



The Torch

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, CAPITOL HILL
OCTOBER 2021 – VOLUME 63 NUMBER 1

PASTOR'S PEN

October ushers in a new church year for us at First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill. Even with the chaos and turmoil in the world around us, God is still faithful ([1 Corinthians 1:9](#)), and for that we are blessed.

As has been our tradition we start the year off with Loyalty Month. It is a time to recommit ourselves to God and God's kingdom through the ministry of this church ([Hebrew 10:23](#)). It is a new start and a restart all at the same time. A new start because we find ourselves exploring new ways of doing the ministry of the church. We have interns that are developing their skills through their helping our congregation. A new start because we have finished our renovations and added an elevator to assist in the building. A new start because of things that we are planning that will enhance our worship and our work.

It is a restart because we are recommitting ourselves to missions and Christian Education. It is a restart as people are finding their new norm and developing a comfort level of how to engage in church life as we work through the pandemic. It is a restart for our demonstrating our faithfulness to God. What a blessing God gives to us.

During the month of October we will have a different emphasis for each Sunday focusing on various aspects of the church's life.

- October 3 – The church matters
- October 10 – The congregation matters
- October 17 – The leadership matters
- October 24 – The ministry matters
- October 31 – The future matters

Let us continue to pray for our congregation as we see the opportunities and the challenges ahead.

I would also like to invite each of you to share in the *Second Annual Kelly Miller Smith Symposium*, October 28 from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Central) sponsored by the family foundation and the institute at Vanderbilt Divinity School that are both named for him. The conference will be virtual and there is no charge to participate. The theme for the conference is "Poverty vs Justice: A Moral Issue". The emphasis of the symposium is to look at how Black and Brown people who are caught up in the criminal justice system, innocent or guilty, can be further penalized because they cannot afford all of the costs associated with incarceration. It also creates unfair disadvantages for their families as well. More information is listed in this edition of The Torch.

Kelly M. Smith Jr.
Pastor

DISCIPLESHIP MOMENT

Meet Disciple David Jones

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” ~Proverbs 3:5-6

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 needed because that's what we're supposed to be doing as Christians. Discipleship is essentially the Great Commission that Christ instructed us to live by. Pastor Smith wants the church to maximize our Christian abilities by being disciples and I was very happy that he was intentional in this shift because we needed to understand the difference. I think discipleship is a lifestyle that we all should seek; having a membership can give you perks but it doesn't mean a shift in lifestyle. I have a membership to two gyms and because I have a membership doesn't mean I'm going to go workout and exercise. Until I go into the gym and actually use the equipment, that membership is essentially worthless at it relates to my goals and physical health. Likewise, until we as members are committed to doing the work of Christ as disciples, then we won't be strong in our Christian faith as we need to be for optimal spiritual health.

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

A few Sundays ago, Pastor Smith in one of his sermons, said “we shouldn't ask God to always bless us but we should do things to bless God.” I think the discipleship journey has made this more real for me and allowed me to put it more in action. This journey has made me more comfortable spreading the gospel.

How do you intentionally live out your discipleship in your personal life and in the workplace?

I'm not ashamed to talk about my faith. When the opportunity presents itself, I will always try to go to God first whether that's praying for someone, showing compassion and care or showing someone grace and mercy as God gave me. I try to be very intentional about that.

What are some spiritual practices that you enjoy?

I enjoy having spiritual moments on random days other than Sundays. I enjoy those intimate moments listening to podcasts, sermons, seeing glory sightings, and sharing with others in my inner circle. I enjoy the fact that I have a God who is available 24/7 and not just on Sundays. I enjoy spiritual fellowship, even globally. My spirit is craving to be back with our brothers and sisters in Tanzania.

How would you encourage others in their discipleship journey?

Remember your “why” and be genuine about your connection. The purpose of our discipleship is to serve Christ and if we remember our “why” and know who Christ is, that should be our motivation to keep on keeping on.

Anything else you want to share?

My favorite passage is Romans 12:2, “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

As a young man, this is the model that I need to live by. I want to understand God's will for my life and as long as I'm not doing things of this world, then I can test what God's will is for me. I need to follow that and encourage others to follow that as well. If we want our will to be aligned with God's will and not the other way around, then we'll be intentional in our discipleship and not be conformed to this world.

MISSION AT YOUR DOORSTEP

"The next morning the Jews formed a conspiracy and bound themselves to an oath not to eat or drink until they had killed Paul" Acts 23:12 NIV

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

We here in the United States of America take our religious liberty as the norm in a free and democratic society. However, our brothers and sister around the world may experience a different reality, in the various countries in which they live. Our doors here at First Baptist have been open to those who are a part of the Burma Diaspora. Pray for our brothers and sisters in Burma.

ABCUSA Interim General Secretary Calls for the Release of Pastor Rev. Thian Lian Sang and Justice for Pastor Rev. Cung Biak Hum

The American Baptist Churches USA, which serves over 80,000 members of the Burma Diaspora, call for the immediate release of Rev. Thian Lian Sang.

Rev. Thian Lian Sang is pastor of Falam Baptist Church in Shwe Mandalay. On September 16, 2021, Rev. Sang was arrested by armed men in plainclothes in front of his house. Also present at the time of his arrest were three military vehicles and approximately 20 armed men.

Rev. Sang's arrest is compounded by additional troubling reports of human rights violations and the intentional targeting of religious leaders in Chin State. On September 18, over 19 houses were burned down by military forces. Baptist Pastor Rev. Cung Biak Hum attempted to help. Instead, upon his arrival on the scene, he was shot and killed by military soldiers—making him the first Baptist minister to die due to the ongoing conflicts.

We call for the immediate release of Rev. Thian Lian Sang. We also call for those who killed Rev. Cung Biak Hum to be held legally responsible, and we ask for restoration of the homes burned by the military.

With 1.7 million Baptists in Myanmar, the Myanmar Baptist family remains a key part of both Myanmar and our ABCUSA missionary partnership. While addressing these immediate injustices, we further call upon the military junta to do all that it can to restore religious freedom, human rights, and peace through dialogue across Chin State and Myanmar as a whole.

Sincerely,

Dr. C. Jeff Woods

Interim General Secretary, American Baptist Churches USA (edited)

OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

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



Thanks, First Baptist for all the cards, phone calls and prayers for our family in the loss of my son-in-law and Gina's husband. We feel your love

Sis. Billie Calloway

To My First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill Family, My family and I are extremely appreciative of the heartfelt prayers and expressions of condolence that were shared during the illness and passing of my husband, Dr A.P. Johnson Jr. They continue to sustain us as we adjust to this void in our lives

Sis. Carol Gentry

Deacons of the Week for October 2021

Week of	Deacon	Phone#
3 rd	Adrienne Fancher	(615) 255-8033
10 th	Ronald McFarland, Sr.	(615) 331-0564
17 th	Sunny Owunnah	(615) 708-1893
24 th	Brian Wood	615) 259-0623
31 st	Beverly Brown	(615) 391-3737



Presents

Poverty vs. Justice
 A MORAL ISSUE FOR OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM
2nd Annual Foundation Virtual Symposium



About the Event

The Kelly Miller Smith Foundation, in collaboration with The Kelly Miller Smith Institute on the Black Church at the Vanderbilt Divinity School and CEO Action for Racial Equity will host the 2nd Annual Kelly Miller Smith Symposium to be held virtually on Thursday, October 28, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. CT. The theme is **“Poverty vs Justice: A Moral Issue for Our Criminal Justice System.”** We are called to understand and right the wrongs that make it more likely for Black and Latino souls to be corralled to and stuck in the criminal justice system with overwhelming difficulty escaping its clutches.

Symposium Schedule

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2021
 1:00 - 3:00 PM CT

1:00 pm

Welcome / Opening Remarks

1:10 pm

Keynote: William “Bill” Underwood

1:30 pm

Conversation: William “Bill” Underwood and Rev. Dr. Freddie Haynes, III

2:05 pm

Panel

Felicia Williams | moderator
 Former CFO, Macy’s Inc. and Fellow for CEO Action for Racial Equity

Dawn Harrington
 Executive Director, Free Heart

Priya Sarathy Jones
 National Policy & Campaigns Director, Fines and Fees Justice System

Tehra Cole
 Policy Council, Civil Rights Corps

[Register Here](#)



JUSTICE

CORNER

What's Really at Stake Here? A Call to Justice

Submitted by Minister Janiece R. Williams, M.Div., Ujima Pastoral Intern

I have always been deeply fascinated in the story in the Bible that has been historically referred to as The Woman Caught in The Act of Adultery found in the Gospel of John 7:53 - 8:11. The story is curious to me not just because it takes two people to engage in such an act, but because of the circumstances surrounding the woman's mistreatment. Take a moment to read the passage.

Let us really get a clear picture of what's going on here. These men, the scribes and the Pharisees, have a political agenda that they are so committed to that they are willing to sacrifice a woman's body for the sake of it. Political? The story tells us that they dragged this woman (note: not the man), who if she was in the act of adultery was likely half-dressed if at all, before the people in the Temple, "so that they might have some charge to bring against him [Jesus]". This woman, who has already been minoritized because of her gender, was overpowered by a group of men who postured as if they were so concerned about the Law of Moses but really used "the Law" to cover up their desire to reach their own political agenda - the entrapment of Jesus which would ensure they maintained their comfortable lives of power and economic status.

Friends, this is the state of our society in these yet to be United States. The vulnerable and minoritized of our society are constantly being sacrificed for the sake of political gain and the sake of obtaining and maintaining power. We see it every day. Consider the fact that just here in Tennessee, [COVID-19 cases among school children have skyrocketed leading to over two dozen school districts having to close this school year](#). All of this because those who occupy leadership positions within our government are sacrificing the bodies of the vulnerable for the sake of political and economic gain.

You can look all around you to see injustices of this sort. We see it in the way women, especially Black women's, mental health and physical wellbeing is sacrificed for the sake another's power. We see it in the way our senior citizens in assisted living residences and other facilities are sacrificed for the sake of another's power. We see it in the way our LGBTQIA+ siblings are both verbally and physically sacrificed for the sake of another's power. This is the state of unjust America.

So, what is our challenge? Here, I offer in the way of [Alice Walker](#) , that we must take a womanist posture and be, "committed to survival and wholeness of entire people." Jesus' commitment to this woman's survival by exposing the offenders' own sins and transgressions. He turned the lens on them and told the truth about what is - they were, themselves, sinning. Among whatever other sins they committed, they were sinning in their violent treatment of this woman. And, notice that Jesus does not take the scribes and the Pharisees in this story behind closed doors to speak out against them. He tells the truth right there in the presence of all who witnessed the injustice to suggest that justice cannot wait. The work and words of justice must be an immediate response. And, it must be for the sake of both the individual and the community.

In like fashion, we must be committed to the survival and wholeness of all people and it must be an immediate, urgent reality that won't allow us to sit silently and look on at the mistreatment of the vulnerable. Rather, we must turn the lens on those who are in power, expose their limits, weaknesses, and evil works and call them to accountability.

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

BIRTHDAYS

OCTOBER

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

NOVEMBER

- 1 Jamal Buchanan
- 2 Kevin Copeland
- 3 Kamryn Cruson
Kamryn Cruson
Asalean Springfield
- 5 Terry Deas
- 7 Luke Molette
- 8 Jesse Carter
- 9 Evelyn Okediji
- 10 Robert Boone
Jeffrey Saintil
- 11 Alice Risby
- 15 Lois Suttles
- 16 Clara Elam
Learotha Williams
- 17 Dawann Westbrook
- 18 Jasmine Easley
- 19 William (Bill) McDaniel
Christina Slay
- 20 Aaron Powell, Jr.
Spencer Washington, II
Rita Williams-Seay
- 21 Titus J. Wootson
- 22 Carol Boone
Adrienne Fancher
Howard Smith, Jr.
- 23 Skyler Washington
- 25 Jan M. Carter
Melody Neely
Allison Wootson
- 27 Dorothy Fort
- 30 Fanchetter D. Ennix

December

- 1 Kayla Cruson
Gary Faulcon
- 2 Barbara Doughty
- 3 Kelly Copeland
Deborah Luter
Ilee Wade
- 4 Linda Thompson
Torrie Washington
- 5 Ashley Glotta
- 7 Bernice Barnes
Tondrick Chandler
Vicki Todd-Stubbs
- 8 Corey Grimes
- 14 Brenda Duff
Nia Tolbert
- 15 Bettye Springfield
- 17 Leon Deadrick
Barry Hobbs
Myles Sydney
- 18 Vonda McDaniel
- 22 Ivan Davis, Jr.
- 23 Gloria T. Westbrook
- 24 Breanna Grimes
Cora Johnson
- 25 Valerie Robinson
- 31 Jacqueline Knight

Christian Education

8

October 2021 Readings and Sunday School Lessons

<u>DAY</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>
Make A Joyful Noise		
Friday, October 1st	“A Continuous Sacrifice of Praise”	Psalms 66:1-7
Saturday, October 2nd	“Rejoice in God’s Mighty Rule”	Luke 1:67-75
Sunday, October 3rd	“Enter God’s Courts with Praise”	Psalms 100
Adult: Only You	Youth: Find Delight	Children: Praise and Rejoice
Praise God for Justice and Righteousness		
Monday, October 4 th “	“Where is Justice?”	Ecclesiastes 3:16-22
Tuesday, October 5 th	“A Prayer for Justice”	Psalms 7:8-1
Wednesday, October 6 th	“Let Justice Roll Down”	Amos 5:21-25
Thursday, October 7 th	“God’s Servant Proclaims Justice”	Matthew 12:14-21
Friday, October 8 th	“God Has Executed Judgement”	Psalms 9:13-20
Saturday, October 9 th	“Jesus Pronounces Release and Recovery”	Luke 4:14-21
Sunday, October 10 th	“God Judges with Righteousness”	Psalms 9:1-12
Adult: Ball of Confusion	Youth: Standing Strong	Children: Being Just and Fair
Give Thanks for Deliverance		
Monday, October 11 th	“Delivered from Hunger and Thirst”	Psalms 107:1-9
Tuesday, October 12 th	“Delivered from Darkness and Gloom”	Psalms 107:10-22
Wednesday, October 13 th	“Delivered from Storms”	Psalms 207:23-32
Thursday, October 14 th	“Delivered through Jesus Christ”	Ephesians 1:3-14
Friday, October 15 th	“Delivered from Sin”	Ephesians 2:1-10
Saturday, October 16 th	“Delivered and Reconciled”	Ephesians 2:11-22
Sunday, October 17 th	“Delivered by God’s Steadfast Love”	Psalms 107:33-43
Adult: I Shall be Released	Youth: Freed from Fear	Children: Help When in Need
The Joy of Worship		
Monday, October 18 th	“God Has Done Great Things”	Psalms 126
Tuesday, October 19 th	“Joy Fulfilled in Love”	John 15:9-17
Wednesday, October 20 th	“God’s Joy Is Your Strength”	Nehemiah 8:9-12
Thursday, October 21 st	“Joy Fulfilled in Christ’s Sacrifice”	Philippians 2: 1-11
Friday, October 22 nd	“Rejoice in the Lord Always”	Philippians 4:4-9
Saturday, October 23 rd	“Fullness of Joy”	Psalms 16
Sunday, October 24 th	“How Lovely is God’s Dwelling Place”	Psalms 24
Adult: Our House	Youth: A Happy House	Children: Joy for the Journey
Praise God with Music		
Monday, October 25 th	“A Song of Praise Is Fitting”	Psalms 147:1-7
Tuesday, October 26 th	“David’s Music Soothes Saul”	1 Samuel 16:14-23
Wednesday, October 27 th	“Paul and Silas Sing in Prison”	Acts 16”23-26
Thursday, October 28 th	“Praise the Name of the Lord”	Psalms 148
Friday, October 29 th	“Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs”	Colossians 3:12-17
Saturday, October 30 th	“Making Melody to God”	Psalms 149
Sunday, October 31 st	“Praise God with Musical Instruments”	Psalms 150
Adult: I Just Want to Celebrate	Youth: Celebrate Today	Children: Crescendo of Praise

MINISTRY OF STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT

Sermon Digests

“Inner City Blues!”

August
22

Minister Christopher Harris

[Mark 10:46-52](#)

Submitted by: Beverly M. Brown

We are first impressed with the faith of Bartimaeus. We are not told how Bartimaeus came to believe that Jesus was the Messiah, but we can be sure that he did not come to have faith in Christ from what he saw. Jesus had worked many miracles.

Jesus had set his face toward Jerusalem. Walking ahead of his disciples, Jesus was on the road to suffering and rejection and death on the cross. As soon as Bartimaeus hears that Jesus of Nazareth is passing by, he cries out “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” But the people rebuked him, told him to be quiet, that Jesus would have ‘no time for the likes of you!’ Yet, Mark tells us that Bartimaeus would not be silenced; no amount of opposition could shut him up. He cried out even more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” Bartimaeus would not be denied.

Minister Harris cited many of the atrocities happening in today’s culture that can contribute to inequity such as injustices toward people of color, Covid pandemic, and lack of trust in our science professionals, etc. It “makes you want to holler and throw up both your hands’ as mentioned in the late Marvin Gaye song.

Such atrocities can create inner city blues for many, and it just makes one want to forget it and give up. Minister Harris’ advice, however, is to avoid naysayers and to not allow others to dictate ones’ path. And never stop being your best self which God/Christ Jesus created you to be in all situations.

As a result, in the mist of wanting to give up, hold on to hope and trust God/Christ Jesus. He can and will see you through, no matter the obstacles or blues that could overwhelm us. No matter what is happening in society, God’s people are to continue to trust and have faith in Him no matter what happens in the world. Humankind is to follow what God/Christ Jesus did. If we listen to His word and His voice, Jesus guides His children through obstacles and directs our paths. Finally, let go of past hurts and know that your hope is built on the solid rock of our Lord and Savior who died on the cross for each of us. God is a God of many chances because of his grace, mercy, and love for all persons. Amen, Amen, & Amen.

“Communion With The Community”

August
29

Rev. Dr. George W.C. Lyons

[Exodus 18:12](#)

Submitted by: Sheila Littleton

Moses fled to Midian after he was banished from Egypt. Moses rescued the seven daughters of Jethro from shepherds who attempted to drive them away from a well. He earned favor and appreciation from Jethro after this action. When one shows kindness to your child, you feel a sense of gratitude to that person and express that gratitude with kindness. We should be willing to rescue and support exploited children and persons when we are confronted with the opportunity.

In the scripture, Jethro, who became Moses’s father-in-law, went to meet Moses in the wilderness with his wife and sons. Jethro had supported Moses’ sons and his wife, after he had sent them to him, so there was mutual respect between the men. After Moses received word that Jethro was coming to meet him, he went out to meet his father- in-law and greeted him warmly with a kiss. He was willing to show outward affection, and this kind of affection should be expressed between men and their sons. Real men need to learn to embrace each other, and the church is a place for real men to hang out. Powerful things happen when real men learn to honor each other.

Moses testifies to Jethro about the mighty acts of God which was done to Pharaoh and the Egyptians for Israel’s sake. His focus was placed on God’s action not on his own. Expressing the goodness of God to others gives reason for others to rejoice with us. After Moses’s testimony, Jethro praised God and celebrated the goodness of God. God inhabits the praise of his people. Jethro committed to God based on Moses’ testimony. Jethro realized they were part of the one family of God.

If we proclaim God, somebody will want to join us in our praise. God has smiled on us even in this pandemic and people need to hear this testimony. We need to praise God and others will see that our testimony is true. They will then come to the table and recognize the goodness of God. God has given us a reason to rejoice and offer praise. When we freely tell what God has done, family, friends, and strangers will want to join the eternal family.

“Taking Life Head On-Happiness”

(1st sermon in series)

September
5

Pastor Kelly M. Smith, Jr.

[Ecclesiastes 3:9-15](#)

Submitted by: Deborah Luter

When we look at Genesis 1,2, we see that God set up paradise for us to live in and to be happy. All we had to do was to take care of what God created like He directed. We don't live in happy times now. Coronavirus, floods hurricanes, wildfires, political turmoil, social injustices, and hatred seem to be the order of the day. People now seem to be struggling to find happiness in their lives.

But we need to take happiness head on. To take someone head on means to have determination to address the matter to get the desired conclusion. Life is too short and precious for us to spend as much time as we do being unhappy. The writer of Ecclesiastes seems to get it. Even as there is so much in the world around us that we cannot control or even fix, we can still find happiness in our lives.

Point 1-Happiness comes from our choices

The writer of Ecclesiastes asks a rhetorical question-what does the worker get for his/her toil? This is to suggest that all of us at some points in life have toils, troubles, and hard times. We cannot control that we have issues, however, we can however control how we respond to them. We can choose how we handle whatever comes our way.

Point 2-Happiness comes from remaining hopeful

Verse 11 tells us that God has made everything beautiful in its time. What this means is that there is no ending of the possibilities that there can be in life. To have hope is to say that you remain open to the possibilities. Tomorrow is not promised, but you are hopeful for it.

Point 3-Happiness comes from gratitude

Verse 12 states for people to be happy and do good...Happiness can be derived from the altruism and good we do for others. When we do good it demonstrates the godliness in us. Doing good also means that we are secure in who we are and what we have to offer. When we do good it is giving a part of ourselves as an investment in someone else.

Point 4-Happiness comes from our gratitude

The writer of Ecclesiastes suggests in verse 13 that happiness is a gift from God. Just being thankful can increase your happiness by 25%. Whether or not you struggle with happiness maybe you ought to start a Gratitude journal. This would be your listing things that happen during the course of the day for which you are thankful.

“Taking Life Head On-Spirituality”

(2nd sermon in series)

September
12

Pastor Kelly M. Smith, Jr.

[Romans 8:5](#)

Submitted by: Adrienne Fancher

We ought to be spiritual, not just natural. The Faith Experience can categorize people as Tourists, Travelers, and Pilgrims.

Tourists look for the high points and popular sights for consumption. [looking to see something new]

Travelers seek to immerse themselves in the culture through active engagement in the life of the church for inspiration. [looking to experience something new]

Pilgrims look for life-changing experiences as they seek and find God for transformation. [looking to be something new]

Even though we may come initially as a Tourist or a Traveler, come with the desire to become a Pilgrim. Spirit is life-generating within us so that we can live life to the full.

Point 1. Spirituality is life committing.

We must give our whole lives to God. When asked what is the greatest commandment, Jesus points to loving and giving one's all [Mark 12:30-31]. The Faith Experience is not a checklist. Spirituality is more than just Religion: make your whole self into what God wants you to be.

Point 2. Spirituality is life changing.

Spirituality is transformative – not a veneer to cover up and make us look good. God's desire is that the change must be within. It is a sad commentary on our lives if we are unchanged by our worship. As Jeremiah learned at the potter's house, God keeps working with us to make us right. Christian faith is not just about our practice; our faith walk should reflect the change within.

Point 3. Spirituality is life liberating.

Paul asks us to give up a self-centered life to focus on living a life consistent with the Spirit. We are not hindered by any earthly attachments; practice our faith freely. Jesus instructs us to worship in Spirit and in Truth [John 4:24]. Sometimes we don't feel free because we worry about traditions, previous experiences, or what others think. We are free when we turn ourselves over completely to Spirituality.

That's how we Take Life Head On: be spiritual rather than religious.

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: fbccch13@gmail.com.