



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

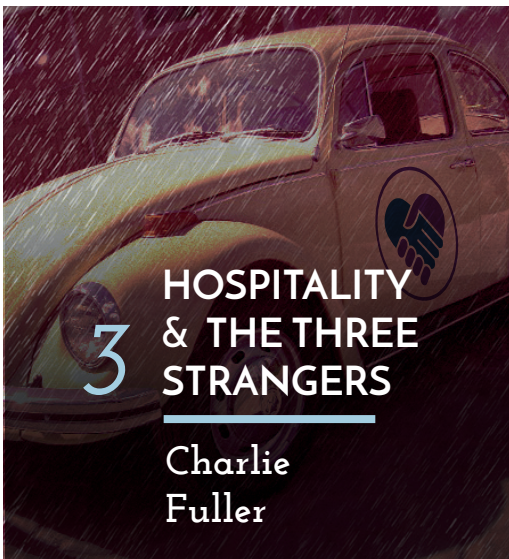
TWICE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | JULY 28, 2017

FAITH & ACTION



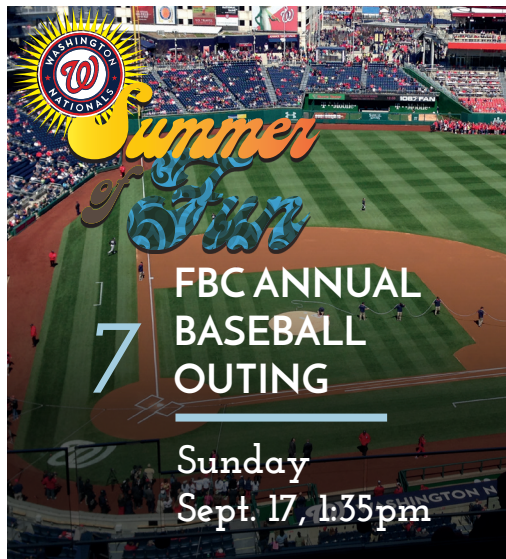
4 AUGUST FORUM FAITH & ACTION

Sundays in August 9:30am



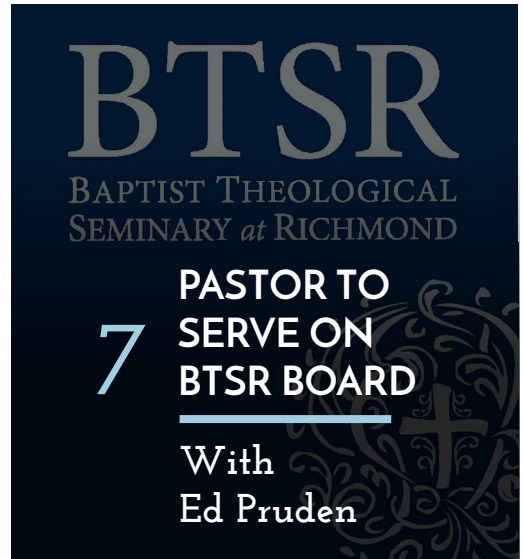
3 HOSPITALITY & THE THREE STRANGERS

Charlie
Fuller



7 FBC ANNUAL BASEBALL OUTING

Sunday
Sept. 17, 1:35pm



BT SR

BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY at RICHMOND

7 PASTOR TO SERVE ON BTSR BOARD

With
Ed Pruden



7 FIRST SUNDAY POTLUCK

Sun Aug 6, 12pm



2 BAPTIST PALOOZA SUMMER RECAP

CBF, ABC, AOB, Wild Goose

BaptistPalooza



Well we wrapped up Baptistpalooza 2017 with pastor Alyssa speaking at The Wild Goose Festival two weeks ago. It has been a good summer of catching up with old friends and make new ones all around the country from Hot Springs, NC to Portland, OR. More importantly, we were able to see glimpses of God at work in the world. Back in April, Pastor Alyssa celebrated 30 years with the Alliance of Baptists in Raleigh, NC. Last month Pastors Julie, Charlie, and Alyssa headed south to Atlanta for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship general assembly where Charlie not only presented his work with the Illumination Project (<https://vimeo.com/223681235>),

but also conducted the hymn CBF commissioned for their 25th anniversary.



While Charlie and Alyssa were in Atlanta, Pastor Julie flew to Portland, OR to be with our sisters and brothers of the American Baptist Convention.



The pastoral staff is thankful for the good folks of First Baptist for letting us attend these conferences and connect with other faith leaders. Now, we are ready for a good nap and down time in our city with our people.



BAPTIST WORLD ALLIANCE ELECTS NEW GENERAL SECRETARY

American Elijah Brown was elected to be the next general secretary of the BWA at the gathering in Bangkok,



Thailand, July 2-7, where approximately 300 Baptist leaders, pastors, theologians, seminary presidents, professors and interested

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HOSPITALITY & THE THREE STRANGERS



BY EXECUTIVE PASTOR
CHARLIE FULLER

“He took me directly to the mechanic’s house – on a Sunday afternoon.”

The mechanic had the right part, repaired my car, and I was back on my way home.”



It was a dreary Sunday afternoon about 40 years ago. I was driving a 1971 Volkswagen Beetle home from college in the rain. Suddenly, the engine simply gave out. I opened the engine compartment and immediately saw the culprit. The sprocket for the generator belt had split in two.

I knew I wasn’t going anywhere like that, so I waded across a wet freeway median to make my way back to the nearest town – about fifteen miles away. I suspected I would be spending the night there and trying to figure out how to get my car fixed on Monday. Remember, this was back in the dark ages before cell phones. Here was my challenge: How was I going to get to the nearest town and then pay for a hotel room and for car repairs?

Just down the road there were two 18-wheelers stopped to check their tires. I asked one of them for a ride and he declined. But he told me the other driver would give me a ride and he did. Fifteen miles later, I was dropped off on the side of the freeway and climbed a wet and slippery hill toward a service station.

The service station didn’t have a mechanic, but they directed me to a guy who ran a towing service. The tow driver picked me up, drove me to my car and we headed back to the town – probably a 40-mile trip all together. During conversation, the driver told me he had a friend who was a Volkswagen mechanic. He took me directly to the mechanic’s house – on a Sunday afternoon. The mechanic had the right part, repaired my car, and I was back on my way home. Both the tow truck driver and the mechanic charged me way below the minimum for the work they did – having pity on a poor college student on his way home.

I ended up getting home just a few hours late and only a few dollars poorer. All because three total strangers gave gifts to a stranger in their midst.



Taking care of the needs of someone you’ve never met: that’s hospitality.

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.



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AUGUST 27

Sitting With the Trauma of Racism

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

AUGUST FORUM
FAITH &
ACTION

"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.



[BAPTIST WORLD ALLIANCE ELECTS - CONTINUED]

Baptists from more than 40 countries met for worship, fellowship, study and decision meetings.

Brown will assume the position on January 1, 2018, succeeding Neville Callam who retires in December after more than 10 years of service. Callam, who is from Jamaica, is the first black person and the first who is neither an American nor a European to lead the BWA. A luncheon in Callam's honor will take place October 21, 2017 at Memorial Baptist Church in Arlington.

During the 5-day gathering, the BWA passed resolutions expressing concerns on human slavery and sex trafficking, refugees in East Africa, the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela and religious liberty in both Russia and the United States. Regarding the U.S., the BWA said "the current travel ban on residents of several Muslim-majority nations" to the United States "raised serious concerns about religious freedom" and that "the BWA believes that no law should be used to discriminate on the basis of religion." The BWA urged President Trump and the government of the US to affirm our country's "historic commitment to religious freedom for all people." The body encouraged Baptists in the US "to understand the implications of religious discrimination and to stand firm for cherished Baptist principles of religious liberty."

Founded in 1905, the BWA is a fellowship of 238 conventions and unions in 124 countries and territories comprising 45 million members in 177,000 churches. Its priorities are nurturing the passion for mission and evangelism; promoting worship, fellowship and unity; responding to people in need; defending human rights and justice; and advancing relevant theological reflection.



Summer of Fun

(June - September)



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- FBC Annual Baseball
Outing: Nats vs L. A. Dodgers

We have 25 tickets reserved on the Mezzanine Level (out of the sun) for our annual trip to Nationals Park. The Nats face the best team in baseball, the Los Angeles Dodgers, on Sunday, September 17, first pitch 1:35 p.m. Nats' Manager Dusty Baker and Dodgers' Manager Brian Roberts both played for the Dodgers (but not together) and are the only African-American managers in the majors. These teams could meet again in the playoffs! Tickets are \$32 each and must be paid for by **August 31**. RSVP and make payment here: <https://goo.gl/BYSJD8>

of Baptists, BTSR has since been nurtured by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the Baptist General Association of Virginia. The school has more than 700 graduates serving around the world in local congregations, social service agencies, educational institutions, chaplaincies, on the mission field, and beyond.

(Fun fact: also coming onto the BTSR board this month is Ed Pruden, son of long-time FBCDC pastor, Edward Pruden [1933-1966]. Ed and his wife, Peggy, make their home in Richmond, VA.)



Pastor to Serve on BTSR Board

In March of this year, Pastor Julie was elected to serve as a trustee of the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond (BTSR). Her three year term begins this Sunday afternoon at a retreat in New Boston, VA, with new BTSR president, Linda McKinnish Bridges (returning to D.C. Monday night).

BTSR was formed in 1991 in celebration of historic Baptist values. Originally birthed by the Alliance

First Sunday Potluck on August 6

Join us for our monthly potluck luncheon on Sunday, August 6 in Fellowship Hall immediately following the worship service. **Please bring a dish or two to share: A-J: salad/vegetable; K-R: dessert/fruit; S-Z: meat.** Note: the September potluck will be held on Sunday, September 10 in conjunction with our quarterly congregational business meeting.

EVENTS

Sunday, July 30

9:30am: Bible Study Groups for all ages

10am: Choir Rehearsal (Rm 312)

11am: Worship (Sanctuary)

12noon: Coffee & Conversation (Parlor)

2pm: Worship in Spanish (Dawson Room)

Thursday, August 3

6pm: Ordinary Time (Young Adults,
Contact Pastor Alyssa for Location)

DEACONS ON-CALL WEEK OF JULY 30:



Chelsea Clarke

WEEK OF AUGUST 6:



Dinh Tran

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

FBC PRAYER & CARE

Sympathy

- To Zena, Ron, Kathryn & Suzanne Aldridge in the death of Zena's brother, Shannon Hart, on July 20. Pray also for Shannon's wife, Elizabeth; they were married 4 days before his passing. Pray for Zena as she presides at Shannon's funeral service this Saturday, July 29, near Baltimore.
- To the family and friends of Will Short who died on July 1. A memorial service will be held this Sunday, July 30, at 12:30 pm, in the chapel of Calvary Baptist Church (755 8th St NW, Washington, DC).

Celebration

- Blessings and congratulations to David Hunter who turned 100 on July 25.
- Blessings and prayers for Amy, Paulo & Ezra Ordoveza as they prepare for their Parent & Child Dedication this Sunday (July 30)

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