



# The Torch

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, CAPITOL HILL  
MARCH 2021 – VOLUME 63 NUMBER 6

## PASTOR'S PEN

A year ago, this month, we began hearing reports about this virus that could potentially spread across the world. Though it was primarily in Asia, many of us thought that even if it came to the USA it would be at worst like a bad flu season. As scientist and medical professionals continue to learn and tell us more and more about the virus, which we know as COVID-19, we began to realize how deadly it could be. Even with that we thought that it would be gone by Easter, then Mother's Day, and whichever holiday that was next. It soon became evident that it was not going anywhere anytime soon. It was taking its toll on thousands of people within the USA, and millions world-wide. It is the most devastating virus we have seen in our lifetime. It has been 100 years since there was anything else so deadly.

These 12 months have caused us to run the gamut of emotions. We have heard information and misinformation that has kept us anxious and confused. Many have only ventured out when absolutely necessary. Even now with people beginning to get the vaccine we are going to have to slowly understand how we begin to do things that we would like to do.

Though many would say that we "lost" 12 months (and counting), I don't see it as completely lost. There were some very significant things that happened over the past year that perhaps would not have happened had it not been for the pandemic.

- The nation had to grapple with its racism. It was not something that was new, but because people were home more and watching TV due to restrictions, they saw the senseless killing of George Floyd. His death has sparked many conversations that needed to happen some time ago. Though in many instances, things have not changed, but some change can be a start in hopes for other things to happen in the future.
- We saw the power of the ballot. Though Tennessee is still in the dark ages, the rest of the nation demonstrated what can happen when there is a unified effort for change. The federal government's tone deafness to the urgency of the pandemic crisis caused people to realize we deserve more responsible leadership. Though it may not be the last we will see of the previous president, we hope that people will also see the truth of what happens when you have arrogant, self-serving, narcissistic persons occupying positions that can so adversely affect the lives of so many people.
- We've learned how to appreciate things more. A year ago, we took so many things for granted. Travel, birthdays, family gatherings, eating out, in-person worship in sanctuaries – we all thought that as long as we had breath, energy and the presence of mind that we can do whatever we had the desire to do. Having quality human interaction has new meaning. Having opportunities to enjoy many things that life affords has new meaning. Having the freedom to be spontaneous has new meaning. Having patience has new meaning. We tend to appreciate things more when they are taken away.
- We see the tremendous benefit of technology. We've learned how to do Zoom, online streaming and navigate Facebook. Many of us have a zillion TV channels we can watch. Because of these things we have not missed a beat in offering opportunities for us to worship, study and connect with one another virtually. For many this was our salvation and made this time much more bearable.

I am grateful to God that in spite of all things God has still provided for us. As I have said before these are the times our faith really prepares us for ([2 Corinthians 5:7](#)). I am grateful to all of you who are passing the tests.

Kelly M. Smith Jr.

Please accept our apology for the Torch being distributed later in the month than usual. KMS

# DISCIPLESHIP MOMENT

## Meet Disciple Dorothy Jarrett

*“But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.” ~Luke 5:16*

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

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Our monthly Discipleship Moments will include articles written by fellow disciples and interviews of members who have agreed to share about their discipleship journey.

### **Since Pastor Smith has intentionally started moving us from membership to discipleship, how have you grown as a disciple?**

Moving intentionally from membership to discipleship has caused me to focus on my personal commitment to spend more time with God in seeking His will for my life in all things. I am fully aware of the difference between being a church member, a spectator and a participant, one who is engaged in the ministry of the church. I desire to reflect the mission statement to Love God, Make Disciples, Serve Community.

### **When did you learn about meditation?**

No one really taught me. It was something that I started craving and wanted more of. It was the need that I realized I just had. I've been meditating for at least 40 years. I find it imperative. When I was teaching, I would get up early to spend time with God and I found that it was vital to me; it was a part of what I did. Anytime I've had an opportunity to go to conventions/conferences, I attended the sessions on prayer and meditation. I wanted to learn more or purchase a book. It was ongoing.

### **What is the role of meditation in your spiritual formation?**

Meditation is essential to my well-being. It is my personal quiet and intimate time with God. It's a time for me to acknowledge God's glory and majesty in creation, time to focus on His word and seek His revelation, a time to remind Him of his promises when I pray. It is there that I relinquish control that I attempt to have over life's challenges and circumstances. Meditation fuels my spirit, my mind, and my soul. Each day I feel a sense of newness that gives me confidence in whose I am and who has all power.

### **How do you meditate? What are some of your meditative practices?**

I prefer to meditate early in the morning in a room I designate for my meditation. My meditation includes mindfulness, prayer, scripture reading, and journaling.

### **What words of advice and encouragement would you share with a fellow disciple on his or her respective journey?**

I would encourage any Christian who wants to move towards discipleship to invest time with God in the Word, meditation and prayer. There is just no substitute! Time with God causes one to be thirsty for the Lord. The more time spent, the more time I want to spend. Decide a starting place, for example, one may spend 5 minutes with God. When you start, you will determine a need for more time. A starting place sparks an interest for more. It's personal. I say personal because you have to decide as a follower how you want to make it more intimate. I don't think time can be intimate if you bombard your schedule and your schedule excludes time with the Lord; I don't think you can be intimate. God requires us to have our space with Him, our time with Him. When I think about Jesus going off to pray, that speaks clearly to me.

### **What are some books that have helped you on your journey?**

*God's Best Secrets* by Andrew Murray

*Traveling Light* by Max Lucado

*31 Days of Prayer* by Ruth Myers

*Invitation to Solitude and Silence* by Ruth Haley Barton

# MISSION AT YOUR DOORSTEP

*"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" ~Matt 25:40 NIV*

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

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## **One Great Hour of Sharing Donations Sought for States that have Declared Winter Emergencies**

**VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 2/23/21)**—American Baptist Home Mission Societies is urging all concerned citizens to pray for residents of Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana, who are under declarations of emergency because of conditions resulting from severe winter storms beginning Feb. 8. In all three states, many residents have been left without heat, power and safe drinking water for weeks. Deaths have resulted from freezing temperatures.

ABHMS staff have been closely monitoring the situation and communicating with regional executive ministers and other partners in all three states, expressing concern and support for them. The Rev. Dr. Alberto Martinez, pastor of Iglesia Christiana Hispana Americana in Orange, Texas, was without electricity for more than 36 hours. The Rev. Dr. Gregg Hemmen, executive minister of American Baptist Churches of the Central Region, says that Oklahoma has been experiencing rolling blackouts. The Rev. Dr. Chum Awi, pastor of Chin Baptist Church, Lewisville, Texas, hosted three families at his house because of power outages. Likewise, other Chin families with electricity were hosting those experiencing power outages.

In addition to prayer, American Baptists can show support by making donations to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). Donations to OGHS can be made [online](#), via your church or with a check payable to American Baptist Home Mission Societies and mailed to the attention of Kim Wilkins ([kim.wilkins@abhms.org](mailto:kim.wilkins@abhms.org) or 610.768.2413) at American Baptist Home Mission Societies, 1075 First Ave., King of Prussia, PA 19406. Please write "OGHS-Cold Wave Disaster Relief" on the memo line of your check.

**FBCCH** will be sending an additional \$500 to help in this relief effort.

[One Great Hour of Sharing](#) is administered by the World Relief Committee of the Board of General Ministries of American Baptist Churches USA. The committee facilitates American Baptist emergency relief, disaster rehabilitation, refugee work and development assistance by establishing policy guidelines and overseeing distribution of the annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering received by churches.



**AMERICAN BAPTIST  
WORLD RELIEF OFFICE**

# March News and Events



Deacons of the Week for March 2021		
Week of	Deacon	Phone#
7 <sup>th</sup>	Sunny Owunnah	(615) 708-1893
14 <sup>th</sup>	Pamela Wood	(615) 259-0623
21 <sup>st</sup>	Carol Boone	(615) 851-1527
28 <sup>th</sup>	Derek Howard	(615) 318-6469

*March Meditations  
for  
Renewal*

During the month of March, we are inviting you to be intentional in a special way on your discipleship journey by renewing your love walk with God through meditation.

We have provided a weekly renewal focus with daily scriptures on our website:  
[www.firstbaptistcapitolhill.org](http://www.firstbaptistcapitolhill.org)

First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill

## ZOOM CHECK-IN

Sunday, March 21, 2021  
3:00 PM

Conversations with

# TONI MORRISON

Edited by Danille Taylor-Guthrie

Join us for a discussion of *Conversation with Toni Morrison* by Danille Taylor-Guthrie. The book club will meet **Saturday, March 27, 2021** from **Noon to 2 p.m.** via Zoom

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

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, CAPITOL HILL  
Adult Book Club**

**First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill, a Torch History Series:  
(Part I of IV)**

*The Story of the Love and Dedication of Jane Elizabeth Watkins Napier (1825-1909)—A Brave, Determined Free Negro Mother who refused to Leave Her Children Uneducated . . . .*

William Carroll Napier (1824-1895), “looked as white as any white man.” He was the mulatto son of the late Elias W. Napier – a 65-year-old physician and owner of an iron plantation in Dickson County (TN). Dr. Napier’s August 1848 will and testament freed his “wife”, 37-year old Judy, a slave seamstress and her four children including William the oldest one. In an 1877 US Commission of Claims testimony, Negro hack [taxi, wagon] driver William Sumner recalled: “There was a family of colored children living with old man [E. W.] Napier, and all said to be the children of this white man by a Negro woman.” Dr. Napier’s will provided for the sale of some 60 slaves, but it freed 31 other enslaved persons including “yellow [mulatto] female servants” on Dr. Napier’s properties in Alabama and Tennessee. Tennessee, which was directly responsible for sanctioning Negro enslavement and oppression since 1796, had laws that required that freed slaves must leave the state within one year; or agree to be re-enslaved under another master; or ship out on an American Colonization Society boat to a colony in Liberia, West Africa.

After living on Dr. Napier’s Charlotte Pike farm supplied with furniture, food and supplies, in March 1849, Judy and the five children relocated to Cincinnati, Hamilton County (OH). In the US Northwest Territory that prohibited Slavery since 1786, Ohio (1803- ) had some 18,000 Negro citizens by the 1840 US Census. After congressional passage of the notorious Fugitive Slave Act (1850), Ohio had another 50,000 Negroes; and via Ohio routes another 50,000 enslaved Negro men and woman including many from Tennessee migrated as fugitives into Canada. Two of Judy Napier’s boys and a daughter became school teachers and scattered to free Negro communities in St. Louis (MO) and Richmond (VA). By the time of the 1850 US Census, however, because of the cholera epidemics and riots by Irish and other European immigrants against free Negroes, William Carroll Napier and his wife Jane Elizabeth Watkins (1825-1809) and two children including James Carroll Napier (1845-1940) returned to Davidson County (TN)—under the trusteeship of Jane’s father, William E. Watkins, who had a 600-acre slave plantation and mansion (6 miles west, out today’s Charlotte Ave., West Nashville), stock in the Charlotte Turnpike, owner of Nashville properties; half owner of the 3,053-acre Pine Iron Furnace slave plantation in Dickson County. He evidently loved his beautiful mulatto daughter. He helped Jane and son-in-law William Carroll Napier establish a lucrative hack business in downtown Nashville, and allowed “Carroll” to hire enslaved Alfred (Watkins) to tend to William’s stock (horses and mules) kept at Watkins place.

# 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. Dorothy Vassall  
Morningside of Belmont  
1710 Magnolia Blvd.  
Nashville, TN 37212

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

## B I R T H D A Y S

### MARCH

- 1 Dwight Lewis  
Jamal Robinson
- 3 DeJuan Foster  
Candace Nunn
- 4 Tondreona Chandler
- 5 Vernoris Johnson  
Gerald Schrader
- 6 Sebastian Daughtdrill  
Tara McKnight Cheatham  
Lynn Stewart
- 7 KeShona Chandler  
Keshona Cox
- 9 Susan Mosely-Howard
- 10 Jonishay Acklin  
Taylor Gentry
- 11 Doris Dismuke
- 12 Mai Olive Lusk
- 13 Kyrah Cruson
- 14 Willie M. Magee  
Taylor McFarland
- 20 Marian Williams Patton
- 21 Sharanda Smith
- 23 Scotty Robinson
- 24 Miriam Currie  
Frankie Jackson
- 25 Lyndsey Bass-Covington  
Retha Buchanan
- 26 Tequila Johnson
- 27 Esther Caudle  
James Chandler  
Rosa Mimms
- 29 David Ewing  
William Ewing, Sr.
- 30 Erica Adderly
- 31 John T. Howse

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- 13 Derek Howard
- 15 Leonia Lawrence
- 16 Marjorie Davis
- 17 Francene Barbour  
Dorothy Vassall
- 18 Marquentas S. Deaderick
- 23 Maia Payne
- 26 Tiara Boothe
- 29 Maggie Roper  
Patrick Slay  
Jeffery Wood, Jr.
- 30 Esther Wright

### MAY

- 3 Kristen Daniel  
Ian Dinkins
- 4 Kellye Greene  
Marilyn Jackson  
Fred Jones, Jr.  
Edith Kimbrough
- 10 Emmitt Hayes
- 11 Conra Collier
- 13 Esther K. Speigner
- 14 Jillian Duke
- 15 Regina Morrow
- 16 Johnny Holmes, Sr.  
Elsie Swanson
- 21 Sara Cain  
Sunny Owunnah  
Denzel Williams
- 25 Marcia C. Mitchell  
Marlee Wade
- 27 Carlton Crutchfield  
Komelius Dickerson
- 28 Tatiyanna McCall
- 29 Antonio Stacker  
Harold Stewart
- 30 Ta'Naisha Hillman  
Allison Johnson
- 31 DaVonte Shelby

# Christian Education

## March 2021 Readings and Sunday School Lessons

<u>DAY</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>
<b>Moses: Prophet Of Deliverance</b>		
Monday, March 1 <sup>st</sup>	“Remember God’s Act of Deliverance”	Psalms 77:11-20
Tuesday, March 2 <sup>nd</sup>	“Listen to Moses, a Witness with Authority”	Luke 16:24-31
Wednesday, March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	“Instructions for Observing the Passover”	Exodus 12:43-50
Thursday, March 4 <sup>th</sup>	“Aliens and the Unclean Share a Passover Meal”	Numbers 9:9-14
Friday, March 5 <sup>th</sup>	“Consecrate All Firstborn to God”	Exodus 13:1-2; Deuteronomy 15:19-20
Saturday, March 6 <sup>th</sup>	“Observe the Festival of Unleavened Bread”	Exodus 13:3-10
Sunday, March 7 <sup>th</sup>	“God Leads through Prophets”	Deuteronomy 18:15-22
<b>Adult:</b> Following True Leaders	<b>Youth:</b> Following True Leaders	<b>Children:</b> Freedom for the People
<b>Joshua: Prophet Of Conquest</b>		
Monday, March 8 <sup>th</sup>	“Rahab is Rewarded for Her Faithfulness”	Hebrews 11:23-31
Tuesday, March 9 <sup>th</sup>	“Jesus Heals a Blind Man from Jericho”	Luke 18:35-42
Wednesday, March 10 <sup>th</sup>	“Enjoying the Mana and Local Produce”	Joshua 5:8-12
Thursday, March 11 <sup>th</sup>	“Marching around the City of Jericho”	Joshua 6:6-14
Friday, March 12 <sup>th</sup>	“Rahab and Spies Confirm the Rescue Plan”	Joshua 2:15; 19-20
Saturday, March 13 <sup>th</sup>	“Rahab Is Saved, while Jericho Is Destroyed”	Joshua 6:22-25
Sunday, March 14 <sup>th</sup>	“Joshua’s Successful Conquest of Jericho”	Joshua 5:13; 6:5; 15-16; 20
<b>Adult:</b> Making Wise Choices	<b>Youth:</b> Do It the Right Way	<b>Children:</b> Take Off Your Shoes
<b>Huldah: Prophet Of Wisdom</b>		
Monday, March 15 <sup>th</sup>	“God Loves Covenant Keepers”	Psalms 25:1-10
Tuesday, March 16 <sup>th</sup>	“Entering God’s Promised Rest”	Hebrews 4:1-11
Wednesday, March 17 <sup>th</sup>	“A New Covenant Made with the Israelites”	Deuteronomy 29:1-6
Thursday, March 18 <sup>th</sup>	“Josiah Prepares to Repair the Temple”	2 Kings 22:1-7
Friday, March 19 <sup>th</sup>	“Josiah Seeks Guidance to Confront Disobedience”	2 Kings 22:8-13
Saturday, March 20 <sup>th</sup>	“Josiah Leads in Covenant Renewal”	2 Kings 23:1-3
Sunday, March 21 <sup>st</sup>	Huldah Confirms Coming Judgement; Josiah Is Spared”	2 Kings 22:14-20
<b>Adult:</b> Seeking Wisdom for the Future	<b>Youth:</b> Do What Is Right	<b>Children:</b> A Wise Woman
<b>Elijah: Prophet Of Courage</b>		
Monday, March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	“Elijah Is with Moses and Jesus”	Mark 9:2-8
Tuesday, March 23 <sup>rd</sup>	“John the Baptist, the New Elijah”	Mark 9:9-13
Wednesday, March 24 <sup>th</sup>	“Elijah Is Sent to King Ahab”	1 Kings 18:1-4
Thursday, March 25 <sup>th</sup>	Elijah Challenges Baal Prophets”	1 Kings 18:20-26, 30-33, 36-39
Friday, February March 26 <sup>th</sup>	“Elijah in the Wilderness with God”	1 Kings 19:1-8
Saturday, March 27 <sup>th</sup>	“God Commissions Elijah for New Work”	1 Kings 19:9b-15
Sunday, March 28 <sup>th</sup>	“King Ahab Meets Prophet Elijah”	1 Kings 18:5-18
<b>Adult:</b> The Bearer of Bad News	<b>Youth:</b> The Courage to Speak Up	<b>Children:</b> Courage to Speak
<b>The Suffering Servant Brings Salvation</b>		
Monday, March 29 <sup>th</sup>	“Isiah Foretells the Suffering Servant”	Isaiah 52:13-33:3
Tuesday, March 30 <sup>th</sup>	“Jesus the Suffering Servant”	Acts 8:26-35
Wednesday, March 31 <sup>st</sup>	“Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection”	Luke 18:31-34

# MINISTRY OF STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT

## Sermon Digests

January  
24

**“Who is Your Nathan?”**  
Pastor Kelly M. Smith, Jr.  
2 Samuel 12:1A  
*Submitted by: Beverly M. Brown*

**Context:** And the Lord sent Nathan unto David 12:1A. And he came unto him, and said unto him, there were two men in the city; the one rich, and the other poor 12:1.

We were encouraged to read 2 Samuel 11:1-12:25. The question was asked what did David do wrong? He had wondering lustful eyes for Uriah’s wife; she becomes pregnant from that encounter, and he puts Uriah’s husband on the frontline of battle to be killed. Read the above passages to see the outcome of King David regarding the matter to discover why the Prophet Nathan was one of David’s Nathans.

Who is Your Nathan?

**Point 1. Your Nathan is someone sent by God to abound with us/you.** It comes from a trusted relationship that has established hope, inspires, has your best interest/welfare at heart and do not come to tear one down even when the news and situation may be unpleasant. It does not always come from expected persons, situations, or circumstances. It comes from a consistent trusted spirit and counsel to whom God/Christ Jesus has entrusted in one’s life. Nathan’s are sent at the right time.

**Point 2-Your Nathan is someone that God sends in the midst of your mess.** He sends them to stand with the individual in the midst of their mess. Humankind’s Nathans do not come out of nosiness, gossip, or to receive information that can be used to destroy the person(s). In other words, they help us through our mess even when the culture and society may want us to suffer alone.

**Point 3-Your Nathan is someone who truly knows you and comes to you right.** They know that no one is perfect. The approach is not defensive; instead, it is the right way and the right approach for that event(s); even though it may be hard to receive based upon the individuals’ current situation and circumstance(s). Sometimes, their life or lives could be jeopardized. Reference: Luke 31. God/Christ Jesus knows His people are not perfect. He asks and wants each human being to seek His forgiveness with love and He wants to guide each of our paths as He deems appropriate, even if the outcome is not our desired outcome; He always does what is best for His Children. Amen, Amen, Amen.

January  
31

**“When the Light Goes Out”**  
Rev. Dr. Arrol N. Martin  
Isaiah 9:2; John 8:12  
*Submitted by: Sheila Littleton*

In the Isaiah text, Jesus is revealed as light to those walking in darkness. Isaiah prophesied during 4 kings of Judah and 7 kings of Israel. The light went out almost from the first foundation of the kingdoms. King Solemn built and erected false gods for his wives. Idol worship was practiced, and Isaiah prophesied doom and destruction. Only a few kings in Judah did what was right before the God as well, as the light went out from their sin. The prophecy of Isaiah spans 700 years with the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. Not only did light touch those living in the first century but reached the 21<sup>st</sup> century and beyond.

Evil has been with us since the beginning of time. Even the church has been blinded by the darkness of the world with slavery justified and the doctrine of discovery. This concept led to the violation of the rights of indigenous people in the United States.

Still the cry of Isaiah rings loud in the history of fallen humanity that loves darkness over light. Seven hundred years after Isaiah’s prophecy, there was a young man of Galilee who said I am the Light of the World. Yet, humans still walk-in darkness. Whoever follows Him will never walk-in darkness. Jesus came so that we can let our lights shine in the world. He speaks to all humanity as the light of the world. We do not walk-in darkness because his words are a lamp to our feet and light to our path. He is the way, truth, and light. If you want to know what to do in any situation, look to Jesus. He guides us to the path that leads to what we are seeking.

We need to walk in truth and must hear the voice of the prophecy, as the light is found in Jesus. We have been called out of darkness and must let our lights shine.

God will never leave us nor forsake us. If we turn the light on in our life, we will see what God can do. God will open doors. You may have to fight or struggle sometimes, but God will be with us to guide us.

**“Our Personal Mission Statement”**

February  
7

**Pastor Kelly Miller Smith Jr.**

**Luke 4:14-21**

*Submitted by: Deborah Luter*

God has a purpose for each of us. We have to seek to understand what that is. Personal mission statements help us to shape the goals, vision and purpose for our lives. When there is no clarity then we find ourselves being susceptible to things that will not add to the quality of the life that we live.

Chapter 4 is when we hear Jesus stating his personal mission statement. Everything before this in the gospel of Luke is just preliminary. There are nice stories of his birth, his going to the Temple and his baptism. The story does take a radical turn when he is tempted by Satan in the wilderness. But when we get to verse 14 we hear him say, the spirit of the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor... In these two verses of scripture, he is able to sum up what his life purpose is.

**Point 1-Our mission should be intentional**

Jesus didn't run around with a bible in his hand. They handed him a scroll. He knew what he was looking for. Clearly he had studied the passage and it resonated with his spirit. Though the passage in Isaiah was written 600 years before Jesus' lifetime, it was meant for him. Many of us have many Bibles that are convenient for us, and yet we never know what word God is trying to pour into our lives. We should be intentional, based on what God has spoken to us. Intentional about going to worship, reading the word of God and understanding how it applies to his life.

**Point 2-Our mission should be consequential**

Jesus wasn't running for public office, was not a candidate for any job. He wasn't trying to impress people or really even start a church. He just knew and believed that his life needed to be about what he can do to make a difference in the lives of others. He knew he needed to be consequential. We must have the desire for our mission to be consequential and make a difference in our lives and the world around us.

**Point 3-Our mission should be urgent**

When he rolled up the scripture and sat down, he said today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing. In other words, it starts now. God has a need for us right now. We need to develop our own personal mission statement to give us focus and direction for our lives.

**“The Complexity of Love”**

February  
14

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

**Romans 13:8-10**

*Submitted by: Adrienne Fancher*

Love is the dominant theme of the Bible. This passage advises: leave no debt unpaid except the debt of love. Never try to pay that debt in full. Never think you cannot love any more.

Agape is unconditional love. It is used more than any expression of love in the New Testament. Agape is selfless; it is limitless; it is for those who are difficult to love. It is complex. We are obligated to love.

**Point 1-Deeper than feelings.** Love should be a good feeling, although feelings and emotions can fade. We want love to be simple so that it makes sense and is long lasting. It is a conscious decision; it is deeper than feelings.

**Point 2-Reaches through the shadows.** We have shadows in our lives that keep us from loving or receiving love as we should. We and others know our open self; the unknown self is known only to God; the blind self is known by others, but not us; the hidden self is known by us, but not others. These shadows keep us from trusting ourselves, others, and God.

**Point 3-Unilateral.** We love in one direction regardless of what we get in return. Parents love a newborn who cannot return that love yet. Jesus commands us to love one another as He loves us so that all will know that we are His disciples. When others disappoint or betray you, love one another. That's how we show glory to God.

# 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.

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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: [fbccch13@gmail.com](mailto:fbccch13@gmail.com).