



THE
First Baptist Church
OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON D.C.

TWICE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | MARCH 9, 2017

**SPRING
FORWARD**
SAT PM MAR 11
SET CLOCKS
+1 HOUR



2 ORDINARY TIME
YOUNG ADULT GATHERING

Thursdays 6pm-7pm



2 PARENTS'
GATHERING

March 26
After Worship



2 WORSHIP BAGS
FOR KIDS!

Kid-Friendly
Liturgical Fun

FBC LEADERSHIP
WORK
SHOP

6 SAVE THE DATE
SAT JUNE 3

Leadership &
Vision Part II

GIVE TO MISSIONS

American Baptist Churches USA
America for Christ/World Mission Offering

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
Offering for Global Missions

Southern Baptist Convention
Annie Armstrong Easter offering/
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Name: _____ Amount \$ _____

7 EASTER
MISSIONS

2017 Offering



3 REFLECTIONS
ON CUBA

Julie Geren

Parents and Teachers Gathering on Sunday March 26

On Sunday, March 26th after Worship, parents and teachers of children are invited to gather with Pastor Julie, Moderator Lucy Plovnick, and other staff and church leaders in the Church Conference Room. We want to hear from all of you as we develop plans for the future of our ministry to infants, preschoolers, and children and FBC! We will also report feedback that has been gathered from the parent survey that Pastor Julie sent out over email to parents of infants, preschoolers, and children last week. Please join us! Childcare will be available during the meeting so that parents can participate.



Childcare will be available during the meeting so that parents can participate.

Worship Bags for Kids Are Here!

As you may have noticed last Sunday, many of our FBC Kids were carrying around blue bags bearing the church's name and logo. These are our new Worship Bags for children and preschoolers! The blue Worship Bags will be available for children and preschoolers to pick up every Sunday in the narthex before Worship begins, and will be loaded up with activities, stories, and other fun and age-appropriate items related to the lectionary readings for the week and Pastor Julie's message. Children who receive a bag are invited to personalize it and take it home with them to keep and bring back to church for use each Sunday, or (if they prefer) the Children's Ministry Team will store their bags in the narthex so that kids can pick them up and reuse them each week. Children who decide to keep their bags with them can visit the narthex before Worship every week to pick up new items to add to their Worship Bag. We are excited about this fun way to help kids experience the Worship Service and invite all children and preschoolers who attend our Sunday morning Worship Service to participate.



First Baptist Church DC Young Adults

Ordinary Time

Thursdays
6PM-7PM
Capitol City Brewing Company
On the corner of
11th St. NW & H St. NW

ORDINARY TIME

Ordinary Time occupies a big piece of the Liturgical Calendar. While the word "ordinary" lacks the zest of words like "transfiguration" and "epiphany", we know that that some of the holiest, most sacred moments happen in the ordinary times and spaces. The Holy Spirit is funny that way--catching us unaware. Young adults at FBC will begin gathering during the week for fellowship and conversation at a local restaurant, seeking the presence of God in the ordinary spaces. We'll start Thursday March 9 at 6PM at Capitol City Brewery Company. Come when you can and as you are!



Congregational Photo—Sun., Mar. 19

In honor of FBC's 215th Anniversary on March 7th, we're taking a congregational photo in the sanctuary at the end of worship on Sunday, March 19th. Practice your best smile and prepare to say Cheese!

BY JULIE
GEREN



Julie Geren

REFLECTIONS ON CUBA

Looking out of my plane window, I saw only water all around, when suddenly, a small island appeared. Cuba! Drier and flatter than I anticipated, little did I know it would soon feel like home.

Greeted at the airport by Pastor Dorilin, an exuberant young woman with boundless enthusiasm, we then climbed into a painted school bus which reminded me of trips I have made to Ghana. We arrived at Bautista Iglesia William Carey in downtown Havana. After our bags



were carried inside, we were fed guava-pineapple juice and sandwiches before going to our second floor dorm rooms. We were greeted with kisses and hugs from the entire church body; this hospitality continued our entire visit.

Saturday morning I went with Ellen to visit Minerva, the head of the missions program. Minerva's conversation was eager, impassioned and directed at welcoming us and establishing a lasting bond. Her words were "We are sisters in Christ". I found myself awed by her graciousness and conviction.

All conversation was made possible by our diligent and delightful 22-year-old translator, Esther, who had just completed a degree in economics. A few phrases I mastered, however, came in handy: "Lo siento" (I'm sorry), I said this more often than I would like to admit for various faux pas; and "Donde esta el bano?" (Where is the bathroom) received cheers from a group



Esther

of four Cuban men who all stood and waved their arms pointing me in the right direction.



Goodwill and warmth characterized all of my experiences with the church. These included a meeting with the church elders, Sunday School taught by a well-studied teacher and active class participation, a 2+ hour church service

with singing and greeting that expressed their love for God, for each other and for us, and an afternoon meeting with key members of the church. I was stirred by the spirit present in this



congregation which clearly opens its arms to their community and supports numerous programs like AA/NA whose nightly meetings were held in the church courtyard and were well attended. The singing of the congregation was especially moving. The sincerity and belief expressed in their faces and conveyed in their voices made me feel near to the heart of God.



Our visit to the seminary in Matanzas also was inspiring. Situated on a hillside, the beauty of the church, the outdoor labyrinth, the terraced organic gardening, an

innovative filtered water system and a store that sold textiles handmade by local women were all impressive.



In addition to the liveliness of our experiences with fellow Baptists, we had opportunities to see a riveting modern dance performance, to have a guided tour of Havana and to visit the Museum of Fine Arts and the Museum of the Revolution. It was an incredible 6 days and I will always be grateful for it and for the goodness of being with my fellow First Baptist Church friends.



Turning Points

March 5 • The Balcony

Proverbs 31:8-9

Holy Communion

Furman Singers in Worship

March 12 • The Night Visitor

John 3:1-16

March 19 • The Thirsty Woman

John 4:5-42

March 26 • The Last One You'd Expect

1 Samuel 16:1-13

April 2 • The Graveside Story

John 11:1-6, 17-44

Holy Communion

April 9 • PALM SUNDAY

The Cheering Stones

Luke 19:28-40

At the conclusion of worship:
Procession with palms
through our neighborhood.



SUNDAYS

IN LENT • SANCTUARY • 11AM

Wilderness Walk 2017

March 1 • ASH WEDNESDAY

The Beautiful Word

Julie Pennington-Russell

March 8

Wilderness Walk:

In the Valley

Charlie Fuller

March 15

Wilderness Walk:

Songs for the Journey

Hymns and Faith Stories

March 22

Wilderness Walk:

Who You Meet on the Journey

Alyssa Aldape

March 29

Wilderness Walk:

Trashing the Trail

Julie Pennington-Russell

April 5

Wilderness Walk:

Are We There Yet?

Alyssa Aldape

**WEDNESDAYS
IN LENT
7PM • SANCTUARY**

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, DC
1328 16TH STREET NW • 20036 • firstbaptistdc.org • (202) 387-2206

**FBC LEADERSHIP
WORKSHOP**
VALUES + VISION

Save the Date:

Saturday, June 3

**Leadership & Vision
Workshop—Part II**

10am-3pm, Fellowship Hall

Led by Intact Team Workshop
founders Geoff Abbott and Mark
Nishan. Light refreshments and lunch
will be served.

**Mar 15 Sandwich
Making for Martha's
Table**

Our next sandwich making activity
is scheduled for Wednesday, March
15, at 5 o'clock in Fellowship Hall,
followed by dinner at 6 o'clock and
the worship service at 7 o'clock.
Please join us as we prepare 400
sandwiches for distribution to those in
need.

PASSPORT
MissionBase DC

The Passport Staff will arrive on
June 17th to gear up for a summer
of DC living and my hope is for us
to present our best selves to them
and to the church groups who will
be staying with us throughout the
summer. We'll be doing some Spring
Cleaning in the coming weeks on the
3rd floor to prepare a space for our
guests. More [details](#) to come soon!

Easter Missions Offering 2017

Followers of Jesus are people of action. Why? Because that's our story. At the heart of Christian faith is the news that the Word became flesh; that Love became deed; that one day in history, God showed up in the person of Jesus Christ—with a particular face, in a particular place, with some particular people. How did Jesus love people? He rolled up his sleeves and fed them, taught them, healed them, befriended them, challenged them and, in the end, laid down his life—for them and for us. Jesus acted on his love. Then he handed us a faith that rolls up its sleeves.

At FBCDC, one of the ways we help turn faith into deeds is by supporting Baptist organizations at work in the USA and in the world. In this season before Easter we invite you to give to one or more of these missional partners (offering envelopes will be available starting March 19):



American Baptist Churches, U.S.A.
(America for Christ Offering)



Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
(Offering for Global Missions)



Southern Baptist Convention
(Annie Armstrong Offering)

Wednesday Nights in Lent - Menus

As is the tradition here at FBC, Wednesday night worship during Lent is preceded by dinner prepared by our amazing chef, Laval Sanks. The menus through Holy Week are:

March 15: Brunswick stew

March 22: stuffed shells

March 29: meat loaf

April 5: chicken piccata

April 13: taco bar (Maundy Thursday)

Please make your dinner reservation by the previous Monday at ddillard@firstbaptistdc.org or 202-387-2206 x245. Cost is \$8 per adult; \$5 per child 12 and under.



Spring Forward On Saturday

Please remember to set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday night, March 11.

LGBT Inclusiveness Groups Make-up Session

On January 22 and 28, fifty congregation members participated in small-group discussions on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) inclusiveness--specifically regarding marriage and baby dedications--and how the church might discern this issue moving forward. On Sunday, March 19, following the worship service, the Inclusion Team will hold an additional small-group discussion session for those who were unable to participate in the January groups. Please RSVP to D'O Dillard at ddillard@firstbaptistdc.org or (202) 387-2206 x245, and indicate if you will require child care. On Sunday, March 19, following the worship service, participants should meet downstairs in Fellowship Hall. A snack will be provided. The group will address the following discussion prompts:

1. *First Baptist Church already welcomes as members—including many who are serving in leadership roles—Christians who identify as members of the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) communities. How do you feel about guaranteeing to all members, without exception, the ability to participate in all of the blessings and benefits of membership, including marriage and parent and child dedications?*

2. *What process would you like to see the congregation use as we discern this issue? Would it involve a congregational vote on a new inclusion policy or a change to an existing policy? Would it involve some sort of consensus conclusion about policy that did not rely on a vote? Would it involve further discussion, Bible study, or topical study of the issue? Or would the ideal process you envision for discerning this issue look like something else altogether?*

EVENTS

Sunday, March 12

- 9:30am:** Church School for all ages
- 10am:** Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Rm 312)
- 11am:** Worship - Sermon: Turning Points: The Night Visitor by Pastor Julie (Sanctuary)
- 12pm:** Reception (Parlor)
- 12:30pm:** Diaconate Meeting (Conference Room)
- 2pm:** Worship in Spanish (Dawson Room)

Wednesday, March 15

- 10:45am:** Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
- 5pm:** Sandwich Making (Fellowship Hall)
- 6pm:** Dinner (Fellowship Hall)
- 7pm:** Wilderness Walk: Songs for the Journey - Hymns and Faith Stories (Sanctuary)

DEACONS ON-CALL WEEK OF MARCH 12:



Rod Coates

WEEK OF MARCH 19:



Zena Aldridge

The on-call deacon is your lay contact for prayer concerns during their week of service.

FBC PRAYER & CARE

Pray for Pastor Julie as she recovers from hospitalization for pancreatitis

Church Staff

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