

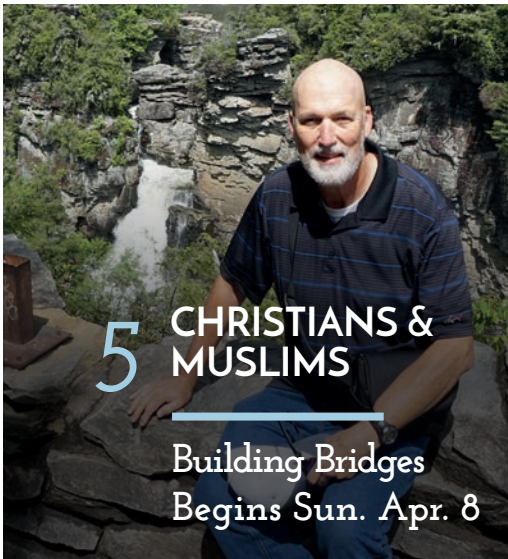


THE First Baptist Church OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON D.C.

TWICE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | MARCH 16, 2018

2 DEACON ELECTION 2018

Deacon Ministry at First Baptist Church



5 CHRISTIANS & MUSLIMS

Building Bridges
Begins Sun. Apr. 8

First Glance

11 NEW FIRST GLANCE

5-Week Orientation
May 6 - June 3



4 HOLY WEEK + HOLY HIKE

Shrine Mont
Sat. Mar. 31



3 HURRICANE RELIEF ARRIVES

Generator+



9 FBC T-SHIRTS W/ INCLUSION STATEMENT

For Marches, Church Events, Or Around Town!

SERVE

DEACON MINISTRY AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

The word "deacon" comes from the Greek word diakonos, which means "servant." There are many references to deacons in the early church. Deacon ministry was developed in response to specific needs within the corporate life of the church itself, and its inspiration was no less the example of Christ himself, who "came not to be served but to serve".



At First Baptist Church, deacons are actively engaged in the mission of the church. They promote peace, reconciliation and the spirit of cooperation and unity in this body. They model the ministry of presence by their regular participation in worship and in other events in the life of the church. They offer pastoral care and help lead in worship. They are faithful in their financial support of the church. They participate in diaconate meetings and training events. As a foundational priority, deacons endeavor to follow Jesus Christ themselves through personal practices of discipleship.

They offer pastoral care and help lead in worship. They are faithful in their financial support of the church. They participate in diaconate meetings and training events. As a foundational priority, deacons endeavor to follow Jesus Christ themselves through personal practices of discipleship.

If a person has been nominated to serve as a deacon and is prayerfully considering deacon service, he or she is invited to consider the following questions:

- Am I actively following Jesus in my daily living?
- Am I able and willing to come alongside a handful of assigned families and/or individuals as their "care deacon"?
- Do I care about befriending people who feel disconnected from God or church?
- Am I passionate about helping our congregation to discern and fulfill God's mission for us?
- Am I a peacemaker in troubled situations? Do I refrain from gossip?
- Am I eager to play a part in mobilizing our entire congregation for ministry?
- Would I be comfortable for others to view me as a spiritual leader?
- Would I be comfortable for others to view me as a servant?
- Am I prepared to be a leader at FBC in the area of financial stewardship?
- Is God calling me to invest myself in deacon service for as many as the next three years—and possibly to set aside some other activities in my life in order to do so?

NOMINATING PEOPLE FOR DEACON SERVICE @ FBCDC

During the period between this Sunday, March 18, and Tuesday, April 3, First Baptist Church members are invited to offer the names of up to 6 church members who demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Gal. 5:22-23), and who embody characteristics of servant leadership. **Nominees, as well as those nominating, must be full members of FBC.** A copy of the current FBC directory is available in the Library (2nd floor) and in the Narthex.

(Continued on page 3)

SERVE

This year's deacon election will fill three, 3-year terms ending in 2018 and one, 2-year term ending in 2020. A nomination form will be provided on the Sundays of March 18, 25 and April 1, or you may submit names by email to office@firstbaptistdc.org. All nominations must be received by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 3.

Individuals not eligible for election as new deacons:

1. *Deacons currently completing their 3-year term of service in 2018:* Mike Henson and Zena Aldridge.
2. *Deacons currently serving terms of service ending in 2019 and 2020:* Kate Campbell, Sadye Doxie, Erik Smith, Rose Smith, Chelsea Clarke, Doug Duvall, Allen Norfleet, Wilma Prince and Kathy Whatley.
3. *Life Deacons:* Mel Doxie, Adrian Harward, Steve Netcott and Ellen Parkhurst.

Following the nomination period, the Deacon Selection Team, comprising Kate Campbell and other deacons, in conversation with Pastor Julie, will prayerfully review all nominations and begin reaching out to individuals.



DEACON ELECTION TIMELINE

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| March 18 - April 3 | Deacon nominations received |
| After April 3: | Deacon Election Team meets; begins reaching out to nominees |
| May 2018: | New term of deacon service begins |

GIVE

HURRICANE RELIEF REPORT

The family of Anamer Castrello, a member of our choir, is enjoying their new solar-powered hot water heater! It was installed the last week of February 2018 -- they had been without hot water for almost 6 months after the hurricanes hit Puerto Rico. Here is Anamer with her mother, brother, niece and nephew.

Carolyn Roebuck's family in St. Croix has received their gas-powered generator, thanks to your generous gifts.



CONNECT @ HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY MARIACHI PARADE

You're invited to join us on Sunday March 25th, for a Palm Sunday Parade! "Mariachi Ay Ay Ay" will return to lead us in song as we circle our DuPont Neighborhood waving palm branches. Wear your walking shoes and join us as we let our neighbors know that they are loved.



2017 Mariachi Parade



Stations of the Cross
HOLY SATURDAY HIKE
Saturday March 31, 2018
Shrine Mont, Orkney Springs, VA

HOLY WEEK + HOLY HIKE

If you're looking for a way to slow down and lean into Holy Week, join Pastor Alyssa and others on Saturday March 31 for a Holy Saturday Hike at Shrine Mont, Orkney, VA. There you can participate in a seven stations of the cross hike up to the camp cross, pray at a labyrinth in the woods, or meditate in the chapel- there is something for everyone.

Contact Alyssa to reserve a spot in a car driving to Shrine Mont from DC.



CHRISTIANS AND MUSLIMS: BUILDING BRIDGES

New Sunday Morning Class Begins April 8

Taught by Dr. Charlie Reynolds, US Army Chaplain (Ret.)

Every day in the news we view events involving Muslims, yet there is a vacuum of misunderstanding about Muslims and the Islamic Faith. Muslims comprise one of the largest groups of emigrants coming to the United States. Muslims are our neighbors. It is critically important for Christians in the United States to understand Islam and the beliefs of Muslims, as well as how we can interact with our Muslim brothers and sisters in meaningful ways.

Teacher: As a US Army Chaplain, **Charlie Reynolds** served as the Strategic Religious Advisor for United States Forces Iraq and United States Army Africa. He retired as the director of the Army Center for World Religions and is currently a religious advisor for the Army. Charlie received his BA in Interdisciplinary Studies at the University of Richmond and an MDiv and DMin from Golden Gate Seminary in Mill Valley, CA. While in the military he received a Master of Theology Degree from Princeton Seminary in World Religions and Culture and was an Academic Fellow at the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University, where his academic focus was on ways religion can assist in reducing conflict. He has presented this material at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship General Assembly, as well as at conferences in the U. K. and Germany. Charlie's hobbies are golf, running and hiking.

Classes begin at 9:30am each Sunday:

- April 8 Bridge One: Understanding Islam
- April 15 Bridge Two: Understanding a Muslim's World View
- April 22 Bridge Three: Understanding the Diversity in Islam
- April 29 Bridge Four: The Bridge We Walk Over



WINTER FORUM- LAST CALL FOR BOOKS



We still have copies of Bill Leonard's books purchased in preparation for the Winter Forum. Since we are allowed to return unsold copies to the publisher, this is last call for those who still wish to buy *The Challenge of Being Baptist* (\$20) and *Homebrewed Christianity Guide to Church History: Flaming Heretics and Heavy Drinkers* (\$10). Please contact D'O at ddillard@firstbaptistdc.org by Friday, March 23 to get your copies.

WORSHIP

GOD-FOCUSED WORSHIP

From the FBC Worship Committee

Our committee is sometimes asked about the international flags displayed in the Narthex and why the USA flag is displayed in the chancel of the sanctuary. The display of international flags originated many years ago when, as now, The First Baptist Church of the City of Washington, DC was privileged to welcome the fellowship and diversity of individuals from around the world to worship, and to shared life together. Each flag represents a connection with someone who has called FBC his or her church home through the years. These flags are displayed in the church's welcome area year-round and are hung from the balcony of the sanctuary on certain occasions such as Pentecost and World Communion Sunday. The international flags symbolize our sense of oneness with the global Church of Jesus Christ.

Following discussions over the past several months, the Worship Committee has made the decision, with the blessing of the Diaconate, to relocate the American and Christian flags from the chancel area to the international display of flags in the Narthex. Our conversations have focused on some key principles for providing a meaningful, hospitable and, above all, a God-focused experience of worship for all who enter our doors:

1. The principle of ultimate allegiance to God. All of us hold loyalties and allegiances. It is a human characteristic to feel loyalty toward certain people, places and institutions, and this is a good thing. We feel allegiance to family; to our nation of origin and/or to the nation where we now reside; allegiance to our schools; to our hometown, etc. These allegiances are honorable and arise from the best of motives. At the same time, our chief task and first priority when we gather as the body of Christ is to remember that God alone is the focus of our ultimate, unwavering, undistracted



worship, adoration and allegiance. And so, when we gather as the body of Christ we allow other allegiances to recede into their proper places so that our first allegiance to God may take center stage. For this reason, rather than any kind of flag, we lift up the cross of Christ as the symbol beneath which we worship. We set aside other competing symbols of allegiance so that we may give ourselves fully to the Triune God. Then, we depart from worship to return to our daily lives where our earthly allegiances get enacted in all kinds of good ways.

The Body of Christ is a world-wide, trans-national reality. The perceived self-interest of nations puts equally devout Christians, who are also citizens of those nations, at odds with each other politically. Also, most churches include participants who hold differing views about what constitutes patriotism. By making a clear distinction between the Body of Christ and the nation-state, we constantly remind ourselves as Christians that, though we have many loyalties, our first loyalty is to Christ and all other loyalties are secondary. By worshiping beneath the cross of Christ alone, we demonstrate that our political views do not divide us as Christian brothers and sisters.



2. The principle of worship as an embodiment of the kingdom of heaven. It is difficult to imagine a heaven in which there will be an American section, a Canadian section, a Chinese, Brazilian or Nigerian section. Christ is ever leading the Church toward God's redemptive future. The kingdom of God is not marked by national

WORSHIP

borders, racial differences, class distinctions, titles, global markets, etc. These things do exist today. However, every time we gather for worship we are, in a sense, un-tethering ourselves from this temporary, fleeting world, even for a brief moment, in order to allow God to bind us to our true identity and our ultimate reality.

3. The principle of Christian hospitality. It is our privilege to offer our most hospitable welcome to Christians in our midst who are not American citizens. In worship we communicate to all believers and seekers, regardless of nationality (or even legal status): "We are your family because we all stand together beneath the cross. For all of us, Jesus is both savior and judge."

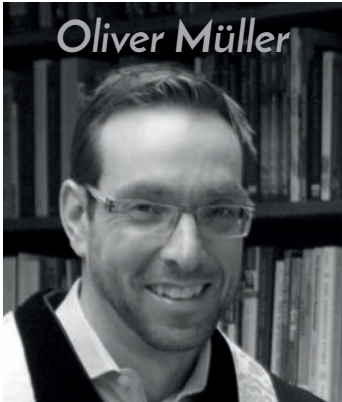
Respectfully offered by the Worship Committee: Sadye Doxie (chair), Didier Ahimera, Kate Campbell, Doug Duvall, Patty Marceron, Allen Norfleet, Rose Smith



THIS WEEK: FINAL LENTEN VESPERS SERVICE

March 21
FBC Sanctuary

This 45-minute worship service offers a simple, meaningful opportunity to pause in the middle of the week to connect with God and receive fresh inspiration. In this final service, Oliver Müller will share a piece of his faith story and musicians Charles Pugh and Kevin Biggins will play.



	Faith Story	Musician
Mar 21	Oliver Müller	Charles Pugh, Kevin Biggins

Two Options for Dinner: Wednesday Nights in Lent

Like to eat early? Enjoy a delicious meal prepared by Chef Laval at 6:00pm in Fellowship Hall. Cost: \$8. RSVP to D'O Dillard ddillard@firstbaptistdc.org by Monday at 5pm.

Prefer to eat later? All who'd like to join in are invited to walk as a group to a nearby restaurant.

ADVOCATE

RALLY TO END RACISM WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, ON THE NATIONAL MALL *50th Anniversary of the Assassination of MLK*

A.C.T. NOW!
awaken confront transform

On April 3-5, 2018 the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA and partners will gather in Washington, D.C. for a historic event to mark 50 years since the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on April 4, 1968, and to launch its Truth and Racial Justice Initiative. The Rally to End Racism is a launching point for a comprehensive, multi-year program to address racism in our nation. Pastor Julie is serving on the fundraising committee for this event. Many volunteers will be needed from local congregations. Volunteer opportunities below.

Donate Through First Baptist Church To Support The Rally - <https://goo.gl/GMLyTe>

(On the event website there is an opportunity to donate. However, we plan to send a check from First Baptist Church to demonstrate our support as a congregation for this important movement.)

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed now and during the rally on Wednesday, April 4, including in the following areas: Mobilization, Hospitality, Security (Marshals), Medical Assistance, Logistics, General Volunteer (I'll go where needed) and Press/Media. A volunteer sign up is on the website when you register for the event. After signing up, you will be contacted by one of the Volunteer Coordinators with more information and instructions.

Schedule At-A-Glance for April 3-5, 2018

Tuesday, April 3: Ecumenical Worship Service in the Orthodox Tradition

- 6:30 p.m.: St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 2815 36th St., NW, Washington, D.C., 20007

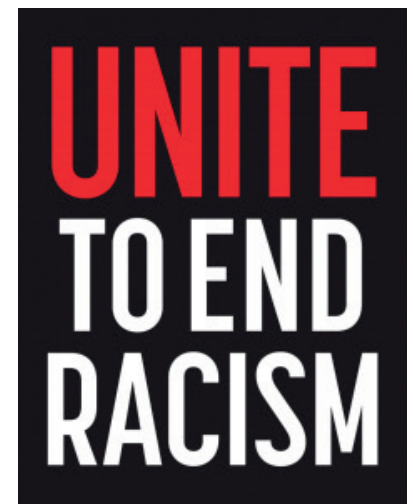
Wednesday, April 4: ACT to End Racism Rally on the National Mall

- 7-8 a.m.: Silent Prayer Walk to the National Mall
- 8-9 a.m.: Interfaith Service
- 9 a.m.-4 p.m.: Rally and Call to Commitment

Thursday, April 5: National Day of Advocacy & Action

Here's how you can get involved:

- VOLUNTEER to serve at www.rally2endracism.org
- DONATE through First Baptist Church <https://goo.gl/GMLyTe>
- "Like" our Facebook page to stay up-to-date: www.facebook.com/actnow2end



ADVOCATE

- Find the event on Instagram at @act2endracism for the latest updates
- Follow the conversation using #ACT2EndRacism on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram
- Register for the event now: www.rally2endracism.org

MARCH FOR OUR LIVES - MARCH 24 @ NOON

Demanding an end to Gun Violence and Mass Shootings in Schools

Organized by students, alumni* and friends of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, the march will take place on Saturday, March 24 on Pennsylvania Avenue between 3rd street and 12th street NW. The March begins at 12:00pm (noon).

A group will leave First Baptist Church at 11am and walk together to the event. All are welcome. RSVP at <https://www.marchforourlives.com/>

(*Our own Andrew Blasi is a graduate of MSDHS. Read his letter here: <https://goo.gl/7fL7cs>)

MARCH FOR OUR LIVES



FBC T-SHIRTS

FBC will sell t-shirts folks can wear for any of the upcoming marches, church events, or around town! Represent who we are in the world.

Shirt cost is \$15.

Final design coming soon!



CONNECT



3RDSUNDAYLUNCH/CASCARONES

This Third Sunday, we'll meet at the church for lunch and cascarone making! Bring money for lunch and bring your eggshells for cascarones. All are welcome!

FBC'S 216 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

We Celebrated our 216th year at the March 4th potluck with cake!



PASSPORT MISSIONBASE

We are gearing up for another summer hosting PASSPORT MissionBASE at First Baptist!

Passport Staff arrives June 16th for a week of training before we host camp for 6 weeks this summer. Pray for Passport and staff as we all prepare for a summer of serving the city.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

PALM SUNDAY

Palms and Praise

Sunday, March 25

Worship at 11am (baptism today)
After-worship Procession with Palms through our neighborhood, accompanied by a mariachi band.



MAUNDY THURSDAY

Lord's Supper and Foot Washing

Thursday, March 29

7pm in the Sanctuary
Childcare: infants-kindergarten
Fellowship Meal @ 6pm

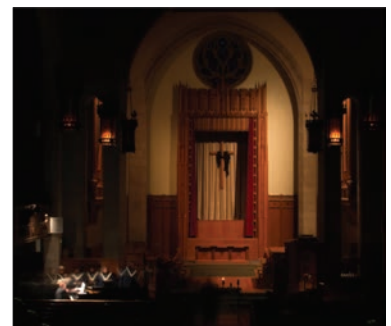


GOOD FRIDAY

Service of Shadows

Friday, March 30

7pm in the Sanctuary;
led by the Chancel Choir and other FBC musicians
Childcare: infants-kindergarten
(No Fellowship Meal)



EASTER SUNDAY

Christ is Risen!

Sunday, April 1

Worship at 11am;
Communion
Easter reception with Cascarones
(No Potluck today)



GROW

First Glance

SUNDAYS
9:30 - 10:30AM
(ROOM 315)



STARTS MAY 6

a five-week orientation to fbc for newcomers and new members

- **Facilitated** by FBC pastors and lay leaders
- **Meet** others who are new to First Baptist (within the past year or so)
- **Hear** a little about our church's 216-year history, as well as distinctive features of the Baptist stream of Christianity
- **Have conversations** about walking in the way of Jesus
- **Share** from your own experiences with God
- **Bonus:** enjoy some excellent coffee and breakfast nibbles!

Can't be there all Sundays? No worries; join us as often as you can.

EVENTS

Sunday, March 18

9:30am: Bible Study for All Ages

10am: Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Rm 312)

11am: Worship (Sanctuary)

2pm: Worship in Spanish (Dawson Room)

Tuesday, March 20

6:30pm Education for Ministry (Rm 214)

Wednesday, March 21

5pm: Sandwich making for Martha's Table (Fellowship Hall)

6pm: Dinner (Cost: \$8; menu: chef's salad; Fellowship Hall)

7pm: Lenten Vespers (Sanctuary)

8pm: Post-Vespers Dinner (hosted by Pastor Alyssa)

Thursday, March 22

6pm: Ordinary Time (Meadows Room/ Courtyard)

DEACONS ON-CALL: WEEK OF MARCH 18:



Allen Norfleet

WEEK OF MARCH 25:



Rose Smith

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

FBC PRAYER & CARE

Sympathy to:

Lucia Pollock in the death of her sister, long-time FBC member and chorister **Eleanor Pollock**, on Feb. 14.

Eleanor's memorial service will be Sunday, April 29, at 1pm in the FBC Sanctuary.

Sympathy to:

- Joan Royce (sister-in-law of **Ramona Michels**) who is being placed in hospice care in Michigan
- **Ana Gooch**, who is awaiting surgery
- Edna Fuller (**Charlie's** 97-year-old mother in Little Rock): under hospice care
- Don Sage (**Beth Newell's** 83-year-old father in Richmond): diagnosed with inoperable, incurable cancer. Pray also for Beth's family, including her mother, Marietta Sage.
- **Ann and Randy Ashcraft** (Randy is a former interim pastor) – Ann has been diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer. They welcome cards and emails: 10 Tow Path Circle, Richmond, VA 23221; Ann's email: raashcraft1@gmail.com; Randy's Email: crashcraft1@gmail.com

Church Staff

Julie Pennington-Russell

Pastor

jpr@firstbaptistdc.org

Charlie Fuller

Executive Pastor

cfuller@firstbaptistdc.org

Alyssa Aldape

Associate Pastor for Young Adults & Youth

aaldape@firstbaptistdc.org

Kelly Magee-Prichard

Minister for Children and Families

kmp@firstbaptistdc.org

Lawrence P. Schreiber

Organist-Choirmaster

lschreiber@firstbaptistdc.org

D'Oniece Shaw Dillard

Church Administrator

ddillard@firstbaptistdc.org

Zena Aldridge

Administrative Assistant

zaldridge@firstbaptistdc.org

Stephen Hunter

Building Engineer

shunter@firstbaptistdc.org

Tim Pennington-Russell

Dir., Comm. & IT Support

tpr@firstbaptistdc.org

Carolyn B-Roebeck

CDC Director

croebuck@firstbaptistdc.org



THE
First Baptist Church
OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, DC

1328 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036

Phone: 202.387.2206

office@firstbaptistdc.org | www.firstbaptistdc.org