



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

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | APRIL 2018



2 Into the Wild

ADVENTURES IN PRAYER

Easter Sermon Series | Through May 13



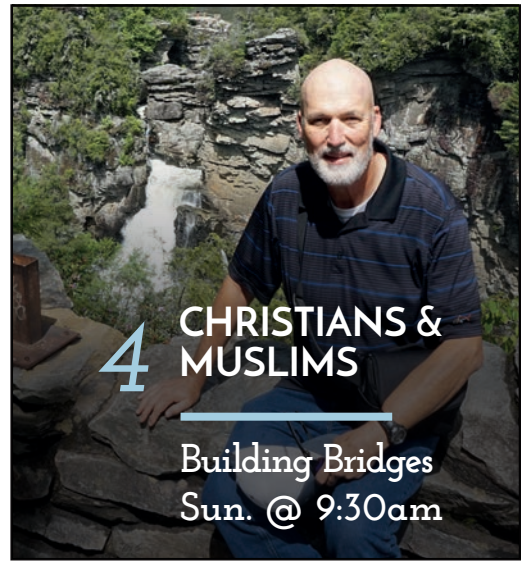
8 NEWS FROM CUBA

Pastor Dorilin @ Wm. Carey BC



4 NEW FIRST GLANCE

5-Week Orientation
May 6 - June 3



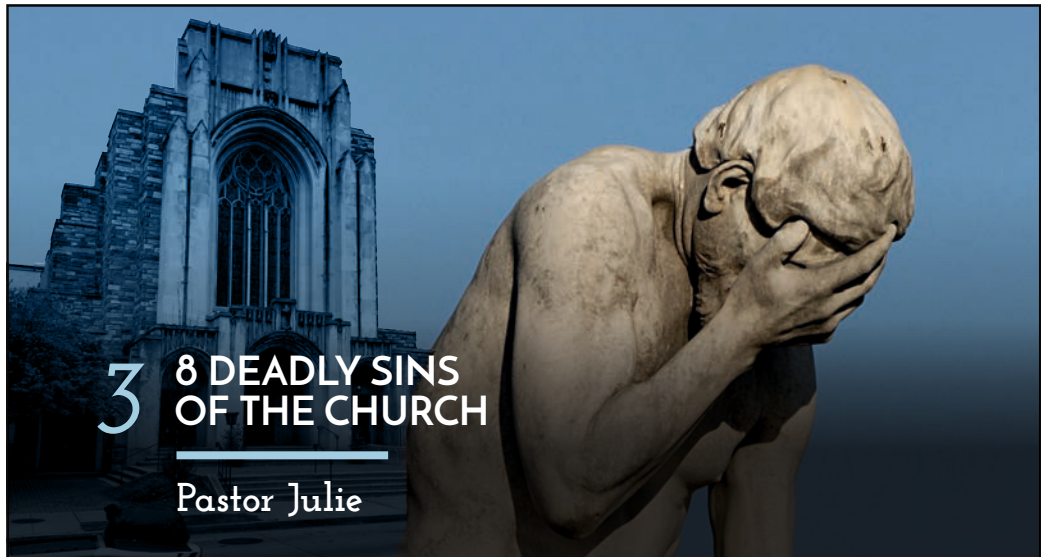
4 CHRISTIANS & MUSLIMS

Building Bridges
Sun. @ 9:30am



5 VESPERS SERVICE:
OLIVER MÜLLER

Wed., 7pm 4/18



3 8 DEADLY SINS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor Julie



Into the Wild

A D V E N T U R E S I N P R A Y E R

APRIL 8 PRAYING AS IF WE BELIEVE *ACTS 12:5-17*

APRIL 15 PRAYER 101 *LUKE 11:1-13*

APRIL 22 BECOMING A BOTHER *LUKE 18:1-8*

APRIL 29 KEEPING OUR EYES TO OURSELVES *LUKE 18:9-14*

MAY 6 DITCHING DECORUM *LUKE 18:35-43*

MAY 13 SHAKING A FIST AT GOD *NUMBERS 11:1-15*



Sundays 11am Sanctuary

FROM THE PASTOR

8 DEADLY SINS OF THE CHURCH

“What is your primary reason for being?” This is the first question my friend Bill Wilson, Executive Director of the Center for Healthy Churches, asks when assessing the health of a congregation. Bill, who is in fifth decade of church ministry and leadership, contends that “All organizations, including churches, have a reason for being. Only a few actually know that reason and articulate it and live into it.” He wrote a blog in March titled *The 8 Deadly Sins of the Church*. (<http://chchurches.org/the-8-deadly-sins-of-the-church/>) In it, he names eight common congregational mindsets in declining and dying churches across the country:



1. Building-centric
2. Denomination-centric
3. Doctrine-centric
4. Laity-centric
5. Money-centric
6. Pastor-centric
7. Program-centric
8. Staff-centric

At the end of the article Bill offers a healthy alternative to the eight scenarios above, which he calls mission-centric: seeking to align congregational life with the mission of God as articulated by Jesus: To love God, to love our neighbor, and to make disciples.

Do we know why we exist at First Baptist Church? What’s your “elevator speech” about our identity and purpose as a congregation? What would a newcomer assume is our main reason for being, if she or he were simply to observe us as a community?



Let’s keep talking about this together.

Peace and grace,

Julie



CHRISTIANS AND MUSLIMS: BUILDING BRIDGES

Three Sundays Remaining: April 15, 22 & 29
(NEW ROOM: Library)

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 |

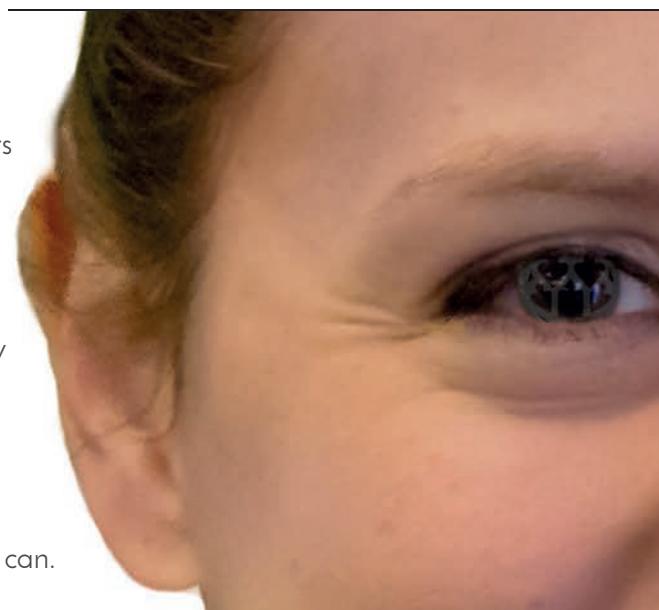
NEW FIRST GLANCE

MAY 6 - JUNE 3

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 excellent coffee and breakfast nibbles!

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



GROW

DUKE LEADERSHIP

From Pastor Julie

Join me in congratulating Alyssa Aldape who has been selected to participate in the Foundations of Christian Leadership program through Duke University. This seminar brings together young leaders from various faith bodies and organizations to collaborate and learn innovative ways of engaging their unique communities/congregations. The four-day seminar will take place at Calvary Baptist Church here in Washington April 23-26. Alyssa says, "I'm excited to learn ways of tapping into the passions and gifts of FBC through the lens of Christian teaching of inclusion and love." More info on the program can be found here:

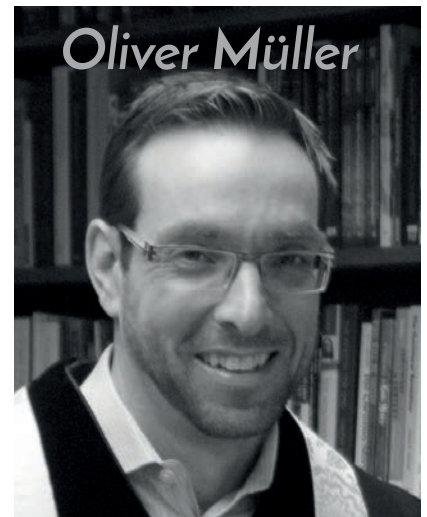
<https://leadership.divinity.duke.edu/what-we-offer/programs/foundations-of-christian-leadership/>



SERVE

THIRD WEDNESDAY: SANDWICHES, DINNER & VESPERS - APRIL 18TH

- 5pm Sandwich making for Martha's Table in Fellowship Hall (serving homeless persons in DC)
- 6pm Before-worship meal in Fellowship Hall (menu: chef's salad; cost: \$8; RSVP to D'O at ddillard@firstbaptistdc.org by Monday, April 16th)
- 7pm Rescheduled Vespers service (45-minute worship service postponed on 3/21 because of snow) featuring Oliver Müller's faith story & Charles Pugh on organ.
- 7:45pm After-worship meal at a nearby restaurant, hosted by Pastor Alyssa.



Oliver Müller



CHRIST HOUSE VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER APRIL 27

FBC is happy to once again host Christ House's dinner in appreciation for their many volunteers. The evening features a delicious meal, remarks by Christ House staff and musical performances by Christ House residents. FBC members serve breakfast at Christ House on the second Sunday of each month. Respectfully offered by the Worship Committee: Sadye Doxie (chair), Didier Ahimera, Kate Campbell, Doug Duvall, Patty Marceron, Allen Norfleet, Rose Smith

EVENTS

SUNDAY, APRIL 15

- 9:30am: Church School for All Ages
- 10am: Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Rm 312)
- 11am: Worship (Sanctuary)
- Noon: Youth Third Sunday
- 12:30pm Deacons Meeting (Rm 315)
- 2pm: Worship in Spanish (Dawson Room)

Monday, April 16

- 6:00pm: Missions Team (Rm 315)
- 6:30pm: Faith Formation Team (Conference Room)

Tuesday, April 17

- 6:30pm: Education for Ministry (Conference Room)

Wednesday, April 18

- 5pm: Sandwich making for Martha's Table (Fellowship Hall)
- 6pm: Dinner prepared by Chef Laval; cost \$8 (Fellowship Hall)
- 7pm: Vesper Service (rescheduled from March 21 -- Sanctuary)
- 8pm: Dinner at a nearby restaurant

Thursday, April 19

- 6pm: Ordinary Time (contact Pastor Alyssa for location)

SUNDAY, APRIL 22

- 9:30am: Church School for All Ages
- 10am: Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Rm 312)
- 11am: Worship (Sanctuary)
- 12:30pm Church Council (Rm 315)
- 2pm: Worship in Spanish (Dawson Room)

Tuesday, April 24

- 6:30pm: Education for Ministry (Conference Room)

Thursday, April 26

- 6pm: Ordinary Time (contact Pastor Alyssa for location)

Friday, April 27

- 7pm: Christ House Volunteer Appreciation Dinner (by Invitation)



EVENTS

SUNDAY, APRIL 29

- 9:30am: Church School for All Ages
- 10am: Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Rm 312)
- 11am: Worship (Sanctuary)
- 1pm: Eleanor Pollock Memorial Service (Sanctuary)
- 2pm: Worship in Spanish (Dawson Room)

Tuesday, May 1

- 6:30pm: Education for Ministry (Conference Room)

Thursday, May 3

- 6pm: Ordinary Time (contact Pastor Alyssa for location)

SUNDAY, MAY 6

- 9:30am: Church School for All Ages
- 10am: Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Rm 312)
- 11am: Worship (Sanctuary)
- Noon: Potluck Luncheon / Annual FBC & Foundation Meetings (Fellowship Hall)
- 2pm: Worship in Spanish (Dawson Room)

Tuesday, May 8

- 6:30pm: Education for Ministry (Conference Room)

Wednesday, May 9

- 7pm: Malone University Chorale (Sanctuary)

Thursday, May 10

- 6pm: Ordinary Time (contact Pastor Alyssa for location)



PARTNER



UPDATE FROM CUBA

In February of 2017, fourteen women and men from FBCDC traveled to Havana to spend a week with the brothers and sisters of William Carey Baptist Church. This week we received the following letter from the pastor of WCBC, Rev. Dorilin Tito.

Dear brothers of the 1st Baptist Church of Washington and Pastor Julie:

May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

In a long time we have not communicated, but our fraternal love and sincere affection remains the same. We have had difficulties with our Email, so we have not been able to write to you before. Now that we have solved this difficulty of the Email, I write to you with the purpose of greeting you, and above all to convey our gratitude for the blessings received through you.

(We have sent greetings with Brother Stan, but we know that perhaps they have not had much communication because Brother Stan now lives in Florida. We have also done it with other brothers who know them.)

Our church is immensely grateful for all the blessings we have received from you. Not only the happy memory of your visit to our country, but also for your constant concerns for our welfare. I thank you for the financial help you sent us in November for the elderly and victims of Hurricane Irma. Every penny is being used for this purpose. The economic aid that you left during your visit to our church and the gift sent last November have been carefully used for this project.

Our elderly members, who were especially vulnerable after the hurricane because of increased food shortages and their already-low income, have benefited greatly from



PARTNER

this project. For almost a year we have been providing monthly help:

- a package with chicken
- a liter of oil
- a packet of milk
- two soaps and two bags of detergent

These are important elements of the basic pantry of each Cuban home. This gives them help of approximately \$13 CUC. The currency exchange in our country would be about \$317 CUP, which is more or less the monthly salary that most receive for their retirement. Many elderly people cannot afford these products every month. Giving them these items saves them a great deal of money. They are able to enjoy all these things every month while allowing their salary to buy other necessary items for their family.



Currently we have forty-seven elders older than 70 in the project. The number has increased as we have seen the need. Most live alone or with a family member. We have five elderly members who are very sick and homebound. From the funds you sent to us we purchase for them disposable diapers and some expensive medicines that improve their quality of life and make them more comfortable. This helps not only the elderly members but also their families. We are preparing files summarizing the situation of each individual in order to better organize our work with them and help them more effectively.

We are economizing and administering this money in the best possible way so that these elders may benefit from this help through at least 2018. Whenever they receive their package, they smile gratefully and always say: "Pastor, thank the brothers and sisters in Washington."

We would like to convey our gratitude to the Church for this help. (I'm enclosing some photos.) We are grateful to the Lord for your lives. We ask God to bless you and make the work of your hands prosper. May your ministries be blessed, and may they bless others.

Thanks for everything. If possible, we want to keep in touch. We want to know you. We remember with great affection your stay in our Church. Please greet all the brothers and sisters who were here during that trip. And please extend our greeting to the entire First Baptist Church of Washington, especially to your pastors and leaders.

We love you in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

"Jehová te bendiga, y te guarde; Jehová haga resplandecer su rostro sobre ti, y tenga de ti misericordia; Jehová alce sobre ti su rostro, y ponga en ti paz." Nm. 6:24-26 ("Jehovah bless you, and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you, and have mercy on you. The Lord lift up his face upon you, and give you peace. (Numbers 6:24-26)

Rev. Dorilín Tito San Jorge
William Carey Baptist Church Havana, Cuba

Our friend Stan Hastey recently wrote a blog for Prayer & Politik about the upcoming Presidential transition in Cuba.

<https://goo.gl/3jz7aT>



ADVOCATE

MARCH FOR OUR LIVES/ RALLY AGAINST RACISM RECAP

First Baptist has had a few opportunities to participate in the two marches- the day before Palm Sunday and Wednesday, April 4. On the Saturday before Palm Sunday, all who were able gathered on the steps of the church and marched to Pennsylvania Ave to hear youth speak their hearts on matters that affect their everyday lives. And then early Wednesday morning, a few FBC folks gathered amidst a whirlwind of Cherry Blossom petals to march to the beat of drums as we reflected on the life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King. It was encouraging to see fellow ministers and persons of faith at the rally. Despite the strong winds, speakers continued on with their words of challenge and affirmation to us. Let us always be mindful of God's big dream for the world- and that it includes every person created in the image of God.

March for Our Lives Facebook Photos:

<https://goo.gl/Rk94u1>

Rally Against Racism Facebook Photos:

<https://goo.gl/AQswzi>



MARCH FOR OUR LIVES



UNITE TO END RACISM

CONNECT

YOUTH THIRD SUNDAY

Youth are invited to join Pastor Alyssa and other youth for lunch after the church service. Meet in the narthex at the end of worship and together we'll pick a spot nearby. We'll leave the church at 12:30PM. Contact Pastor Alyssa for more info- aaldape@firstbaptistdc.org



ANNUAL MEETINGS

Dust off your dancing shoes, practice the twist, and pull out your reading glasses, friends! You won't want to miss this year's Annual Meeting and Foundation Meeting! Get to know what your church family has been up to in the last year and enjoy a dance off or two. Door prizes and chocolate guaranteed!

GIFTS OF EASTER FLOWERS

IN MEMORY OF:

Loved family members (Kathy and Jac Whatley)
Martha Ellen Parkhurst (The Nelson family)
James H. Sutton and Mr. & Mrs. S.M. Pitts, Sr. (Mary Lou Sutton)
Quinton & Mildred Hodges and Leon & Nora Austin (Sarah Hodges Austin)
The 17 victims of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, FL (Andrew Blasi)
Hallie Holmes and Carroll Holmes (Lucy Plovnick and family)
Beatrice Doxie (Mel and Sadye Doxie)
Patrick Newell (Bill and Beth Newell)
Carolyn Magee, Dan Magee, Mildred Prichard and Bill Prichard (Angus Prichard)
Belva Anderson (Marvin and Patty Marceron)
Margaret and Elmer Henson, parents (Michael Henson)
John Osborn (Janice Osborn)
John and Augusta Ann Langley (James Langley)
Allen and Ruth Millikan, David and Lucille Hunter, Jim Sutton, Mary Lou Frye, and Diane Millikan (Al and June Millikan)
Ryan Hurst Carter (Alyssa Aldape)
Ron Pennington and Bill & Margaret Russell (The P-R family)
My parents, Eni and Esther Ola (Violet Bakare)
Mrs. Sponseller, Mrs. McAnnear, Mrs. Parkhurst and Mrs. Miller (Violet Bakare)
Isaiah Ogunnaike and Helen Ogunnaike (Olajide Ogunnaike)
Soloman Dina & Mrs. Tinuade Dina (Modupe Ogunnaike)
Marcellina Taiwo Dina (Mr. and Mrs. Ogunnaike)

IN HONOR OF:

Eula Mae Adams (Lucy Plovnick and family)
The Pastors and church staff (Charlotte Straight)
The Aldape family (Alyssa Aldape)
Our beautiful FBC family (The Pennington-Russells)
My son, Aaron Dillard (D'Oniece Shaw Dillard)
My mom, Rose Hart Decker (Zena Aldridge)



DEACONS ON-CALL: WEEK OF APRIL 15:



Adrian Harward

WEEK OF APRIL 22:



Wilma Prince

WEEK OF APRIL 29:



Kathy Whatley

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

FBC PRAYER & CARE

Sympathy to:

- **Beth and Bill Newell** and family in the death of Beth's father, Don Sage, on April 4 in Richmond. Remember also Beth's mother, Marietta Sage.
- **Michael Barnes** in the death of his mother, Maggie Barnes, on April 1 in Washington, D.C. Her funeral will take place on April 12th at 10 am at Greater First Baptist Church (2701 13th St. NW)
- Lucia Pollock in the death of her sister, long-time FBC member and chorister **Eleanor Pollock**, on Feb. 14. **Eleanor's memorial service is set for Sunday, April 29, at 1pm in the FBC Sanctuary.**



Eleanor Pollock (2012)

Recently Added:

Amanda Ellison—recovering at home from surgery on April 9

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