



# The Torch

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | 2022 – NOVEMBER VOLUME 66 NUMBER 2

## Pastor's Pen

As I write this Pen it is election day here in the USA. People will be casting ballots on various candidates and a variety of issues. This is the day that supports what it means to be in a democratic society.

But the turmoil this nation has been in since the last national election two years ago causes me to have deep concerns. Actually, my concerns go further back than that. My concern is that we continue to lose ground that was ~~gains~~ gained over the past decades that sought to create a balance for all people in this nation.

- I am concerned that the lies from the last election are creating a culture of people who believe these lies and will not allow a fair democratic process to do what it is to do.
- I am concerned that many states, possibly Congress if the votes go as we fear, and the Supreme Court will continue to deteriorate voting rights, affirmative action, rights for people to make their own medical and lifestyle decisions and opportunities for people to try to make gains where slavery, racism, sexism, and many other forms of discrimination has put classes of people so far behind.
- I am concerned that embolden and brazen politicians will continue to demean in not-so-subtle ways people who are different from them.
- I am concerned that there will be “open season” for more violence and other acts which disregard human life and the rule of law to become more and more common without judicial recourse.
- I am concerned that the rhetoric that is uttered by TV personalities that white Americans are losing their place in society will further inflame the tensions of the nations.

It is disappointing and disheartening. And many times, we struggle with understanding how God would allow us as a nation to go back to this place.

But I must continue to hear the Word of God in scripture that states, “...***In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world***” ([John 16:33b](#)). As a person of faith, I believe this. I am not sure what it looks like or how it will happen. But I have come to understand that is not my responsibility. It is God's. So, what do we do in the mean times? We stay prayerful that we can see God's hand in society. We find ways consistent with our faith to be proactive in the struggles and fights for social justice and fairness for all people. We don't place all of our stock and our hope in the world around us. We live in this world, and we desire for the world to be kind to us. But our hope is in the Lord. Our belief is that God will still give victory to those who are exploited, mistreated, and abused. We have confidence in the word of [Isaiah 40:31](#) – ***but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*** Our day will come.

That's how I see it.

Kelly M. Smith Jr.  
Pastor

# DISCIPLESHIP MOMENT

## Fixing Our Eyes on God

*"...We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you." ~2 Chronicles 20:12c*

Submitted by Rev. Joe Ella Darby, Ministry of Discipleship Chair

Have you ever found yourself in a space or engaged in a situation where a decision needed to be made and you just didn't know what to do? You've assessed the situation and tried to problem solve on your own, you followed the advice of trusted persons, and you've even prayed seemingly to no avail. I've been there more times than I can count. Being in a place and not knowing what to do feels isolating, can cause weariness, lead to frustration, cause you to move reactively, and it can simply be trying.

When we find ourselves in these spaces and situations, what's your default response? My response is to buckle down and figure it out, often spinning my wheels until I'm exhausted, and there's nothing left to do but to stop and pray. Hopefully you arrive at the point where you realize the need to stop and pray. But if you're like me, you may wonder how we should respond. As I think about the discomfort of not knowing what to do, I am reminded of King Jehoshaphat in 2 Chronicles 20.

King Jehoshaphat heard that his enemies were waging war against him. Alarmed, he resolved to inquire of the Lord. So, he summoned all of Judah and proclaimed a fast. They all came together to seek help from the Lord. Soon, King Jehoshaphat stood before the assembly and prayed. He addressed God and inquired of his location in heaven. He declared God's power and might, affirming no one withstand God. In his commitment to stand in prayer in front of the assembly, he was being faithful to what his ancestors promised God and that they would stand in the temple that bears God's name, crying out in distress trusting that they will be heard and saved. King Jehoshaphat expressed concern and asked if God was going to judge his enemies for what they were doing, especially after God didn't allow Israel to invade them long ago. He professes that now he has no power to face the vast army waging war against them. What moves and strikes me is what the King says next.

King Jehoshaphat confesses that he does not know what to do. This wasn't a private confession but a sincere and very public confession. He didn't pretend that as king he

needed to have all the right answers. He knew he was at God's mercy, and he modeled for all of Judah how we should respond when we realize that we too don't know what to do.

When we find ourselves in a space or engaged in a situation and we don't know what to do, we must fix our eyes on God. When we fix our eyes on God, we fix our sights on what our faith teaches us. At FBCCH, our church motto is "Following where faith leads" and that's exactly what King Jehoshaphat did. As he realized he didn't know what to do and fixed his eyes on God, he was able to stay open to God's leading and guiding. Likewise, we too should talk to God and stay open to the move of the Holy Spirit. We keep our hands open in faithful trust. If God says be still, we should be still. We choose to wait and watch for God. If God says moves, we move. We know we are out of solutions so we trust that God will send a solution and make things right in God's time.

Now, this isn't always easy but if you remember, the King summoned a fast and I think the fast was a way of decluttering in such a way that all of Judah could be free to follow where faith was leading. After King Jehoshaphat fixed his eyes on God, the Spirit of the Lord began to fall on other members of the assembly as they too stood with their eyes fixed on God. As a leader, I am encouraged that how I live and practice my faith matters. There wasn't this big earth-shattering strategy offered by the king yet the king's simple decision to fix his eyes on God had major implications for all of Judah.

This experience reminded them, and now me, that they still had a reason to worship God. This wasn't about attending a temple service but about pledging an allegiance to God. This wasn't about having the right answers or solutions but having the right posture of trust before God. So, next time you find yourself not knowing what to do, fix your eyes on God and follow where your faith leads you. Trust God and God's timing, praising God for God's faithfulness to lead us.

# MISSION AT YOUR DOORSTEP

*Praise the LORD! Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!* Psalm 106:1

## The Truth About Thanksgiving

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

---

The formation of Thanksgiving as an official, United States' holiday, did not begin until November 1863 during the Civil War. President Abraham Lincoln officially established the holiday to improve relations between northern and southern states as well as the U.S. and tribal nations. Just a year prior, a mass execution took place of Dakota tribal members. Corrupt federal agents kept the Dakota-Sioux from receiving food and provisions. Finally at the brink of death from starvation, members of the tribe fought back, resulting in the Dakota War of 1862. In the end, President Lincoln ordered 38 Dakota men to die from hanging, and he felt that Thanksgiving offered an opportunity to bridge the hard feelings amongst Natives and the federal government. Dr. Kelli Mosteller, citizen of the Potawatomi Nation and Cultural Heritage Center director says "it was propaganda," "It was to try and build this event so that you could have a deeper narrative about community building and coming together in shared brotherhood and unity."

Historically the first "Thanksgiving" has been assigned to what took place in Massachusetts in 1621 with the Pilgrims who established the Plymouth Colony in 1620. Yet there were other "Thanksgivings" celebrated before this date.

But here's the full story.

There's [no evidence that the Wampanoag people were even invited](#) in the first place. An account from the time said 90 members of the Wampanoag tribe were present and makes no mention of invitations. Some experts believe that these 90 men [were an army, sent by Wampanoag leader Ousamequin at the sound of gunshots](#) (which turned out to be a part of the celebration).

In their first encounter with the Wampanoag people, the Pilgrims [stole from the tribe's winter provisions](#) -- it wasn't until later that Ousamequin formed an alliance between the groups. Even then, the alliance really only existed because the Wampanoag people were [ravaged by diseases brought by European colonizers](#) in the years prior. The Europeans did not believe in bathing, 90 percent of Native people died across America due to disease. It was less about intercultural harmony and more about survival (made necessary by the actions of these settlers).

That first harvest was followed by deadly conflicts between colonizers and Native people, including (but definitely not limited to) the Wampanoags. The Europeans repaid their Native allies by [seizing Native land and imprisoning, enslaving, and executing Native people](#).

Following "Thanksgiving," celebrations by European settlers, often marked brutal victories over Native people, like [the Pequot Massacre of 1636](#) or the [beheading of Wampanoag leader Metacom in 1676](#)

Thus, one might ask why should we celebrate the genocide of Native American peoples? We should not! Now what then should we celebrate on this Thanksgiving? Our guide for living, the Bible, gives us these reasons for giving thanks to God:

- God is eternal
- God is sovereign
- God is omnipotent
- God is omniscient
- God is omnipresent
- God is good
- God is merciful
- God is our protection
- God is our provider
- God is our salvation
- God is just

This list is just the beginning of why we should give thanks to God!

---

*thank you!*

To My First Baptist Family!!!

First Baptist Family,

Words nor tears could ever express the outpouring of love, support, messages, cards, calls and all of the ways you have shown your love and care for me during this time. It's no fun, but through it all, I have felt EACH and EVERY prayer that ALL of you have prayed for me, and I sincerely say THANK YOU!!

*Jill E. Jones*

As I settle into college life, please know that I am very thankful for your generous financial support, prayers, and all the love you've shown me throughout my childhood. I'm sure I have yet to learn of all the positive ways you've impacted my life! Hope to see you all when I'm home for the holidays. GO BUCKEYES!! 💎💎

Gratefully,  
*Katelyn Johnson*

---

### Deacons of the Week for November 2022

Week of	Deacon	Phone#
6 <sup>th</sup>	Derek Howard	615.318.6469
13 <sup>th</sup>	Carol Boone	615.851.1527
20 <sup>th</sup>	Pamela Wood	919.259.0623
27 <sup>th</sup>	Martin Currie	615. 832.9662

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill

will celebrate its

### 157<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

During our regular worship service on

**Sunday, December 13, 2022.**

Our guest speaker for the morning is

**Reverend Tisha Dixon-Williams**  
Senior Pastor of the First Baptist Church  
Bridgehampton, New York

## KEEP NASHVILLE HOME

Property Tax Freeze and Tax Relief Awareness  
for Seniors\* in Davidson County



Senior Citizens: Are you eligible to apply for Nashville-Davidson County's Property Tax Freeze Program?

Eligible applicants are encouraged to apply for this important assistance.



Property owners ages 65 and older who have total household income that does not exceed \$45,090 for Tax Freeze or \$31,600 for Tax Relief are encouraged to apply.

Homeowners must be 65 by Dec. 31, 2022.

\*100% VA Disabled Veterans or a veteran's widow(er) and those receiving SSD are encouraged to apply

For more information, visit [Nashville.gov/trustee](http://Nashville.gov/trustee) or contact the office at 615-862-6330.

## Do You Qualify?

Property Tax Freeze & Tax Relief Awareness for  
Seniors\* in Davidson County



Property owners ages 65 and older who have total household income that does not exceed \$45,090 for Tax Freeze or \$31,600 for Tax Relief are encouraged to apply.

Homeowners must be 65 by Dec. 31, 2022.

All Applicants Must Present:

- Proof of Age
- Evidence Property is Principal Residence
- 2021 Federal Tax Returns
- Bank Statements, if no taxes filed
- Applications accepted through April 5, 2023

\*100% VA Disabled Veterans or a veteran's widow(er) and those receiving SSD are encouraged to apply

For more information, visit [Nashville.gov/trustee](http://Nashville.gov/trustee) or contact the office at 615-862-6330.



**ERICA S. GILMORE**  
Metropolitan Trustee

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

The FBCCH Counseling & Wellness Ministry is offering by GriefShare.

There will be two opportunities to participate:

Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>

and

Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>

Session will take place from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM.

Visit <https://GriefShare.org/SurvivingtheHolidays> to register.



# Prayer Request/Sick & Shut-in List

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

Sis. Rose McDonald  
 111 N. Carolina Ave. #204  
 Lexington, NC 27292

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

Bro. Derrick McDaniel  
 Good Samaritan Health & Rehab  
 500 Hickory Hollow Terrace  
 Antioch, TN 37013

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

## BIRTHDAYS

### NOVEMBER

1 Jamal Buchanan  
 3 Kamryn Cruson  
 Kamryn Cruson  
 Asalean Springfield  
 5 Terry Deas  
 7 Luke Molette  
 9 Evelyn Okediji  
 10 Robert Boone  
 Jeffrey Santil  
 11 Alice Smith Risby  
 15 Lois Suttles  
 16 Clara Elam  
 Learotha Williams Jr.  
 17 Dawann Westbrook  
 18 Jasmine Easley  
 19 William McDaniel  
 Christina Slay  
 20 Aaron Powell Jr.  
 Spencer Washington II  
 21 Titus Woodson  
 22 Carol Boone  
 Adrienne Fancher  
 Howard Smith Jr.  
 23 Skyler Washington  
 24 Kevin Copeland  
 25 Mary Jan Carter  
 Melody Neely  
 Allison Wootson  
 27 Dorothy Fort  
 30 Fanchette 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 Deaderick  
 Barry Hobbs  
 Myles Sydney  
 18 Vonda McDaniel  
 22 Ivan Davis, Jr.  
 23 Christopher McGriff  
 Gloria T. Westbrook  
 24 Breanna Grimes  
 Cora Johnson  
 25 Valerie Robinson  
 31 Jacqueline Knight

### JANUARY

1 Elizabeth Davis  
 2 Gabriel Bryson  
 5 Kelando Townsend  
 6 Tamia C. McKnight  
 Diane Robertson  
 7 Timarion J. Smith  
 Betty Wilson  
 9 Bobby Lovett  
 11 Marshawn Miller  
 13 Karen Brown  
 14 Kathy Harrell  
 Ronald McFarland, Sr.  
 15 Nina Lockert  
 Brooke McFarland  
 19 Janice Brown  
 20 Jessica Powell  
 Sean Wood  
 21 Inez Crutchfield  
 22 Jason Robertson  
 Diantay Westbrook  
 24 Robert Green  
 Lueatrice Lovett  
 Adrian Samuels  
 26 Evelyn Gaines-Guzman  
 Carole McDaniel  
 27 James Lowe III  
 28 Noah Kirk  
 29 Hortense Jones  
 Lance Molette  
 31 Virginia McClaim  
 Evan Smith-Erving

<u>DAY</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>
Tuesday, November 1 <sup>st</sup>	“Lifting Up the Downtrodden”	Psalms 147:1-6
Wednesday, November 2 <sup>nd</sup>	“Gathering the Outcast”	Isaiah 56:1-8
Thursday, November 3 <sup>rd</sup>	“Changing the Shame into Praise”	Zephaniah 3:14-20
Friday, November 4 <sup>th</sup>	“A Ruler Who Seeks Justice”	Isaiah 16:1-5
Saturday, November 5 <sup>th</sup>	“A Champion for the Needy”	Job 29:2-16
Sunday, November 6 <sup>th</sup>	“The Good News About Jesus”	Acts 8:26-39
Monday, November 7 <sup>th</sup>	“Appeasing Those Zealous for the Law”	Acts 21:17-26
Tuesday, November 8 <sup>th</sup>	“A Stirred-Up Mob”	Acts 21:27-36
Wednesday, November 9 <sup>th</sup>	“Taken into Custody”	Acts 22:17-24
Thursday, November 10 <sup>th</sup>	“You Must Bear Witness in Rome”	Acts 22:30; 23:11
Friday, November 11 <sup>th</sup>	“Paul’s Background as a Pharisee”	Acts 26:1-8
Saturday, November 12 <sup>th</sup>	“Paul’s Encounter with Christ”	Acts 26: 9-18
Sunday, November 13 <sup>th</sup>	“Paul’s Testimony before Roman Authorities”	Acts 26:19-32
Monday, November 14 <sup>th</sup>	“Called to Be an Apostle”	Romans 1:1-7
Tuesday, November 15 <sup>th</sup>	“Encouraged by Each Other’s Faith”	Romans 1:8-12
Wednesday, November 16 <sup>th</sup>	“Eager to Proclaim the Gospel”	Romans 1:13-17
Thursday, November 17 <sup>th</sup>	“Paul’s Journey to Rome Begins”	Acts 27:3-12
Friday, November 18 <sup>th</sup>	“A Fierce Storm Dashes Hope”	Acts 27:13-20
Saturday, November 19 <sup>th</sup>	“Keep Up Your Courage”	Acts 27:21-32
Sunday, November 20 <sup>th</sup>	“Brought Safely to Land”	Acts 27:1-2;33-44
Monday, November 21 <sup>st</sup>	“The Failure to Minister”	Ezekiel 34:1-6
Tuesday, November 22 <sup>nd</sup>	“God’s Ministry to the Flock”	Ezekiel 34:11-16
Wednesday, November 23 <sup>rd</sup>	“God’s Judgement of the Privileged”	Ezekiel 34:17-22
Thursday, November 24 <sup>th</sup>	“Extended Hospitality to Strangers”	Romans 12:9-13
Friday, November 25 <sup>th</sup>	“Ready for Every Good Work”	2 Timothy 2:20-26
Saturday, November 26 <sup>th</sup>	“Do Good to All”	1 Thessalonians 5:12-22
Sunday, November 27 <sup>th</sup>	“Ministering to the Sick”	Acts 28:1-10
Monday, November 28 <sup>th</sup>	“Will They Listen to Me?”	Exodus 6:6-13
Tuesday, November 29 <sup>th</sup>	“I Told You So”	Deuteronomy 1:41-45
Wednesday, November 30 <sup>th</sup>	“Charged to Teach”	Deuteronomy 4:5-14
Thursday, December 1 <sup>st</sup>	“The Voice of Discipline”	Deuteronomy 4:32-40
Friday, December 2 <sup>nd</sup>	“The Word Is Very Near”	Deuteronomy 30:6-14
Saturday, December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	“We Would Like to Hear”	Acts 28:16-22
Sunday, December 4 <sup>th</sup>	“Teaching Boldly and without Hinderance”	Acts 28:23-31

# MINISTRY OF STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT

**September 18**  
**“Making it on Broken Pieces”**  
*Acts 27:39-44*  
**Pastor Kelly M. Smith Jr.**  
*Submitted by: Kathy Harrell*

The key to success in life is learning how to manage broken hopes and shattered dreams.

We put our best efforts forth to have sustaining relationships or maintaining healthy bodies. Yet, we often find that our relationships are broken, and our bodies betray us. Some people who are committed to the Christian life, have found that the church was not the source of help and strength they had hoped for.

Our text teaches us that even the Apostle Paul, arrested for doing God’s will, faced broken hopes and shattered dreams. Like Paul, we too can still make it on broken hopes and shattered dreams.

**Point 1-We can make it on broken pieces when we realize difficult journeys don’t have to lead to bad endings.** Our journey to a dream may be paved with roadblocks. But what we can learn is that broken dreams often lead to other paths that save us. We must change our mindsets when our dreams are not fulfilled. When we think differently, we are able to see things in a different way. Broken dreams don’t have to mean bad endings!

**Point 2- We can make it on broken pieces when we realize some things need to be lost from our lives in order to save our lives.** Our broken pieces may not always be to our detriment; they are meant for our salvation. We don’t always know if our dreams are best for us. Many successful people are where they are today because their hopes and dreams did not materialize. Broken pieces turned into tremendous blessings. Sometimes we need to use the broken pieces to help us continue the journey, and sometimes things also need to be removed from our lives in order to fulfill our hopes and dreams.

**Point 3 –We can make it on broken pieces when we realize that God provides the pieces.** We must move from crisis mode to Christ mode and see that God has provided enough for us to make it to the end! In Christ mode, we see where we are going and how we are going to get there. The text reminds us that when our lives appear to be *shipwrecked*, God places before us the pieces we need to make it. What broken pieces has God placed before you? Is there a gift you are not using? Is there a friendship you need to rekindle? Finish a dream you have put on hold. God will provide all the pieces you need!

**September 25**  
**“The Value of Worship**  
*Psalms 121*  
**Pastor Kelly M. Smith Jr.**  
*Submitted by: Beverly M. Brown*

Pastor Smith compared what was happening in the scripture to current applications of today by providing a historical then and now. The rhetorical question throughout the sermon/message today is how and why is worship important to you as an individual – is it a routine, habit, something magical/mystical, or is it because of others who will be there. But the real reason for worship is to be for the following three (3) reasons:

**Point 1-We are to value worship to see the providence of God.** Which means, He fore sees and cares about His People – no matter what is going on in one’s life -He protects us – no matter where we find ourselves. God/Christ Jesus does not do it out of duty and role functioning. He does what he does out of His sincere care everyone. He sends and provides the right people at the right time to facilitate success and good outcomes in one’s life. He is there when life is good and when life and living is difficult.

**Point 2- Worship has value when we demonstrate the priority of God.** Our help comes from God/Christ Jesus. He leads and guides and directs our life and not outside forces such as twitter, Facebook, Instagram, news, etc. Worship is to have priority in our decision-making. God/Christ can and does provide the right person and situation in successes that occur in the workplace, church, and other places. God is not to be an option when all else fails. He is to be option of priority in each of our lives and allow Him to guide and direct our paths and actions.

**Point 3- Worship has value because we trust the protection of God.** God does not slumber or sleep – He always has humankind covered. He protects us from dangers seen and unseen by the human eyes, mind, soul, and spirit. Read Psalm 121:7-8. He covers our whole life both in living and death and not like term insurance where someone has to die to be covered or receive the benefit of the insurance policy. He covers human beings from natural and unnatural disasters that occur in life and living. His Son Jesus Christ died to cover our whole life and living no matter what happens, He is there. Amen, Amen, & Amen.

## Loyalty Month

### “We Thank God for You”

October  
2

*1 Thessalonians 1:1-3*

**Pastor Kelly M. Smith Jr**

*Submitted by: Deborah Luter*

Sometimes to move ahead you need to look back. This Sunday we start observing Loyalty Month which is the beginning of our church year. Recently we had our annual church meeting that gave consent to the things we are planning to do ahead of us. But we also must come to realize there would be no ahead of us, if there had not been any behind us. So this is a good time for reflection.

This is what Paul was doing in his letter to the church at Thessalonica. He was writing them a letter of appreciation. But it is also a letter of encouragement.

#### **Point 1-We thank God for your authenticity**

Just because you are honest doesn't mean you are authentic. When Paul wrote this letter, he was thanking God for the people of Thessalonica because they embodied what it meant to be a Christian. Their labor was prompted by love. They were not phonies. They were genuine in who they were and what they intended to be. What a blessing it is to be around dedicated Christians. Nobody really likes a fake. Fake folks say one thing and do another. But authentic Christians:

- Find the space where they fit in, using their gifts
- Listen intently to the word and seek application
- Develop sincere friendships and seek to help others

#### **Point 2-We thank God for your living by what you've learned.**

Paul reminded them of how they embraced their teaching and how they embraced it through severe times. Learning is not static, once for a lifetime sort of thing. We are constant learners.

You cannot live by what you learned in another season of your life. The lessons of that season were for that particular season.

#### **Point 3-We thank God for your modeling what it means to be a Christian.**

*7 And so you become a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia*

It must not have been easy living in the first century. How you model for others to follow. Others are watching. We should constantly ask ourselves the question are we going to make this moment about me, or am I going to make it about Jesus Christ? We have to keep in mind that just because someone calls oneself a Christian doesn't make that person a Christian. We are the children who needed to see models of those who believe in Jesus so that we can see a good way to carry our own lives.

## Loyalty Month

### “We Have This Ministry”

October  
9

*2 Corinthians 4:1*

**Pastor Kelly Miller Smith Jr.**

*Submitted by: Adrienne Fancher*

In the first letter to the Corinthians, Paul answered questions from the church. The tone of the second letter is different. In it, Paul clarifies the purpose of his ministry and how the church should go forward.

#### **Point 1-This ministry is about service.**

The word “ministry” means “service.” This word tells us what we should do: give service. That is, serving people, serving God, and serving ourselves. There are no “Boards” at FBCCCH: we have ministries for service, such as the deacons and trustees. Boards have final authority over decisions, but the deacons and trustees operate under the authority of the congregation. The ultimate authority of our church is from the Holy Spirit. Deacons and trustees have an assignment: service. Worship is service, as are serving meals or cleaning the church – it is what God expects of us.

#### **Point 2-This ministry is about sacrifice.**

We don't always know what it means to sacrifice, yet we make decisions about our priorities of time, energy, and other resources. Sacrifice is not always giving up something – sometimes it is a sacrifice of ego or attitude to align with God's Will for us. For example, Lincoln freed the slaves to save the nation, not necessarily because he was concerned about the conditions of the enslaved. We should sacrifice whatever we need to in order to be able to think and act as Christians.

#### **Point 3- This ministry is about heart.**

Paul thought the church at Corinth was working well, but it had a major setback. Paul was disheartened by the church's struggle. In spite of the pitfalls created by ourselves or others, Paul advises us not to lose heart! The ministry we do is not about us, it is about God. It is not about being successful, it is about our faithfulness.

God understands that our plans or actions do not always succeed. God is not looking at our successes. God is looking at our faithfulness.

Because we have this ministry, we do not lose heart.

# First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill

900 Nelson Merry Street | Nashville, TN 37203

[www.firstbaptistcapitolhill.org](http://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

**Editor-in-Chief**

Kelly M. Smith Jr.

**Editor**

Conra G. Collier

**Church History Editor**

Bobby L. Lovett

**Member Spotlight Editor**

Sharanda Smith

**Reporter-at-Large**

Carole McDaniel

### Sermon Digest Reporters

Beverly M. Brown

Susan Howard

Kathy Harrell

Sheila Littleton

Adrienne Fancher

Deborah Luter

### Proofreaders

Evelyn Fancher

Lueatrice Green Lovett

Carole McDaniel

### 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.