



The Torch

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, CAPITOL HILL
2022 – AUGUST VOLUME 65 NUMBER 10

PASTOR'S PEN

I appreciate each of you who is very understanding of a pastor's need to take solid breaks from the work we do each week ([Matthew 11:28](#)). The month of August is when I take mine. The preaching schedule for the month is as follows:



August 7

Minister Chris Harris,
past intern at FBCCH,
PhD student, Memphis
Theological Seminary



August 14th

Reverend Brandon L.
Wooley, student at the
Vanderbilt Divinity
School.

August 21

Minister Janiece
Williams, Minister of
Digital Witness and
Connection, past intern at
FBCCH, PhD student,
Vanderbilt Divinity
School.



August 28

Dr. James Johnson,
Senior Associate
Minister, St. Paul
Baptist Church,
Memphis, TN



Our prayers are which each of these preachers as they prepare and deliver the Word of God for us.

Kelly M. Smith Jr., Pastor

DISCIPLESHIP MOMENT

A Reminder to Bless God

“I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth.” ~ *Psalm 34:1*

Re-post from August 2017 as submitted by *Rev. Joe Ella Darby, Assistant to the Pastor for Discipleship*

A few weeks ago, I had the joy of leading a Bible study with women in transition with homelessness. As we went through our study of Psalm 34, I realized that it was indeed a gift to share in that moment with these women. For days to follow, I kept thinking about that psalm through their eyes and experience being dislocated. They did not shy away from their real-life challenges, yet they entered in and engaged the text and its meaning for their lives.

We studied the passages by focusing on the verbs and the action of the psalm. We began to wrestle with what it means to “bless” God at all times and the importance to doing so in community. Within the first three verses, the psalmist exclaims, “I will bless the Lord” and “my soul shall make its boast in the Lord”, followed by a call for others to join him by “magnifying” and “exalting” God’s name together.

Next, we considered how the psalmist encourages us to seek God, look to God, call, and cry out to God, taste and see God, trust in God, keep our tongue and depart from evil, as well as seek and pursue peace. These are all actions we can take no matter our situations. One lady shared how she’s trusting God to get her children back, another is crying out to God to deliver her from certain addictions, and yet another one is learning how to pursue and be at peace with how God has been transforming her life since she first arrived at the shelter.

After looking at the action of the psalmist, we took comfort in the God who listens, hears, saves, delivers, protects, redeems, teaches, guards, has his eyes on us, is always near, and does not condemn. Wow! As we shared how we were actually living this passage, God revealed God’s self and there were countless reasons to bless God for who God IS, regardless of what is going on in our lives.

These women taught me a lot about faith and trust. Although I may not share the same experiences of these women, I have had my fair share of challenges that almost knocked the wind out of me. What was refreshing about our time was the focus on *who God IS* and why we need to *bless God at all times*. The psalmist was declaring that he “will bless” God. This was almost like an affirmation of God being worthy of being blessed. The psalmist was stating that he would not withhold from God praise that was due to God. I was glad I was able to share in that experience with them, learning from them, as we tasted God’s goodness together in community.

When was the last time you were intentional in blessing God, especially when you did not feel like it or could not see a reason because of life’s challenges? Take a moment and read [Psalm 34](#). Pay attention to the verbs and action of the text. Ask what verbs stand out to you and consider why that particular verb stands out. Ponder it. Make a list of the reasons you can bless God. Consider God’s character expressed in your life and around you.

Next, write down an action of God to remind you of God’s goodness and faithfulness towards you. Breathe in God’s peace and release to God all that worries or concerns you. Take comfort in God’s presence in and around you. Thank God for being near. And remember, as I used to hear my campus minister say, “when you can’t see God’s hands, always trust God’s character.” Trust God’s unseen work!

If you do not currently journal, consider doing so. You can have a gratitude journal or a prayer journal to record faithfulness. Journaling is helpful when you can’t see God’s hand; you can always read your own record of God’s goodness and faithfulness towards you.

MISSION AT YOUR DOORSTEP

Secure In Christ

“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” ~ Romans 8:38-39

Article submitted by Dr. Arrol N. Martin, Assistant to the Pastor

The apostle Paul writes these words at the close of chapter eight of his letter to the church at Rome. Paul, as an apostle of Jesus, represents a distinct dichotomy in the culture of the time, also being a Roman citizen. No citizens were looked down upon in society by the conquering Roman hierarchy. Thus, Paul holds dual citizenship as a Jewish Roman, which of itself seems to be an oxymoron, and a citizen of Israel. He boast of being a Pharisee from the tribe of Benjamin. However, he is also a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven, through our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ.

Many of our Bibles title the section in which our key verses are found “More Than Conquerors.” This section of chapter 8 reminds us that we have been called by God according to His purpose. Because we have been called by God, we have been justified and glorified by God. Justified equates to our position in Christ as being seen by God as having never sinned. “While we were yet sinners Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8 Glorification, is the act of mirroring the actions of God in loving unconditionally or as Paul says, putting on the new man/self. “And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.” Ephesians 4:24

This new man or new creation, Galatians 6:15, is guaranteed that nothing can ever separate us from the love of God. Nothing in this world as we go through the trials of life or even in death can tear asunder the love we have in Jesus Christ. Nothing in the physical world or the spiritual world can separate us from the presence of God. God is with us. God is with us in the present and God will be with us in the future. There are no powers on earth or in the heavens above that can have an effect on our relationship with God. Nothing in the earth or under the earth, in space or in the deepest ocean, can rip us away from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus.

The song writer said it this way: *“When He shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in Him be found. Dressed in His righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne. On Christ the solid Rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.”*

Deacons of the Week for August 2022

Week of	Deacon	Phone#
7 th	Sunny Owunnuh	615.708.1893
14 th	Pamela Wood	615.259.0623
21 st	Carol Boone	615.851.1527
28 th	Derek Howard	615.318.6469

~THANK YOU~

Prayers are a vital part of our Christian lives, so when you were willing to pray on my behalf, it moved me deeply. Thank you for keeping me in your thoughts, hearts, and prayers during my time of illness. Your cards and gifts lifted my spirits. The kindness that you’ve shown was such a blessing and I know it came straight from our Lord’s hands. Thank you for being willing to be God’s instruments of blessings in my life! May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

In Christian Love,
Vernell Neely

Prayer Request/Sick & Shut-in List

Deacon Richard Dinkins
Sis. Jan Jones Carter
Major Alicia R. Bodie

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. Vernell Neely
1955 Nashboro Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37217

Sis. Maggie Roper
Riverview Health and Rehab
1600 West Claiborne Ave.
Greenwood, MS 38930

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

B I R T H D A Y S

AUGUST

1 Dorothy Jarrett
2 Geraldean Johnson
Carl E. Jones Jr.
Zuri Walker
3 Ilene White
4 Helen Anderson
Robin Battle
Ivan Davis Sr.
Delores Grimes
Catherine Lovett
Grayson Woods
5 Augustus Bankhead
6 Paiton Williams
Paris Williams
7 David Jones Jr.
8 Gwendolyn Harris
9 Mary O. Pleas
10 Shirley Bass
11 Joey Faught
12 Danielle Anderson
15 Sharon Gentry
Brian Jones
Paul Luter
Elisha Richardson
16 Pamela Wood
17 Doris Freeman Hull
Deborah Howse
18 Whitley Campbell
21 Sylvia Burton
22 Christopher B. Easley
Shanell McGoy
Randall Washington
24 Monica B. Carter
25 Terrance Hurd
27 Jane Fort
Barbara Mines-Baxter
30 Richard Dinkins

SEPTEMBER

1 Cheryl Johnson
2 Elijah Daughtdrill
4 Jill Jones
6 Kazii Johnson
Ronald McFarland Jr.
Michelle McGriff
8 Clarence Christian Jr.
Henry Foster
9 Katelyn Johnson
10 Dion A. Treece
Gloria Whitley
12 Jonathan Richardson
13 Allen Johnson
15 Joe Ella Darby
16 Christopher Johnson
Donna Rice
17 Naomi Griffin
Treva Wade
18 Kynadi Greene
19 Beverly Brown
22 Kimberly Covington
23 Warren Robertson
25 Florence Kidd
Carmelita Perry
28 Carlotta Boone
29 Ivanetta Samuels

OCTOBER

1 Rose Busby
Zelma Ewing
Mercedes Faulcon
Mia Washington
2 Sondra Dade
3 Imani Chatman
4 Carmen Howse
Aisha Westbrook
5 Ganeisha Rowe
Tonya Stice
Celeste Williams
7 Mackenzie Wood
Michelle McGriff
13 Florence Crawford
15 Nicole Alexander
Joshua Ivory
Chandra Pleas
17 Sheila Anderson
Sean-Michael Coleman
Vernell Neely
18 Gabriel Faulcon
Brian Wood
19 Beverly Brown
22 Darryl Doughty
Ariana Washington
23 Jeremiah Kirk
24 Armani Beasley
Armari Beasley
25 Ty'Ki Beasley
Ty'Kia Beasley
27 Una Fenderson
Rosa Mimms
28 Ebony Robinson
29 Henry Caudle Sr.
Felecia Johnson
Vincent Johnson
30 Martin Currie
31 Kyra Hayes

Christian Education

August 2022 Readings and Sunday School Lessons

<u>DAY</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>
The Word Gives Peace		
Sunday, July 31 st	“Peace to the Disciples”	John 14:15-29
Adult: Present Forever	Youth: Incredible Peace	Children: Peace!
A New Home		
Monday, August 1 st	“The Lord, Our Dwelling Place”	Psalms 90:1-12
Tuesday, August 2 nd	“To Love God, Is to Know God”	1 John 2:12-17
Wednesday, August 3 rd	“Faith Is the Victory”	1 John 5:1-5
Thursday, August 4 th	“God Will Do a New Thing”	Isaiah 43:14-21
Friday, August 5 th	“Come, You Who Thirst”	Isaiah 55:1-5
Saturday, August 6 th	“More Than Conquerors”	Romans 8:31-39
Sunday, August 7 th	“God Will Dwell with His People”	Revelation 21:1-9
Adult: No More Tears	Youth: No More Tears	Children: Healing!
A New City		
Monday, August 8 th	“You Shall Be Comforted in Jerusalem”	Isaiah 66:6-14
Tuesday, August 9 th	“God’s Glory Is Revealed in Jerusalem”	Isaiah 66:18-22
Wednesday, August 10 th	“City of the Living God”	Hebrews 12:18-29
Thursday, August 11 th	“Jerusalem, Joy of All the Earth”	Psalms 48
Friday, August 12 th	“The Faithful City, the Holy Mountain”	Zachariah 8:1-8
Saturday, August 13 th	“God, Who Dwells in Unapproachable Light”	1 Timothy 6:11-16
Sunday, August 14 th	“The Holy City”	Revelation 21:10-21
Adult: No Place Like It	Youth: Living in a New Place	Children: A New Place
The River of Life		
Monday, August 15 th	“My Soul Thirsts for You”	Psalms 63
Tuesday, August 16 th	“Living Waters Shall Flow from Jerusalem”	Zachariah 14:6-11
Wednesday, August 17 th	“Jesus Promises Living Water”	John 4:4-14
Thursday, August 18 th	“Worship God in Spirit and Truth”	John 4:15-26
Friday, August 19 th	“Rivers of Living Water”	John 7:37-40
Saturday, August 20 th	“Water on the Thirsty Land”	Isaiah 44:1-8
Sunday, August 21 st	“For the Healing of the Nations”	Revelation 22:1-9
Adult: No Better Refreshment	Youth: Life and Refreshment	Children: A Special River
Come and Enjoy		
Monday, August 22 nd	“Invited to the Heavenly Banquet”	Luke 14:16-24
Tuesday, August 23 rd	“Preparing for God to Appear”	Exodus 19:9-15
Wednesday, August 24 th	“The Alpha and Omega”	Revelation 1:3-8
Thursday, August 25 th	“The Ending Is Declared from the Beginning”	Isaiah 46:8-13
Friday, August 26 th	“God Is Your Husband”	Isaiah 54:1-5
Saturday, August 27 th	“God’s Steadfast Love Never Ceases”	Lamentations 3:21-31
Sunday, August 28 th	“Come, Lord Jesus”	Revelation 22:10-21
Adult: No Substitute	Youth: A Special Invitation	Children: A Special Invitation

~THANK YOU~

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my Church Family for the telephone calls, cards, prayers and other thoughtful actions share with my family and me during the loss of my sister. It was greatly appreciated. May God bless each of you!

Love Carmelita Perry & Family

IT MEANS SO MUCH

The family of the late Rosa Harvey Gayles would like to express our sincere thank you for the expression of love during our loss. We will, for always, be grateful.

God Bless!

The Woodruffs

MINISTRY OF STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT

Sermon Digests

June
26

“God Calls”

1st in sermon series **The God Factor**

[‘2 Timothy 1:6-10’](#)

Pastor Kelly M. Smith Jr.

Submitted by: Beverly M. Brown

Pastor Smith expressed in depth the teaching of today’s scriptural text and how it affected God’s Call to him 48 years ago. He reflected on his lack of success on his life initially, he did achieve and accepted God’s call on his life at a different university. He reminded us that God/Christ Jesus has a call for each person’s life. Seek His guidance with sincerity for your calling; just like Paul, even when in prison; he was willing to die to fulfill the call for his life which to teach, preach, and to let others know about God/Christ Jesus. Sometimes accepting God’s call can mean being inconvenienced but He knows how to stop humankind in their tracks to get persons to accept one’s call

Point 1- God’s Calls Us Through God’s Gifting. It is important to nurture one’s gift, just as one would have to cultivate a garden to acquire the maximum or best results/outcomes. Moreover, gifts have no value until they are cultivated and activated with appropriate actions.

Point 2- God Call Us Through God’s Purposing. God has a purpose for each individual and there is no randomness as to why each person is here on earth. God’s purpose for each person has to be sought to determine His intended purpose for one’s life. God’s purpose can be frightening or scary; but, He will be there, no matter the circumstances. Several examples were cited; but, it is essential that God’s expectations are clarified and one’s conduct is supportive of the guidance He provides.

Point 3- God Calls Us Through God’s Gracing. God has graced humankind with certain blessings in life which cannot be earned or deserved, because, no earthly person is perfect. God loves and blesses His people with all of their imperfections. However, behaviors of wrong-doing are to be avoided and the excuses for wrongdoing. In spite of deficits in human beings, He still blesses us, and He is to receive the glory for all blessings and successes one might experience in life and living. Finally, successes and blessings received in life are not because of one’s education, business ventures, or organizational affiliations, etc. Instead, it is solely based upon God/Christ Jesus grace.

Amen, Amen, & Amen.

July
3

“God Sees”

2nd in sermon series: **The God Factor**

[‘Genesis 16:13’](#)

Pastor Kelly M. Smith Jr.

Submitted by: Deborah Luter

July the 4th is the day our nation observes Independence Day. But we live in a country that only has a pledge, but little substance, of “freedom and liberty for all”.

The 16th chapter of Genesis is a painful chapter for many of us to read and understand. It is the story of abuse, exploitation, dehumanization, abandonment, and betrayal. ‘Sowubona’ is a word from the Zulu language in South Africa. It is used as a greeting. But the word literally means, “I see you”. It is important for people to be seen. To be seen means that you know I am here.

Point 1-God sees our pain.

Think about all that Hagar had gone through that caused her to flee. She was leaving the only system that could provide for her. Yet, the pain was so intense that she felt that she had no other alternative. And as Hagar was fleeing, the angel found and gave her comfort.

Point 2-God sees our answer.

Hagar had a problem but had no viable answers. Often people have advice as to how you need to handle your situation. But there is no cookie cutter answer that fits every situation.

Just as Hagar found out not every situation will you come through “smelling like a rose”. Sometimes the options are not always be good options, but they may be the only ones that you have.

Point 3-God sees our future.

Even as God sends Hagar back, he sends her back with a promise that her seed will be a great nation. She will give birth to a son who will be a wild donkey of a man. Now, because the Jews were writing this story they see this as the beginning of the conflicts between the Jews and the Muslims have had over centuries. But what we should be reading in here is that she will give birth to a son (Ishmael) who will be free to be himself. He will not be owned by anyone, and controlled by them. Hagar came to realize that she may have to suffer longer as an enslaved woman, but this will be so that her son will be free later.

July
10

“Come and Talk to Me”

Rev. Joe Ella Darby

[‘John 11:28-35’ NKJV](#)

Submitted by: Adrienne Fancher

News of recent shootings – including our brother, Miles Slay – has been upsetting and emotionally overwhelming. It can make us angry at the world’s brokenness and question God’s control.

In [John 11:20](#), Martha went out to meet Jesus, and Mary waited in the house. Mary was not at her usual place at Jesus’ feet. Perhaps Mary was angry and not ready to face Jesus. Sometimes we avoid facing God because it can be too painful. Martha tells Mary that The Teacher has come and is calling for her. Mary trusts Jesus’ “Open-Door Policy” by which Jesus invites authenticity.

Express your emotions! Be honest with yourself and authentic with Jesus! Jesus can handle our emotions. Our darkest moments reveal what we believe to be true about God. Sometimes we feel that Jesus can remedy situations if He shows up “on time.”

Jesus’ responses to Mary and Martha were different although they said the same thing. Jesus groaned because Jesus took up Mary’s pain. Jesus holds our emotions.

God does not need to be protected! God does not need us to tiptoe around or hide our emotions. Christian maturity is emotional transparency with God. Keep talking with Jesus: Peace will come, a path to Comfort will come.

There has been a lot of debate about why Jesus wept in verse 35. Jesus wept because He understood the assignment. Jesus knows that Life is supposed to be better. Jesus weeps with us: in our distress, in our overwhelming, in our confusion. Cling to the truth that Jesus has triumphed over sickness and death and the brokenness of the world.

When Life is hard, trust the Open-Door policy. Don’t stop asking Jesus to come make things right.

- 1. Jesus invites authenticity.**
- 2. Jesus can handle all of our emotions.**
- 3. Jesus weeps with us when we weep.**

Trust that God will do God’s part to execute justice. We must do our part and continue to pray for Christ’s return to make all things right.

July
17

“God Hears”

3rd in sermon series: **The God Factor**

[‘Psalm 66:16-20’](#)

Pastor Kelly M. Smith Jr.

Submitted by: Kathy Harrell

Take a moment and thank God that God Hears!

When we struggle to hear what is going on just in our own world, we cannot imagine how God can hear all that is going on. And we feel that with all of the other things going on, that God may feel God has bigger things to worry about, so we sometimes make excuses for God as to why He didn’t “answer our prayer.” We cannot be tricked by our own irrational thinking. *God Hears* all things, at all times.

Point 1 – God hears our petition.

This is a nice, Biblical way of saying that God hears our prayers. But when we don’t get the things that we want does not mean the faithfulness of God has changed. It should just mature our faith in God! It should help us to trust that God knows what is best for us at any given time. Even Jesus didn’t get a prayer answered.

Point 2-God hears our penitence.

‘Psalm 66:18 – If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened...’ We need penitence because it speaks to recognizing the mistakes we have made and the regret in what we did or did not do. We don’t like to admit that we did wrong, but God desires to hear our sincere confession.

Point 3-God hears our passion. God hears what is really in our hearts. Sometimes, we don’t think we have the ‘right’ words to say in our prayers. But we must remember that it is not the grammar or the eloquence of our prayers that God hears; rather, God hears the passion and intent that flows from our heart.

Point 4-God hears our praise.

Our praise should not come because we are trying to barter with God to get something from Him. We should praise God because He alone is worthy of our praise. Even when we don’t want anything, our praise to God reminds us of just how great God is. Praise is our testimony to help others see the goodness of the Lord, no matter what our circumstances are. Blessings come down; therefore, praises go up!

People may know the psalmists. But, what is important is that people know the Shepherd!

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.