



The Torch

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, CAPITOL HILL
2022 – SEPTEMBER VOLUME 65 NUMBER 11

Pastor's Pen

The [Kelly Miller Smith Foundation](#), named in memory of my father, will sponsor its third virtual symposium, Wednesday, September 15 at 6:00 p.m. Central. This year's symposium is entitled: Critical Vote Theory: A Moral Mandate for Voting Rights. The keynote speaker will be Valerie Jarrett, former Senior Advisor to President Barack Obama. Please click on this link regarding the symposium ([Critical Vote Theory: A Moral Mandate for Voting Rights](#)).

The focus of the symposium is voting rights and combating the efforts by various groups in the country who are doing whatever they can to suppress voting rights. The state of Tennessee is included in those who seek to disenfranchise people by denying them the right to vote. We must do whatever we can to affirm our right and the rights of all people.

There is no cost to watch the symposium, but you must register in order to have access to the stream. You can register by pressing this link kellymillersmith.org (or go to the website). A "toolkit" to be used to help people know how to register to vote and other pertinent information about voting will be provided.

We should not underestimate the importance of voting in the elections on the local, state and national levels. Too often people feel that their vote doesn't matter. But many elections have been won or lost by a handful of votes.

There are those who feel that churches should not be involved in addressing civic matters. That is far from true. Jesus Christ addressed civic concerns ([Matthew 23](#)). The church itself, from its inception on the day of Pentecost, has always been concerned about the rights of people and the role governments play in their lives. The church has to always be concerned about the welfare and well-being of people, and much of what determines that happens within the realm of political realities ([Acts 7:54 – 8:3](#)). And it is our charge to be intentional about making life better for all people, especially those who are the underserved ([Matthew 25:34 – 40](#)). Our voting is a key step in making sure that we are concerned about people being treated fairly and justly. We have to express through our vote a desire to have the right people in office to ensure that this happens.

Sis. Susan Howard, Sis. Vonda McDaniel and Bro. David Jones have taken on the mantle of responsibility on behalf of First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill to keep us vigilant on the importance of voting for those in our sphere of influence. It is our hope that you will sign up for the symposium, as well as encourage others to vote.

Kelly M. Smith Jr.
Pastor

DISCIPLESHIP MOMENT

BOLD, BRAVE AND PROPHETIC CONFESSION FOR LABOR JUSTICE

Submitted by Sis. Vonda McDaniel as printed in:

<https://www.religionandjustice.org/interventions-forum-labor-day-2022>

On Labor Day we honor the contributions that workers have made in our communities, state and country. Unlike other holidays, generally we do not reflect on how Labor Day should be viewed within the religious traditions that influence our daily living. How does our faith show up in our commitment to ensuring the dignity of all work? [Charles Spurgeon writes about Psalm 138](#) by saying “we see the excellence of brave confession. There is a time to speak openly lest we be found guilty of cowardly non-confession.” Like other Psalms in the section attributed to David, Psalm 138 praises God. However, it also acknowledges the presence of trouble—of enemies. Even in the previous Psalm there is reference to singing in a strange land when we are

This year we are definitely in a season of brave confession and have witnessed displays by workers discontented with the politically hostile climate they have suffered under for so long. Take for example the fact that the federal minimum wage, the benchmark for hourly earnings, has been stuck at \$7.25 since 2009. In many states throughout the country, bold advocates and their policy makers are raising wages. In January an Executive Order raised the minimum wage to \$15 per hour for federal workers and contractors. Other states and large companies have followed suit.

Workers are celebrating union wins across the country from the Amazon warehouse in Staten Island, New York to Starbuck stores across the country. In fact there are several [sources](#) that say that support for unions is at one of the highest levels in history. Even with all the enthusiasm for unions, it is important to acknowledge that only 10.3% of workers are Union members.

Forty-eight percent of non-union workers stated they would join a Union if they could and 69% of young workers who say labor unions have a positive impact on the country.

The feeling of thanksgiving and praise that we feel on Labor Day should not obscure the challenges that workers are experiencing. Without confessing that poverty continues to plague our communities and nation, the recent positive jobs numbers, a 3.5 % unemployment rate and other measures of the economy could mislead our analysis. In fact, the most recent ALICE (Asset, Limited, Income, Constrained, Employed) [report](#) tells another story of how community members work every day but still struggle to survive.

Across TN, 47 percent of households struggle to afford the basic necessities of housing, childcare, food, health care and transportation. When COVID hit, more than 800,000 Tennessee households were one emergency away from financial ruin. These facts challenge the narrative that all is well and that we should just celebrate the accomplishments of the past year because that is what we do on Labor Day.

We have to continue to grapple with the fact that our economy creates more low-wage jobs than family-sustaining ones. Labor Day must challenge us to confront these uncomfortable truths and commit as people of faith to look at the realities of how right to work laws, tax breaks for the wealthy, structural racism, sexism and all the other isms force many of our brethren to live outside the promised inheritance we all believe is possible. Only by using a bold, brave prophetic voice can we make the kind of change that is needed in the world today.

Vonda McDaniel is the president of the [Central Labor Council of Nashville and Middle TN, AFL-CIO](#) and a lifelong member of the [First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill](#)

MISSION AT YOUR DOORSTEP

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on.” *Exodus 14:15*

Stand Up and Move On

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

Have you ever felt like you had your back against the wall and there was no way out of your situation? You have bills to pay, and the checking account only has a balance of two hundred dollars. You have an exam, but you're really not prepared. The boss wants to review your performance for the month and your numbers are below plan. The relationship you are in seems to be at a dead end and you cannot find the road back to tranquility. Every word spoken leads to a bigger and deeper divide. What do you do when it appears you have no way out?

Throughout history, through war and conquest, man has subjected the losers to enslavement or servitude. In the book of Exodus, the Jewish people fearing for their lives with pharaoh's army bearing down on them and the sea before them, cried out to Moses: *'Why did you bring us out here to die in the desert?'*

How often have we cried out to the Lord for deliverance only to be delivered and run back to that from which we have been delivered? Why do abused women, when set free from one abuser, enter into another abusive relationship? Why is it when the Lord has gotten you out of debt, six months later you are back in debt? Why is it that when the Lord has opened doors for you to get ahead, you mess up your good thing and lose your job? Why is it when the Lord has released you from prison, you find yourself trapped in the revolving door of the criminal justice system? Can't you hear the cries? Why am I out here at least before I had three hots and a cot. Can't you hear the sister as she says he provides for me and my children. Can't you hear the young couple? Oh, we just had to have it. The card said zero interest for the first 180 days and the limit was \$30,000. It sounded like a good deal. Now they are all crying again get me out of this situation. Just as the Israelites were crying get us out of this situation.

Defeated, defeated we cry to God for deliverance but look for it in all the wrong places. Looking for love and attention we jump in and out of relationships creating families in our wake. Trying to keep up with our friends we go from credit card to credit card maxed out to the limit on them all.

The answer for us today is the same answer God gave the Israelites. Move on. Don't get stuck in your mess, move on. The job situation isn't what you would like it to be, move on. The relationship seems to have become stagnant, and or abusive, move on. The business you have been putting off starting, move on. The book you still haven't written, move on. The illness that seems to keep you down, get up and move on.

The song writer said it this way: “When you can't see your way; And you feel that you have gone astray. Doing all you know to do. God had not forgotten you. Hold your head up and be true For God will open doors for you”

Deacons of the Week for September 2022

Week of	Deacon	Phone#
4 th	Martin Currie	615.832.9662
11 th	Brian Wood	615.259.0623
18 th	Terrence Deas	919.523.6949
25 th	Ernest Dismuke	615.876.3522

ANNOUNCEMENTS



7/25/22

To all of my sisters @ First Baptist Church Capitol Hill, Thanks for the beautiful Reception that you sponsored for me. Thanks for the gift and all of the Birthday cards that I received. I think about you every day.

I feel so blessed to have had so many beautiful relationships. May God continue to shower you with his blessings.

Again, my address is:
3255 Van Aken Blvd.
Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120 - 3507
Phone: (615) 762-8649 Love,
Aunt C M. Griff



Be sure to review FBCCH's weekly announcements for the installments of **'The Importance of Voting'**, submitted by First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill's Community Cares Ministry. Installment Highlights include:

The Role of Local Government

Preparations for Voting

Do Your Homework: Know The Candidates

Make Sure You Are Registered To Vote

Know Where Your Polling Precinct Is

Make A Plan To Vote (Transportation)

Do Early Voting or Absentee Ballot Voting

Additional installments of 'The Importance of Voting' will be posted in our September and November weekly announcements!

Time to Update Your Member Medical Emergency Cards



Your completed form will be confidential and will be secured by the **Chairs of the Counseling and Wellness Ministry**.

There will be cards available at church each Sunday.

You can also complete online via the link found in the weekly **Briefs from the Hill** or request to have a card mailed to you.

For questions or requests, contact Virginia McClain at 615-477-9981 or Benita Lynch at 615-828-0333.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

CAPITOL HILL

900 Nelson Merry Street, Nashville, TN 37203



Available Vaccines: Influenza, Prevnar 13, Pneumovax 23, Shingrix and COVID-19.

Please sign up for your preferred immunizations using the sign up sheets that will be in the church lobby each Sunday.

To have a form mailed to you, email Virginia McClain: vwilsonmc@aol.com or Benita Lynch: benita.lynch@att.net.

We are pleased to offer car-side vaccinations!!



We need volunteers to join us on Sundays at the Kelly Miller Smith Towers. Duties include being a FBCCH presence by sharing in our Sunday morning 10:00 a.m. virtual worship experience with residents.

All interested persons, please contact Sis. Kimberly Covington at (615) 566-3196.

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

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
Trevia 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
22 Darryl Doughty
Ariana Washington
23 Jeremiah Kirk
24 Armani Beasley
Armari Beasley
25 TyKi Beasley
TyKia Beasley
27 Una Fenderson
Rosa Mimms
28 Ebony Robinson
29 Henry Caudle Sr.
Felecia Johnson
Vincent Johnson
30 Martin Currie
31 Kyra Hayes

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

<u>DAY</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>
Faith Calls for Perseverance		
Monday, September 5 th	“A Great Faith”	Matthew 8:5-13
Tuesday, September 6 th	“A Saving Faith”	Romans 10:8-17
Wednesday, September 7 th	“A Justifying Faith”	Galatians 2:15-21
Thursday, September 8 th	“An Examined Faith”	2 Corinthians 13:5-10
Friday, September 9 th	“An Enduring Faith”	Romans 5:1-5
Saturday, September 10 th	“An Exemplary Faith”	1 Thessalonians 1:2-10
Sunday, September 11 th	“The Full Assurance of Faith”	Hebrews 10:19-31
Adult: Burnt Out	Youth: Never Give Up!	Children: Never Give Up
Faith is Assurance		
Monday, September 12 th	“The Trusting Child”	Mark 10:13-16
Tuesday, September 13 th	“The Trust of the Weak”	2 Chronicles 14:2-12
Wednesday, September 14 th	“The Prayer of Trust”	Psalms 3
Thursday, September 15 th	“The Security of Trust”	Psalms 4
Friday, September 16 th	“The Confidence of Trust”	Psalms 27:1-6
Saturday, September 17 th	“The Patience of Trust”	Psalms 27:7-14
Sunday, September 18 th	“The Curtain Refuge”	Hebrews 11:1-3, 6; Psalms 46:1-3, 8-11
Adult: Be Not Discouraged	Youth: We Believe	Children: We Believe
Faith is Endurance		
Monday, September 19 th	“The Discipline of the Lord”	Job 5:8-18
Tuesday, September 20 th	“The Death of Sin”	Romans 6:1-11
Wednesday, September 21 st	“The Race for the Prize”	1 Corinthians 9:24-27
Thursday, September 22 nd	“The Training for Godliness”	1 Timothy 4:6-10
Friday, September 23 rd	“The Endurance of the Faithful”	James 5:7-11
Saturday, September 24 th	“The Example of Faithfulness”	1 Peter 2:18-25
Sunday, September 25 th	“The Pioneer of Faith”	Hebrews 12:1-11
Adult: Hold On!	Youth: Staying Strong	Children: Staying Strong
Faith Inspires Gratitude		
Monday, September 26 th	“Listening to the Voice of Warning”	Ezekiel 33:1-9
Tuesday, September 27 th	“Listening to the Spirit”	Revelation 3:1-13
Wednesday, September 28 th	“Anticipating a Better Covenant”	Hebrews 8:1-7
Thursday, September 29 th	“Giving Thanks for the Faithful”	2 Thessalonians 1:1-7
Friday, September 30 th	“Loving with God’s Kind of Love”	Matthew 5:43-48
Saturday, October 1 st	“Pursuing Peace and Holiness”	Hebrews 12:12-17
Sunday, October 2 nd	“Offering Acceptable Worship”	Hebrews 12:18-29
Adult: A Grateful Heart	Youth: So Thankful	Children: So Thankful

MINISTRY OF STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT

Sermon Digests

July
24

“God Hides”

Isaiah 45:15

4th in series The God Factor

Pastor Kelly M. Smith Jr.

Submitted by: Beverly M. Brown

Context: 15 “Truly you are a God who has been hiding himself, the God and Savior of Israel”. (NIV). Isaiah 45:15, Isaiah 45:19. The former of these verses expresses the thoughts of the prophet in contemplating the close of a great work of God’s power which issues in the heathen’s coming to Israel and acknowledging God. He adores the depth of the divine counsels which, by devious ways and after long ages, have led to this bright result.

Pastor Smith expressed in depth the teaching of the scriptural text from above other cited scriptures such as Psalm 10:1, Micah 3:14, Ezekiel 39:23 God/Christ Jesus hides his face or does not make His presence known when His people are disobedient. Even in today’s society based upon the separations in community, the divided country, and tragedies occurring. The three (3) take aways:

Point 1- God Hides Because He Wants Seekers.

That is especially important when life and living are not going as expected. He wants His people to seek Him with all of their heart, mind, and soul via faith and prayer.

Point 2- God Hides Because We Cannot Handle the Fullness of God/Christ Jesus.

Moreover, humankind cannot handle looking directly at Him. And, we are unable to handle all of what God/Christ Jesus does for His children.

Point 3- God Hides Because He Wants Us to be in Awe of Him.

God creates and organizes the great sunrises and sunsets. He wants us to thank him and be grateful for everything He made. God wants us to know we can depend upon Him and He wants all of society to be in relationship with Him.

Amen, Amen, & Amen.

July
31

“God Heals”

Jeremiah 17:14

5th (final) in series The God Factor

Pastor Kelly M. Smith Jr.

Submitted by: Sheila Littleton

In the quoted scripture by Jeremiah, he is responding to a people, who had faded from God. The people though felt that they had been abandoned by God, as they were under the control of the Babylonians. Jeremiah responds to people who have a negative perspective of what God is doing in their lives. Jeremiah uses the verse on healing to let the people know how God functions in their lives. Healing is seeking to restore people to full health or restore them to the place where he needs them to be. He wants the people to know that they were turning their back on the One who has healed them, saved them, and helped them. God was still with them, despite the circumstances. Sometimes we question what God is doing in our lives and turn our backs on God.

Point 1-God heals bodies.

God does heal us. God is always working on our behalf and in a process of healing us. God works through people and technology. Sometimes in healing our bodies, God does not heal in the way we expect. Sometimes to lose life is to heal. Sometimes healing is taking loved ones to the next life where there is no more pain, sickness, or dying-

Point 2- God heals nations.

God has a way of healing nations. We are a nation that needs healing. People create havoc for others because they are different. We must acknowledge that something is wrong. We need to be humble, pray, and seek God’s face. We need to think globally but act locally. We can make a difference in the corner of the world where we live. We may not be able to save the whole world, but we can make a difference to the people we encounter.

Point 3- God heals souls.

People and nations are healed temporarily but healing of our souls is permanent. It is a combination of our wills, emotions, thoughts, and our beings. It is healing that is internal. God heals our souls when we take our burdens to the Lord and leave them there. God heals our souls when we desire to make things right. In the last portion of the scripture, verse 14, Jeremiah writes “You are my praise”. It is not who or why we praise, but how we praise. The whole fiber of our existence should be about a praise to God.

August
7

“Did You Get The Answer”
Psalm 13
Minister Christopher Harris
Submitted by: Conra Collier

Psalm 13

E. Wesley writes about seeking and navigating life's questions. Is it worth it? Why do I feel that God has left me? How do we continue to live life when everything seems "anti-life"?

Psalms show the intimacy between the children of Israel and God. Psalms are attributed to David, although debated. How long do we remain the pillar of the family, but we are tired? Yet, it is a certainty that God is still good.

Sermon Highlights:

1) Vocal about vulnerability.

There is a dialog with God. It seems that He has forgotten us. He seems silent and forgetful; we show vulnerability and honesty, not weakness. Be honest about feelings. God can handle it; whatever it is. Because God is silent does not mean that He is not there.

2) Pursuant about restoration.

What do we really need? Pray for what you need; maybe not what you want. God finds a way to restore; to protect us from our enemies. David lives in spite of what goes on around him. Keep on living.

3) Remind of God's protection.

God is good to us, to me. Trust Him; sing because He is good. God does not change. Remain steadfast. God will save us again. God still sees us. Romans 8.

August
14

“A Rose Out of Concrete”
Romans 8:37
Rev. Brandon Wooley
Submitted by: Adrienne Fancher

Are you familiar with rapper Tupac Shakur's poem, "The Rose That Grew From Concrete"? The poem speaks to the success Tupac had in spite of the hardships he faced. The "Concrete" of Life seemed piled on top of him. In the poem, Tupac says, "Long live the rose that grew from concrete when no one else ever cared." Tupac is the rose that grew without nourishment or appreciation.

For Tupac, Concrete is the weight of mental battles, gun violence, financial hardships, and personal adversities. For others, it could be anxiety, family arguments, racism, or a bad medical report.

Many of us have had "Concrete Moments." Concrete represents the battles and pain. There are days when we feel like giving up. However, for the Christian, the Rose is the Love of God. Because God saved us, we don't know where we'd be without the Love of God.

There is no Concrete that can separate us from the Love of God. Paul says that Concrete Moments are inevitable for the Believer. No one is exempt from experiencing Concrete Moments. Because you are a Christian, you will experience loneliness, persecution, hardship, and dark days. BUT – the Good News is that we serve a Loving God who will never leave us! God will join us under the Concrete!

We learn in Romans 8:37 that in all things, one thing is certain: we are more than conquerors. To call ourselves conquerors, we must go through something to conquer.

Another Rose from a crack in the Concrete:

- was from Nazareth,
- was raised by a teenage mother,
- healed the sick,
- fed the hungry,
- stayed in the grave for 3 days and rose to Glory!

A challenge for you: tell someone about the Concrete Moments you have experienced and ask them to look at you now!

First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill

900 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.