



The Torch

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, CAPITOL HILL
2021 – DECEMBER – VOLUME 63 NUMBER 3

PASTOR'S PEN

As we come to the close of another year, we do not come to the close of things happening in First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill. There are many things left on our to-do list for 2021.

- We will observe our 156th Church Anniversary, Sunday, December 12, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. We are doing several things in conjunction with our observance.
 - We are honoring and memorializing several persons who have been a blessing to our congregation. They will be added to our Wall of Faith. Those we are honoring are: Sis. Ruth McGriff and Bro. Paul Robertson. We are memorializing Sis. Emma J. Hynes, Deacon Helen Teague and The Reverend Ottie L. West.
 - We will consecrate the portions of our building which have been renovated. This is a project that pre-dates my coming back to Nashville. We can finally say that we have completed this task. This includes adding our elevator, adding our office wing, locating our archives and library in our main building and making some other improvements and modifications. Those who come to the building on Sunday will have an opportunity to see the completed work.
 - We are asking each person to continue in our tradition of giving a special offering of \$156, representing one dollar for each year of the church's existence. This should be in addition to your regular tithe and offering and can be given either in person during the worship service, through the smart phone app "Givelify" or by mailing it to the church building.
 - We will honor members who have been members for at least 50 years. If you have been a part of our congregation since before 1971 please make sure you forward your name to the church office before Thursday, December 9 at fbch13@gmail.com.
 - Lunch will be served after the service on Sunday either for sitting and eating at the building or for carry-out.
- Members and friends are asked select the name of a child from our Angel Tree to buy gifts for him/her. The gifts are to be turned in by December 12. Please contact Sister Miriam Currie at: mircur53@gmail.com with any questions.
- We are also asking members and friends to purchase winter coats for children in Cumberland View Apts. Please contact Dr. Arrold Martin (Email: arrolnd@aol.com or call (615) 255-8757 ext. 3) to see what sizes are still needed.
- We will have an online Christmas Eve meditation and our New Year's Eve service at 6:00 p.m. on those respective days (there will be no in person attendance for these two services). Tune in either through Facebook, YouTube or the church's website.

Finally, let me express my appreciation for the many ways you have maintained your engagement in First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill and for your support and encouragement of me personally throughout the year of 2021. Even with the present challenges in the world, God continues to show us ways to be faithful to God and to our church community. What a blessing. ([Philippians 1:3 – 6](#)). Merry Christmas and Happy New Year ([Luke 2:14](#)).

Kelly M. Smith Jr.

DISCIPLESHIP MOMENT

Surviving the Holidays

“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” ~ 1 Corinthians 15:55

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

As we are settling into a long holiday season, I want to offer a few words of encouragement to those of us who are grieving the loss of a loved one. What I will share comes from my own experience on my grief journey and from the many grief sessions I was fortunate to lead while I served this past year as a Chaplain at the VA Hospital in Nashville.

As we begin, I want to differentiate between grief and mourning. This was helpful for me, and I hope it's helpful for you. The definitions I use were coined by Dr. Alan Wolfelt, who is an author, educator, grief counselor, and the Director of the Center for Loss and Life Transition. Dr. Wolfelt defines **Grief** as *what we think and feel whenever something we value is harmed or taken away*. Grief is natural and healthy. We grieve all the time. Whether we are sad or disappointed when we don't get the job we really wanted, or we grieve the loss of a dream, we grieve the loss of a friendship that grew apart; we grieve when there is a separation or divorce, even if that separation was necessary. Though grief does involve other losses, our focus is on the loss of a loved one through death.

Mourning is the outward expression of the grief we experience inside. We have thoughts and feelings about these things but often we are too embarrassed or even conflicted over the grief that we just don't express it or talk about it; we keep it all on the inside. I don't know about you but often I have feared that if I mourned, I may not be able to “pull it back together”. Traditionally, funerals and memorial services have been designed to help us mourn or express our grief. Please note: Mourning doesn't have to be in a public arena or just crying, but the grief you feel does have to be expressed outwardly. Mourning is a gift that frees and heals us.

As you grieve, I want you to remember a few truths:

- > Understand that grief is a journey not a destination: This means don't focus on “getting over” the loss so life can go on or wishing you could arrive at “being better”. It takes time so be gracious with yourself.

- > Give yourself, and others, permission to feel without judgement: Our feelings are our feelings, and it is important to give ourselves and others permission to grieve and mourn in ways that are helpful to them. Everyone mourns and grieves differently and that's okay. Give yourself permission to do whatever you need to do to heal.
- > Remember mourning is a sign of strength and courage not weakness: It takes courage to be authentic and vulnerable...Expressing how we feel is a strength. It's weakness to deny ourselves vulnerability. During the holidays, check in with yourself and ask “What am I thinking or feeling? What do I need right now?” Don't fear your feelings. Journal or talk to someone you trust who will not try to rush you along but will sit with you and even hug you. Receive their love.
- > Integrate your loss into your life: Our loved ones may be absent from us physically, but their spirits never die. We honor our loved ones by talking about them and sharing stories about them. During your holiday meals, you can set a place for them at the table or light a candle in their honor. You can invite others to share a fond memory of them. You can cook their favorite food or share their recipes.

I want to encourage you from 1 Corinthians 15:55, *“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”* When we lose someone we love, it stings. We feel that death has won, and we have lost our hope or even our way in life. But death doesn't have the final say. As we grieve forward well, the sting of death will eventually lose its power and grip. We will be able to breathe again, laugh again, feel happy again, love again, and even hope again. It will take time and everyone's journey is unique so don't look at one else, only look inside and trust the process. In due time, Psalm 30:11 will happen, but we must mourn before we can dance; we first must put on our sackcloth before we can welcome cloths of joy. We will never be the same because loss changes us, but that change doesn't have to be negative. We can/will live again!

MISSION AT YOUR DOORSTEP

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14 NIV

Submitted by Rev. Dr. Arrold N. Martin, Assistant to the Pastor

Holiday or Holy Day?

The time between Thanksgiving and Christmas are some of the most joyous days in the lives of believers around the globe. Airports are full of travelers in hopes of sharing Thanksgiving and Christmas time together with family and friends. Covid 19 has had its impact. The joy and possibility of seeing family, for many for the first time since 2019, places a special emphasis on these two holidays this year.

Holiday or Holy Day? Many may view Christmas as just another holiday on their work calendar. However, the gospel of John lets us know that the day was and is still a special day. A Holy Day. While December 25th has been debated historically as the actual day of Jesus’ birth, we will not address that issue in this article. Leave it to say that the birth of Jesus was no ordinary day. For on that day God broke through time, space and history to become Emmanuel, God with us. God did this to restore the broken relationship between humanity and its God. Join us during the Advent Season as we look forward to the coming of the Messiah born in a manger in Bethlehem, but also to the one who said where I go you to shall go.

Winter Coat Drive



Twelve families comprised of 42 children have been identified from the Cumberland View Apartments of MDHA to be recipients of winter coats for children this year.

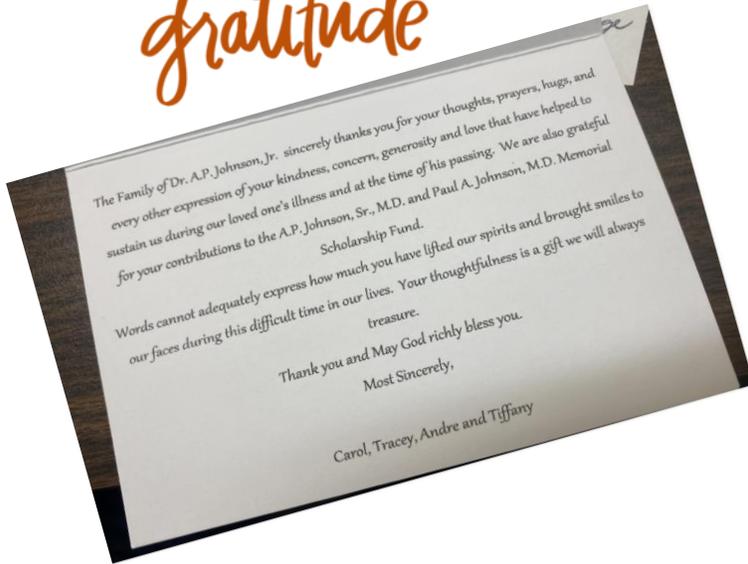
If you would like to participate in this effort, you will be provided with the gender and coat size for a family or individual. I will have family names and sizes after the worship service on Sundays beginning December 5th. For questions and confirmed sizes needed, please contact me by e-mail arroln@aol.com or by phone (615) 255-8757 ext. 3. The average family size is four children.

**Please have all coats into the church by Sunday
December 19th**

DECEMBER NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Expressions of

gratitude



(Typed here for ease of reading)

The Family of Dr. A.P. Johnson Jr. sincerely thanks you for your thoughts, prayers, hugs, and every other expression of your kindness, concern, generosity and love that have helped to sustain us during our loved one's illness and at the time of his passing. We are also grateful for your contributions to the A.P. Johnson Sr., M.D. and Paul A. Johnson, M.D. Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Words cannot adequately express how much you have lifted our spirits and brought smiles to our faces during this difficult time in our lives. Your thoughtfulness is a gift we will always treasure.

Thank you and May God richly bless you.

Most Sincerely, Carol, Tracey Andre and Tiffany

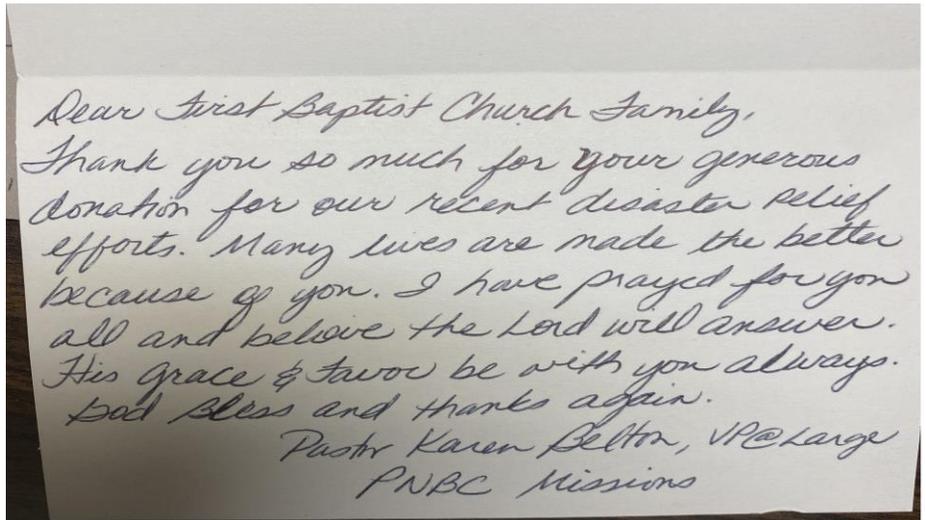
My Dear Church Family,

Thanks for your outpouring of love on the occasion of my 90th birthday.

Thanks too, for the many cards, gifts, surprise videos, and all other acts of kindness shown.

I am thankful and grateful.

Sis. Clara Elam



Deacons of the Week for December 2021

Week of	Deacon	Phone#
5 th	Beverly Brown	(615) 963-5094
12 th	Ernest Dismuke	(615) 876-3522
19 th	Emmitt Hayes	(615) 790-7312
26 th	Brian Wood	(615) 259-0623

156TH
CHURCH
Anniversary
FOLLOWING WHERE FAITH LEADS



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, CAPITOL HILL
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12TH | 10:00 AM

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, CAPITOL HILL

Christian Education Book Club

SID ROTH & LINDA JOSEF, PH.D.
STORIES OF
SUPERNATURAL HEALING
With true stories from Amy Shubert, Terrell David Herrog, Ben Phillips, Kevin Smith, and more.
SIGNS, WONDERS AND MIRACLES

Join us for a discussion of *Supernatural Healing: Stories of the Miraculous* by Sid Roth & Linda Josef. The book club will meet **December 18th** from **Noon to 2 p.m.** via Zoom

Discussion will be facilitated by Sis. Mary Pleas. More information to follow.

Virtual
Christmas Eve
SERVICE
December 24th | 6:00 PM
FaceBook ~ YouTube ~ FirstBaptistCapitolHill.org

VIRTUAL
New Year's Eve
SERVICE
December 31ST | 6:00 PM
FaceBook ~ YouTube ~ FirstBaptistCapitolHill.org

The Necessity of Hope!

Submitted by Minister Harris, FBCCH UJIMA Pastoral Intern

JUSTICE

CORNER

If we can be honest and transparent for a moment, both 2020 and 2021 have been rough. These past 2 years have pushed and stretched in many ways than we would consider counting. From the continuous fight for Black Lives lost due to injustice, racial infrastructures, and failed political systems, to the continuing turmoil of living in a pandemic and fighting the uphill battle of Covid-19, we have seen a lot as a community. Yet somehow, even amid injustice, amid sexism and racism, and living in these Divided States of America, we dare continue to be hopeful.

If we are to be honest, the imagery and the idea of hope is not foreign to us. As a matter of fact, if we didn't hold onto hope the past two years, many of us would be worse than we are, but I think that speaks to the resilience that we each possess in hoping for a brand-new day and brighter tomorrow. As a matter of fact, a good example is found in In Isaiah 43:18-19, where it reads, *"18 Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. 19 I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."* This text speaks to a people who found themselves in exile, a people who found themselves "quarantined" from the familiar of what they knew. The children of Israel are under the captive and oppressed rule of Babylon. While dealing with captivity and oppression, the text lets us that a prophet comes and tells them to not remember or hold onto what is old and familiar but rather look at the new thing that God is about to do. I will do it even in the spaces that seem driest and where life may not flourish. And while the children of Israel may have had reasons to be hesitant to accept a word like this because of what they were experiencing, can you imagine the comfort and hope that filled them within, knowing that eventually, they will see God come through.

Beloved that is a word for us today that even in these tumultuous times of racism and bigotry, God still allows a glimmer of hope to shine through. Even when we as a community were not happy with the verdict of Kyle Rittenhouse, God gave us a ray of hope in watching the murders of Ahmaud Arbery be brought to justice and convicted of the crimes. Yes, beloved, even when the situations look like there is no hope, God proves to us that there is always the possibility of hope. Each of us may be hoping for something different, but the one commonality we all share is that God is at the center of it all.

The good news for us today is that hope fills us and tells us to keep going a little further. Hope can be whatever we make it: Hope is that memory of your loved one telling you to keep going, hope is your child hugging you and saying I love you, hope is dancing with your spouse to your favorite song, hope is knowing that even amid a global pandemic God is keeping you. Hope is knowing that God will never leave you nor forsake you. Beloved, go into the rest of this year and even into next year knowing *hope* is right by your side.

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

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. Leslie Williams
2929 Old Franklin Rd
Nashville, TN 37013

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

BIRTHDAYS

DECEMBER	
1	Kayla Cruson Gary Faulcon
2	Barbara Doughty
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 Sydney
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.
15	Nina Lockhart Brooke McFarland
20	Jessica Powell Kathleen Wilkinson Sean Wood
21	M. Inez Crutchfield
22	Jason Robertson Diantay Powe Westbrook
24	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 Curie Kourtlynn Greene Jeffrey 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 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	Naomi Blair

December 2021 Readings and Sunday School Lessons

<u>DAY</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>
The Meaning of Faith		
Wednesday, December 1 st	“Discern the Good, Acceptable, and Perfect”	Romans 12:1-2, 9-21
Thursday, December 2 nd	“The Written Law and the Ark of Wood”	Deuteronomy 10:1-11
Friday, December 3 rd	“Jesus Fulfills the Law”	Matthew 5:17-20
Saturday, December 4 th	“Curses upon Disobedience”	Deuteronomy 27:14-26
Sunday, December 5 th	“Obey the Statutes and Ordinances”	Deuteronomy 5:1-3; 10:12-13; 28:1-2
Adult: The Protection of Justice	Youth: Protected	Children: Do What is Right
A Persevering Faith		
Monday, December 6 th	“The Death of Saul and Jonathan Are Mourned”	2 Samuel 1:1-12
Tuesday, December 7 th	“A Lament from a Just Heart”	2 Samuel 1:17-27
Wednesday, December 8 th	“A Cry for Justice”	Luke 18:1-8
Thursday, December 9 th	“Mercy from the Son of David”	Matthew 20:29-34
Friday, December 10 th	“David Is Made King over All Israel”	2 Samuel 3:1-5; 5:1-5
Saturday, December 11 th	“The King Rejoices in God”	Psalms 21
Sunday, December 12 th	“David Shows Kindness to Saul’s Descendant”	2 Samuel 9:1-7, 9-12
Adult: The Mercy of Justice	Youth: Showing Kindness	Children: Promise and Loyalty
Justice and Righteousness Reign		
Monday, December 13 th	“God’s Holy People Live Justly:	Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18
Tuesday, December 14 th	“Enthroned upon Righteousness and Justice”	Psalms 89:14-21
Wednesday, December 15 th	“Be Content; Pursue Righteousness”	1 Timothy 6:6-12
Thursday, December 16 th	“Do Justice, Love Kindness, Walk Humbly”	Micah 6:1-8
Friday, December 17 th	“Seek God’s Kingdom and Righteousness”	Matthew 6:25-34
Saturday, December 18 th	“God’s King Will Judge with Righteousness”	Isaiah 11:1-9
Sunday, December 19 th	“God’s Light Has Shined”	Isaiah 9:1-7
Adult: The Source of Justice	Youth: Holding On to Hope	Children: Hope for All
Hope Eternal		
Monday, December 20 th	“God’s Chosen Nation:	Psalms 33:1-12
Tuesday, December 21 st	“A People Whom God Has Blessed”	Isaiah 61:4-9
Wednesday, December 22 nd	“Mary, the Servant of the Lord”	Luke 1:26-37
Thursday, December 23 rd	“May God’s King Rule Justly”	Psalms 72:1-8, 11-14
Friday, December 24 th	“God Lifts Up the Lowly”	Luke 1:46-55
Saturday, December 25 th	“Jesus Is Born into an Unjust World”	Luke 2:1-7
Sunday, December 26 th	“God Avenges His People”	Nahum 1:1-3, 6-8, 12-13, 15
Adult: The Consequences of Justice	Youth: Justice Delivered	Children: Wisdom and Justice
Justice, Vengeance, and Mercy		
Monday, December 27 th	“Stephen Prays for Mercy for His Persecutors”	Acts 7:54-60
Tuesday, December 28 th	“Herod’s Vengeance”	Matthew 2:1-8, 16-18
Wednesday, December 29 th	“Martyrs Long for Justice”	Revelation 6:9-17
Thursday, December 30 th	“Shine Forth, God of Vengeance!”	Psalms 94:11-23
Friday, December 31 st	“God’s Just Acts”	Psalms 94:11-23

MINISTRY OF STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT

Sermon Digests

“The Leadership Matters”

October
17

(3rd in Loyalty Month Series)

Pastor Kelly M. Smith, Jr.

[Hebrews 13:7](#)

Submitted by: Kathy Harrell

Churches need ‘effective’ leadership which is fundamental in the growth and maturity of any congregation. Often, leaders do not have leadership titles, but it is those whose influence is there to guide the church. Not all leadership is productive; sometimes it is destructive. The book of Hebrews was written to the Christians who were being careless in their faith. The writer was trying to encourage them by remembering those who lead them.

What should we look for in leadership that matters?

Point 1- The leadership matters when they are loyal.

Loyalty speaks to one’s character. Early church leaders loyal to God, to God’s word, and to the people. We often hear testimonies that say “first, giving honor to God, who is the head of my life...” This can be just a ‘catchy’ church phrase, with no sincerity. Leaders should live lives that *truly* put God first in all things. What does it mean to have God as the head of your life? Do you seek God’s guidance in all decisions? Do you have devotion time with the Lord? Do you meditate on scripture? What is your prayer life like? Do you seek to be an effective disciple of Jesus Christ?

Point 2-The leadership matters when they are trustworthy.

Trustworthiness speaks to a leaders’ credibility. Look to a leaders’ agenda to see if they have the best interest of the people in mind. Credibility is not self-promotion, fame, or ego. It is about helping people see the vision God has for their lives, that the vision is achievable, and helping to equip people with the ways to get there. We must trust that our leader(s) want only the best for us, as God intended.

Point 3- The leadership matters when they recover well.

Recovering well speaks to the people’s faith, not their practices, their history, and not their life choices. What kept these early believers from abandoning their journey? Some of our journeys have not all been straight lines, but they’ve had many detours. What was the character of faith for the Christians that propelled them to recover and still reach the levels that they reached? Always remember the greatest recovery is the story of Jesus Christ!

“The Ministry Matters”

October
24

(4th in Loyalty Month Series)

Pastor Kelly M. Smith, Jr.

[Ephesians 4:11-13](#)

Submitted by: Beverly M. Brown

The church is designed where people are able to experience the love of God cited in John 3:16. It talks about the love of God and His sacrifice. We have all experienced the presence of God in our life. Ministry is about service to FBCCH. The church is called to demonstrate the love of God in that service. Service to God’s people is to make a difference and not about self. It has to be work of the church and not church work. It is about the business of God/Christ and not about our personal business. Activities of the church are designed to transform the lives of His Children.

Point 1- The Ministry Matters because it Blesses.

God/Christ Jesus blesses human beings in spite of their short comings, and He has touched everyone’s life

Point 2- The Ministry Matters because it Balances.

The world is so out of balance with examples such as the persons that experience abuse in and from society. Even in bad choices, ministry matters because testimonies from His people could make a difference in someone else’ life other than their own life personally. More time needs to be spent in God/Christ Jesus word versus just the possible 3 hours which could include bible study, worship, prayer calls, and Sunday school, etc. We must avoid activities that could distract or separate humankind from God/Christ Jesus.

Point 3- The Ministry Matters because it Builds.

Building human lives creates unity in faith and knowledge. Individuals have to work together in unity and not in uniformity as a way of aligning their life steps with God/Christ Jesus. Bringing all our strengths/gifts together in unity can strengthen ones’ life and relationship. Do what you are gifted to do and even with that, humans can still mess up. God/Christ Jesus is a forgiving God. Growing up to maturity does not automatically mean an individual has matured in their faith. No matter the obstacles, worship can and does impact the life of an individual and others lives. Principles, purpose, restoration and expectations are to guide ones’ faith building life in God/Christ Jesus. Amen, Amen, & Amen.

“Trusting God Still Matters”

October 31
Minister Christopher Harris
[Mark 5:21-24](#); [Mark 5:35-43](#)
 Submitted by: Sheila Littleton

How do we hold on to hope and trust in God in the most difficult times? In the scripture, Jairus, a synagogue leader, finds himself in a precarious situation as his daughter is dying. As a large crowd gathers around Jesus, Jairus humbles himself and asks Jesus to come lay hands on his daughter. Jesus went with Jairus as we serve a God who will go with us in our time of trouble. It is good news to know that God will go with us, but Jairus had to trust God amid the challenge. We can still trust in God in difficult times as the following principles were cited:

Point 1-There is purposeful assurance.

Jairus navigates in an uncomfortable place, as he wasn't supposed to be found begging. Jesus is with him and then there is an interruption in the plans. A woman subject to bleeding touched Jesus and was healed. Jairus watches someone else get the blessing he has asked to receive. What do you do when you witness God blessing others, while you wait? Jairus then gets the news that his daughter has died. Jesus provides reassurance to Jairus despite this turn of events. Jairus is instructed that he is not to be afraid, just believe. He must keep trusting a little while longer and hold on to Jesus' word.

Point 2- There is purposeful demonstration and expectation. Jesus spoke of the child as being asleep and not dead, as the mourners laughed at him. The mourners were waiting and expecting the daughter to die. Jesus spoke of restoration instead of death. He threw the mourners out and did not argue with them. Jesus' response illustrates how we should respond, as sometimes we must ignore negative thoughts. Instead, we hold on to the hope that is in Jesus. Jesus touches the daughter, and she becomes alive again. This act is a demonstration of Jesus taking the impossible and making it possible. With God, all things are possible.

Point 3- There is purposeful restoration. The girl gets up as Jesus took her by the hand. The girl can continue her life. We are reminded of the power of God. God restores what was thought as dead. Something happens when God speaks. Our reaction to God's power should be to trust in God as he is our healer. Our lives should be a testimony to the power of God. Even when the lives of loved ones are not restored, we still have hope in God because Jesus will never leave us. We trust God in all circumstances.

“The Children Matter”

November 7
5th-final in Series
Pastor Kelly M. Smith, Jr.
[Matthew 19:13-15](#)
 Submitted by: Deborah Luter

Children are the energy in life. They bring excitement and joy. Children in the USA often have a different plight, but no less deadly. We can't guarantee safety in schools from bullies, pandemics or gun violence, in social settings or even in homes. And yet we have to rely on them to bridge the gap between the present and with the future.

Jesus recognized this when some parents were bringing their children to him to lay hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them. Children were not looked upon as having any real value. They were seen as more of a nuisance than anything.

Point 1-Because the children matter, we must connect them. The disciples rebuked the parents for bothering Jesus with their children. Parents who love and care for their children do all they can to keep their children connected to their faith. We have to find ways to let them in to a relationship with Jesus Christ.

The church is the vehicle that allows children to discover Jesus, but too often we have worked harder for them to connect with the church than with Christ. When they are connected to Jesus then they know their personal value. They learn how to treat people right. They learn to love and respect people. They develop healthy boundaries.

Point 2-Because the children matter, we must model them Matthew's words say let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these. What he is saying here is that the kingdom of heaven belongs to those childlike characteristics. He is saying let these children be the model for how we need to act and carry ourselves. It means to have innocence, energy and desires as children.

Point 3-Because the children matter, we must bless them. After all the commotion with the disciples, Jesus laid hands on the children and prayed for them. Blessings are a sign of God's favor and protection. It is a way of giving something to someone that will help them and benefit them as they go through life. Blessings were important in the Bible. They say 'I care enough for you that I want the best for you'. That is why we bring children to be blessed.

Children need all of the help they can get these days. We must keep them prayed up.

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: fbch13@gmail.com.