



The Torch

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, CAPITOL HILL
2022 – MAY VOLUME 64 NUMBER 7

PASTOR'S PEN

Recently I had to renew the tag on my car. I was a little surprised that on the tag there is the phrase, “IN GOD WE TRUST”. In doing my research I noticed that it had been optional on tags since 2017. It was not on my old tag, so it caught my attention on the new one.

For sure the phrase is biblical. [Proverbs 3:5 – 6](#), [Psalm 28:7](#) and [Nahum 1:7](#) are only a few of many passages that speak of trusting in God. We teach it, we sing it and we believe it.

There is an interesting history for the phrase “in God we trust” which dates back to the Civil War. The Union side of the war what to have a phrase that would “balance” one used by the Confederate army and to boost morale. And there is an interesting correlation of it to me! The United States Congress voted on July 11, 1955 (literally and exactly when I came in) that it would be placed on all paper currency in the USA (big money, big money).

Those who have been around me any length of time and have listened to my teachings know that I am often curious when I hear catchy religious slogans and phrases. It is not that I don't believe in what they mean on face value. It is just that they are too often used in ways and times that don't really give testimony of people's faith and spirituality. There are a variety of them (First giving honor to God, who is the head of my life; blessed and highly favored; saved, sanctified and filled with the Holy Ghost; it ain't nothing but the devil, to name a few). Many times people use them because they have heard others use them and they thought it was a nice “churchy” phrase. Others feel as if it is some sort of “force field” that will allow or not allow some things to happen in their lives.

I am not saying I am against the phrases. I am just against the phrases when they are used in disingenuous ways. Which brings me back to the state of Tennessee. The phrase, “IN GOD WE TRUST” means to me that as I make decisions in life and live my life, I am going to trust God to guide and influence me. It means that I am going to work hard and diligently to embody the spirit of God. That means I am going to love people, even those of whom I find it difficult to love. I am going to fight for the justice of those who are victims of governments and systems. I am going to work for the causes of the discriminated, the neglected and the oppressed. This is part of how I view God. This is why I trust in God.

So when I see the slogan on the tags it reminds me that I live in a state thrives on contradiction. They want to make it criminal to be experiencing homelessness or to protest against discrimination. They want to ban, silence, and ignore the history of those who have been abused, mistreated and exploited here in this country. They want to deny healthcare and other benefits to those who cannot otherwise afford it. I cannot imagine someone who trusts in God would be comfortable doing these sort of things. Persons who trust in God are reminded that God stands on the side of the poor and the oppressed. God stands with those who seek justice. To trust in God is to understand that you are willing to stand in those places as well.

Kelly M. Smith Jr
Pastor

DISCIPLESHIP MOMENT

Live Between Your Dashes

*“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:
²A time to be born, and a time to die...” ~Ecclesiastes 3:1-2a*

Article submitted by Rev. Joe Ella Darby, *Assistant to the Pastor for Discipleship*

As some of you know, I work as a PRN (part time as needed) Hospice chaplain. Part of my role as a chaplain includes completing initial spiritual, not religious, assessments. This is done so I will know how to provide spiritual care and support to patients and their families. A few weeks ago, I had a very usual week that allowed for much reflection. That week, I had 6 new admits in addition to 1 death, 3 transitioning patients, 2 actively dying patients and about 15 monthly routine follow-up visits and calls. Yesterday, while on-call, I had 1 actively dying and 2 deaths; I didn't get home until after midnight. At times it can be a lot, but I love doing life reviews with patients and holding space for families to grieve and mourn. Whether it's expected or a rapid decline, an acceptance of life's limitations or a struggle, I always affirm its hard...because it is!

What continues to amaze me is that so many have had very successful careers but at the end of life (EOL) that's not what's important. I don't hear stories of their accomplishments and wealth. I hear stories of having the love/support of family and friends and having experienced true love and intimacy with a significant other. I hear stories and questions regarding their connection, or lack of connection, with God. I hear of shared experiences, through travel and hobbies, that brought joy, and I hear testimonies of being at peace with how they lived. I was moved by one woman who shared she got children from her first husband and the love of her life from her second. She rejoiced that she was able to have a true love and spend 20 years together before he passed almost 10 years ago. She said she dreamt he was standing at the door, waiting, and bidding her to join him. I am privileged to hear many similar stories, but I also hear stories of regret and broken relationships. Regardless of faith tradition, many patients die in peace and others die anxiously wondering if they will be forgiven for their choices.

I share all of this to say, invest well in what will matter to you at EOL. Yes, be a good steward and manage your finances so you can enjoy life, provide for your family, afford quality EOL care for yourself and/or ensure your family has provision. But don't get so busy "building a life full of things" or "working hard to retire so you can live" that you miss showing up to your life and actually "living". Many of the patients I met didn't/won't make it to retirement age and a few just retired with hopes of rest and travel. A few were very seasoned but not in their right minds. And then a few were in their 90s with minds sharper than mine. Each of us have been given a gift called life. We don't know the time or day when our number is called, we just know that's one appointment we all must keep. The writer of Ecclesiastes reminds us of this truth that "to everything there is a season...there is a time to be born and a time to die."

As you live between your dashes, be a good steward of your whole life. Make good and wise choices, and definitely learn forward from the poor ones. Choose careers that bring you joy not just a good pay-check, though finding both is ideal. Give to and love yourself fully so you can give to and love others well. Choose friends that bring out the best in you/you in them, encouraging each other in your authentic selves. Spend lots of time with family, especially healthy family members, and make amazing memories. Freely set boundaries and love from afar when reconciliation isn't an option. Do simple things in life that make you smile and laugh. Take lots of pictures with your heart! Love and live in such a way that at the EOL, whether yours or your loved one, you have no regrets! And most importantly, trust God's unfailing love for you and remain rooted in that love. God's love is where our power to live boldly, creatively, and faithfully as disciples is derived (Ephesians 3:17-21). What a joy that we get to live the life Christ died for us to live!



Robert Churchwell we will be having their school-wide field day on **Friday, May 20**, and need volunteers to help with some of the activity stations. The field day will be an in-person event that will take place from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm.

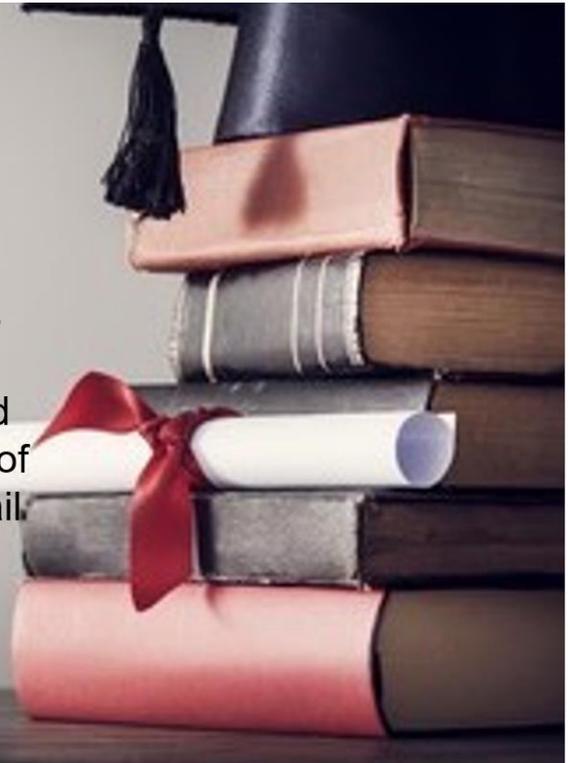


If you are interested in volunteering, please click on the link below.

[Volunteer with Robert Churchwell Elementary](#)



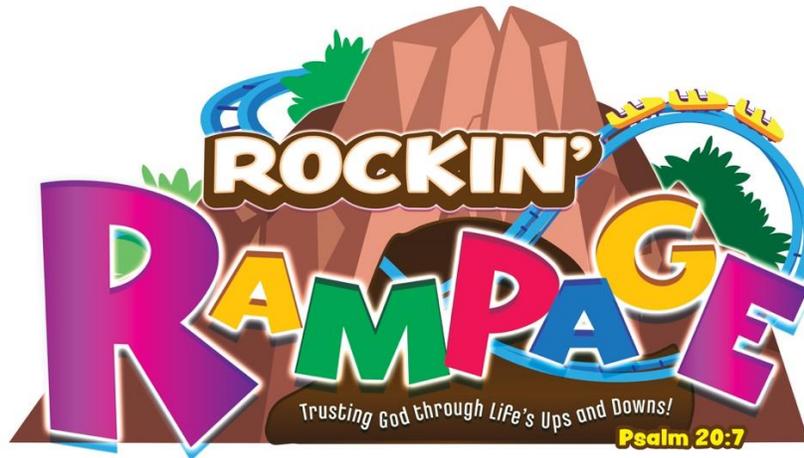
If you are a member of the graduating class of 2022 (at all levels from preschool to doctorate), we want to recognize you. Send your photo, name, grade completed, name of parents, and future plans to the church email at fbcch13@gmail.com **by Wednesday, June 8th**. Also, provide a phone number where you can be reached.



Deacons of the Week for May 2022

| Week of | Deacon | Phone# |
|------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| 1 st | Emmitt Hayes | (615) 790-7312 |
| 8 th | Adrienne Fancher | (615) 255-8033 |
| 15 th | Sunny Owunnah | (615) 708-1893 |
| 22 nd | Brian Wood | (615) 259-0623 |
| 29 th | Ronald McFarland Sr. | (615) 331-0564 |

Join us for VBS 2022
Friday, June 10-Sunday, June 12



Friday, June 10

Noon-5pm (Children Only)

5:00 pm Dinner for everyone

6:00-7:30 pm Assembly & Classes for all ages

Saturday, June 11

9:30 am-2:30 pm Classes & activities for all ages

Sunday, June 12

We will culminate VBS during Children's Sunday

To Register, please see Briefs from the Hill, or email the church office (fbcch13@gmail.com) for link. Please register by May 31st.



The Justice Moment is a project led by Minister Janiece Williams, FBCCH Pastoral Intern

Submitted by Rev. Erica D. Callicutt, MDiv., a Clinical MSW Student at Howard University and Associate Minister, Ivy Baptist Church in Newport News, VA.

Self-Preservation in Our Journey for Justice

“So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.” ~ Galatians 6:9

From the Old Testament to the New Testament, the command is clear that we as believers should be in constant pursuit of justice. However, in our pursuit of justice we must be conscious of our responsibility to practice restorative self-care. From generation to generation the demand for a just and equitable society is an ongoing fight that can leave you bitter and apathetic if you're not careful.

As an African American woman and clergy, I quickly found myself at the intersection of faith and justice. Having served as a faith-based community organizer, I quickly experienced first-hand that the work of justice requires an intentional pace. Prior to my work as a community organizer, for self-care I considered myself a novice runner. I ran 5ks, 1 triathlon and a half-marathon, and one thing that was crucial was my pace. If I started a race too fast, I was sure to burnout before finishing, but if I didn't set a pace, I had no guidance for my race. And if you have ever run a race, you know the importance of training and recovery. The same concept can be applied to our journey towards justice, because while it can be a rewarding work, we can certainly find ourselves weary in doing what is right. How we prepare our mind, body and spirit is essential to sustain ourselves during the journey for justice. No matter our position, whether clergy or lay person, as believers of Jesus Christ we are united in the fight for justice. How we look at and understand biblical justice is foundational to understanding social justice.

If you're not sure where to start in the journey, start with the Bible for there are many scriptures that can provide the structure we need to pace ourselves in the fight for justice. *Micah 6:8*, states, “He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.” Our pursuit of justice is more than a personal endeavor but also a collective work that can provide solidarity on the journey. While our communities need more than our hopes and prayers, we must understand that we cannot pour from an empty cup. In the same way resiliency is connected to justice so is radical self-care to maintain our momentum on our journey.

Yes, the Bible gives us many scriptures on justice, but we can also find the constant reminder to rest. *Psalms 37:7* “Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.” There will be moments in our journey for justice when it feels that the systemic barriers continue to prevail, and that there's more we need to do in order to make progress, and while the journey is constant, we are still called to stillness and to wait patiently for the Lord. This not only humbles us but preserves us.

No matter where you find yourself in the journey; you may be starting, in the midst of your journey or passing the baton, this journey will require our whole selves, but also our best selves. In conclusion, while justice involves advocating for others, we must first practice unapologetically caring for ourselves so radically that it empowers other sojourners for justice to do the same.

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

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. Leslie Williams
2929 Old Franklin Rd
Nashville, TN 37013

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

BIRTHDAYS

| MAY | |
|-----|---|
| 2 | Charles Williams |
| 3 | Kristen Daniel |
| | Ian Dinkins |
| 4 | Kellye Greene Marilyn Jackson Fred Jones Jr. Edith Kimbrough |
| 10 | Emmitt Hayes |
| 11 | Conra Collier |
| 13 | Kendra Speigner |
| 14 | Jillian Duke |
| 15 | Regina Morrow |
| 16 | Johnny Holmes Sr. Elsie Swanson |
| 21 | Sara Cain Sunny Owummah Denzel Williams |
| 22 | Larry Baker |
| 25 | Marcia Mitchell Marlee Wade |
| 27 | Carlton Crutchfield Kornelius Dickerson |
| 28 | Tatiana McCall |
| 29 | Antonio Stacker Harold Stewart |
| 30 | Ta'Naisha Hillman |

| JUNE | |
|------|--|
| 4 | Imani Byrd |
| 5 | Kyndal Christian |
| 6 | Anaya Campbell David Todd III |
| 10 | Yolanda McGriff Chatman |
| 11 | Breneatha Demonbreum Courtney Greene |
| | Weldon Kidd |
| 15 | Jamar Ritch Samuel L. Robinson Joy Sims |
| 18 | Desiree' Robertson Da'Kari Shyes |
| 19 | Jewel Solomon Burks |
| 20 | Kerry Schrader William Webb |
| 23 | Ryan Gentry |
| 25 | Leigh Lovett Kena McDaniel Kenya McDaniel Sandra Weaver |
| 28 | Anita Greene Harley Wood |

| JULY | |
|------|---|
| 1 | Darrell Hayes Jr. Ruth McGriff |
| 2 | Nanette Lacey Aaron Powell III |
| 4 | Torian Young |
| 6 | Herman E. Jackson Simon E. Morrow |
| 7 | Rosetta Perry |
| 8 | Crystal Beasley |
| 9 | Arrold N. Martin |
| 10 | Lanny Babb Gary Rowe |
| 11 | Pastor Kelly M. Smith Jr. |
| 12 | Evelyn Fancher Tanae McKnight |
| 14 | Isolina Rankins |
| 15 | Tamarah Daniel Sheila Littleton |
| 17 | Maribeth Crutchfield-White Mona Hayes |
| 20 | Keenan Robinson |
| 22 | Ryann O. King |
| 23 | John Alexander |
| 25 | Sue Smith Erma Todd Robert Wood II |
| 27 | James Collier Ernest E. Dismuke Benny Perry Beverly A. Scott |
| 28 | Kya Robinson |
| 30 | Sheldon Greene |
| 31 | Harvey Doughty |

May 2022 Readings and Sunday School Lessons

| <u>DAY</u> | <u>TOPIC</u> | <u>SCRIPTURE</u> |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| Freedom From Sin | | |
| Sunday, May 1 st | “Baptized into Christ’s Death” | Romans 6:1-14 |
| Adult: Freed From the Past | Youth: Doing the Right Thing | Children: Set Free |
| Freedom for the Future | | |
| Monday, May 2 nd | “No Longer Slaves to Sin” | Romans 6:15-23 |
| Tuesday, May 3 rd | “God Bestows the Spirit” | Ezekiel 36:25-30 |
| Wednesday, May 4 th | “We Have Died to the Law” | Romans 7:1-13 |
| Thursday, May 5 th | “An Inner Struggle to Obey” | Romans 7:14-25 |
| Friday, May 6 th | “No Condemnation for Heirs with Christ” | Romans 8:1-4, 10-17 |
| Saturday, May 7 th | “Receive the Holy Spirit” | John 20:19-23 |
| Sunday, May 8 th | “All Things Work Together for Good” | Romans 8:18-30 |
| Adult: Hope for the Future | Youth: Patience and Hope for the Future | Children: Hopeful Guidance |
| Freedom from the Law | | |
| Monday, May 9 th | “Receiving the Spirit through Faith” | Galatians 3:1-5 |
| Tuesday, May 10 th | “Abraham’s Blessings Come through Christ” | Galatians 3:6-17 |
| Wednesday, May 11 th | “God’s Power Grants Life and Godliness” | 2 Peter 1:2-4 |
| Thursday, May 12 th | “A Faithful and Just People” | Hosea 2:16-23 |
| Friday, May 13 th | “A Wise and Faithful Builder” | Luke 6:45-49 |
| Saturday, May 14 th | “Walk Blameless before God” | Genesis 17:1-8 |
| Sunday, May 15 th | “No Longer Subject to the Law” | Galatians 3:18-29 |
| Adult: Receiving a Good Inheritance | Youth: My Inheritance | Children: Free to Be Faithful |
| The Nature of Christian Freedom | | |
| Monday, May 16 th | “Children and Heirs through God” | Galatians 4:1-7 |
| Tuesday, May 17 th | “Authentic Circumcision” | Philippians 3:1-8a |
| Wednesday, May 18 th | “Press Toward the Goal” | Philippians 3:8b-14 |
| Thursday, May 19 th | “Let Us Love One Another” | 1 John 4:7-13 |
| Friday, May 20 th | “Love and Pray for Your Enemies” | Matthew 5:43-48 |
| Saturday, May 21 st | “Avoid Strife, Love Always” | Proverbs 17:13-17 |
| Sunday, May 22 nd | “Faith Working through Love” | Galatians 5:1-15 |
| Adult: Freed to Love | Youth: Love One Another | Children: Love One Another |
| The Spiritual Fruit of Freedom | | |
| Monday, May 23 rd | “The Righteous Yield Their Fruit” | Psalms 1 |
| Tuesday, May 24 th | “Abide in Christ and Bear Fruit” | John 15:1-8 |
| Wednesday, May 25 th | “Wisdom’s Harvest of Righteousness” | James 3:13-18 |
| Thursday, May 26 th | “The Spirit Produces a Fruitful Field” | Isaiah 32:9-20 |
| Friday, May 27 th | “Known by Their Fruits” | Matthew 7:15-20 |
| Saturday, May 28 th | “God’s Presence Brings Forth Healing Fruit” | Ezekiel 47:1-7, 12 |
| Sunday, May 29 th | “Live by the Spirit” | Galatians 5:16-26 |
| Adult: Choosing Well | Youth: A Fruitful Life | Children: Free to Bear Fruit |
| God Foretells Destruction | | |
| Monday, May 30 th | “Babylon’s Days Are Numbered” | Jeremiah 28:8-14 |
| Tuesday, May 31 st | “Let Your Compassion Come Speedily” | Psalms 79 |

MINISTRY OF STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT

Sermon Digests

March
20

“Moving from Trouble to Triumph”

Pastor Kelly M. Smith, Jr.

[‘John 16:33’](#)

Submitted by: Kathy Harrell

We sometimes see signs along the highways that read ‘Rough Road Ahead’. Perhaps this should be a sign put before us early in life.

All of us will experience some type of trouble, difficulty, or challenge in our lives. Trouble is what creates distress and disillusionment for us, whether others caused trouble for us, or whether we created trouble for ourselves. And yet, sometimes trouble is no one’s fault; we are simply victims of circumstance. Regardless of how rough our road may be, our desire is to come out victorious.

When Jesus was with His disciples during ‘the last supper’, He wanted to have some final words with them before His crucifixion. Jesus did not want His disciples’ hearts to be troubled because He has overcome the world. Although they would still face troubles, there is triumph ([John 14-16](#)).

Point 1 – We are able to move from trouble to triumph by not allowing our trouble to define our destiny. It may be difficult to understand Jesus’ saying that we will have trouble in the world. Many people have a distorted perspective of God and Jesus because their mindset is that Jesus will keep us from all harm, hurt, and danger. Every life has some trouble, but it does not need to define our destiny. We must be sensitive to our language that sometimes tends to ‘define’ people. For example, we should say someone is experiencing homelessness rather than someone is homeless. Experiencing indicates a current situation...a troubling situation that can be changed into triumph.

Point 2 – We are able to move from trouble to triumph by choosing the right world. It is important to know that Jesus draws the distinction between the worlds that are available to us. He says, ‘in *this* world’, you will have trouble. And Jesus also tells us that He has overcome the world. The lesson for us is that although we are in the world, we are not of the world. We can still enjoy many pleasures of the world in which we live, but we must not worldly pleasures consume us. We need to know when enough is enough!

Point 3 – We are able to move from trouble to triumph by finding our peace in Jesus. Our text tells us that there will be troubles in the world, Jesus has overcome the world, and we can find peace in Jesus. Peace is not something the world can give us. Too many feel that peace is the absence of conflict. But peace is a settling of the soul, which can only be found in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The peace we find in Jesus will help us move from our troubles to our triumphs.

March
27

“Holding On to Love”

Pastor Kelly M. Smith, Jr.

[‘Revelations 2:1-5’](#)

Submitted by: Beverly M. Brown

Pastor Smith expressed the depth of God’s love for each of us by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to reconcile humankind’s relationship to Him as found in 2 Corinthians Chapter 5:19 which states to witness, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Moreover, He loves us so much that He forgives us over and over in spite of our mistakes. He sees the best in His people and can hold us together. Love has the capacity to motivate and can help to build a healthy church. The other 3 (three) major points related to love included:

Point 1-Holding on to the Moment you fell in love.

God/Christ Jesus can walk to the altar with His People even when they feel broken and is one of reasons for His sacrifice. This is the purpose or main reason Jesus died for the sins of humanity and His shed blood covers all sins. No matter how one struggles – nothing or no one can stop His love; but, that does not always mean society’s justice exist. Furthermore, hate often grows out of fear.

Point 2-Gage the Growth and know that our love measures where we are.

Questions proposed: Has your love for God changed? Is the same fire and passion still there or has it timed out to God’s love? Do you really love God and believe His Son Jesus Christ died on the cross or are those just empty words expressed? What can be done to motivate and rekindle that love for God/Christ Jesus- just as individuals do in personal relationships? Remembering his sacrifice in love ought to be enough to help kindle and keep that love relationship with God/Christ Jesus.

Point 3-Actively Engage in the Purpose of Love.

Read Matthew 32:40-42; Romans 13:8; Revelation 2-4-5. Love your neighbor as you do yourself. Work on building a love relationship with God/Christ Jesus even when it is a struggle. Continually pray, sing His praises, make sacrifices for Him, love, and praise Him sincerely from the heart. Change from the inside out, no matter how tough it gets, just hold on to love because His love can lift a person up even with their mistakes and brokenness. Finally, remember to hold on to the His love just as He does for society. He is our redeemer/restorer and His shed blood helps to keep His love close.

Amen, Amen, & Amen.

April
3

"The Secret of the Scent"
Pastor Kelly M. Smith, Jr.
'John 12:1-8'

Submitted by: Deborah Luter

Our text today brings us back to the village of Bethany, where the close friends to Jesus, Lazarus, Martha and Mary were having a dinner to honor Jesus. Martha was serving. Mary, their sister, wanted to show a great act of love, and got some expensive perfume and began to pour it on the feet of Jesus. And this fragrance filled the house. Judas however, objected with false concern for the poor. But what Judas didn't understand was that the moment was more than about the expensive perfume. It was about a devotion to Christ.

Point 1-The secret of the scent is to demonstrate gratitude.

Mary comes to Jesus and pours this expensive perfume on His feet and then dries them with her hair. Nothing in the text has her asking for permission or if that was even something he would like. To get full appreciation of why Mary did what she did you need to go to chapter 11, where Jesus brings Lazarus back to life from the grave. Mary got her brother back and wanted to show Jesus her gratitude for allowing them to reconnect for a little while longer. She knew that this may be the last time she saw Jesus. Maybe in his conversation she knew what his destiny was going to be. Jesus said that she did this because she was preparing him for his burial. She wanted him to smell the perfume, the symbol of gratitude, while he still could.

Point 2-The secret of the scent is to cover the stench.

There are some things that just don't pass the smell test. The text tells us that there was something stinky in the room,

- Judas raised an objection to Mary's deed of gratitude
- Judas was mentioned to be the one who would betray Jesus
- Judas came up with a plan that would serve his greed.

All of the saints of God ought to keep some spiritual perfume handy because we run into stinky situations often- in politics, criminal conduct, public life, etc.

Point 3-The secret of the scent is to show the connection

There are those who would feel that her actions were a little on the extreme side. Surely if she had time to get the perfume, she had time to get a towel. But maybe her intent was that with the perfume on his feet and now in her hair, she could smell like Jesus. She wanted to be clear that she was connected with Jesus. In the next chapter we find Jesus doing a similar thing to his disciples, washing their feet. Even when Peter protested, Jesus told him that if you don't let me wash your feet then you cannot be a part of me.

We must understand that just because someone is a part of us doesn't mean that they are with us. Look at the contrast between Mary and Judas. Her love for Jesus was authentic and true. Judas, on the other hand, shows his disconnect and his being out of touch with what Jesus was all about. The Secret of the Scent was real for Mary and her love for both Jesus and Lazarus.

April
10

"Becoming Who Jesus Needs Us To Be"
Pastor Kelly M. Smith, Jr.
Luke 22:31-34

Submitted by: Adrienne Fancher

We often ask children what they want to be when they grow up. Children have imaginative responses, but most adults find themselves doing something else. Seldom do children say they want to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. Choosing discipleship is not necessarily in conflict with work/career desires. Choosing to be a disciple means letting God drive Life Decisions. Even though we rarely choose to be a disciple early in life, we can still choose to be a disciple later in life. Jesus advises that the Road of Discipleship is not easy.

Point 1. We become who Jesus needs us to be by working through the tension.

Jesus is letting the disciples know that Satan is coming to shake their faith and cause them not to believe they are on a good journey. Jesus is praying for them. Satan tries to make us feel as though we are the most important person in the world. We must work with the tension and not give in. We cannot decide to allow it to overcome us. The struggle makes a difference: it strengthens us to become what Jesus wants us to be.

Point 2. We become who Jesus needs us to be by finding a way to scramble back.

There are a lot of times when we won't be successful. There will be challenges and failures. Failure does not have to be fatal! There are going to be some struggles you can't get over. You are going to fail a lot, but it is not the end of your journey because Jesus is praying for us. All of us have missed the mark, but we scramble to get where we are supposed to be. Scrambling to get where you need to be is difficult. Don't give up the scramble! God has a place for us.

Point 3. We become who Jesus needs us to be by strengthening others.

Help others to work through their issues to get on the pathway where they should be. Your journey is not just about you! Bring others with you in your success. How am I going to help someone else? Sometimes we have to share our stories. Talk about the good things God has allowed you to experience. Tell others about the wrong choices and mistakes you made. Tell the whole story! Somebody is waiting to hear your story. Every pathway will not be easy or smooth, but we have a God who will be with us.

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.