



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

TWICE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | JUNE 28, 2017

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BAPTISTS & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN AMERICA



PASTOR JULIE PENNINGTON-RUSSELL

“One piece of our Baptist identity we can be proud of is this: our unwavering insistence upon religious liberty for all people.”

Q: Name the place where the following law was enforced: those not attending religious services twice daily were subject to whippings and imprisonment.

A: **Jamestown**—the first permanent English settlement in the Americas, in the colony of Virginia, where the Church of England was the established official state church.

Q: Name the place where this practice was enforced: only church members were eligible to vote in public elections. Those who did not belong to the Church were not citizens, only inhabitants. In this place some dissenters were hanged.

A: **Massachusetts Bay Colony**, 17th century America.

Q: Where did the following take place? In 1651 three Baptists—John Clarke, John Crandall and Obadiah Holmes—were arrested. The charge: conducting an unlawful worship service. They were placed in prison and were fined, with the provision that if the fines were not paid, they would be publicly whipped. Two were freed when friends paid their bail without their knowledge, but Obadiah Holmes was given 30 lashes with a 3-corded whip, the same sentence given to violent criminals.

A: **Boston, Massachusetts**

America finally won our independence from England. But the Constitution that was approved in September of 1787 included no guarantee of religious freedom. It was the Baptists, inspired by the Scriptures, who lobbied government leaders like James Madison and Thomas Jefferson to add a Bill of Rights. It was largely

because of the influence of Virginia Baptist preacher John Leland that James Madison pressed for the First Amendment to the Constitution, forbidding the government to make any law “respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.”



Baptists are known for a lot of things in America, some of them rather embarrassing. But one piece of our Baptist identity we can be proud of is our unwavering insistence upon religious liberty for all people.

Methodist historian Frank Mead paid Baptists this compliment: *“They are God’s patriots—putting allegiance to Him always above allegiance to Caesar. Freedom of conscience and complete divorce of Church and State! How they have suffered for that! They have faced mockery and mud, fines, whippings and iron bars; they have been burned at the stake and pulled on the rack, but they have held to it.”* (Frank S. Mead, *See These Banners Go* (New York: The Bobs-Merrill Company, 1936), 97.)

So as you watch fireworks light up the sky next Tuesday night, let yourself breathe a prayer of gratitude to God for this brave, steadfast, insightful tribe to which we belong.

Peace and grace,

PREACHERS IN

July

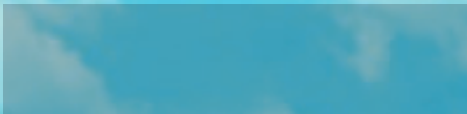


JULY 2ND

ALYSSA ALDAPE

Associate Pastor for Young Adult
and Youth Ministries

*Pastor Julie attending the biennial gathering of
American Baptists/USA*



JULY 9TH

PASTOR JULIE



JULY 16TH

AMANDA TYLER

Executive Director, Baptist Joint
Committee for Religious Liberty
(and a member of the FBC family!)

*Pastor Julie on retreat with the Shalem
Institute (see article on page 4)*

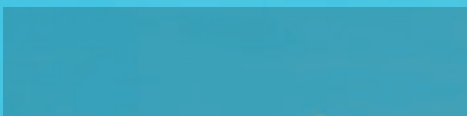


JULY 23RD

CHARLIE FULLER

Executive Pastor

Pastor Julie on vacation



JULY 30TH

PASTOR JULIE





PASTOR TO PARTICIPATE IN 18-MONTH SHALEM PROGRAM

Pastor Julie has been accepted into the 18-month Clergy Spiritual Life and Leadership Program, offered by the Shalem Institute in Washington. The program includes two week-long residencies at Bon Secours Spiritual Center in Ellicott City, MD. The first residency takes place July 11-18, 2017; the second takes place in August of 2018. This ecumenical program offers a dedicated time for nurturing one's own soul and for deepening one's contemplative orientation as a congregational spiritual leader. Julie's academic and practical work in this program will be undergirded by the ongoing work she is doing with her spiritual director. She also will enlist the help of a lay listening group made up of individuals in the First Baptist family.

SHEDDING THE ROBES (FOR A LITTLE WHILE)



The air conditioning in our sanctuary, while functional, is not operating at full capacity (temporarily). During these hot weeks of summer, while we are addressing our A/C issue, the choir and worship leaders will not robe for worship.

JUSTICE & JOY - VISITING YOUTH CHOIR SINGS SUNDAY, JULY 9

Sunday, July 9 the Youth Choirs from Smoke Rise Baptist Church and First Baptist Church Chattanooga bring their Justice & Joy tour to FBC Washington D.C..

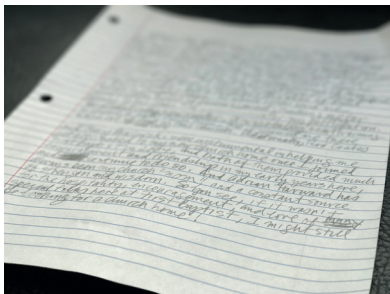


Youth and Chaperones from King's Cross Church, Tullahoma, TN joined us for worship last Sunday. They loved the organ and Lon's demonstration! What a great way to lean into our year of hospitality at First Baptist DC! Pray for this group of 40 as they serve in DC with Passport MissionBASE.



STORIES OF HOSPITALITY: DOUG DUVALL

In my mind, First Baptist has always been synonymous with hospitality. I remember my first visit, early in 2000. I had all the jitters any first-time visitor has when checking out a new church. I had barely peeked inside our front entrance when I met Dan Olander, who graciously escorted me



to a Sunday School class he knew I'd enjoy. That was the beginning of my long association with the church I now call home.

Long before I made the decision to join FBC, I was a faithful devotee of Paul Nelson's Couples class. Paul often sent

me handwritten notes of encouragement, thanking me for participating. For this relatively new visitor, it was heartwarming to receive these notes, and it showed me this is a church full of love and care. When I became a member in 2004, Rod Coates and Mary Pawlowski helped me get acclimated in my new church family. Both of them provided much encouragement and friendship in my early years and continue to do so. And Adrian Harward has always been my church "mom" and a constant source of strength and wisdom. So you see, if it wasn't for the hospitality, encouragement, and love of many special folks here at First Baptist, I might still be searching for a church home!

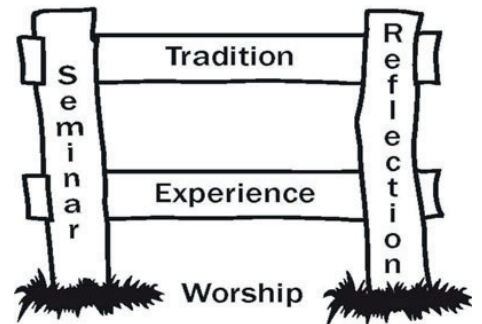


Hospitality

DEEPEN YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF MINISTRY THROUGH EfM

Informational Meeting Sunday, July 9

EfM (Education for Ministry) is a lay theological education program offered at First Baptist. Weekly seminars meet from September to June. Through academic study, theological reflection and worship, participants grow theologically and learn what it means to be effective ministers in the world. An annual fee covers materials and administration. All are welcome to attend an informational meeting held on July 9th in the Meadows Room, immediately following worship.



Questions? Contact Ellen Parkhurst, 703-683-1273; elparkhurst@verizon.net.

DON'T LEAVE VALUABLES IN SIGHT

Several cars have been broken into in the vicinity of our church lately. Just a friendly reminder: never leave valuables in plain sight when parking your car on the street, or even in our breezeway.



BaptistPalooza

2017: WILDGOOSE!

Wildgoose is an annual gathering where persons of faith meet in nature



and connect with friends new and old. Pastor Alyssa along with other faith leaders will host sessions at Lead Now for first call ministers on topics such as self-care, social justice, advocacy, and other topics key to doing ministry well. Pray for Alyssa and the other leaders as they prepare for this intentional time of mentoring and formation. Pray they also don't encounter any bears!

Make New Friends at FBC this Summer!

Once again this summer, the Christian Ed. Committee is organizing opportunities for connecting with one another (while having fun!). **Everyone** is welcome to **all** events.



Host the Fun

Would you like to host something during the Summer of Fun? Contact Lucy Plovnick, at lh@msk.com.



Sunday, July 9, 5:30-8:45pm

Basilica Organ Concert & Dinner in Brookland

Join Pastor Julie. Read more here. <https://goo.gl/BYSJD8>



Friday, July 21, 6pm

Dinner & The Capitol Steps

Join Lucy Plovnick. Read more here. <https://goo.gl/BYSJD8>



Saturday, August 5, 6pm

Game Night in Columbia Heights

Join Kelly Dunlap. Read more here. <https://goo.gl/BYSJD8>



Saturday, August 12, 6pm

Wine & Cheese on the Rooftop

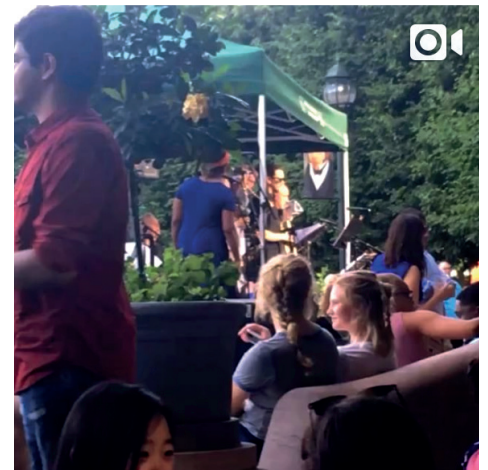
Join Rochelle Howard. Read more here. <https://goo.gl/BYSJD8>



Sunday, September 17, 1:35pm

Washington Nationals vs. L. A. Dodgers @ Nats Park

Join Pastor Charlie. Read more here. <https://goo.gl/BYSJD8>



firstbaptistdc
National Gallery of...

Following

firstbaptistdc We had a great time at our first Summer of Fun event- Jazz in the Sculpture Garden with pastor Alyssa!

DEACON ORDINATION



EVENTS

Sunday, July 2

9:30am: Church School for All Ages

10am: Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Rm 312)

11am: Worship (Sanctuary)

12pm: Churchwide Potluck (Fellowship Hall)

2pm: Worship in Spanish (Dawson Room)

Monday-Tuesday, July 3-4

Offices Closed/Building Closed

(CDC Open on Monday, July 3)

DEACONS ON-CALL WEEK OF JULY 2:



Kathy Whatley

WEEK OF JULY 9:



Erik Smith

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

FBC PRAYER & CARE

- Kevin Austin (Denny's younger brother)
- Mary Lou & Ed Fry
- Kaye Shelnett (mother of Alexandria Lovelace)
- Herb Plovnick (Robert's father)

NO ORDINARY TIME THIS WEEK

We will not meet for Ordinary Time on June 29th.
Alyssa is in Atlanta for a conference.

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