



The Torch

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, CAPITOL HILL
MAY 2021 – VOLUME 62 NUMBER 8

PASTOR'S PEN

We continue to hear news from the CDC and local health officials that is helping us in our determination of how we can navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. We have also read all of the responses we received from the membership regarding activities in the building. Based on the information we are hearing from these and other sources, the Ministry of Stewardship Management (MSM) Council feels that persons who are interested in coming to the building to worship on Sundays are invited to do so. We do ask that when you come, that you still wear masks while in the building and practice social distancing. There are some things that we have changed in how we are conducting the service in order to increase the comfort level for those who choose to worship with us. Even as many public businesses are opening up and reducing or eliminating various protocols, we intend to make sure that all who come to worship with us see that we are still sensitive to the health and wellbeing of everyone. We believe the measures we are taking will ensure that. We are excited and hopeful about this opportunity for you to return to the building for worship. We hope that you will choose to join us.

If you choose not to return to the church building just yet, please know that we will still operate our live-streaming on Facebook Live, our YouTube channel and our website. When you do watch us on Facebook and YouTube it is nice to see where you have clicked on and are watching by your sending a message while watching and engage in worship by sharing your thoughts and comments (this cannot be done directly on the church's website, however). This will help us to demonstrate we are still connecting as a church family.

We will still have Sunday Morning Live! (Sunday School) and Wednesday Live! (Bible Study) online and/or conference call line. We will not have in-person classes in the building at this time. We will let you know when that changes.

Below are some of other matters the MSM discussed at the meeting.

- The building renovations are almost complete. There are a few minor items the contractor needs to respond to before the job is completely done.
- The deacons and I recommended that Bro. Terry Deas start training to become a deacon.
- At mid-year we are close to budget in our giving and under budget in our expenses. We are encouraged by those who made the decision to remain faithful in their giving through the pandemic. That is what disciples do! We also received a good audit report from our auditor for the 2019 and 2020 church years.

There is a word I want to say regarding the Derrick Chauvin conviction for the murder of George Floyd. Derrick Chauvin was convicted for doing something that has been all too common and accepted for a while. His actions made him the arresting officer, the prosecutor, judge, jury and executioner without there even being a trial for George Floyd. His actions warrant his conviction. But Derrick Chauvin is a symptom of a larger problem. It is the systemic racism that has been the legacy of this country from inception. It is not a sickness that will be resolved with a single conviction. There needs to be a radical change in the systems that give allowance for this. People should not be targets or treated inhumanly because of race or any other sociological factors.

We are grateful to God for the conviction, but as people of faith we have to be careful that we don't gloat over it (Proverbs 24:17 – 18). It is a sad commentary on this nation that this is something we cheer over because too often we've not seen justice. Our prayer is the same as the Old Testament prophet Amos, who looks for justice to roll down like a river, and righteousness like a never-failing stream (Amos 5:24).

Kelly M. Smith Jr.
Pastor

DISCIPLESHIP MOMENT

Meet Disciple Learotha Williams Jr.

“Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.” ~John 12:26

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

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

I thought it was a good idea. I'm a member of a lot of organizations and because my name shows up on a membership roll, the only thing that is expected of me is that I pay my dues. When Pastor Smith started this, it made me cognizant of my upbringing. I came up with a line of preachers, deacons, superintendents, and very active members of the church. Discipleship means you have to be doing something; be active not passive. Everyone has a job to do, however great or small. I used to be very active in my church before college, serving as the financial secretary and helping with sick and shut-in visiting in hospitals and homes. Issuing that call to discipleship resonated in me, as I'd fallen off due to the demands of academia. I agree wholeheartedly with what's being asked of me.

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

I've always been engaged academically, but in the last year in particular the call has caused me to think more seriously about discipleship and where to act. A lot of people are not doing well, and many are having a hard time. My mom died right before I graduated from graduate school. I was in my 30s then and was faced with the challenge of taking her to chemo or going to school. Many of my students are dealing with a lot of death and they're only 18 or 19. I started meeting with students 1/1 and listening to many as they cry because of life challenges. My desk has become an altar as I lift up intercessory prayers for my students. As I do so, I want to be right so I can stand in the gap for my students. For many of them, I am an uncle and father figure. I want to pass on wisdom I've obtained over the years.

How has saying yes to the invitation informed your research, the way you teach students, and how you serve on staff at TSU?

I fell off with church in graduate school because of the workload. My mom called to share I was missed, and others would call as well; their calling pricked my conscience a bit. During that time, my research included looking at the KKK, a dark part of history. The church helped to shake the dark spirits off before I went home to my family. Being a disciple has also informed my professor role and dictates how I treat my students. I include elements of mercy and forgiveness. If a student is struggling financially, I give them a copy of the book needed for class. Once I had a student who felt like it was better if she wasn't alive. I immediately connected her with resources to help her. On her graduation day, she introduced me to her family and her mom hugged me for saving her daughter's life. As a disciple, there were areas that I had to grow into, especially learning how to pray fervently for my students.

What are your spiritual practices?

Mainly prayer and meditation. I have rose bushes in my backyard and I'm pretty proud of them. Often when I'm tending them, I hum various tunes. A hymn that stays on my heart is "The Day is Passed and Gone," Aretha Franklin sings it. That's a hymn that causes me to be reflective of the past and the short time we are granted in life. It causes me to always practice the gratitude in learning how to appreciate the time I'm in. It's important to elevate voices/spaces of those who have been marginalized.

Anything else you want to share?

I have a book coming out entitled, "I'll Take You There: Exploring Nashville's Social Justice Sites" and FBCCH is listed in the book. It will be released on May 15th and is available for pre-order on Amazon and Barnes & Noble. Sis. Vonda Mc Daniel wrote the section about FBCCH.

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

ABC-USA

One Great Hour of Sharing Announces 2021 Theme "Let Love Flow"

The theme of this years' annual offering is *Let Love Flow*. Despite the many ways in which life has been restricted in the past year, I think you will be encouraged to learn how your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing did indeed *Let Love Flow*. Lisa Rothenberger-Winter, World Relief Officer

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

ABCOTS 51st Annual Session
An Online Virtual Experience
May 4-6th 2021
Cost \$50.00
Convention Speaker
Rev. Dr. Gregory Howard
Register at www.abcots.org

Report of Benevolence Ministry October 2020-April 2021 (First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill):

- Nineteen persons were given assistance with rent or electric bills.
- Sixty plus persons referred to other agencies for assistance.
- Twelve 'Kroger Plus Cards' given out to aid with food.
- One person was aided with funeral expenses.
- A donation for Turkeys was made to the Nashville Rescue Mission in November 2020.
- Twenty-three coats were donated to ten families during our winter coat drive.
- Flood relief donation was given to 'Hands on Nashville'.
- Tornado relief donation was made to a Texas congregation.

(Benevolence budget for the first six months: \$6,000. Benevolence donation assistance to date: \$5,834.17)

MAY NEWS AND EVENTS



First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill

We are so grateful for your donation to Hands On Nashville on 4/13/2021.

Volunteers — whether they're striving to meet **ongoing** needs in the community or they're responding to disaster — have proven time and again their ability to provide real solutions to challenges facing our neighbors. Your support allows us to continue focusing our effort on leveraging collective volunteer power to make Nashville an even better place to live and work.

Should you have questions or need further assistance regarding your gift, please reach out to giving@hon.org or (615) 298-1108. Together, we are building stronger communities through service.

With gratitude,

Lori Shinton
Hands On Nashville President and CEO

(Note: First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill sent a donation to “Hands on Nashville” to help them in their work of assisting families after the floods in April 2021.)

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INCORPORATED
Alpha Delta Omega Chapter
NASHVILLE, TN

The Ivy Center of Nashville Foundation Inc. **Scholarship applications** are now available on <http://www.1908ADO.org>. Scholarships are awarded to deserving high school seniors planning to attend a four year college or university. Application deadline is May 21, 21. Please share the information to anyone you know that may be interested. [2021 Scholarship Application.pdf](#)



*Building,
Restoring,
and
Revitalizing
Lives
through
Jesus Christ*

First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill (FBCCH) Internship Announcement

Seeking Interns for a year-long (10-12 hour/week) paid Internship

The Ujima Leadership Development Initiative is a yearlong internship experience that offers young adult interns an opportunity to explore and experience vocational ministry in community. This internship is funded by the Forum for Theological Exploration.

Synonymous with the meaning of the word “ujima”, a central theme of this internship is understanding and growing from collective work and responsibility. The Ujima Initiative has an assigned program director, mentors, vocational and discernment leaders, and ministry lay leaders all supporting the internship. Interns will have a chance to explore faith in practice through Ministries such as Community Care, Social Justice, Children and Youth, and Christian Education. These areas are strategic to living out the FBCCH mission, as we seek to see our vision realized in *Building, Restoring, and Revitalizing Lives through Jesus Christ*.

The internship begins July 1st of 2021 and ends June 30, 2022. Interns will be required to devote 10-12 hours a week to the FBCCH ministry. The program begins with a paid mandatory 6-hour orientation session. The program entails:

- assessments designed to explore attributes, talents, dispositions for leadership and ministry
- discernment and discipleship groups devoted to spiritual formation
- weekly supervision and guidance
- retreats and interdenominational site visits to explore diverse faith traditions
- work with a ministry of interest and mutual consent
- a final public presentation of learned/shared experience.

To be considered for the internship, begin the application process by submitting a “Letter of Interest” detailing your interest in this internship, your aspiration for the internship, and your potential ministry area of interest along with your resume to Fbcch.personnel@gmail.com by May 14th. Also, direct questions to **Rev. Joe Ella Darby** at the listed email.

**First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill, a Torch History Series:
(Part III 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 . . .

Perhaps Alphonso Sumner was writing letters for other Negroes. It was not unusual for learned Negroes to earn extra money by secretly writing passes and writing and reading letters for illiterate fellows. This continued as a tradition long after Slavery, including in my family in Memphis—I learned to read quite well by reading the Bible for my great grandmother—the daughter of slaves. There was no home delivery of the mails in 1837, but the newspapers included a list of letters and packages received and to be picked up at the US Post Office on Cedar St. (Charlotte). The list included Sumner’s name. Slaveholding President Andrew Jackson (D) and his chairman of the Post Office Committee John C. Calhoun (SC) had issued executive orders to search the mails, confiscate, and burn any abolition-antislavery literature. Tennessee had disenfranchised free Negro men via the revised 1835 state constitution and disarmed black men as state militia. Tennessee government made the state’s nearly 7,300 free Negroes (mostly poor women and children; more than half of them mulatto) into no more than “slaves without masters.”

Jane Elizabeth would not take it anymore! (June 13, 1859) Jane Elizabeth worried and persuaded her husband her to borrow \$200 from her beloved father, William E. Watkins. Eighteen years later, fellow hack (taxi) operator, Jerry Stothard would boast “I have never been a slave;” he served as co-signer for fellow hack owner W. C. Napier. The Napier family resided at 90 N. McLemore (10th Ave. N.)—not far from where free Negro school teachers Daniel Wadkins and Rufus Conrad had operated their clandestine classes for free and enslaved children—just blocks east of First Colored Baptist Mission under Merry.

(1934) James C. Napier recalled: “We boarded the steamboat Wenonah near where Fort Nashborough stands”—at the foot of today’s Church and Broad Streets, and headed to Cincinnati. Jane kept the children very quiet on the boats, filled with hateful and drunken whites. Jane Elizabeth wisely avoided “Buck Town” near the Cincinnati riverfront where Irish and other European immigrants periodically rioted against the free Negro community and often dared Negroes to walk on the sidewalks! Nashville’s exiled Negro school teachers Rufus Conrad and A. M. Sumner, who lived in the nearby heavily black neighborhood, probably advised 34-year-old Jane Elizabeth to continue north and place the children in the biracial schools in Oberlin College, which admitted Negro students since 1833; By 1859 Wilberforce University enrolled 207 Negroes and “children of Southern and southwestern planters.”

The father of Negro education in Nashville, Alphonso was not dead! He was teaching classes in the basement of a Negro church, leading protest and petition as a civil rights leader in the Ohio Colored Men's Convention movement, and acting as editor/owner of the Cincinnati Disenfranchised American newspaper. The southern whites could run him out of Tennessee, but they could not kill his spirit! Until he died (circa 1862), A. M. Sumner remained dedicated to movements for ending Negro enslavement; and gaining equal rights and full citizenship for free Negro Americans. Elder Conrad was back at the Cincinnati Colored Christian Church and involved in the Negro's northern civil rights movement in Ohio.

Thus, Jane Elizabeth was a literate woman, who she had strong Negro men at her back. She knew it was a rough time in African American and national history: (Dec. 2, 1859) John Brown, his sons, and several Negro compatriots were hanged after their failed raid on Harper's Ferry (VA) to spark a regional slave revolt. The song John Brown's Body (published as The Battle Hymn of the Republic, 1862) became a sacred hymn among abolitionists, antislavery organizations, and African American churches.

(Nov. 1860) Upon the election of President-Elect Abraham Lincoln, the Peace Conference at DC failed to bring compromise between southerners and northerners. (Jan. 1861) Some Rebels failed to carry out their fanatical plans to invade DC, occupy the Capitol Building, and void any confirmation of Electoral Votes for Abraham Lincoln (R). President James Buchanan (D) remained in place until Lincoln's inauguration on March 4, 1861. The storm clouds of Civil War became ominous.

Submitted by Bobby L. Lovett, Ph.D., historian, all copyrights reserved (2021-).

(See Part IV in The Torch, June 2021)

Deacons of the Week for May 2021

Week of	Deacon	Phone#
2 nd	Emmitt Hayes	(615) 790-7312
9 th	AdrienneFancher	(615) 255-8033
16 th	Sunny Owunnah	(615) 708-1893
23 rd	Brian Wood	(615) 259-0623
30 th	Ronald McFarland Sr.	(615) 331-0564



First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill

Mother's Day Zoom Check-In!

Sunday, May 9, 2021 12:00 p.m.

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
Bethany Health Care and Rehab
421 Ocala Dr.
Nashville, TN 37211

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

B I R T H D A Y S

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

JUNE

- 4 Imani Byrd
- 5 Kyndal Christion
- 6 Anaya Campbell
- 11 Breneatha Demonbreum
Courtney Greene
Weldon B. Kidd
- 15 Jamar Ritch
Samuel L. Robinson
Joy M. Sims
- 18 Desiree' Robertson
Da'Kari Shyes
- 19 Jewel Burks Solomon
- 20 Kerry Schrader
William Webb, IV
- 21 Ernest C. Rhodes
- 23 Ryan Gentry
- 25 Leigh Lovett
Kena M. McDaniel
Kenya McDaniel
Taylor A. Slay
Sandra Weaver
- 28 Anita Greene
Harley Wood

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 Larry 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 Ryan 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

April 2021 Readings and Sunday School Lessons

<u>DAY</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>
Speaking Truth to Power		
Saturday, May 1 st	“Jehoshaphat Promotes Peace with Israel”	1 Kings 22:41-46
Sunday, May 2 nd	“Prophet Micaiah Speaks the Truth”	1 Kings 22:15-23, 26-28
Adult: Speaking Truth Boldly	Youth: Courage to Speak the Truth	Children: Truth and Power
Offering Hope for the Future		
Monday, May 3 rd	“Discipline the Immoral Person with Respect”	1 Corinthians 5:1-5
Tuesday, May 4 th	“Uphold Justice for All Peoples”	Exodus 23:1-9
Wednesday, May 5 th	“Seek and You Will Find Me!”	Jeremiah 29:10-14
Thursday, May 6 th	“Lip Service Is Not Enough”	Mark 7:1-8
Friday, May 7 th	“Jerusalem Is Punished and Rescued”	Isaiah 29:1-8
Saturday, May 8 th	“Judah-Blind to God’s Ways”	Isaiah 29:9-12
Sunday, May 9 th	“Israel Will Enjoy a Bright Future”	Isaiah 29:13-24
Adult: Empty Rituals are Useless	Youth: The Source of True Hope	Children: A New Future
Jeremiah: The Suffering Preacher of Doom		
Monday, May 10 th	“Apostles Speak Truth to the Council”	Acts 4:13-22
Tuesday, May 11 th	“Prophet Jeremiah Is Arrested and Imprisoned”	Jeremiah 37:11-16
Wednesday, May 12 th	“Ebed-Melech’s Trust in Jeremiah Is Honored”	Jeremiah 38:7-13; 39:15-18
Thursday, May 13 th	“Jeremiah Reaffirms the Prophecy of Zedekiah”	Jeremiah 37:17-21
Friday, May 14 th	“Jeremiah’s Last Days in Jerusalem”	Jeremiah 38:24-28
Saturday, May 15 th	“Jerusalem Is Destroyed: the People Are Exiled”	2 Kings 25:1-12
Sunday, May 16 th	“Zedekiah Must Submit to Babylonian Conquest”	Jeremiah 38:14-23
Adult: The Consequence of Giving Challenging Advice	Youth: Following Good Advice	Children: Difficult and Dangerous Words
Ezekiel: Street Preacher to the Exiles		
Monday, May 17 th	“Treat Each Other Fairly”	Deuteronomy 24: 14-18
Tuesday, May 18 th	“Taking Personal responsibility”	Jeremiah 31:27-30
Wednesday, May 19 th	“The Child Who Sins Suffers Punishment”	Ezekiel 18:10-13
Thursday, May 20 th	“The Righteous Child Is Rewarded”	Ezekiel 18:14-18
Friday, May 21 st	“All Are Accountable for Their Sins”	Ezekiel 18:19-24
Saturday, May 22 nd	“God Is Compassionate and Fair”	Ezekiel 18:25-29
Sunday, May 23 rd	“Repent and Live Righteous Lives”	Ezekiel 18:1-9, 30-32
Adult: Take Responsibility	Youth: Take a Look at Yourself	Children: Make a Change, Now
Jonah: Fiery Harbinger of Doom		
Monday, May 24 th	“Jonah’s Experience Foreshadows Christ’s	Matthew 12:38-42
Tuesday, May 25 th	“Nineveh’s Repentance; a Lasting Message”	Luke 11:29-32
Wednesday, May 26 th	“Jonah Turns Away from God’s Call”	Jonah 1:1-12
Thursday, May 27 th	“Sailors Make Vows to the Lord”	Jonah 1:13-16
Friday, May 28 th	“Jonah Rejects God’s Grace toward Others”	Jonah 4:1-5
Saturday, May 29 th	“God’s Compassion Overrides Jonah’s Personal Comfort”	Jonah 4:6-11
Sunday, May 30 th	“God’s Mercy Prevails”	Jonah 3
Adult: Changing for the Better	Youth: A Change for the Better	Children: Do Right
Why Do You Worry		
Monday, May 31 st	“Worried? Seek God’s Counsel”	1 Samuel 9:5-10

MINISTRY OF STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT

Sermon Digests

March
21

“She Helped It”
Pastor Kelly M. Smith, Jr.
Romans 16:1-2
Submitted by: Kathy Harrell

In this final sermon-series for Women’s Month, we learn of some pivotal roles of women in the Bible and the merit of all women.

Phoebe, a woman only mentioned in these two verses of the Bible, deserves our eternal debt of gratitude. At the apostle Paul’s request, Phoebe had to travel over 700 miles to deliver Paul’s letter written to the Christians in Rome. Phoebe was instrumental in helping the larger movement of the Christian faith far beyond her local congregation. The letter Phoebe delivered is what we now know as the book of ‘Romans’, the most crucial of books in helping us to understand the doctrine of the Christian Faith.

Point 1- She helped through her leadership.

Many biblical translations of Romans 16:1 simply call Phoebe ‘a servant of the church’. In the original translation, Paul writes: *“I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church in Cenchreae.”* This is the first person mentioned by name in the Bible as being a Deacon. By doing what was asked of her, Phoebe modeled what every pastor hopes from their members: faithfulness, commitment, and loyalty. Though some tasks may be difficult, their successful completion is crucial to our Christian faith.

Point 2-She helped through her heart.

Jesus stated that Phoebe made church a heart matter. Christian faith is real when it comes from the heart. Sometimes, many don’t live up to their expectations as Christians because they have not made their relationship with Christ a ‘heart matter’. Whatever we do in the name of Christ must real, sincere, and honest.

Point 3-She helped through her trustworthiness.

The weight of what Phoebe was doing was so much more than delivering a letter. The Christian doctrine is centered on the contents of Paul’s letter. Phoebe not only had to ensure that she would traverse land and sea to get to Rome, but she had to be trusted to keep the letter safe, and more importantly, to correctly interpret the meaning of Paul’s words to the Christians in Rome. Everything that we do for Christ is equally as important that we can be trusted to do those things correctly!

March
28

“Live in Resistance and Hope”
Rev. Joe Ella Darby
Matthew 21:10-17
Submitted by: Beverly M. Brown

The cleansing of the Temple is described as a story of both judgment and challenge. Matthew illustrates Jesus to his post-Temple community as the Jewish continuation of Moses and the Law, the fiery prophet critiquing the economic system set up by the chief priests and scribes, and God himself who brings judgment to his people. The story challenged Matthew’s community and challenges the modern reader to end oppression, attend to the marginalized, and accept Jesus as the new Temple – the continuation of Judaism.

Rev. Darby cited several examples of living and witnessing resistance results such as during her 2006 South Africa trip to Ghana, life groups, Covid pandemic, white supremacist groups, voter suppression, her work as a Chaplain at the Veterans Hospital, intergenerational congregation, and even Christians today not being able to get it right. As a result, some persons are leaving the church all together. Everyone is to be treated with dignity and respect because it is God/Christ Jesus’ grace that can teach and help His people learn to do things differently, inclusive of zoom.

Survival means, God/Christ Jesus is able to make a way when there appears not to be a way. He wants his people to continue to be faithful, to fight for justice and peace for all and not just a selected few. Acts of resistance have brought about hope. How? God/Christ Jesus will fulfill and do what he says in both good and difficult times. We can trust Him. Those who have gotten into ‘good trouble’ for doing the right things, even when it was not popular, included John Lewis, Ruth Ginsberg, and Martin Luther King, Jr. etc. No matter what is happening in one’s life, God/Christ Jesus is our savior, our refuge, and He can turn things around.

God will comfort, provide, and can make something when there appears to be nothing to salvage. He see’s humankind’s every struggle, therefore, He never leaves nor forsakes His Children. Just keep the hope, keep the faith in Him, and endurance in the mist of whatever resistance is presented in life and living. Finally, He can bind and mend the broken heart, the broken hearted even in prison and in society. Just continue to live in the resistance and live in the hope of God/Christ Jesus.

Amen, Amen, & Amen.

April
4

“Finishing the Easter Story”

Pastor Kelly M. Smith, Jr.

Mark 16:1-8

Submitted by: Deborah Luter

The story of Easter is the story of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is reliving the accounts that surrounded the death of Jesus Christ on the cross but also reminding us that his story does not end there. It continues on to the women who had come to prepare Jesus for his final burial but discovered that the tomb was empty. But the Easter story has to have an ending. We cannot leave the story of Jesus just with his death and an empty tomb. There needs to be the rest of the story that can give people hope and encouragement when they face the difficulties of life.

Point 1-To finish the Easter story is to expect the unexpected

Nothing was going as these women expected. We have to live in the season of expectancy. We never know what God may be up to. There are those who are here today because God did the unexpected.

Point 2-To finish the Easter story is to have a new beginning.

Coming to Jerusalem had to put all of the disciples of Jesus in a difficult emotional space. Jesus tells these women to go and tell the disciples to meet him in Galilee. Galilee was home for them. That is where they started their journey with Jesus. That was friendly territory compared to Jerusalem. We need to stop seeing them as biblical characters and see them as human beings. All of us who have journeys of faith have to have our Galilee.

Point 3-To finish the Easter story is to never stop telling the story.

Mark’s gospel reading in vs. 8, says” *Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid*”. Mark almost got us with that one. If they never said anything to anyone, how did we hear the story of what they experienced? At some point they got themselves together and followed through on what the angel asked them to do.

Never stop telling the story. Someone may be listening who needs to hear that miraculous story!

April
11

“Hidden Blessings”

Pastor Kelly Miller Smith Jr.

Psalm 71:15

Submitted by: Adrienne Fancher

Obvious Blessings are those things we see and experience, but this is just a part of the story. Hidden Blessings are the things that happen for us to experience the obvious blessings. So much happens behind the scenes that we don’t see or know about. The psalmist tells us there are more things that happen beyond what we can imagine.

Point 1- Hidden blessings are for us to trust God.

God is trustworthy to do what we need to have done. We must trust God that everything necessary for us to function – like oxygen to breathe – will happen. We also trust God for things we don’t think about. Like anti-virus software that protects our devices from attacks, God protects us without our awareness. Yes, we must take reasonable precautions, but in trusting God, we do not live in fear.

Point 2- Hidden blessings are for us to display God.

The psalmist wants to tell others about God’s blessings and about the good things God can do. We share Glory Sightings [where we see the presence of God] so that others can see God’s presence in everyday life. Media reports of falling church attendance may be because modern organized churches do not make a good, meaningful display of God, and then people become disillusioned. Let others see the Light of God in us. Be careful about what we, as Christians, display so that others can see the hidden blessings of God.

Point 3- Hidden blessings are for us to praise God.

The psalmist will never stop praising (Psalm 71:14). Praise God in good times and in difficult times. Some people think praise is only to get something from God. We are blessed all the time. Our praise is in response to what God has already done. We should not praise God to get more. God cannot be “bought” with praise: God is going to bless us regardless of what we do. We praise and thank God because it completes the enjoyment of our blessing! We are missing something if we cannot share our enjoyment with someone else.

I’m going to praise God because my blessings overflow!

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: fbccch13@gmail.com.