



The Torch

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, CAPITOL HILL
JULY 2021 – VOLUME 62 NUMBER 10

PASTOR'S PEN

(Please note that words, sentences and scriptures that are highlighted and underlined are links you can click on to get more information.)

I pray that your summer has started off well. I know that many are carefully taking steps away from their homes as we all try to establish new norms for ourselves as we prayerfully work towards the end of this pandemic that has paralyzed the world for over a year. We ask that you find your own comfort level regarding places you may go, things you may do and the best protection for yourselves and others. Don't do as others are doing just because they are doing it. Ask yourself if it works for you for right now as you migrate to levels of greater comfort.

The city of Nashville and American Baptist College will be honoring the late Representative John Lewis. There will be a full weekend of activities from July 16 – 17, 2021. One of the activities will be the John Lewis Memorial Celebration, which will be held in our church building July 16 at 6:00 p.m. and is open to the public. People from across the region are expected to attend. Those who are not able to attend can watch the service using this link: <https://www.facebook.com/abcnash.edu/>.

John Lewis had a tremendous impact on this nation by engagement in various protest movements and marches that were addressing issues of social justice in this nation. He was involved in the sit-in movement in Nashville. He was a freedom rider, who rode buses through the south, striving to desegregate buses and bus terminals. He was beaten almost to death by law enforcement personnel who were determined to stand in the way of the drive to allow all people access to voting. He worked alongside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and was the youngest person to speak at the March on Washington in August 1963, when Dr. King gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech. He was called a living saint by Time Magazine. He later was elected to Congress in Georgia and served until his death July 17, 2020. Though an elected official, he never gave up the fight for social justice.

But we must not forget that the root for all he became was through Nashville and First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill. He was a student of my father's at American Baptist Theological Seminary (now American Baptist College), and at my father's urging he got involved in the Nashville sit-in movement. That propelled him to the many things he did over the course of his life that made him a civil rights icon. That is why it is so appropriate for us to be involved in the activities for that weekend. We are honored for the opportunity. I hope members and friends of the church will make plans to be present. Masks and social distancing will be observed.

To those who may ask why the church finds it important to be engaged in activities of social justice, we have to keep in mind that the whole movement of God as recorded in the Bible is about social justice. From the book of Genesis to Revelation, we consistently hear stories of God's concern for the welfare of people who are victims of systems that afflicted them. God is constantly helping people to move from victimization to victory. God's desire is for "[...justice roll on like a river, \(and\) righteousness like a never-failing stream!](#)" (Amos 5:24 NIV). Our work as a church and people of faith is not complete until we see this as permanent and universal.

Kelly M. Smith Jr., Pastor

DISCIPLESHIP MOMENT

Meet Disciple Kendra Deas

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.” ~Romans 12:12

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? Did you consider yourself as a disciple before this call to discipleship?

I was excited about it and pleased with it. It aligns with how we see our roles as Christians. I was very excited about it. Though I saw myself as a disciple before this, the call to move from membership to discipleship has made me more intentional and thoughtful about what it really means.

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

I've been more intentional about my actions. I've taken time to study the word of God more frequently. I find that it has been hard to do every day, so I've found shorter devotionals to help me. The mornings, before my daughter wakes, have been very helpful. And doing my devotional before I start my day emphasizes for me what is priority and what's most important. It gives me a calming presence. I have a desire to live out what I'm reading. Having a management role and leading people, it is important to treat and interact well with others. I want my actions to be in alignment with the word. When I have to terminate someone on my job, I want to do it with grace because I am a Christian. The focus on discipleship is about how I am living and being like God and not just going to church on Sundays. The way I live matters. My actions matter.

How do you understand your call to discipleship as you are called to the marketplace/business world?

It is really important for leaders to be objective because not everyone I work with is a believer. It comes down to how I treat others. Being a voice of empathy and a voice for the people, for my company, is important. Being able to pray about decisions and using my voice to maintain people's

dignity is important to me. In HR, I've had to help people during very difficult times, like during COVID. Finding ways to use and connect people to our resources, even when we had to lay someone off, was very important to me. I saw and see this as my calling.

What are some spiritual practices that you enjoy?

I enjoy daily devotionals, Bible studies from Proverbs 31 Ministries, and I enjoy times of meditation. I want to take more time to meditate. I really enjoy reading the book of Proverbs and the Psalms. I am looking forward to getting involved with the married couples' life-group with FBCCH. And I'm looking forward to getting back to church in-person. I've missed the fellowship with others; there is something beautiful and nice about being in the presence of other believers.

How would you encourage others in their discipleship journey?

I would encourage others to figure out what works for them. You can't look at the person next to you because everyone's situation is different. For me, having a small child changes how I do things this season. Or for someone taking care of a parent, their choices will be different as well. Some people have been turned off or left the church because traditionally, you were taught you had to do church one way to be considered a good disciple. But that's not the case. I like how FBCCH has responded well to the changes of this day. You have to find out what works for you and be free in that. One of my favorite devotionals, Pressing Pause: 100 Quiet Moments for Moms to Meet with Jesus, speaks directly to me this season. This has helped me because it is relevant to me. I would encourage others to seek out discipleship materials and find moments that work for you and your life. There are resources relevant to you and available for you to continue growing no matter what season you find yourself.

MISSION AT YOUR DOORSTEP

"Men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back the same way" Acts 1:11 NIV

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

FBCCH Partners with Nashville Rescue Mission

The Nashville Rescue Mission launched its Summer of Hope Campaign for the summer of 2021 with the goal of raising \$329,000 by Tuesday, August 31. Through your contributions we are taking an active step in helping the mission reach this goal. This summer the Mission will be focused on two key elements: emergency assistance to neighbors in crisis and longer-term restorative services.

The Mission serves more than 1,200 meals a day. A meal is often the first point of contact with someone in need and can open the door to healing faith and new life.

Many who sit at the Mission's tables also need a safe shelter. A clean bed and relief from the summer heat, can prompt them to find ways to get off of the streets for good.

Hot showers and the personal care supplies you provide helps our guest maintain their dignity.

Guest are invited to participate in daily chapel services and chaplains provide counseling and prayer.

Life recovery programs provide the tools to overcome homelessness or other addictions and build a solid foundation for success in life.

Our gift will share HELP in the midst of crisis, STABILITY in the midst of chaos, HOPE in the midst of uncertainty.

JULY NEWS AND EVENTS

*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!!



Dear Pastor Smith & FBCCH,
I am sincerely grateful for each expression of support given me during the illness and passing of my brother, Barry Lester Brown. You are the epitome of the church that reflected the love of Christ Jesus. I praise God for allowing me to be a part of this family.

Thankfully,
Dorothy B. Jarrett

Deacons of the Week for July 2021

Week of	Deacon	Phone#
4 th	Beverly Brown	(615) 391-3737
11 th	Ernest Dismuke	(615) 876-3522
18 th	Emmitt Hayes	(615) 790-7312
25 th	Beverly Brown	(615) 391-3737

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

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

B I R T H D A Y S

JULY

- 1 Darrell Hayes, Jr.
Ruth McGriff
D. J. Woodson
- 2 Nanette T. Lacey
Aaron Powell, III
- 4 Torian Young
- 5 Keven Littleton
- 6 Herman E. Jackson
Simon E. Morrow
- 7 Rosetta Perry
- 8 Crystal Beasley
- 9 Arrol N. Martin
- 10 Lanny Babb
Gary Rowe
- 11 Kelly M. Smith Jr.
- 12 Evelyn P. Fancher
Tanae McKnight
- 14 Isolina Rankins
- 15 Tamarah Daniel
Sheila Littleton
- 17 Maribeth Crutchfield-White
Mona Hayes
- 20 Keenan J. Robinson
- 22 Ryann O. King
- 23 John Alexander
- 25 Sue Smith
Erma Todd
Robert Wood, II
- 27 James R. Collier
Ernest E. Dismuke
Benny Perry
Beverly A. Scott
- 30 Sheldon Greene
- 31 Harvey Doughty

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 Patton 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 Sharon Dixon Gentry
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 Daughtdrill
- 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

Christian Education

July 2021 Readings and Sunday School Lessons

<u>DAY</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>
An Attitude of Gratitude		
Thursday, July 1 st	“Lepers Share Their Good News”	II Kings 7:3-11
Friday, July 2 nd	“Many Samaritans Believe in the Savior”	John 4:39-42
Saturday, July 3 rd	“Doing What Needs to Be Done”	Luke 17:1-10
Sunday, July 4 th	“Cultivate Gratefulness for Acts of Healing”	Leviticus 13:45-56; Luke 17:11-19
Adult: Expressing Thanks	Youth: An Attitude of Gratitude	Children: I am Grateful
The Power Of The Gospel		
Monday, July 5 th	“Apollos and Paul: Builders”	I Corinthians 3:1-11
Tuesday, July 6 th	“Entrusted to Take the Gospel to Gentiles”	Galatians 2:1-10
Wednesday, July 7 th	“Grace and Peace to All”	Romans 1:1-7
Thursday, July 8 th	“God’s Righteous Wrath”	Romans 1:18-23
Friday, July 9 th	“God’s Actions Are Fair and Just”	Romans 1:24-32
Saturday, July 10 th	“God’s Righteous Actions for Saints, Sinners”	II Peter 2:4-9
Sunday, July 11 th	“The Gospel Changes Jews and Gentiles”	Romans 1:8-17
Adult: A Gift to Strengthen You	Youth: The Power to Save Everyone	Children: Strength and Power
The Faith of Abraham		
Monday, July 12 th	“God’s Covenant with Abraham”	Genesis 15:1-8
Tuesday, July 13 th	“All the World’s Families Are Blessed through Abraham”	Genesis 12:1-9
Wednesday, July 14 th	“A Promise Realized by Faith, Not Law”	Romans 4:13-15
Thursday, July 15 th	“For All Who Share Abraham’s Faith”	Romans 4:16-18
Friday, July 16 th	“Abraham Believed despite Impossible Odds”	Romans 4:19-21
Saturday, July 17 th	“In Christ, Believers Share Abraham’s Faith”	Romans 4:22-25
Sunday, July 18 th	“Abraham, Father of the Faithful”	Romans 4:1-12
Adult: Seeking Assurance	Youth: Faith that Is for Real	Children: Stay Committed
Justification Through Faith		
Monday, July 19 th	“Blessed Are Persecuted Believers”	Matthew 5:9-12
Tuesday, July 20 th	“Jesus, Not Suffering, Matters”	Philippians 1:12-20
Wednesday, July 21 st	“Suffering for Christ and the Church”	II Corinthians 11:21b-30
Thursday, July 22 nd	“In Hope, Our Salvation Is Secure”	Romans 8:18-25
Friday, July 23 rd	“The Free Gift of Jesus Brings Justification”	Romans 5:12-17
Saturday, July 24 th	“Grace Leads to Eternal Life”	Romans 5:18-21
Sunday, July 25 th	“Justified through Faith in Jesus Christ”	Romans 5:1-11
Adult: Seeking Reconciliation	Youth: Faith Makes It Right	Children: Confidence in Love
Salvation for All Who Believe		
Monday, July 26 th	“Obey God with Heart and Voice”	Deuteronomy 30:6-14
Tuesday, July 27 th	“God’s Salvation Is Announced”	Isaiah 52:1-10
Wednesday, July 28 th	“Call on the Name of the Lord”	Joel 2:28-32
Thursday, July 29 th	“Gentiles Believe by Faith”	Galatians 3:6-14
Friday, July 30 th	“For the Salvation of the Gentiles	Romans 10:1-4
Saturday, July 31 st	“Regret for Not Hearing Christ’s Word”	Romans 10:18-21

MINISTRY OF STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT

Sermon Digests

May
16

“Surviving Storms”

Pastor Kelly M. Smith, Jr.

Matthew 14:22-23

Submitted by: Kathy Harrell

Our faith enables us to survive life’s storms. Storms are those situations that disrupt our normal everyday flow of living. Some storms we can try to be prepared for the best that we can; but there are some storms that spring up unexpectedly and we find ourselves scrambling with ways to deal with them. Still, we must not let these disruptions prevent us from reaching our destiny.

How do we survive life’s storms?

Point 1-To survive storms we must fight the resistance.

We are helped along life’s journey by some of the same things that hurt us. Our scripture tells us that the disciples got into their ‘storm’ just by doing what Jesus told them to do....get in the boat and go to the other side. The boat is designed to be aided by the wind; in this case, the wind became its resistance. We must fight the resistance that comes against us, even when we are following the right paths. It’s important to remember that our faith is not a safeguard *FROM* a storm; our faith is a safeguard *IN* a storm. Be unyielding in your faith for life will always have its pushbacks.

Point 2-To survive storms we must stay in the boat.

There are some things that human beings simply cannot do. We cannot walk on water! Peter’s doubt caused him to get out of the boat. And Jesus’ permissive will’ allows things to happen, not because they are best for us, but just because we ask for them. Staying in the boat, surviving the storm, is a matter of faith. No matter how rocky, dark, or tubulous things may seem, it’s better to stay in the boat with the community of faith believers and supporters who will ride out the storm with us, rather than trying to do something all by ourselves.

Point 3-To survive storms we must be spiritually prepared.

We should be excited about what is spiritually done, not by what is spectacularly done. Everything we do is spiritually preparing us for the next storm, which will surely come. And we don’t just worship the Lord once we are ‘safe’ in our boat and the turbulence has died down. We must worship the Lord during the midst of the raging storm. Stay in prayer, study God’s Word, and have regular fellowship with our community of faith believers are all things that will help equip us to be spiritually prepared for life’s journey.

May
23

“Let the Church be the Church”

Pastor Kelly M. Smith, Jr.

Acts 2:42-47

Submitted by: Beverly M. Brown

Pentecost Sunday

The description given in Acts 2:42-47 suggests what the Holy Spirit can do. These verses do not lay down rules or specific structures for Christian living. In their context, they indicate that the reign of the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ creates the potential for mutual service that embodies God’s justice.

It is important to underscore that Acts 2:42-47 describes a community of faith that operates in the power of God’s Spirit. The virtues of justice, worship, and mutuality are not accomplishments of extraordinary folk; they are signs of the Spirit within a community of people who understand themselves as united in purpose and identity—not a dispersed collection of individual churchgoers. The church has to be viable and vibrant.

Point 1. Let the church be a place of transformation.

The church is to be a safe place of confession and transformation. Human beings have to be receptive to being molded via teaching them how to unlearn what can be a barrier to their transformation. God/Christ Jesus’ people must be willing to learn about the Bible to learn what Jesus wants His people to know for today for transformation to occur.

Point 2. The church is to be a place of awe.

Humankind must be excited about something greater than themselves. God gives His people their capacity such as waking up this morning and the blood flowing in our veins. When He heals one of illness and just every day is to be another day of awe. The song “How Great Thou Art” is another way of acknowledging the greatness of God in awe. All of society must recapture and live in the awe of our Savior God/Jesus Christ.

Point 3. The church has to be a place of community.

This is through the value and willingness to help or assist others as revealed via the Holy Spirit of God/Christ Jesus. Conflicts will occur and may not be easily resolved without God/Christ Jesus. The church is to be built on the solid rock of God/Christ Jesus. The church has its flaws; but, we thank God for the church because it can change us when someone calls us in the nick of time in good times or difficult times. Amen, Amen, & Amen.

“The Love of a Neighbor”May
30

Rev. Dr. Arrol N. Martin

Luke 10:25-37

*Submitted by: Sheila Littleton***Trinity Sunday**

Within the parable of the Good Samaritan, a lawyer questioned Jesus to test him with the question of what he must do to inherit eternal life? Jesus responds to his question with a question, what is written in the Law? The lawyer quotes scripture from Leviticus and Deuteronomy and states, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and Love your neighbor as yourself.” We should love our God unconditionally. We should love God as the Master of our lives, as he has full control over our life.

We love with all our heart. Our heart is the source of our physical life and foundation of our thoughts, passions, desires, and endeavors.

We love with all our soul. Our soul is our essence which is differentiated from our body and does not dissolve in death. Our soul lives forever unlike our flesh which dies.

We love with all strength. It is our ability, force, might and with every effort our love for God should never fail. We love with all that we have and our being.

We love with all our mind. Our mind is based on our physical understanding and desires. Our minds should be renewed, and we should have the mind of Christ. We do this with all our being and not halfheartedly.

The lawyer not only wanted to test Jesus, but he wanted to justify himself and be declared righteous. Thus, he inquired of Jesus as to who was his neighbor? To the Jews in that day, neighbors were other Jews or descendants of Abraham. We must ask ourselves who are our neighbors as well. Does neighbor extend beyond our zip code, down the street, fraternities or sororities, church, social clubs, immigrants, the person on the street? The Priest and Levite passed by on other side rather than helping a man in need. They feared possibly being considered unclean or were concerned about a time commitment to help. A Samaritan, who was viewed negatively due to an association with false worship and intermarriage with foreigners, took pity and showed mercy for the man and helped. He was the neighbor. We are called to go and do likewise. We are called to have mercy on others. All God’s children are our neighbors regardless of their zip code. All deserve our love and mercy. Love God with your heart, mind, and soul. Love your neighbor as yourself.

“Holy”June
6(1st in series of One Word Testimonies)

Pastor Kelly Miller Smith Jr.

Revelation 4:8

Submitted by: Deborah Luter

Holy is a highly sacred word that refers to all things of God. The root to the word holy is the same root to the word “whole” which means complete.

This passage was written after the city of Jerusalem was destroyed by the Roman Empire in the year 70 A.D. Those who were a part of the early church were struggling under the challenges from the Jews and the persecution from the Romans. At the time the book of Revelation was written, all of the area around the Mediterranean Sea was controlled by the Roman Empire. The Emperor over the Roman Empire was an arrogant, narcissistic man name Domitian who insisted that he be called lord or god.

In the midst of a world that was filled with death and destruction, chaos and confusion, brokenness and despair, John writes Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God almighty, who was, is and is to come. God has been, still is and always will be in charge. Sometimes that is hard for us to believe. What is the importance and value for the word “holy”?

Point 1-Holy makes a distinction for God

One of the key meanings for the word “holy” is to set apart. And when we think of God we need to think of God as being distinct from any and all other beings and things in creation. There is none like the Lord. God is perfect and lacks nothing.

It is interesting that no matter how we describe God, all of what we say is inadequate. But every effort to describe God comes short. That is why we call God holy. God is everything all at the same time.

Point 2-Holy places us in the middle of a spiritual tug-of-war.

There is something about coming before the presence of a Holy God that causes us to wrestle with who we are, what we think and what we do.

Point 3-Holy challenges us to be holy.

1 Peter 1:16- “for it is written: ”Be holy, because I am holy.” To be honest there are those who have found comfort in not striving for any holiness. The idea of being holy is not always something we strive for. There are those who try to pin it on people as being a negative. If someone calls us holy, “you’re so holy” we become defensive about it and try to prove ourselves contrary to that.

But God’s desire is for us to live lives which honor God.

“Mercy”
(2nd in series of One Word Testimonies)
Pastor Kelly Miller Smith, Jr.
Luke 18:9-14
Submitted by: Adrienne Fancher

June
13

Crying out for mercy is a confession that all is not well with me – perhaps, even, that I have done wrong. It is an admission that what is happening is beyond my control or beyond what I can handle. Every cry for mercy is not about transgression; it could be an illness or pain.

Sometimes we ask for mercy because only God can address the issue. Mercy is a Gift! MERCY is **not** getting what we deserve [as a consequence of a bad decision, accident, negative medical diagnosis, etc.]; GRACE is getting what we **don’t** deserve.

We don’t want to be like the pompous Pharisee, and we don’t want to be despised like the Tax Collector. Yet, we are often like both at the same time. We should not count our blessings based on others’ misfortunes. Confession is hard because blaming someone/something else is easier.

Point 1-Mercy epitomizes God.

Mercy is a perfect example of God. It shows us who God is. Sometimes it seems hard to get access to God. God still opens doors for us. The “Mercy Seat” is on the lid of the Ark of the Covenant, where God can be met.

Point 2-Mercy frees us.

Only one of the men in the parable went home *justified* (set or made right from his experience). Jesus said the Tax Collector was justified because he opened himself and made room for God’s mercy. Many people carry the burdens of their past as though they have not been freed by God’s Mercy. We must open space to allow God’s Mercy and give up those burdens. Juneteenth commemorates that enslaved people remained in bondage for 2½ years beyond Emancipation because they did not know they were free. Be free with God’s Mercy!

Point 3-Mercy re-establishes relationship.

The Pharisee separates himself by setting himself above others. The Tax Collector sets himself apart physically with his head down. We also separate/isolate ourselves without God’s Mercy. Jesus’ parable teaches we are no better and no worse than anyone else. Sin separates us from God and each other. Mercy brings us together and connects us to each other. “The ground at the foot of the cross is level.” [Rev. K. M. Smith Sr.]

We cry “mercy!” because we have a merciful God!

“Grace”
(3rd in series of One Word Testimonies)
Pastor Kelly Miller Smith, Jr.
Acts:20:24
Submitted by: Kathy Harrell

June
20

The Greek word *Charis* means grace/divine gift. We think of grace as the unmerited favor of God...those things that God has done and is doing even though we don’t deserve it. Every moment of our lives we are beneficiaries of God’s grace; when we breathe, move, get up, have sincere friendships, families, abilities...all are grace. But the greatest act of grace is the gift of salvation!

In this passage of scripture, we learn that the Apostle Paul is embarking on perhaps his last mission. Even in spite of all the churches he had established, the souls he had led to Christ, or even his high leadership position, many dangers and perils awaited him. Regardless of the dangers confronting him, Paul considered his life worth nothing if he stopped telling others about the grace of God. In all of the Apostle Paul’s letters, he started and ended them telling of God’s grace.

What is Grace?

Point 1-Grace is gifted.

God’s grace to us is free and clear; there are no strings attached. The only reason God gives us grace is because He loves us so much! We too should do something nice for someone expecting nothing in return. Free grace.

Point 2-Grace is endowment.

Endowment is an investment that grows. We are not required to do anything with the grace that God gives us, but we *want* to do something that shows we appreciate the gift. We cheapen our grace when we do not have a desire to make a positive difference in someone else’s life. We should live by costly grace-that which transforms us, calls us to discipleship and helps others with the gift God has given us.

Point 3-Grace is strength.

Grace does not put us in a posture of weakness, nor should we feel that we can easily be taken advantage of. Things do not happen by our might, our power, or our knowledge. We must allow our strength to be in the grace of God. God’s power is made perfect in our weakness. With God’s grace, we can stop feeling inadequate. God’s grace gives us the power we didn’t even know we had. God is constantly giving us God’s grace.

And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness”. (II Corinthians 12:9)

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.

Torch Staff

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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.