



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

TWICE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | JULY 13, 2017

**AUGUST FORUM**

# FAITH & ACTION

**2** AUGUST FORUM  
FAITH & ACTION

Sundays in August 9:30am



**5** HOSPITALITY  
AND RUSTY  
KNIVES

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Alyssa  
Aldape



**6** PASTOR JULIE  
IN SHALEM  
PROGRAM

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Contemplative  
Leadership



**5** SANDWICH  
MAKING +  
COOKOUT

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Wednesday  
July 19, 5pm



**5** SUMMER OF FUN  
GAME NIGHT

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Sat Aug 5, 6pm



**4** JULY  
PREACHERS

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7/16 Amanda Tyler, 7/23 Pastor Charlie

# AUGUST FORUM FAITH & ACTION

Every Sunday in August • 9:30-10:30 • Breakfast starting at 9:00 • Fellowship Hall  
This year during the month of August, we will examine some of the most complex global issues of our day through the lens of Scripture and ask together, "How does my faith in Christ direct my actions?"

AUGUST 6

## Contemplative Grounding for Healing the World

Margaret Benefiel, PhD.

Executive Director, The Shalem Institute, Washington, D.C.

"Marches. Online petitions. Letters to the editor. Am I doing any good? I ask myself. Am I making a difference? Is there another way? In the face of injustice, wars, and humanity's inhumanity to humanity, I long to be faithful to doing my part to heal the world. This session will focus on contemplative grounding for healing the world."

Margaret became executive director of the Shalem Institute in July 2015. Prior to coming to Shalem, she ran her own consulting, speaking, training, and coaching business, Executive Soul, helping leaders and organizations nurture their souls and express their deepest values institutionally. At the same time, she taught as adjunct faculty at Andover Newton Theological School in the area of contemplative leadership. Margaret is a Quaker and holds a B.A. in History from Princeton University, an M.A. in Mathematics from Portland State University, an M.A. in Theology from Earlham School of Religion, and a PhD in Spirituality from Catholic University of America. She has written extensively on various aspects of contemplative leadership and spirituality at work, including *The Soul of Supervision*; *The Soul of a Leader: Finding Your Path to Fulfillment and Success*; and *Soul at Work: Spiritual Leadership in Organizations*.



AUGUST 13

## Christians and Muslims in Relationship

Rev. Steven D. Martin, Director of Communications and Development,  
National Council of Churches USA

"After I made my first film in 2001 entitled, *"Muslims in Appalachia,"* I have been concerned with the beautiful people that make up the Muslim community, both their rich life and culture, and the dangers they face as America becomes more anxious. In this session I will bring my perspective on my experiences with Muslims around the world and how the teachings of Jesus have shaped my work with this community."

Steven has served United Methodist Churches as pastor for twenty years and is a graduate of Candler School of Theology. He brings his expertise in theology, the intersection of faith and politics, and media production to bear upon today's most challenging problems. He has produced several films for public television, including *Muslims in Appalachia*; *Islam in America After September 11th*; *Theologians Under Hitler*; *God With US: Baptism and the Jews in the Third Reich*; *Elisabeth of Berlin*; and most recently, *Islam in America: The Christian Truth*. His writing has appeared in America's top national media outlets including the *Washington Post* and *USA Today*. He speaks frequently at churches, seminaries, and conventions across the US.



AUGUST 20

## Religious Liberty Based on Compassion

Charles Watson Jr.  
Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty

"My theology didn't have an answer for why children were dying. As a chaplain intern at Children's Hospital of Atlanta, I wept, prayed and mourned with families at the lowest point of their lives. I learned that the pain didn't care about the religion of the family, but that their faith was sometimes their only hope. In this session I will explain why compassion should compel us all to be religious liberty advocates."

Charles Watson Jr. is the Education and Outreach Specialist of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty in Washington, D.C. His work is focused on expanding the base of support for religious liberty and engaging the next generation of advocates. A graduate of The Citadel, Watson earned a Master of Divinity degree at Mercer University's McAfee School of Theology. He previously served as the Children's Director of Buckhead Baptist Church in Atlanta and as a hospice chaplain resident, endorsed by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Watson is a veteran of the United States Air Force.



(continued on page 4)

AUGUST 27

## Sitting With the Trauma of Racism

Rev. LeDayne Polaski, Executive Director,  
Bautistas Por La Paz (Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America)

"I came to an interest in trauma through my interest in conflict transformation. Unaddressed traumatic experiences underlie much of the painful conflict we experience. As I have delved further into antiracism work, I have become convinced that White America's unwillingness to acknowledge and address trauma is at the heart of the US's seeming inability to move forward on issues of race and racism. In this session we'll explore why and how we might sit with our trauma and that of others long enough to be transformed and changed."

LeDayne became BPFNA's Executive Director in 2015, having served the organization in a variety of roles since 1998. A life-long Carolinian, she is a graduate of Furman University in Greenville, where her commitment to issues of peace and justice began. She received an M.Div. in 1993 from the Divinity School at Duke University in Durham, NC, and was ordained in Durham at Watts Street Baptist Church. LeDayne and her husband, Tom, a professor of mathematics at Winthrop University, are active members of Park Road Baptist Church in Charlotte.

AUGUST FORUM  
FAITH &  
ACTION



## PREACHERS IN

# July



## AMANDA TYLER PREACHING THIS SUNDAY

Amanda Tyler, Executive Director of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty (and a member of FBCDC) brings the message today while Pastor Julie is on retreat. In 2016, Amanda became the sixth executive director in the organization's 80-year history. She earned

her undergraduate degree from Georgetown University and her law degree from The University of Texas. Amanda lives in DC with her husband, Robert Behrendt, and their son, Phelps.

## CHARLIE FULLER PREACHING NEXT SUNDAY

FBC Executive Pastor Charlie Fuller will bring the message, Learning to Sing based on Psalm 86:11-17, next Sunday, July 23. Charlie began his ministry with First Baptist on January 1 of this year. He spent much of his "first" working life as a teacher and professor of music at high schools and universities, and has served churches in various capacities since he was 19 years old.

## HOSPITALITY AND RUSTY KNIVES



PASTOR ALYSSA ALDAPE

For a while my thought on “hospitality” was that it was something you did when someone came over to your house. Let them play with your toys, say nice things to them, etc. It’s real easy to show hospitality because essentially you’re in control- and that’s easy.

Since high school I’ve carried a small pocket knife with me. Back in the day it was mostly used to cut open mango or whatever yummy fruit was in season. Now I mostly use my pocketknife to open letters or scrape off nail polish (do not attempt this method unless you’re well versed in pocket knives!). While on a four week trip around Indonesia, I injured myself with a rusty knife. I’m talking Tetanus-shot bad. The only word I understood at the hospital was “infection.”

Our gracious host sprang into action and helped me out. I had zero control of what medicine they fed me, what water they offered me, or what papers I signed. I had to give

up some control to receive the help I needed and golly losing control, losing power is not easy. But I think of that day in the Jakarta hospital as one of most beautiful moments I’ve shared with a person I could not verbally communicate with. May we all learn to lose some control to get a glimpse of God when we least expect it. And may we learn to throw rusty knives away.



## KELLY DUNLAP SoF GAMES NIGHT

On Saturday, August 5, at 6pm, join us for a casual game night at Kelly Dunlap's home in Columbia Heights (near Georgia Ave. and Girard St.). Whether you prefer a



KELLY DUNLAP

quiet game of cards or a lively game of charades, you are welcome. We'll have a variety of games and encourage you to bring your favorite game or a deck of cards, if you have one. Light snacks will be provided. There is a friendly feline who wanders the house, so take your meds if you have an allergy. For more information, email Kelly at [kel.dunlap@gmail.com](mailto:kel.dunlap@gmail.com). (Address provided to those who RSVP @ <https://goo.gl/X9uv4u>)

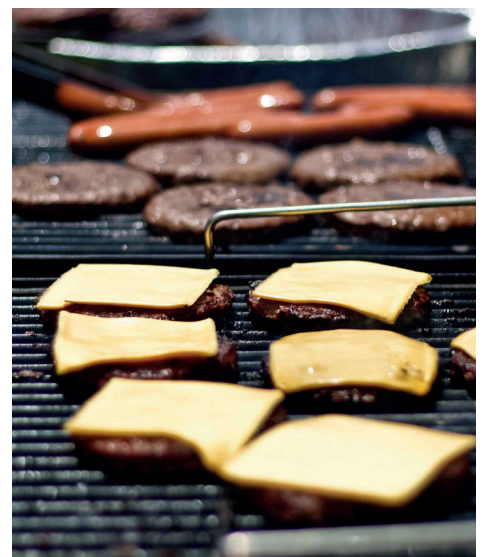
quiet game of cards or a lively game of charades, you are welcome. We'll have a variety of games and encourage you to bring



## SANDWICH MAKING + COOKOUT 7/19



At 5pm we'll make sandwiches for Martha's Table in Fellowship Hall, followed by a "Cookout in the Courtyard" at 6pm. Let's celebrate summer! FBC will supply the burgers, hot dogs, buns, fixins' and beverages. Please bring a side dish or fruit to share. Please RSVP to D'O Dillard at [ddillard@firstbaptistdc.org](mailto:ddillard@firstbaptistdc.org)



## PASTOR JULIE PARTICIPATING IN SHALEM PROGRAM



PASTOR JULIE  
PENNINGTON-RUSSELL

*“I desire to lead more from my spiritual heart than from a corporate, outcome-driven model.”*



**Dear FBC family,**

I'm grateful to you for offering all of our staff time away in order to refresh and recharge.

On Tuesday I left for the Retreat Center at Bon Secours in Woodstock, MD, where I joined ten other pastors from around the country for a seven-day retreat, guided by leaders from the Shalem Institute here in Washington. As you may know, earlier this year FBCDC granted my request to participate in an 18-month Shalem program called Going Deeper: Clergy Spiritual Life & Leadership.

For about 15 years now, I have felt myself drawn more and more toward contemplative prayer, silence, periods of solitude and the writings of contemplatives like Richard Rohr, Thomas Keating, Thomas Merton, Mirabai Starr, Eknath Easwaran and Thich Nhát Hanh. My desire to participate in this clergy program is connected to a deeper longing which I am still trying to name. At the heart of things, I believe the longing is for a deeper intimacy with God.

Coincidentally (or perhaps not), our church is on a similar path. At our leadership retreat last October, “Intimacy with God” was the number one expressed desire for our church. I believe this Shalem experience will provide a helpful foundation for me as we initiate together new and expanding channels of connection with God. On a personal level, while I have gained a fair amount of leadership experience over the past thirty years, I desire to lead more from my spiritual heart than from a corporate, outcome-driven model.

So thank you, brothers and sisters, for supporting this opportunity. Upon returning from the Shalem retreat I will take some time for vacation. I look forward to joining you in worship on July 30, and am happy that you have the chance to receive spiritual and biblical nurture from Amanda Tyler and Charlie Fuller these next two Sundays. I will hold you in my prayers while I'm away.

**Peace and grace,**

*Julie*



(June - September)

## 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 [lhpm@msk.com](mailto:lhpm@msk.com).



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>

## EVENTS

### Sunday, July 16

**9:30am:** Bible Study Groups for all ages

**10am:** Choir Rehearsal/Rm 312

**11am:** Worship - Amanda Tyler Preaching

**12noon:** Youth Third Sunday Lunch Out

**2pm:** The Church of the Good News  
of Salvation, (Spanish Language)  
Rev. Saúl Garcíá, Dawson Rm

### Wednesday, July 19

**5pm:** Sandwich Making (Fellowship Hall)

**6pm:** Cookout (Courtyard)

## DEACONS ON-CALL WEEK OF JULY 16:



Erik Smith

## WEEK OF JULY 23:



Kate Campbell

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

## FBC PRAYER & CARE

### Sympathy...

- To Brenda and Paul Clark in the death of Brenda's brother, William Rozier, on July 6
- To the family and friends of Will Short who died on July 1

### New prayer requests:

- Paul Clark: Recently diagnosed with early stage ALS
- Louis Gooch: recovering from surgery on July 6
- Kevin Austin (Denny's brother): returning to the Mayo Clinic this week for tests
- Donna Stine Rice (cousin of Mike Henson): diagnosed with colon cancer

## Church Staff

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