomy 13:1-4
Tuesday, August 17 th	“Love God by Keeping His Commandments”	John 14:15-24
Wednesday, August 18 th	“Discerning the Spirit of Truth and Error”	I John 4:1, 4-6
Thursday, August 19 th	“Knowing God, We Can Love Others”	I John 4:7-12
Friday, August 20 th	“Faith Is the Victory”	I John 5:1-3
Saturday, August 21 st	“Believers in Jesus Have Life”	I John 5:6-12
Sunday, August 22 nd	“Faith that Loves Overcomes Obstacles”	I John 4:2-3, 13-17; 5:4-5
Adult: Perfect Love	Youth: More than a Feeling	Children: Walk the Talk
Monday, August 23 rd	Hope Eternal “From Death to Life in Christ”	I Corinthians 15:16-23
Tuesday, August 24 th	“Strengthening the Inner Being”	Ephesians 3:14-21
Wednesday, August 25 th	“Every Deed, Good or Evil, Judges”	Ecclesiastes 12:9-14
Thursday, August 26 th	“God’s Judgement of Human Behavior Is Impartial”	Romans 2:4b-11
Friday, August 27 th	“Paul, Confident in the Ministry”	II Corinthians 4:7-15
Saturday, August 28 th	“Entering the Presence of Jesus”	II Corinthians 4:7-15
Sunday, August 29 th	“Live the Faith with Confidence”	II Corinthians 4:5-10
Adult: Be Confident	Youth: Always Confident	Children: A Forever Promise

MINISTRY OF STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT

Sermon Digests

	"Glory" (4th in series of One Word Testimonies) Pastor Kelly Miller Smith, Jr. Exodus 33:18 Submitted by: Beverly M. Brown
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Pastor Smith reminded us that glory is not shining on us; but, is shining down on us through prayer and God/Christ Jesus showing his face. God shows His face in humankind's wilderness experiences; just like He did with Moses to get the Isaremites safely to the promised land.

The three sermon points are:

Point 1-Glory is revealing.

God was not happy with Israel after God had been with them. They were disrespectful, disobedient, and yet, they still needed God. Just like the Israelites, we need God/Christ Jesus' presence. God let's His people know that He is always with them. God shows us His glory in good times and difficult times is the reason we are to worship Him.

Point 2-Glory is privilege.

Privilege sometimes creates separation no matter your race, gender, or sexual orientation. It can cause inequity in society and persons in one's social circle. Glory allows one's experiences in a way that others may not have the same opportunity. The "Lord is our salvation and no weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed, and you shall refute every tongue that rises against you in judgment. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD and their vindication from me, declares the LORD." (ESV). 54:17. Make a difference in someone else's life.

Point 3-Glory is intimacy:

Exodus 33:¹⁴ And he said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." ¹⁵ And he said to him, "If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here. ¹⁶ For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct, I and your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?"(ESV). Human beings always have a need to feel the presence of God/Christ Jesus and to know He is walking with His children and showing them favor.

Finally, The Glory to God/Christ Jesus is the highest praise, it is Him working on an individual's behalf and no matter what, one can make it because His glory is shining down on them. Amen, Amen, & Amen.

	"Jesus" (5th in series of One Word Testimonies) Pastor Kelly M. Smith, Jr. Philippians 2:9-11 Submitted by: Deborah Luter
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It is important for us to know who Jesus really is, and what He should mean to our lives. There is a pervasive misunderstanding of who Jesus is.

Paul writes this letter to the people of Philippi because of his wanting to express his appreciation for their kindness toward him while he was incarcerated. They had sent some provisions to him through a man named Epaphroditus. He was also concerned about the misuse of the name of Jesus among people. There were those who were using the name for personal gain and convenience.

Paul didn't want the people of Philippi to be the victims of this. He wanted them to understand what is really meant by calling Jesus Lord. The word Lord suggest that my commitment is not going to be occasional and sporadic-My commitment is a lifelong engagement.

Point 1-Jesus is our salvation

The name of Jesus means "God saves." The classic, traditional way of looking at Jesus as salvation is to speak of it in terms of our sinfulness. But that is not the only way He saves us. He saves us from all things that seek to destroy us. Our salvation comes through Jesus who saves us from our sins, from systems and from ourselves.

Point 2-Jesus is our example

Sometimes we miss the understanding of what it means to follow Christ. We think we still have the license to act in old ways. But Jesus shows us that He is the way, the truth and the life. You don't have to abandon your holiness. Jesus didn't. No matter how they came after him, Jesus was able to deal with his holiness.

Point 3-Jesus is our worship

It is interesting that God exalted Jesus. If you follow the Jesus narrative, you would not think that this would be how people would ultimately view him. He was born in a manger, hung out with people with poor reputations, and died on a cross like a common criminal. Why do we worship him? Because in Jesus we are able to find peace, even when storms are raging in our lives. We are able to find encouragement in a discouraging world. We are able to find His presence is with us no matter what the circumstances may be.

July
11

"Hallelujah" is commonly and frequently used in Christian worship, music, and language. It is captured in the Bible primarily in Psalms and Revelation. The now English word is a phrase in the original Hebrew: "Hallel" [to praise] and "Jah" [God, the Lord]. Thus "Praise the Lord" is used just as frequently. Hallelujah has become a secular exclamation of thanksgiving and excitement. The author, John the Revelator, uses Hallelujah to speak to the victory of God's presence.

Point 1. Hallelujah acknowledges God's worthiness.

Even though the world around us may not reflect it, God is always there for us and worthy of our praise! Always realize that God is a worthy God. Some people may think God is obsolete. It is important to honor God's presence and power. Understand that everything we have and need comes from God. You can't do anything without God.

Point 2. Hallelujah acknowledges our desire to respond.

Originally, Hallelujah was a call for response from the people. Hallelujah is an invitation to Praise the Lord together. The Bible offers various forms of praise to meet our needs: BARAK [to bow or kneel before the Lord], HALAL [to rave or boast about God], SHABACH [to shout for the Lord], TEHILLAH [to sing in the spirit], TOWDAH [to give thanks to the Lord], YADAH [to raise hands to the Lord], ZAMAR [to use music and instruments as praise], ZARAR [to dance for the Lord]. The song lyric, "Hallelujah is the highest praise," does not have biblical basis. The saying, "When praises go up, blessings come down," is not Christian (New Testament) philosophy. All praise is acceptable and not transactional.

Point 3. Hallelujah acknowledges victory.

John wrote from a posture of victory even though he was in exile and early Christians were persecuted. Victory reminds us of what is possible. God has worked out things for us without our knowledge: God has made a way. Every family has Hallelujah moments when God has blessed you – and we praise God for it.

We are a victorious people and should shout Hallelujah in gratitude for what God has done.

"Hallelujah! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth!"

July
18

"Blessed"
(7th in series of One Word Testimonies)
Pastor Kelly Miller Smith Jr.
[Matthew 5:1-3](#)
Submitted by: Kathy Harrell

We are all blessed, and we should live our lives in ways that demonstrate the fact that we know we are blessed. 'Blessed' is often misused and misunderstood in its biblical meaning. Blessed is not intended to indicate some type of wealth of fortune. We are all blessed differently and this does not mean that anyone is blessed 'better than' or 'less than' someone else. Blessings are not just those things that are coming in the future. Blessings are what we have right now! Blessed actually means 'happy'.

Point 1-We are blessed when we experience the divine presence.

Jesus is the embodiment of God and the disciples realized they were blessed because Jesus was in their midst healing them and relating to them in ways they had never experienced before. We should have that feeling of comfort and happiness when we can be near God and experience His presence no matter where we are. The Divine is Omnipresent!

Point 2- We are blessed when we are drawn to community.

Communities are established to bring and keep us together. They are not designed to separate, but to be inclusive of everyone--rich, poor, old, young, sick or well. Christian community is intentional in helping to meet the needs of one another. Everyone needs to be a part of community where we not only receive blessings but share blessings as well. The pandemic of 2020 taught us the blessing of community, where we found new ways to stay connected and care for one another.

Point 3 – We are blessed when we see ourselves as works in progress.

God moves us from where we are to where He wants us to be. We are sometimes our own biggest obstacles to allowing God to help us progress! In Matthew 5, the beatitudes speak to where we are, but it also points to what we will become ('blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted'). As long as we have breath in our bodies, God is working with us, molding us like clay. We must be resilient enough to be shaped and reshaped by the hand of God. We are His works in progress!

First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill

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

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.

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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: fbcch13@gmail.com.