



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

TWICE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | SEPTEMBER 28, 2017



JOSEPH'S  
**LIFE OF  
MANY COLORS**

**2** FALL SERMON SERIES:  
**JOSEPH'S LIFE OF  
MANY COLORS**

October 15 - November 12

**5** **WORLD  
COMMUNION**

This Week  
Sun. 10/1

**6** **CENTURYMEN  
IN CONCERT**

50 Voice Choir  
Wed. 10/11 7pm

**8** **HOSPITALITY:  
INVITED TO...**

A reflection by  
Kelly Dunlap

**8** **DCBC ANNUAL  
GATHERING**

October 26-28

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CALL FOR DISCERNMENT**

Kate Campbell & Pastor Julie



JOSEPH'S  
**LIFE OF  
MANY COLORS**

October 15 **Dreams and Devastations**  
Genesis 37:2-28

October 22 **The Other Side of "Splat"**  
Genesis 39:1-23

October 29 **Rising to Your Purpose**  
Reformation Sunday Genesis 41:46-57

November 5 **Choosing Forgiveness**  
All Saints Sunday Genesis 45:1-15

November 12 **Learning to Say Thanks and Yes**  
Genesis 50:15-26

**THIRD WEDNESDAY NIGHTS THIS FALL**

# **FAITH & ACTION**

**7PM IN FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**SANDWICH MAKING @ 5PM + SUPPER @ 6PM**

**OCTOBER 18**

## **BONHOEFFER AND THE POLITICS OF THE GOSPEL**

Kristopher Norris

Visiting Professor, Center for Public Theology at Wesley Theological Seminary

The German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer is invoked in conversations across the political spectrum—from issues of abortion and euthanasia to pacifism and racial justice. He served as a pastor and seminary teacher during the Third Reich and was executed in a concentration camp for his role in a plot to assassinate Hitler. But mostly, Bonhoeffer was committed to the mission of the church. This session will draw on his work and life to explore the relationship between church and politics in our contemporary time.



**NOVEMBER 15**

## **THE SILENT GRIEFS WE CARRY IN CHURCH**

Rev. Elizabeth Hagan

Author and Pastor

When we think grief, we ask: "Who died?" Yet in the church those we worship alongside hurt for countless reasons in addition to loss of loved ones. Infertility. Divorce. Suicide. Mental illness. Estrangement from family members. And the list could keep going. Come join the conversation on November 15th with Elizabeth Hagan, author and pastor of a spiritual memoir of her own silent grief journey, to hear stories and share stories about unnamed griefs in the church. Together we'll work on expanding our empathy muscles especially as the holiday season approaches.





## INCLUSION: A REPORT ON SUNDAY'S CALL FOR DISCERNMENT

Kate Campbell, Deacon Chair

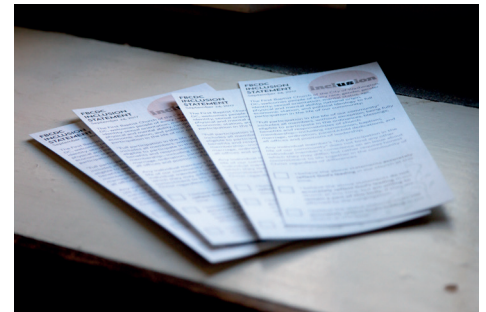
On Sunday, September 24, FBCDC's members capped a years-long journey of prayer, Scripture study and small-group discussions, and expressed their discernment regarding the inclusion and involvement of persons who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT). A majority affirmed LGBT members' "full participation in the life of our

community," to include "being fully eligible to participate in the ordinances, blessings, benefits and responsibilities of church membership--including communion, baptism, marriage, ordination, parent/child dedications, and all offices and positions of leadership."

I would like to thank everyone who joined us on this journey of discernment, as well as my fellow Deacons, members of the Inclusion Team, and our Pastoral Staff, for their wisdom and prayerful consideration.

After distributing recommendations for inclusion in a report (<https://goo.gl/uegNXb>), the Deacons, Inclusion Team and Pastoral Staff asked members to privately and anonymously mark discernment statements. The statements were collected and tallied, and the following results were shared:

- 51 members marked the first response, indicating the statements accurately reflect God's leading in our church at this time;
- 3 members marked the second response, indicating the statements do not accurately reflect God's leading in our church at this time, but that they are willing to remain a part of this body, if the statements are affirmed by the congregation;
- 11 members marked the third response, indicating the statements do not accurately reflect God's leading in our church at this time.



I want to emphasize this portion of the discernment statement: "Any individual member's 'full participation in the life of our community,' does not bind any other individual member's conscience on an issue about which they may differ, but rather requires honest commitment to life together in the community of Christ regardless of differences." This underscores the beauty of our diversity at FBCDC, and the freedom we all share to discern matters of faith for ourselves. Each and every person in our congregation is immeasurably valued and beloved, and it has been the overarching goal of the Deacons, Inclusion Team and Pastoral Staff to highlight this throughout the discernment journey.

### A Pastoral Reflection: Pastor Julie

In Matthew, Mark and Luke, Jesus says, "Two things matter most for my followers. I want you to have a loving relationship with God. And I want you to have a loving relationship with the people around you."

When I was growing up in church, those words of Jesus didn't get all that much air time. Based on what the preacher and everybody else around me was saying, I might



have assumed that the answer to the question, What's the greatest commandment? was:

*Behave yourself.*

*Clean up your act.*

*Do better.*

*Shape up.*

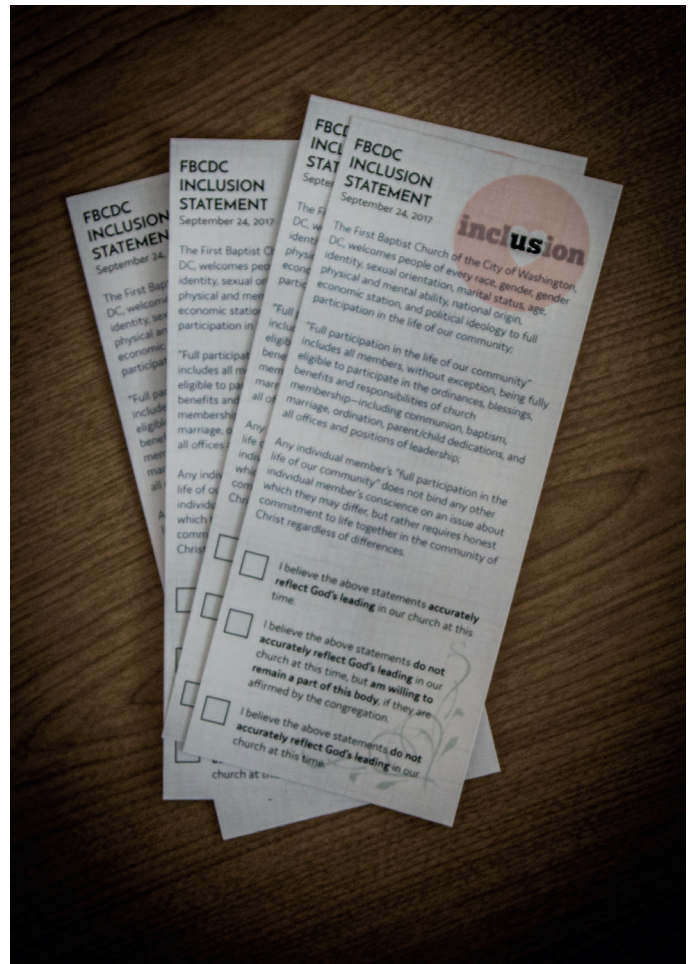
*Shun sinners.*

But apparently, that's not the first thing on Jesus' mind. The most important thing, according to him, is loving God, and loving other people.

Last Sunday our church took a significant step together. In truth, not all that much is different today than it was last week. This is because, over time, the Spirit has been patiently at work at First Baptist, widening our borders; wedging us open; enlarging our embrace. On Sunday, we heartily affirmed together that being open and inclusive of all people, without exception, is part of the essential character of our community of faith.

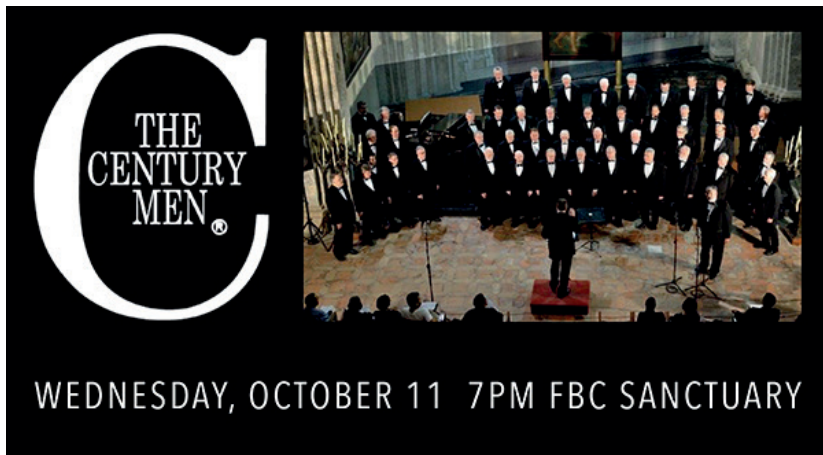
The journey we made together during the Inclusion process was good and necessary. Now let's fling open our doors and stream out to greet our neighbors—all of them—with the astonishing, all-encompassing love of God.

Peace and grace,



## WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY THIS WEEK

World Communion Sunday is an event that bridges denominations and emphasizes our commonality in the body of Christ. Begun in 1936 in the Presbyterian Church, World Communion Sunday has grown into an international ecumenical celebration of Christian unity. When we celebrate the Lord's Supper, we attempt to focus more on Christ's marvelous work of grace than on our power to fix or transform ourselves. And on World Communion Sunday believers around the globe remember that which we hold in common rather than our differences.



You may be wondering, "Who in the world are The CenturyMen?" Well, let me tell you. The CenturyMen is a group of music ministers from across the country who gather together once a year for a concert tour or a recording project. They are professional musicians with graduate degrees in music who audition to be a part of the group. They were one of the first groups to gain entrance to China back in the late 70's and have performed literally around the world. They once performed for the Dove Awards and in April 2016 they performed across the island of Cuba building relationships with the churches and church musicians there.

Their accompanist is Joseph Joubert. Joseph plays for numerous projects across New York including Broadway and television as well as traveling across the country as a guest soloist with various orchestras. He has been music director, conductor, and orchestrator for various Broadway musicals including, "Motown the Musical" and "The Color Purple." **On this year's tour, Joseph plays a pre-concert of selections from his newest recording.**

Their guest soloist is the accomplished lyric soprano, Renee Joubert, who specializes in a variety of musical styles. Their organist is our own Cindy Fuller.

This is quite an accomplished group of musicians. And I get to be their music director and conductor.

An important part of the story of The CenturyMen is that they pay their own way for every one of our projects. No one gets a salary. Their motivation is the privilege of sharing the gospel in song across the world. The expenditure of time, energy, and money from each and every one of them is substantial. It's always a privilege to get to hear a CenturyMen concert. The members of The CenturyMen actually pay out of their pockets to come and sing.

**On October 11, The CenturyMen will present a concert for us at 7pm.** I hope you'll brave the traffic and make it in to hear some incredible music. The CenturyMen only tour once a year. Every tour focuses on a different part of the country. It may be ten or twenty years before The CenturyMen return to our area. You'll not want to miss it!

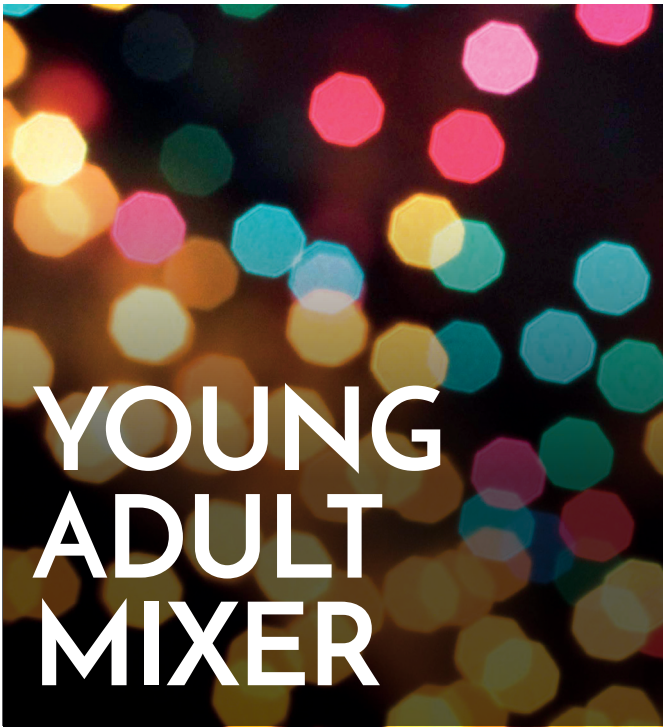
Charlie Fuller

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Charlie'.

FBCDC Executive Pastor

**CenturyMen Music Director and Conductor**

More info at <http://thecenturymen.com/>



**YOUNG ADULT MIXER  
SEPTEMBER 28TH,  
6:30PM CALVARY BAPTIST  
CHURCH LIBRARY  
(ORDINARY TIME)**

Calvary Baptist Church will host a young adult mixer for First Baptist DC, Shiloh Baptist Church, and Mt. Zion Baptist church. This is a great opportunity for young people of faith to connect with one another over good food and good company. Join us Thursday, September 28th at 6:30PM at Calvary Baptist Church! Contact Pastor Alyssa for more details.



**OCTOBER 22 - NOVEMBER 12**  
*a four-week orientation to fbc for newcomers and new members*

*Facilitated by FBC pastors and lay leaders.*

Meet new friends

- Hear a little about our church's history and the "baptist" stream of faith
- Have conversations about walking in the way of Jesus and what it means to "go deeper" with God
- Share from your own experiences with God
- Bonus:** enjoy some excellent coffee and breakfast nibbles!



## HOSPITALITY: INVITED TO CONVERSATION - KELLY DUNLAP

The word 'hospitality' sparks different memories, ideas, and feelings in each of us. Many of us recall trips to other countries when we were warmly welcomed as family by hosts who were required only to house and feed us. Others passionately advocate for policies that allow for more refugees to be resettled in our country, one of the wealthiest in the world. One might think of a little league coach who hosts post-game parties so that the child whose parents can't afford to go out for pizza every week is never left out.

As I consider when I have most profoundly felt the gift of hospitality, I think of times when I was in an unfamiliar place and strangers invited me into conversation. With sincerity, they asked about my family, my needs, or my passions. Maybe, at times, making the stranger feel heard and known is the most needed act of hospitality.

If the shapes of hospitality are as diverse as the needs among us, I wonder how we should practice this hospitality in light of our faith?

Admittedly, I am more comfortable asking questions than I am giving answers. So, can we ponder this question together?

How can we share the peace of Christ as we share a spare bedroom? How can we welcome the newcomer at church in the way that Jesus radically welcomed? How can we feed our neighbors with the faithfulness that God has demonstrated? How can we make room in our church for the unique gifts and needs of our neighbors who have yet to walk through the doors? Will you wonder with me?

~Kelly Dunlap

## DCBC ANNUAL GATHERING OCTOBER 26-28

The 141st Annual Gathering of the DC Baptist Convention takes place at The People's Community Baptist Church, 31 Norwood Road in Silver Spring. The gathering starts on Thursday, October 26 with workshops; the business session begins at 3pm. Friday's activities include a lunch honoring Gail Lacy and Margarita Pinto, who are both retiring after many years of service to the Convention. Saturday's focus is on mission projects scheduled throughout the city. Our messengers to the Gathering are James Langley and Paul Clark.

For a complete schedule go to:  
<https://goo.gl/tscCDv>



## LYNWOOD'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY/ 1ST SUN. POTLUCK OCTOBER 1

Please join us at the First Sunday Potluck Luncheon as we honor our on-staff security/concierge Lynwood Coles and his family. Lynwood recently celebrated his 10th anniversary as part of the FBC family. We'll have cake to celebrate and mark this important milestone. Please bring a dish or two to share: **A-J, dessert/fruit;** **K-R: meat;** **S-Z, salad/vegetable.**

## PIANIST



## CHRISTOPHER SCHMITT IN RECITAL OCTOBER 15, 4PM

Christopher is the pianist in the "President's Own" US Marine Chamber Orchestra. His program features works by Beethoven, Rachmaninoff and Ravel. A reception follows the performance; complimentary valet parking available.



## RECAP OF NEW BAPTIST COVENANT

Last week, I attended the New Baptist Covenant Summit in Atlanta, GA. It was good to see old friends and meet new ones as we discussed the future of The Church. The theme was ART- Action, Reconciliation, and Transformation. Together we shared about the diverse ways we are called to be church in our contexts and the issues that arise in our communities.

# NEW BAPTIST COVENANT

In 2007, President Carter brought together prominent leaders from across the Baptist family. These leaders represented more than 30 Baptist organizations and over 20 million people. He challenged them to explore new opportunities for fellowship and cooperation. From this effort, a ministry of action named the New Baptist Covenant was born, uniting Baptists and renewing our pursuit of unity and justice on the local and national scale. Since 2007, Baptist churches across the country have partnered to engage their local communities to advocate and engage in reconciliation work. ~Pastor Alyssa

In the coming months, Pastor Julie and I will discuss with the New Baptist Covenant what a partnership might look like for us and a local historically black Baptist church in town. We look forward to these future talks and relationships.



Pray with us as we build trust and fellowship with sisters and brothers in DC. Congressman John Lewis was the keynote speaker of the summit, and his charge to us was this: Be bold. Be courageous. Be creative. And get in the way. May we do so creatively as the hands and feet of Christ in our DuPont neighborhood!

## ROOM AT THE LODGE

Last weekend I took some of our young adults on our first retreat together. Ken and Becky Ellison graciously offered up the family cabin in Bryce, VA so off we went to the edges of Virginia. We listened to good music, gazed at the beautiful sunset, and ate some good barbeque pork along the way. All in all a great start to the weekend.

When we arrived at the cabin, I realized that the very key I needed to unlock the door stayed behind on my kitchen counter. Face, meet palm. Of all the worst case scenarios in my head I did not imagine "forget key" would be on that list. Forgetting my bible or shoes, yes. Key, no.

So late on a Friday night, I called our Episcopal friends down the road at Shrine Mont and asked if there was room in the inn. Not only did the good folks at Shrine Mont graciously open their doors to us, they also set a place for us at the breakfast table the next morning! After a yummy breakfast of eggs, bacon, and coffee, we sat together and talked about the still small voice Samuel heard and the times in our lives we have heard that voice. Sometimes it's a big booming voice of a friend telling you they love you and other times it is Mary at the other end of the phone telling you there's room at the lodge. After a stations of the cross hike up the mountain, we slowly made our way back to DC a little more in awe of God's providence and nature. Thanks be for gracious hospitality and the presence of God found at the breakfast table. ~Pastor Alyssa



## EVENTS

### Sunday, October 1

**9:30am:** Bible Study for all Ages

**10am:** Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Rm 312)

**11am:** Worship (Sanctuary)

**12pm:** Potluck luncheon (Fellowship Hall)

**12:30pm:** Worship Committee Meeting (Small Dining Room)

**2pm:** Worship in Spanish (Dawson Room)

## DEACONS ON-CALL: WEEK OF OCTOBER 1:



Mel Doxie

## WEEK OF OCTOBER 8:



Ellen Parkhurst

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

## FBC PRAYER & CARE

### Recently Added

- Bonnie Perkins (**Renee's** mother): 3rd bout with metastatic cancer
- James Georgas (infant; 9 mo.): recovering from second open heart surgery.
- **Carolyn & Wayne Roebuck's** family members in Puerto Rico: desperate circumstances
- Tony O'Shea (**Christi Harlan's** nephew); redeployed for combat duty in the Middle East. A regular first-class stamp will get a card or letter to him at this address and will mean the world to him:  
**Anthony T. O'Shea, 332 AEW/ 336 EFS, Unit 61811, APO, AE 09321**

## Church Staff

**Julie Pennington-Russell**

Pastor

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**Charlie Fuller**

Executive Pastor

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