



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

TWICE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | MAY 10, 2017

2 MAY 7 ANNUAL MEETING: RECAP - LUCY PLOVNICK

Celebrating God's Presence
at First Baptist

3 YOUTH SUNDAY

Blessing Youth
May 21

inclusion

3 INCLUSION BIBLE STUDY II

Sun., May 21
9:15-10:30am

FBC LEADERSHIP
**WORK
SHOP**

7 SAVE THE DATE
SAT JUNE 3

Leadership &
Vision Part II

7 JOB OPENING: FBC

Admin Assist.

4 WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE: HOSPITALITY AS LENS

Pastor Julie



ANNUAL MEETING RECAP BY LUCY PLOVNICK



FBC MODERATOR
MAY 5, 2013 - MAY 7, 2017
LUCY PLOVNICK

Dear Friends,

Last Sunday FBC had its Annual Meeting after Worship during our monthly potluck luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. This Annual Meeting marked the end of my fourth year as Moderator of FBC, and also marked the end of my term in that role. During the meeting we heard wonderful reports from each of our three excellent pastors, including a proposal from Pastor Julie for a new



Pastor Julie

hospitality initiative next year at our church, focusing particularly on how we can reach out to newcomers and people on the margins of faith. The congregation affirmed Pastor Julie's proposal with a hearty "Amen!," and I am excited to see it implemented during our new program year.



Didier Ahimera

The Annual Meeting also included a "God Story" by Didier Ahimera, a Membership Report by Kate Campbell, a Treasurer's Report by

Mike Henson, a Diaconate Report by Rod Coates, an announcement by Wil McBeath that the FBC Foundation will hold its Annual Meeting on June 4, 2017, and a vote by the congregation to authorize our three pastors and any others who may wish to attend the Baptist denominational meetings held this summer to serve as messengers representing FBC. Thanks to Pastor Alyssa and Chelsea Clarke, all of the business I just described above was punctuated with drawings to win fabulous door prizes and, to keep everyone on their toes, "dance breaks" where the best dancer received their own FBC Worship Bag as a prize. Be sure to check out the pictures (<https://goo.gl/f2YO8A>) of folks of all ages getting their groove



Dance break!

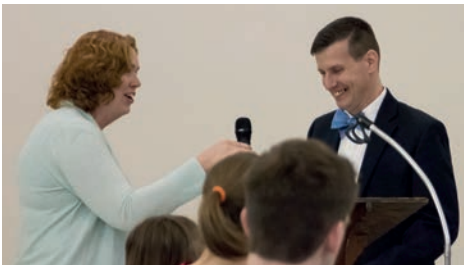
on by twisting, shouting, and walking "like an Egyptian!" We all had lots of fun!

Finally, at the Annual Meeting, the congregation voted unanimously in favor of approving the Nominating Committee's new leadership slate for the 2017-18 FBC program year. Many thanks to the Nominating Committee (Kate Campbell, Chair, Sadye Doxie, and Doug Duvall) for all of their hard work assembling their nominations, and to all the different members of our congregation who were nominated and agreed to serve

[more on page 3]

in leadership positions next year.

During the Annual Meeting, Rod Coates was elected as our new Moderator. Rod most recently served as the Chair of the Diaconate at FBC, and he brings a wealth of experience to his new role. I am confident that Rod will do a fantastic job, and I ask that you join me in congratulating him on his election and praying for him (and for our Church) as we transition to Rod's capable leadership.



Lucy hands off to Rod

I want to thank everyone once again for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Moderator over the last four years. During the Annual Meeting I told all of you that out of everything that I have done at FBC during my ten years here, serving as Moderator has been the most fun so far. This is because, as Moderator, I have gotten to know and work closely with so many of you—all of whom make up our wonderful Church family here at FBC. It is great to see the Holy Spirit working in our Church. I remain very excited for our future, and can't wait to see where God is leading us as a congregation.

In Christ,

Lucy Plovnick

Lucy Plovnick
FBC Moderator
May 5, 2013–May 7, 2017

SAVE THE DATE

Youth Sunday

Graduate recognition
and
Youth Group Promotion

Reception for youth and families in the Fellowship Hall after the service!

05.21.17

FIRST BAPTIST DC

Inclusion Bible Study & Breakfast May 21

On May 21 all adults and youth are invited to participate in the second of two Bible studies facilitated by Pastor Julie and some of the deacons who make up the Inclusion Team at FBC. After engaging in several "listening sessions" earlier this year about how we envision our congregation with regard to LGBT inclusiveness, we are now in the process of engaging biblical texts that inform this conversation.

Please note the earlier starting time: Continental Breakfast starting at 9:00. Bible study from 9:15 - 10:40am. Please keep praying as we lean into God and one another through this conversation.

WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE: HOSPITALITY AS LENS

From Pastor Julie:

I'm still smiling as I think about Sunday's Annual Meeting. From Lucy Plovnick's superb leadership (as always), to Didier Ahimera's God story, to the fun door prizes and the sight of a bunch of Baptists dancing (as well as some dignified swaying) in Fellowship Hall—this year's laughter-filled Annual Meeting was full of gratitude for our present and anticipation for our future, under God.

During the gathering I made a proposal for the coming year which the congregation affirmed with a supportive "Amen". Here is the crux of my message:

I propose that in the year ahead we view hospitality to newcomers as a chief priority, especially people for whom God and faith and church are a bit of a stretch.

And since, for us, the most energetic, participatory moment of our week is Sunday morning, I recommend that we marshal more of our energies and people power and resources toward "lifting" the entire Sunday morning experience at FBC from beginning to end—and that our focus, as we do, be people on the margins of faith.

WHAT WILL THAT MEAN FOR US?

- 🌀 Making an intentional effort to chip away at whatever barriers (programmatic, aesthetic, liturgical, logistical, etc.) may be hindering newcomers from connecting with God and Christian community here.
- 🌀 Evaluating everything we do, especially Sunday mornings, through the eyes of a 21st century spiritual seeker.
- 🌀 Asking every committee, team or group—including our deacons, Church Council and staff—to ask, every time we meet: "How are we doing at making our particular piece of FBC's mission more accessible to newcomers and people on the margins of faith?"
- 🌀 Rather than another program, hospitality will serve as a lens through which we see ourselves; a lens through which we evaluate our programs, ministries, worship, mission and vision.



Hospitality

On Sunday I pointed to John 12:20ff., which tells about a pivotal day when some "outsiders" showed up, asking if they could see Jesus.

It was precisely when a door opened to engage those outside the circle that Jesus said the hour had come for the Son of God to be seen in the world for who he is. I'm excited as I think of our opening more and more doors together at First Baptist, and becoming a spiritual home for many more who are seeking God.

Peace and grace,

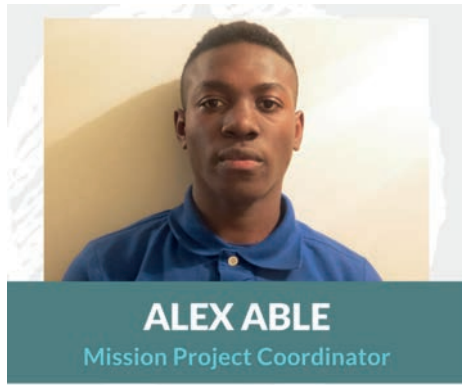
Julie





Passport Staff! Meet our 2017 MissionBASE: DC Team!

These staffers will spend the summer connecting student groups with D.C. area ministries offering healing and hope to people caught in cycles of urban poverty. This team will introduce students to conversations about religious freedom, racial reconciliation and advocacy for the urban poor, even as they spend a part of every day volunteering in area food banks and soup kitchens!



ALEX ABLE

Mission Project Coordinator

This is Alex's first summer working with PASSPORT. He is from Frederickburg, VA and is currently finishing up his junior year at George Mason University where he studies Health Administration.

<http://passportcamps.org/mission-base/>



ALEX WILKERSON

Assistant Director

This is Alex's third summer working for PASSPORT. He works for a company called Kids After Hours in Silver Spring, Maryland.



DARNYSHA NARD

Program Director

This is Darnysha's fourth summer working with PASSPORT and her first on a MissionBASE team!

Originally from outside of Richmond, Va, Darnysha is currently finishing her Master of Divinity at Wake Forest University.



EMMA GARDNER

Community Life Coordinator

This is Emma's first summer working with PASSPORT. Originally from Wendell, NC, Emma is a senior Risk Management and Insurance major at East Carolina University and plans to start working as an insurance agent in the fall.

MORE ANNUAL MEETING PHOTOS



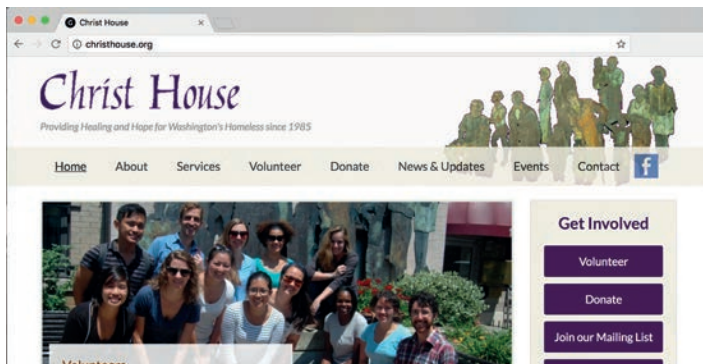


Job Opening

With Jean's pending retirement, we are receiving applications for the **Administrative Assistant position**. If you would like to apply, or know of someone who can fill this important job, read the position description here: <https://goo.gl/uDrh53>.

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.



Serving Breakfast at Christ House 5/14

You are invited to serve breakfast on Sunday, May 14th at 7am at Christ House, located at 1717 Columbia Road, NW in Adams Morgan. Contact Dinh Tran for more information: dinaford@gmail.com.

Opportunity to Serve! Memorial Day Barbecue @ Christ House

Monday, May 29, 9:45am–2:30pm.

Volunteers are needed to set up and serve barbecue to the residents of Christ House, a residential medical facility for homeless persons in D.C. Christ House also asks that we **bring desserts** for the event. This is a fun opportunity to serve others. First Baptist served at the Labor Day Christ House barbecue last September and had a terrific time. Questions? Contact Dinh Tran (dinaford@gmail.com).



Beauty and the Beast 2017 Thanks to FBC

THANK YOU! Thirteen members and friends of First Baptist attended the benefit at Toby's Dinner Theatre on May 7 for the Greentree Adolescent Program (GAP) of the National Center for Children and Families. It was wonderful being together for an evening of good food, outstanding entertainment and fellowship, while supporting a worthy cause. The 20 young men from GAP, and their chaperones, who were our guests, thoroughly enjoyed the production of Beauty and the Beast. Members of First Baptist also donated \$234 for which we are extremely grateful. The donations received, as well as profit from ticket sales, enabled us to give \$4,000 to the NCCF for the GAP summer program. Our thanks to all who continually support the NCCF.

Bonnie Jorgensen
Liz Porter

EVENTS

Sunday, May 14

7am: Serving Breakfast at Christ House (Contact Dinh Tran)

9:30am: Church School for All Ages

10am: Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Rm 312)

11am: Worship (Sanctuary)

2pm: Worship in Spanish (Dawson Room)

Wednesday, May 17

5pm: Sandwich Making (Fellowship Hall)

We next make sandwiches on Wednesday, May 17th, followed by a **light supper**. All are welcome to join in this endeavor to help those in need.

DEACON ON-CALL: WEEK OF MAY 14:



Jean Bell

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

FBC PRAYER & CARE

Prayers:

Sympathy to **Modupe and Gide Ogunnaike** in the death of Dupe's older brother, Gbenga Dina, on May 7 in Nigeria.

Adrian Harward broke her arm on May 8th in a fall and is recovering at home.

Neil Holliker had open heart surgery on May 10th.

WELCOME PHILIP HAWKINS

New Member!



Church Staff

Julie Pennington-Russell

Pastor

jpr@firstbaptistdc.org

Charlie Fuller

Executive Pastor

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Alyssa Aldape

Associate Pastor for Young Adults & Youth

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Lawrence P. Schreiber

Organist-Choirmaster

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CDC Director

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