



The Torch

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, CAPITOL HILL
APRIL 2021 – VOLUME 62 NUMBER 7

PASTOR'S PEN

I wish everyone a Happy Easter. Easter is the day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from death and the grave. This is the most significant day of the year for those of the Christian faith. As a matter of fact, if it were not for Easter, there would be no Christmas. If God had not resurrected Jesus Christ, then there would have not been any reason to have a Christmas. We celebrate Christmas because of what happened at Easter.

Though Easter is a day, the full power of the resurrection is one that evolves. We are familiar with the story of the women coming early on the first day of the week (which is Sunday) and discovered the grave was open, the body of Christ gone and angels giving them the news. Later they went to tell the apostles and they came running to see if it was true. Later Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene and had a conversation with her and gave her instructions on what to do. ([John 20:1 – 18](#)).

And in all of the gospels there are various stories of appearances and activities that Jesus did to convince those who were his followers that he was truly alive and has a vision for them ([Matthew 28:1 -20](#); [Mark 16:1 – 20](#); [Luke 24:1 – 53](#); [John 20:1 – 21:25](#)). So, even as we celebrate Easter, let's not let it be just a one-day occurrence, but that we allow the power to resurrect from any adverse situation to be present every day in our lives. That is how we mature as Christians and overcome the various challenges we face daily. We are grateful to God for resurrection power.

Spiritual Renewal Week

We will have our annual Spiritual Renewal Week April 12 – 14, 2021. The services will start each night at 6:00 p.m. Central. The services will only be able to be viewed online through either our Facebook Live page, our church's website or YouTube page. We will not have in-person service during the week.

Our preachers for the week will be:

- Monday, April 12 – The Reverend Reggie Bachus, Interim Pastor, Mt. Ollie Baptist Church, Brooklyn, NY
- Tuesday, April 13 – The Reverend Dr. Gina Stewart, Pastor, Christ Missionary Baptist Church, Memphis, TN.
- Wednesday, April 14 – The Reverend Dr. Kevin Cosby, Pastor, St. Stephen Baptist Church, Louisville, KY.

We will be in prayer for each of these preachers as they share with us the word of God. We pray that our hearts, minds and spirits will be open to the anointing and renewing God will give us through these services ([Psalm 51:10](#)). Please make plans now to join each night and invite others to join as well.

Kelly M. Smith Jr.
Pastor

DISCIPLESHIP MOMENT

Meet Disciple Mary Pleas

“And Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” ~Hebrews 10:25

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

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

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

At first, I felt apprehensive and anxious. I didn't know enough to consider myself a disciple; I thought it was for people who had formal training like pastors and deacons. However, when Pastor Smith started teaching on Wednesdays at noon, I started to learn a lot. I became less apprehensive and even found myself looking forward to studying the Old Testament, which used to be hard for me. I'm not afraid of the word disciple anymore because I better understand it. Now, I'm a disciple...that's neat. I don't need a degree in theology, I just have to continue growing, learning and serving others.

How have you grown as a disciple since the shift?

I have tried to model Christian behavior. Using the book of James was helpful. Now discipleship is more understandable. I've grown in all areas of my life, especially spiritually and emotionally. With the shift in trying to be a disciple, it has been impactful for me and I thank the Pastor for that.

When did you begin teaching others about God and God's Word? What do you enjoy most about teaching?

I consider myself a facilitator and participant of the Commentary Class. It used to be named the women's class and was led by Sis. Mary Wickware. We eventually changed the name in hope of getting more men to attend and we did. I haven't had any formal preparation for teaching; I just fell into it. I teach 3 Sundays a month and Bro. Boone teaches one Sunday. I love Sunday school. I like helping people make application and analyze our lives so we can do better. I need to be confronted and Sunday school does that for me. Since the pandemic, our class attendance and participation has grown. We are just so happy that

many are engaged and participating. Many participate in the discussion and it's really been great.

How would you encourage someone on their discipleship journey as it related to studying God's Word?

When you study God's word, you see the ups/downs of people in the Bible. No one is perfect. And when you study the Bible, you have to keep at it. Sunday School is a lifestyle opportunity to study. It has helped me listening to others share their experiences and their stories inspire me. We will always have problems and when we share in spaces like Sunday school, we can encourage each other to hang in there and trust God. I encourage people to attend Sunday School because you are forced to read that particular scripture in preparation for class. Doing so will afford an opportunity for some growth. I encourage others to keep trying to participate. If you get knocked down with life, get back up. Sunday school is a way to help you learn scriptures to help you get back up and try again.

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

It doesn't have to be the religious leaders doing everything. All of us should be saying we are disciples. We have the responsibility to encourage others to believe. Before we had this intentional discipleship move, I would invite people to come to church. Now, it is more intentional. I used to think it was the job of the religious leaders to do certain things but now I understand this includes me. I didn't like to pray aloud and had anxiety about it. If someone would ask me, I would do it, but I would always write it out. With this discipleship focus, I feel I am stronger and have grown enough. Now, I can just pray. I've learned some elements to include in a prayer and I can be more focused. I'm not as anxious and I pray better with less stress. I feel that I am less anxious and apprehensive overall all. I thank Pastor Smith for leading us this way.

MISSION AT YOUR DOORSTEP

"The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen just as he said." Matt 28:5-6a NIV

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

VALLEY FORGE, PA (3/19/21)—Interim General Secretary Dr. C. Jeff Woods released a statement on March 19, 2021, following the March 16, 2021 shootings in Atlanta, Ga. Read the statement below. ***This article has been edited for publication.***

The American Baptist Churches USA mourns over the tragic shooting deaths that occurred in the Atlanta area on Tuesday evening, March 16, 2021. The shooter has been charged with eight counts of murder in connection with the attacks. The fact that six of the eight victims were women of Asian descent turns mourning into outrage. Hate too easily manifests itself into violent acts.

As a denomination blessed with ethnic diversity, we have an opportunity to grow in our understanding and compassion from one another and have our actions informed by one another, countering the limitations of our human biases and blind spots. Together, we have a responsibility to help America do better and be better by doing the hard work of fighting against racism and hate in all its forms.

The Alliance of Asian American Baptist Churches, a group of American Baptist clergy and lay leaders representing Asian American Baptists in the American Baptist Churches USA, [issued a statement](#) about the growing anti-Asian violence across our nation at the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic.

American Baptists have historically walked side by side in support of Asian Americans as evidenced by our ministry to and with Asian Americans placed in internment camps during WW II, even when such acts were in contrast to the messages from our own national leaders. We still stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters and continue to lift up their voices by urging American Baptists to continue educating themselves about the impact of hate attacks and violence within Asian American families and communities and join in the paths of advocacy as identified by these communities.

When one hurts, we all hurt. "If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it," (1 Corinthians 12:26, NRSV).

*Dr. C. Jeff Woods , Interim General Secretary
American Baptist Churches USA*

First Baptist Benevolence

First Baptist Benevolence partners with the State of Tennessee for those seeking job placement opportunities. Those calling the benevolence needing employment will be directed to the State of Tennessee Dept of Labor and Workforce Development. Job opportunities will also be posted on the church website and Facebook page.

Nashville Flood of 2021

First Baptist Church will partner with Hands on Nashville to support victims of the recent flooding in Nashville.

APRIL NEWS AND EVENTS



To the Pastor, Officers and Members of First Baptist Church Capitol Hill,

The Ruth Kidd Higginbotham Family express gratitude from the depth of our hearts for the kind words, calls, cards, good deeds and gifts you sent to the family. We thank the Church for their hospitality. All your efforts consoled our heart. Ruth has gone home to be with our Savior. The Lord Giveth and The Lord Taketh. We will manage each day at a time with the help of the Lord.

The Ruth Kidd Higginbotham Family

Deacons of the Week for April 2021

Week of	Deacon	Phone#
4 th	Beverly Brown	(615) 391-3737
11 th	Martin Currie	(615) 832-9662
18 th	Ernest Dismuke	(615) 876-3522
25 th	Carol Boone	(615) 851-1527

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, CAPITOL HILL

SPIRITUAL *Renewal* WEEK

APRIL 12TH – APRIL 14TH

Monday, April 12th

The Rev. Reginald Bachus

Interim Pastor

Mt. Ollie Baptist Church
Brooklyn, NY

Tuesday, April 13th

The Rev. Dr. Gina Stewart

Pastor

Christ Missionary Baptist Church
Memphis, TN

Wednesday, April 14th

The Rev. Dr. Kevin Cosby

Pastor

St. Stephen Baptist Church
Louisville, KY

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

Things were fine for Jane Elizabeth and her growing family, until December 1857, when the whites committed regional riots and massacres of slaves and free Negroes in fear of rumors of large slave rebellions by thousands of strong male iron plantation slaves. Nashville's Vigilance Committee chaired by Belle Meade slaveholder Tennessee Militia Gen. W. G. Harding codified new "black codes" by Jan. 1857. Vigilantes located and ordered the free Negroes to close those clandestine schools. Jane's 12-year-old son, James C. Napier later (1834) recalled "a man boldly walked in" and ordered Rufus Conrad, the teacher of the more advanced classes "not teach this class one more day, and to leave town!" Cincinnati City Directory listed as Elder, Colored Christian (Disciples of Christ) Church. Nashville City Directory listed him near Colored Christian (Disciples of Christ Church (Capers Memorial CME) not far from the quasi-independent Negro Colored Baptist Mission (First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill).

After the race riots, many free black Nashvillians joined a small Black Exodus to Ohio, Canada, and other places. Most of them returned during or soon after the Civil War. Frank Parrish (d. 1867), "the Prince of barbers," as local newspapers advertised for him, continued his lucrative business at 56 Public Square, completed the payments for self-purchase of his freedom, and married wealthy free mulatto Jane Harding on June 18, 1853—she had been freed by the Harding family, who owned slave plantations on Harding Pike and at the foot of Jefferson Pike (Hadley Park—TSU area). It was not unusual that slave owners freed their mulatto children and grandchildren and sent them to live in town or up North with some financial support to relieve white wives and mothers of constantly seeing their husbands' and sons' mulatto offspring on the slave yard and amidst the nasty talk of gossiping neighbors and church members. Jane Harding Parrish soon died. Frank Parrish married a slave girl and had several children. He would become treasurer in Tennessee's first State Colored Men's Convention (Aug. 1865), which convened in nearby St. John AMEC. Frank's illiterate wife survived him, but she lost his fortune and legacy to white lawyers who purported to be probate guardians to Frank's children and descendants. The First Colored Baptist Mission's pastor Nelson G. Merry (1824-1884), his wife and children Elizabeth, John, Jimmy, Nannie, Emma, and Adelia were not bothered by the 1856-1857 rioters and vigilantes. Merry, a free man since 1845, and his congregation remained under the supervision and protection of the white First Baptist Church congregation on Summer St. (today's 5th Ave. S.). But one formerly enslaved church member recalled that "Slave patrols were waiting outside to check our passes from our masters." The liberal pastor of the First Baptist Church

in Murfreesboro notified Rev. Merry that he would not be allowed to continue his auxiliary colored mission there. Merry invested in land on Pearl Street [N. G. Merry St.], bought a family plot in the City Cemetery, signed the deed over to his wife Mary Ann (1824-1915), and built a huge Nashville congregation and brick facility on Spruce (8th) Street. Simon (Charles) Sheppard, a Negro blacksmith grabbed his child (Ella), hid out, made their way to Cincinnati, placed the child under guardians and gave them money to take care of Ella and educate her in Cincinnati's many music teachers. Sheppard's mother, a slave on Andrew Jackson defunct Hermitage (state of TN took it over in 1855) plantation had been sold into Mississippi for debts. Ella Sheppard returned at end of war as a schoolteacher; became student/pianist for the Jubilee Singers and Fisk graduate (1874); married an American Missionary Association (AMA) agent, relocated her newly found formerly enslaved sister and mother to Nashville. Ella Sheppard Moore (1851-1914) is interred in the City Cemetery on 4th Ave. S.

Meanwhile (1857), the strong, beautiful young woman Jane Elizabeth Napier and her husband William C. Napier stayed in the city. William did not wish to upset his wealthy customers and other whites; besides, he was indebted to father-in-law W. E. Watkins. But the 25-year-old Jane Elizabeth no longer could stand the deprivation of education suffered by her children; whereas the city of Nashville had used taxes (charged to black and white residents) to establish Fogg High School (1853-) for white children (only). Jane was appalled: now, as a result of the riots, the whites had forced Negroes to close their quietly run classes funded by the Negro families! This was too much to take! White children were advancing their education to the high school level, while Negro children (including Jane's children, who looked "as white as any white man") were kept a generation behind for the next 162-plus years.

Local Negro children (including a few enslaved children) had attended clandestine classes (1833- 1837) in the back of free Negro Alphonso M. Sumner's barbershop near 4th and Charlotte until whites accused "the erudite" Alphonso of writing letters to fugitive slaves up North. He could have written letters for the quasi-free enslaved woman proprietor of a laundry-boarding house on Timothy (Timonthe) Demonbreun St. Sally Thomas (d. 1850), whose son Henry K. Thomas (a barber) had escaped to Buffalo (NY) across from Canada. Belle Meade plantation owner William Giles Harding had foolishly stopped by Henry's Buffalo (NY) barbershop to inquire of any hints about slaves escaped from Belle Meade. Harding was rebuked. He arrived back in Nashville and told Sally's son, the barber James P. Thomas (1827-1913) that Henry had insulted him. Sally and James said nothing to Harding. Sally sent James and her visiting grandchildren to those clandestine classes. Sally's eldest son John Thomas Rapier's son James T. Rapier (1837-1883) would become one Alabama's US Congressmen (1873-1875).

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

APRIL

- 1 Valerie Smith Molette
- 2 Ronald Collier
- 4 Erica Collier
Tavon McKnight
- 5 Paul E. Robertson, Esq.
- 6 Kristopher Currie
- 7 Elizabeth Backus
- 8 Gwendolyn H. Vincent
- 10 Robert Boone, Jr. Esq.
Isiah Daughtdrill
- 12 Kevin Carter
Myah Lipscomb
- 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

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 Shyess
- 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

April 2021 Readings and Sunday School Lessons

<u>DAY</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>
The Suffering Servant Brings Salvation		
Thursday, April 1 st	“Jesus-Raised from Death”	Luke 24:1-12
Friday, April 2 nd	“The Risen Christ Appears to Disciples”	Luke 24:13-27
Saturday, April 3 rd	“Christ Revealed in Breaking of Bread”	Luke 24:28-35
Sunday, April 4 th	“Christ Suffered and Interceded for Sinners”	Isaiah 53:4-11
Adult: Finding Hope in the Midst	Youth: Our Help Has Come	Children: Their Eyes Were Opened
Ezra Faith-and-Action Preacher		
Monday, April 5 th	“A Light to Jews and Gentiles”	Acts 26:19-23
Tuesday, April 6 th	“Live the New Life in Christ”	Ephesians 4:17-24
Wednesday, April 7 th	“Keep Land Faithful to Godly Practices”	Leviticus 18:24-30
Thursday, April 8 th	“Ignoring God’s Laws Leads to Judgement”	Zachariah 7:8-14
Friday, April 9 th	“People Are Anxious to Hear the Law”	Nehemiah 7:73b-8:6
Saturday, April 10 th	“People Respond Actively to the Law”	Nehemiah 8:9-12
Sunday, April 11 th	“Committed to a life of Obedience”	Ezra 10:1-12
Adult: Confession and Correction	Youth: Faith Leads to Action	Children: Obey and Rejoice
Nemiah: The Captive Cupbearer Rebuilds a Nation		
Monday, April 12 th	“Daniel Intercedes for Jerusalem”	Daniel 9:4-6, 15-19
Tuesday, April 13 th	“Nehemiah Orders Temple Cleansing and Restoration”	Nehemiah 13:4-9
Wednesday, April 14 th	“Nehemiah Restores Ministries of Levites, Singers”	Nehemiah 13:10-14
Thursday, April 15 th	“Nehemiah Reforms Sabbath Observances and Practices”	Nehemiah 13:15-22
Friday, April 16 th	Nehemiah Sets Standards for Jewish Marriages”	Nehemiah 13:23-27
Saturday, April 17 th	“Nehemiah Is Sent to Rebuild Jerusalem”	Nehemiah 2:1-10
Sunday, April 18 th	“Nehemiah Inspires the People to Rebuild”	Nehemiah 2:11-20
Adult: Initiating Renewal	Youth: A Plan for Restoration	Children: Rebuilding the Wall
A Plea for Restoration		
Monday, April 19 th	“Praise for God’s Wonderful Works”	Psalm 111
Tuesday, April 20 th	“God’s Blessings Are Intended for All”	Zachariah 8:18-23
Wednesday, April 21 st	“The Lord, Our Sovereign”	Psalm 102:12-22
Thursday, April 22 nd	“A Plea for Mercy for Jerusalem”	Psalm 79
Friday, April 23 rd	“Mourn the Destruction of Zion”	Jeremiah 9:17-22
Saturday, April 24 th	“God’s Mercy and Love Never End”	Lamentations 3:22-33
Sunday, April 25 th	“Remember and Restore Us”	Lamentations 5:1-22
Adult: Overcoming Losses and Brokenness	Youth: Overcoming Bad Situations	Children: Begging For Help
Micah: Speaking Truth To Power		
Monday, April 26 th	“Elisha Prophesies Truth to King Jehoshaphat”	2 Kings 3:9-17
Tuesday, April 27 th	“Kings Propose Battle against Aram”	1 Kings 22:1-6
Wednesday, April 28 th	“Micaiah Resist Pressure to Prophecy Falsely”	1 Kings 22:7-14
Thursday, April 29 th	“A Lying Spirit Brings Disaster”	2 Chronicles 18:18-22
Friday, April 30 th	“King Ahab Suffers Fatal Injury”	1 Kings 22:29-40

MINISTRY OF STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT

Sermon Digests

February 21
"The Blessing of the Black Church"
Pastor Kelly M. Smith, Jr.
Matthew 16:13-20
Submitted by: Kathy Harrell

We should not underestimate the importance of the Black church which has been, and still is, the strength of the black community. The "Black" church is not meant to be exclusive; it is meant to be *inclusive* of all. This is the backbone of the Christian faith.

While in Caesarea Philippi with his disciples, Jesus saw a cult temple that was built for worshipping foreign gods. Did people compare Jesus to these gods? Who did people say Jesus was? Did the disciples agree with others messages about Jesus?

How does this passage of scripture relate to the blessing of the Black church?

Point 1- It is a blessing because it found her voice.

Jesus also asked his disciples "Who do *you* say I am"? Peter answered for all the disciples: "You are the Christ, the son of the living God". This was a confession of faith and not just a report. Peter found his voice and spoke his truth. He did not buy into the messages that others were saying about Jesus. Our enslaved ancestors heard few (if any) messages of liberation and hope, yet they eventually realized there was a deeper message in the words of Jesus. They embraced the Christian faith and developed their own voice. How important it is for us to find our voice.

Point 2- It is a blessing because it became the foundation for building community. Church or 'ecclesia' is a gathering, or a fellowship, or those who are called out for the world. The church is the new community called out from the larger community to make a special response to the will of God. We must not limit our understanding of the church. So much of who we are is centered in the church. Musicians, businesses, actors, and others got their start in the church. Many movements for justice started in the church because this was work to be done by God. The church is the foundation built by Christ.

Point 3- It is a blessing because it gives space for us to get it right and get it wrong. Jesus praised Peter and also reprimanded him ('get thee behind me Satan'). This is much like our beloved church. It does a lot of good! Yet, it is not a perfect place and it is not made up of perfect people. Some are flawed and things happen in the church that are not consistent with the will of God. But, because not even the Gates of Hades will prevail against God's church, there is always the space for those who get it wrong, to still get it right!

February 28
"The Importance of Doing Good"
Pastor Kelly M. Smith, Jr.
Galatians 6:10
Submitted by: Beverly M. Brown

Context:

'As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith'. A conscious good choice decision encounter can balance a bad decision. Decisions and encounters ought to be about doing good and to help to build community and the church with the guidance from past experiences and the Holy Spirit. Therefore, do good to and for all; be a good follower of God/Christ Jesus. Those present were encouraged to work hard to create balance from evil and to never allow evil to have the upper hand.

Point 1-It is the core to our Christian faith. Go around doing good, not just a good Baptist preacher, deacon, and bible carrying individual. Adopt a disposition to do good, be kind, and help others as Christ did and is still doing. Explore ways to do good. We must agree with Christian behaviors toward others such as respect and make the right choice(s). Sometimes having core values for others is tough. The people of God/Christ Jesus are not to be nasty, discourteous, nor to be and do bad in life and living. God/Christ Jesus wants humankind to be transformed and not just compromise. Those online were urged to allow the Holy Spirit to direct ones' path and actions to be different.

Point 2- To do good for all people. This is the time to do good and to not put it off. No matter the date, moments of protectiveness are always in order. Freedom for us could mean knelling to and for the plight of people rather than causing or creating disharmony. Stand for what you believe and need based upon the right encounter to create balance. A comparison of Kairos versus chrono time was discussed.

Point 3-It can make a difference in the life of another. As you find an opportunity, do good to all, especially people of faith. No one has it together all the time. One must be willing to do something for someone else which could save someone's life. Do good to help others because you never know how your positive action can impact someone's life. Making a sacrifice for someone else was demonstrated by God's sacrifice of His Son Jesus Christ to save all the people of the world.

God/Christ Jesus works with His Children through all of their mess; even, when it is our fault.

March
7

“She Did It”
Pastor Kelly M. Smith, Jr.
Luke 8:42b-48

Submitted by: Deborah Luter

This is Women’s History Month. There should be great admiration for this woman in our story. She had been sick for 12 years. She spent all of her money going to doctors and yet no one could heal her.

We don’t know how she heard about Jesus. Maybe she heard how He has the power to heal by the stories circulating. Maybe she was touching the hem of his garment because she used her last bit of energy just to lunge for Jesus. And she did it.

Point 1-She broke boundaries

If this story were not in the Bible there would be those who would have serious problems with it. We look at this story differently because we know how it ends. But look at what boundaries she had to cross: physical, spiritual, emotional and social. If you read verse 19 of this chapter in conjunction with this story, you will see she was able to do what Jesus’ mother and brothers were not able to do. But there was no boundary that would prevent her from having a chance to get to Jesus.

Point 2-She kept herself as a priority

When we look at this woman’s situation, we can see that she was secondary or worse on so many levels.

- She is nameless
- She is sick and poor
- She is not recognized by others
- Her story is embedded in another story. Even as the Bible tells her story, it does it not start the verse with her story. But she kept herself as a priority. She realized that she would be no good to herself nor to anyone else if she did not take care of herself.

Point 3-She grew into her faith

She thought that if she could only touch the hem of his garment, that would heal her. But when Jesus felt the power leave him, he stopped to ask who touched him. It was not the touch of the garment that healed her, but her faith. And if Jesus had not stopped to tell her as well as the crowd, and as well as us, then she would have had a misguided notion that those sort of things made the difference. This past year has been a faith growing experience for many people. She was dealing with this for 12 years. But she did not give up. She did it.!

March
14

“She Gave It”
Pastor Kelly M. Smith, Jr.
Mark 12:41-44

Submitted by: Adrienne Fancher

The concept of giving is integral to the Church, but there are challenges to giving. Jesus points out how this widow gave out of her poverty. This giving had consequence for her, unlike the wealthy who give without sacrifice. She gave just 2 coins, but this story is about more than the amount. She gave everything she had to live on to be able to give something. After she gave all she had, her situation was unchanged. In that time, Society was structured to impoverish widows. She gave in spite of her situation.

What can we learn from her giving for our context?

Point 1. She gave in spite of the contrasts.

Jesus and the disciples could hear the large and small donations dropping into the temple treasury. Contrasts distinguish among competitors. Romans 12:2 notes that Christians don’t function by Society’s measures. There are no distinctions among Christians: we are all on level ground at the foot of the cross. Matthew 6:1-4 advises discretion and authenticity in giving: don’t practice righteousness for show. Give to the needy without fanfare because God sees what is done in secret and rewards accordingly.

Point 2. She gave in spite of the irony.

Temple donations were received in the Court of the Women for anyone to give because women were not allowed in the Court of Israel [the temple proper]. The temple leadership allowed women to give money, but not to participate fully in worship – *what irony!* Today, we have churches with women forming the majority and backbone of the life of the church, but cannot be in leadership.

Point 3. She gave in spite of the sacrifice.

It ought to be troubling to us that the widow was in her predicament, that society was not taking care of her, and that she had to give everything. We honor her sacrifice. FBCCH does not expect anyone to give everything: we expect to help. Give service. Sincere Giving is sacrificial.

The widow gave because she felt it was the right thing to do. The System did not deserve her sacrifice, and we don’t deserve Jesus’ sacrifice for us! Sometimes we make sacrifices to serve those who don’t deserve them. Some people give because it is in their nature to give. We are

First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill

625 Rosa L. Parks Boulevard at Nelson Merry Street | Nashville, TN 37203

www.firstbaptistcapitolhill.org

Kelly M. Smith Jr., Pastor

Our Mission

First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill is Building, Restoring, and Revitalizing lives through Jesus Christ.

Our Vision

Love God, Make Disciples, Serve Community

Looking for a Church Home?

If you are looking for a church home, we encourage you to come and visit us! There are several ways to become a member of FBCCH.

Baptism - when a person is willing to initially express a belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and is willing to live one's life according to His will. Baptism is the symbolic initiation into the Christian faith.

Christian Experience - when a person who has previously been a member of another church chooses to unite with FBCCH, believing this to be the place for one's spiritual nurturing. These people have already been baptized and have committed a faith relationship with Jesus Christ.

Watchcare - when a person wishes to have his or her membership with FBCCH while he or she is temporarily living in the city.

Associate - when a person who has a membership in another church wishes to have a membership in FBCCH.

Restoration - when a former member chooses to rejoin FBCCH.

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Scheduling Access to Church Buildings

To all groups needing entry and use of the church, sanctuary, and Ennix-Jones Center during the week, please call the church office at 615-255-8757 in advance of your event. This is to ensure personnel are available to allow entry and to have a record for security purposes. Your cooperation is highly appreciated.

Please send all electronic correspondence to: fbch13@gmail.com.