



The Torch

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER 2023 – MARCH VOLUME 66 NUMBER 6

Pastor's Pen

Our Spiritual Renewal Week is May 20 – 22, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. Our evangelist for those dates is The Reverend Dr. Phillip Pointer, pastor of the Saint Mark Baptist Church, Little Rock, AR. Dr. Pointer is a well sought after preacher across the nation. We will also have guest musicians who will share with us that week. We encourage you to come in person. But if you are not able join us online through our normal First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill (FBCCH) streaming channels (see below).

[Live Streaming](#)

[FBCCH Youtube](#)

[Facebook Live](#)

I am asking each of you to do four things

- Call and invite at least two members of the church to come and share with you in the services.
- Invite at least two people who are not members of the church to come and share in our services.
- Post on your Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and any other social media account about our Spiritual Renewal Week, inviting people to come and to share.
- We are asking each person to also be prepared to share a Spiritual Renewal Week offering of \$60 for the week. You can give either in person or online.

This is always an exciting time for our congregation. Though we call it “Spiritual Renewal Week” it is really our name for our revival. Revivals are intended to have people to either come to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior or for a person to recommit to the Christian faith ([Romans 10:14](#)).

Though it was not a part of my church experience growing up in FBCCH, many of you did attend revival services that included the “mourner’s bench”. This was where people sat as they contemplated getting their lives together and come to Jesus. They would “moan” about their sinful lives until they get right. Recently in one of our Bible study classes I asked the class how they became a Christian. And many mentioned that it started on the moaner’s bench at a revival service.

We don’t have a mourner’s bench at FBCCH. Maybe I should say that every bench in the church is a mourner’s bench. Each seat ought to be where we wrestle with our sin and seek to get right with God. I would hope it would happen every Sunday, people grappling with their standing before the Lord and pondering the question of what they need to do to get their lives right today and to find the peace that passes all understanding ([Acts 16:30,31](#)).

I look to see you each night for our Spiritual Renewal Week (Revival wink, wink). Pray for the preaching, the preacher and those who will share in the service ([James 5:16](#)). We will see you next week!

Kelly M. Smith Jr.

Pastor

DISCIPLESHIP MOMENT

El Roi

She gave this name to the LORD who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "I have now seen the One who sees me." ~Genesis 16:13

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

Have you ever tried to play hide-n-go seek with a child? They usually run and hide in a place that's relatively easy to find. The part I loved most about playing this game with my nieces and nephews is after hiding, in what they think a good hiding place, I enjoy seeing the amazement on their faces as they are found by me. Likewise, there are times in life when we play hide-n-seek with God. Not for thrills, but sometimes when life has seemingly dealt us a bad hand, we find ourselves running away from the challenges and difficulties in life, hiding yet hoping that God will come and find us, meeting us where we are.

In Genesis 16, we find the story of young woman named Hagar. She unfortunately found herself in the middle of a situation that she didn't ask to be in. Hagar was given by her maidservant Sarai to be her husband Abram's wife. This was customary during this time and culture when a woman was barren. However, after Hagar conceived, it says she despised Sarai, becoming haughty; causing problems between the two, and this led to Sarai mistreating her. Her once provider now turned oppressor placed her in an awkward position that led to jealousy and disdain that obviously Hagar felt things were so bad that she had to flee. Hagar ran away from her harsh circumstances, mistreatment, oppression and injustice at the hands of her maidservant.

As she ran, fleeing the difficulty...Hagar found herself in the desert alone, sad, hurt, upset, depressed and pregnant! Although she was alone in the desert, Hagar manages to find a spring. A spring in the desert represented life, vitality, and hope of survival. The text says that the Angel of The Lord finds her in this dry place, a place of darkness and sadness...yet she's sitting by a stream. There in the desert, Hagar is not only found, but she is called by name. even when we try to run from difficult and challenging situations, God seeks after us. God knows our name AND God is aware of every difficult situation we face. We must trust that God hasn't left us without hope nor without His presence. God always knows where we are and how to find us...God always comes to see about His children.

Not knowing where she was going, the Angel of the Lord told Hagar to go back. I know it sounds crazy that God would call her to go back to a place of oppression and mistreatment. But God wasn't calling her to submit to the mistreatment but to submit to God and submit to the process. God was calling her to submit to what God was doing in her while she was in her current situation.

In that time, Abram and Sarai were responsible to provide and take care of Hagar. So, yes, she was to go back, but she was going back trusting that God is really in control not Sarai. There was a greater purpose and God planned to bless Hagar amid her trial.

Whitney Phipps, motivational speaker and singer, in sharing his testimony of God's faithfulness, said, "It's in the quiet crucible of your personal and private sufferings that your noblest dreams are born and God's greatest gifts are given in compensation to what you've been through. It's in the quiet crucible of your personal and private sufferings that your noblest dreams are born." There are seasons when we feel like we are in a crucible. It's during those times that God does some of God's greatest work. Submitting to the process allows God to mold and make us into the disciples we desire to be. It's in those times when we see what we are really made of and if we trust God in those moments, God will birth in us dreams, passions, visions that couldn't be birthed any other way.

Where are you this season? Have you found yourself in a difficult or challenging place causing you to want to hide from God? This slave girl Hagar was the first person in scripture to name God experiencing a new understanding of relationship, over religion, with the sovereign God. Because she opened her heart, God was able to meet her in her desert place experiencing God in a way that no man had yet to experience God. God didn't forget about Hagar and God has not forgotten about you. When you pray to El Roi, you are praying to the one who sees and knows everything about you. He hears your cries. Let God's loving commitment to you ring louder than the evil one's whispers of fear. God loves you and God sees you. May you see God and trust God's unseen work!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear First Baptist Church Capitol Hill Family,

I sincerely thank each of you for your calls, prayers, cards, emails, texts, and gifts during my illness over the past few months. Each act of kindness on your part has been appreciated. I continue to feel your love and support. And I truly feel blessed to have you in my life.

Virginia W. McClain

Dear First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill,

I wish to thank Pastor Smith, the Counseling and Wellness Ministry and our church family for supporting Music City and Parthenon Chapters of The Links, Incorporated on November 6, 2023 at the Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) screening, which was held immediately after church. Black Americans comprise 13% of the US population, yet we are 35% of the US population diagnosed with CKD. The goal on November 6th was to screen, as well as educate our members, who in turn would educate their family and friends. We feel this was accomplished. And for that, I thank each of you who participated and those who picked up educational literature.

Sincerely,
Virginia W. McClain

Trustee Corner

New FBCCH Online Facilities Request Form

There is now a new process for requesting use of FBCCH facilities. Any individual, group or organization desiring to use space at FBCCH will need to complete the online form which can be found at www.firstbaptistcapitolhill.org. This form is also to be used by internal groups and ministries. All requests will receive a response in 3 - 5 business days.

2023 Retiree Valentine Luncheon

The annual Valentine luncheon of FBCCH Retirees was held at Swett's Restaurant on February 14th, with Trustee Emeritus Bill McDaniel serving as Emcee. Prayer and the blessing of the food was given by Rev. Joe Ella Darby. After lunch a moment of silence was observed in memory of our deceased members. We recognized first time attendees, and newly retired members. A timely Valentine meditation was given by Rev. Dr. Edith W. Kimbrough. Joyce Hayes graced us with her yearly collection of helpful sayings. A fun game was conducted by Erma Todd, and a time for laughter was rendered by Clara Elam. Valentine cards were exchanged by Bernice Barnes and Betty Wilson. Door prizes were given by Mona Hayes, photos were taken by Anita Green, and beautiful music was supplied by Dwight Lewis. Special thanks to Trustee Paul and Diane Robertson for numerous door prizes and also to Carmelita and Benny Perry. The beautiful decorations were done by Bernice Barnes, Betty Wilson, Erma Todd and Clara Elam. It was a fun time for all. Remarks and the benediction were given by Pastor Smith.

Submitted by Clara Elam

Deacons of the Week for March 2023

Week of	Deacon	Phone#
5 th	Sunny Owunnah	615.708.1893
12 th	Pamela Wood	615.259.0623
19 th	Carol Boone	615.851.1527
26 th	Derek Howard	615.318.6469

Digital Sign

Have you noticed the digital sign located on the Rosa Parks Blvd side of our sanctuary?

Are you interested in learning how to become a part of the team that manages the content and keeps the information current? Of course, you are!

Send an email to fbcch13@gmail.com to express your interest and become a part of the upcoming training.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



 **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**
CAPITOL HILL

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL *week*

PASTOR
PHILLIP L. POINTER, SR.
St. Mark Baptist Church | Little Rock, AR

MARCH 20-22, 2023
6:00 PM CST NIGHTLY

900 Nelson Merry St., Nashville, TN 37203
Pastor Kelly M. Smith Jr., Senior Pastor

  FirstBaptistChurchCapitolHill

FBCCH's Spiritual Renewal week will be held March 20th – 22nd, nightly at 6:00 p.m. Pastor Phillip L. Pointer Sr. will serve as our guest preacher each night. Join us in person or through one of our virtual platforms. To learn more about Pastor Pointer, click [here](#).

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

MARCH

1 Dwight Lewis
Jamal Robinson
3 DeJuan Foster
Candice Telfort
4 Tondreana Chandler
5 Tiffany Gray
Venoris Johnson
Gerald Schrader
6 Sebastian Daughtdrill
Taura McKnight Cheatham
Lynn Stewart
7 Keshona Cox
9 Susan Mosley-Howard
10 Jonishay Acklin
Taylor Gentry
11 Doris Dismuke
13 Kyrah Cruson
14 Willie M. Magee
Taylor McFarland
20 Sharanda Smith
22 Scotty Robinson
23 Kimberly Alexander
24 Miriam Currie
Frankie Jackson
25 Lyndsey Bass-Covington
Retha Buchanan
26 Tequila Johnson
27 Esther Caudle
James Chandler Jr.
29 David Ewing
William Ewing Sr.
30 Erica Adderly
31 John Howse

APRIL

1 Valerie Molette
2 Ronald Collier
4 Erica Collier
Tavon McKnight
5 Paul E. Robertson
6 Kristopher Currie
8 Gwendolyn H. Vincent
10 Robert Boone Jr.
Isiah Daughtdrill
12 Kevin Carter
Myah Lipscomb
13 Derek Howard
15 Leonia Lawrence
16 Majorie Davis
17 Francene Barbour
18 Marquentas S. Deaderick
23 Maia Payne
26 Tiara Boothe
29 Maggie Roper
Patrick Slay
Jeffrey Wood Jr.
30 Esther Wright

MAY

3 Kristen Daniel
Ian Dinkins
4 Kellye Greene
Fred Jones Jr.
Edith Kimbrough
10 Emmitt Hayes
11 Conra Collier
13 Kendra Springer
14 Jillian Duke
15 Regina Morrow
Key'aira Stinson
16 Johnny Holmes Sr.
Elise Swanson
21 Sara Cain
Sunny Owunnah
Denzel Williams
25 Marcia Mitchell
Marlee Wade
27 Carlton Crutchfield
Kornelius Dickerson
28 Tatiyanna McCall
29 Antonio Stacker
Harold Stewart
30 Ta'Naisha Hillman
Allison Johnson

<u>DAY</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>
The Prodigal Son		
Wednesday, March 1 st	“Jesus Shows Compassion”	Isaiah 43:14-28 Matthew 14:13-21
Thursday, March 2 nd	“I Take Refuge in the Lord”	Psalm 71:1-12
Friday, March 3 rd	“I Will Proclaim God’s Wondrous Deeds”	Psalm 71:13-24
Saturday, March 4 th	“God Rejoices when Sinners Repent”	Luke 15:1-10
Sunday, March 5 th	“A Rebellious Son Is Restored”	Luke 15:11-24
A Child Is Greatest in the Kingdom		
Monday, March 6 th	“Jesus Heals a Gentile Girl”	Matthew 15:21-28
Tuesday, March 7 th	“Let the Little Children Come”	Matthew 19:13-21
Wednesday, March 8 th	“Learn Wisdom, My Child”	Proverbs 1:7-16
Thursday, March 9 th	“Teach Your Children God’s Laws”	Deuteronomy 4:7-14
Friday, March 10 th	“Consecrated from the Womb”	Jeremiah 1:1-10
Saturday, March 11 th	“The Praises of Children”	Matthew 21:12-17
Sunday, March 12 th	“The Greatest in the Kingdom”	Matthew 18:1-9; Mark 10:15
Jesus Talks to a Samaritan Woman		
Monday, March 13 th	“Rivers of Living Water”	John 7:37-43
Tuesday, March 14 th	“Worship God Alone”	2 Kins 17:24-34
Wednesday, March 15 th	“Handling Opposition to God’s Plans”	Ezra 4:1-8; 11b-16
Thursday, March 16 th	“Water on a Thirsty Land”	Isaiah 44:1-8
Friday, March 17 th	“Jesus Offers Living Water”	John 4:1-15
Saturday, March 18 th	“Worship in Spirit and Truth”	John 4:16-26
Sunday, March 19 th	“Jesus, the Savior of the World”	John 4:27-29, 31-42
Jesus Overpowers Legion		
Monday, March 20 th	“Resist the Devil”	James 4:1-10
Tuesday, March 21 st	“The Weapons of Our Warfare”	2 Corinthians 10:1-6
Wednesday, March 22 nd	“Lord, Remember your People”	Psalm 106:1-7, 36-41, 47-48
Thursday, March 23 rd	“Take Refuge in God”	Psalm 34:1-15
Friday, March 24 th	“Let God’s Enemies Be Scattered”	Numbers 10:29-36
Saturday, March 25 th	“Jesus Sets a Demoniac Free”	Mark 5:1-13
Sunday, March 26 th	“Sent to Bear Witness”	Mark 5:14-20
The Empty Tomb		
Monday, March 27 th	“The Stones Would Shout”	Luke 19:28-40
Tuesday, March 28 th	“Jesus Weeps over Jerusalem”	Luke 19:41-48
Wednesday, March 29 th	“If Mortals Die, Will They Live?”	Job 14:1-15
Thursday, March 30 th	“ ‘This Is My Body’ ”	1 Corinthians 11:23-34
Friday, March 31 st	“ ‘Why Have You Forsaken Me?’ ”	Psalm 22:1-2, 7-19

MINISTRY OF STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT

The Year of Revival “Time to Live Again” *Ezekiel 37:11-14*

January
22

Pastor Kelly M. Smith Jr.

Submitted by Beverly M. Brown

Pastor Smith shared the context of the historical perspective of Ezekiel 37:11-14. He then provided a reflection of the fact that the spirit of God contributed to the dry/dead bones to come alive. However, today humankind may do things with a hidden mission, and they worship idle gods. Moreover, when His Children mess up, God can still create something good out of it and He can fix it and bring life and energy into something that appeared to be dead or beyond repair.

The three (3) major points:

Point 1- We can live again when God gives release. He is able to release His people from things and situations which can and have held one back from a particular mission or goal established. He can release one from dead end jobs, careers, bad and/or inappropriate relationships.

Point 2- We will live again when God gives revitalization. He can release persons from prisons in which they have allowed in their life and input/install His revitalization spirit. Other cited releases could be situations in which an individual might find themselves apart and can be and is contrary to His will for one's life and show you how to move in a new direction after releasing what is holding you back. He does not want human beings to get caught up in quick fixes; instead, those present were encouraged to get full of God/Christ Jesus Holy spirit. He allows us to be able to move forward in good times and in difficult times.

Point 3.- We will live again when God gives re-establishment. God/Christ Jesus puts His Holy Spirit within and it energizes us forever and places you where He wants you to be. Society must have trust in God/Christ Jesus to know he can bless you with a new relationship and guide you to the right place at the right time and right situation. He gives mankind free will and can provide a lifeline for safety and protection when trust in Him exist. The question asked, Is your relationship with Christ/God tight or close enough in which the individual can recognize God/Christ Jesus voice from the enemy? Tears maybe shared; but, in His arms joy can return. Finally, know that His People can trust Him until death.

Amen, Amen, Amen.

The Year of Revival “Don't Count Me Out” *Mark 10:46-52*

January
29

Minister Jordan Griffin

Submitted by: Sheila Littleton

Many people feel like they have been counted or left out and ignored. Persons who devalue or ignore others don't count on the fact that the true and living God will never leave nor forsake one.

In the scripture, Bartimaeus had 3 things going against him, which included the following: he was blind, he was a beggar, and he was positioned on the outside of the city. He lived at a time when illness was blamed on the person affected. Bartimaeus did not fit into the standard of society's expectations and was counted out. Bartimaeus used his hearing though he couldn't see, He didn't allow what he didn't have to stop him from receiving what he could. He refused to be denied what Christ could offer. When he heard Christ was passing by, he shouted for him. After he shouted for Christ, many persons told him to be quiet, but he refused.

Despite attempts to quiet Bartimaeus:

1) His cry was validated. Many in the crowd who tried to shut him down had been listening to Christ's teachings on servanthood. When it came time to put theory to action, it was canceled. When Bartimaeus came for mercy, they found no value in his humanity. We should be trying to help others along the way as we recognize the value Christ places on all people.

2) His cloak was thrown to the side. In that time, cloaks were used for many reasons. They were not just used for aesthetics and could be used for warmth or the collection of money. Bartimaeus threw his cloak away, as he deemed it no longer necessary. When one answers the call to Jesus, some things, relationships, jobs, substances, or habits are vacated and no longer needed. Bartimaeus wanted to see again and was revived.

We, too, can be validated by Christ. We can vacate our cloaks, whatever it is. Let no person, thing, or structure separate you from God, because God has not counted you out.

The Year of Revival
Every Day Will be Sunday
Acts 2:42-47

February
5

Pastor Kelly M. Smith Jr.

Submitted by: Deborah Luter

Pastor Smith began by saying some singers and songwriters have described Sundays with the words “gray” and “silent”. But within the African American religious experience these words have a different meaning. You may hear the words, take me to the place where everyday will be Sunday, and of sweet sabbaths there will be no end. This is the perspective of what heaven was like. It would be like Sundays. In the lives of those who were enslaved and those who had been marginalized in life, Sundays was the day of joy and relief.

Point 1- It is on Sundays that we find spiritual power.

The establishment of the church happened on the day of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit came upon a group of 120 people and they began to speak in different languages that people from all parts of the known world could understand. Powerless people gained power, marginalized people became significant. Sundays for our ancestors represented the day that reminded them who was really in charge and who was in control. They lived in a world where people exerted power over them and marginalized who they were. But the Sunday experience allowed them to know that in spite of what the world said they were children of God. The spirit gave them power that they found in their worship and Sunday experience.

Point 2-It is on Sundays that we find that everybody is somebody. The common thread in the context of the early church was that everyone respected and shared with each other. No person was left out or treated differently. There was an incident that happened later on, but the apostles came up with a solution.

Point 3-It is on Sundays that we find resurrection.

Every day someone is looking for resurrection. Many people start each day with something that died within them. Maybe it is a loved one. Maybe it is some project that didn't come to fruition. Maybe it is a relationship that did not turn out well. But when we woke up this morning each of us needed a resurrection experience. We all need to feel that there is hope after trauma.

In many black churches the preachers do not complete their sermons until they tell the story of the resurrection. It is fondly called “going to Calvary”. This is where we see and understand that regardless of anything that is happening and going on in the world, there is hope. Indeed Sundays are a very special day of the week and we are thankful that God has graced us one more time to enjoy another one.

The Year of Revival
“Pray for Me”

February
12

James 5:13-16
Pastor Kelly Miller Smith Jr.

Submitted by: Adrienne Fancher

James says whether you have troubles or joy, PRAY! Sincere prayer will relieve your sickness or troubles: it is Powerful and Effective! It is a blessing for FBCCH to have a congregation that knows how to pray and to pray sincerely.

Some people are not certain in their prayers. Some people feel that they don't get the answers they seek. Regardless, we must continue to pray. Sometimes we can't get a prayer through. Sometimes we are overwhelmed by circumstances, so we ask others to pray for us.

Point 1. When we say “pray for me” we are saying that we trust prayer.

The disciples acknowledged that some people are good at praying, so they asked Jesus to teach them to pray. We sometimes think prayer is a one-way process. We ask God for things, guidance, etc., but prayer is two-way – we have to trust prayer and listen for God's voice.

Point 2. When we say “pray for me” we are saying that we trust the community.

When we pray, we should pray from the heart and from the relationship we have with the Lord. By asking you to pray for me, I am trusting that you can get a prayer through. Can you be trusted to pray for others? Even if you don't know the details of the situation – God knows all – pray for the person anyway. They trust you!

Point 3-When we say “pray for me” we are saying that we trust the results.

The results of our prayers are not always what we expect. Prayer is not just uttering “magic words.” What is the value of prayer? That we can be in tune with what God's Will is for our lives. Sometimes only God knows the depths of a person's pain. God will be with you. God is still here – providing comfort. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed to let the Cup pass Him, but He continued, “Thy Will be done.” We want things to be in God's Will and in God's Time.

We must trust God to help us handle the load of whatever we must bear.

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.