



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

TWICE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | JANUARY 11, 2018

Big **Light**  
Big **Prayer**  
Big **Calling**  
Big **Expense**

# 3 **BIG** JANUARY SERMON SERIES

Sundays in January @ 11am



## 2 **SPIRITUAL PRACTICES**

New Year's Letter  
From Pastor Julie



## 6 **WINTER FORUM: BILL LEONARD**

Sunday Morning  
Mar. 4 @ 9:30am




## 4 **PREACHING: TRACY HARTMAN**

Sunday Morning  
Feb. 4 @ 11am



## 4 **ASH WEDNESDAY**

Feb. 14 @ 7pm



## 6 **FAITH & ACTION: AN EVENING WITH PASTOR DONNA SOKOL**

Wednesday, January 17 @ 7pm

# SPIRITUAL PRACTICES FOR 2018

*From Pastor Julie*

A friend of mine, Episcopal priest Winston Charles, says one sage piece of advice given to him early on was, "Don't join a fitness center in January... Wait until February, when yet another gaggle of New Year's resolutions has turned cold." New Year's resolutions that pertain to our spiritual practices can fizzle quickly as well, leaving us feeling defeated, disappointed and guilty. Even so, the beginning of a year offers rich opportunities for fresh starts.

As you begin 2018, along with the timeless spiritual practices of worship, prayer, Bible study, contemplation, journaling, etc., I want to recommend three more:

## 1. Lower your Mask

In a church, this often happens best in small groups where deeper connections can be made and authentic community can take place. As we lower the masks we wear and give permission for others to lower their masks; as we pray for each other and risk some vulnerability; as we share our life and faith stories, including our questions and doubts, something extraordinary gets born that can only be described as a work of the Spirit. New small group opportunities are coming this year at First Baptist. Our Faith Formation Team and pastoral staff are working on these and we welcome your input.

## 2. Be a "Breach-Mender"

*The ancient ruins will be rebuilt,  
You will build on age-old foundations,  
You will be called "Breach-Mender,"  
Restorer of ruined houses. ~ Isaiah 58:12*

Practice restoring the places around you in which God's presence has become hidden or misrepresented.

## 3. Practice Presence

You cannot *not* be in the presence of God. As Richard Rohr puts it, "All spiritual teaching—this is not an oversimplification—is about how to be present to the moment. When you're present, you will experience the Presence. But the problem is, we're almost always somewhere else: reliving the past or worrying about the future." Pay attention to "this moment" unfolding around you. Just try to keep your *heart* open and tender, your *mind* receptive, and your *body* aware of where it is and what it is experiencing.

Peace and grace,

*Julie*



WORSHIP

# JANUARY SUNDAY SERMON SERIES

Jan 7 Big **Light** | Isaiah 60:1-6

Jan 14 Big **Prayer** | Matthew 6:7-15

Jan 21 Big **Calling** | Mark 1:14-20

Jan 28 Big **Expense** | Isaiah 58:1-12



# BIG

It's so easy to gravitate toward the trivial. It takes enormous intentionality to move beyond business-as-usual, especially in church. During the month of January we're letting Scripture call us toward a bigger vision, individually and as a congregation.



# WORSHIP

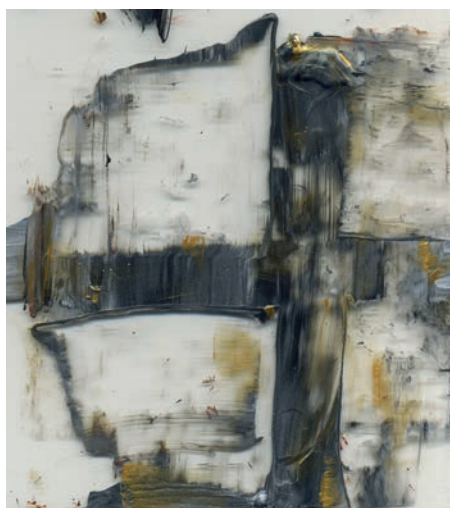
## INTERFAITH SHABBAT SERVICE: FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

First Baptist Church has received an invitation from the Washington Hebrew Congregation to join them as their guests for dinner, followed by an interfaith Shabbat service honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on Friday, January 12. Dinner begins at 5:30pm and Shabbat at 7pm at Washington Hebrew Congregation (3935 Macomb St., NW). Pastor Julie will represent FBC on the bimah at the service, along with clergy from other D.C. churches and mosques. The deadline has past for the dinner, but you can still attend the shabbat service. Please RSVP to Zena Aldridge at [zaldridge@firstbaptistdc.org](mailto:zaldridge@firstbaptistdc.org) so we can let the WHC know how many to expect from our church. [Read more here.](#)



## FEBRUARY 4 - BTSR PROFESSOR TRACY HARTMAN PREACHING

On February 4th our guest proclaimer in worship will be Dr. Tracy Hartman, professor of preaching, spiritual formation and practical theology at Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, and author of *Letting the Other Speak: Proclaiming the Stories of Biblical Women*. She also serves as Acting Vice President of Academic Affairs at BTSR. She is a life coach and preaches frequently in churches throughout the region. She earned her academic degrees from Carson-Newman University (BA), BTSR (MDiv) and Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education (PhD). In a recent interview, Dr. Hartman said, "I love my calling. No two days are ever the same! I also love the constant interaction I have with both the academy and the church."



## ASH WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 14

"Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return." (Gen. 3:19) For nearly a thousand years, these words have been spoken to young and old alike as the sign of the cross is traced on their foreheads with ashes—the Imposition of Ashes, as it has come to be known—as a sign of our mortality and as a sign of our repentance. Join us Wednesday evening, February 14, at 7pm for the annual Ash Wednesday worship service.

### "ASHES-TO-GO" ON ASH WEDNESDAY MORNING

Can't make it to the Ash Wednesday evening service on February 14? Associate

Pastor Alyssa Aldape will offer the Imposition of Ashes on the front steps of the church (16th Street) that morning from 8am until 10am.



# WORSHIP

## CASCARONES? SAVE YOUR EGG SHELLS

Last year it was a treat to see our church folk participate in the wonderful tradition of cracking cascarones on the heads of friends and family. And now that we've done it one year, I look forward to this year's bounty of egg shells! Just in case you don't know what a cascarone is- a cascarone is a hollowed out chicken egg decorated, filled with confetti, and topped with a piece of tissue paper. On Easter Sunday, one -with the best intentions of course- cracks a cascarone on a friend's head, signifying colorful showers of God's grace and blessings. Cascarones are a Mexican Easter tradition dating back to the mid-1800s and used mostly in towns on the Mexico/Texas border. During the 40 days of Lent, I'd like to invite you to save your washed eggshells and drop them off with me, Alyssa Aldape. The week before Easter, the youth will gather to put together cascarones to share with our church family on Easter Sunday!



## AN EVENING WITH PASTOR DONNA CLAYCOMB SOKOL

Wednesday, January 17, 2018 (Fellowship Hall)

Our "third Wednesday" speaker series sponsored by the Faith Formation Team continues in January. Join us for a conversation with Rev. Dr. Donna Claycomb Sokol, senior pastor of Mt. Vernon Place United Methodist Church here in D.C., and co-author of a new book, *A New Day in the City: Urban Church Revival*. The MVP congregation focuses its energy on a limited number of ministries in order to offer each with intentionality, excellence and the hospitality of Christ. On January 17th, Pastor Julie will facilitate an interview and Q&A with Pastor Donna. Come and hear more about the MVP story, and meet this exceptional pastor who is also eager to meet the people of First Baptist Church.



Schedule on January 17 in Fellowship Hall (come for some or all of the evening)

- 5pm Sandwich making for Martha's Table
- 6pm Supper prepared by Chef Laval (RSVP to [ddillard@firstbaptistdc.org](mailto:ddillard@firstbaptistdc.org))
- 7pm Conversation with Rev. Dr. Donna Claycomb Sokol



## WINTER FORUM WITH CHURCH HISTORIAN BILL LEONARD

Renowned Church Historian, and long-time friend of FBCDC, Bill J. Leonard is our 2018 Winter Forum speaker on Sunday, March 4. Bill is the James and Marilyn Dunn Professor of Baptist Studies and Professor of Church History at Wake Forest School of Divinity in Winston-Salem, NC. He is the author or editor of some 25 books including *Christianity in Appalachia* (1999); *Baptist Ways: A History* (2003); *The Challenge of Being Baptist* (2010); *Can I Get a Witness?: Essays, Sermons and Reflections* (2013); and *A Sense of the Heart: Christian Religious Experience in the U.S.*; (2014). His newest book, *The Homebrewed Christianity Guide to Church History: Flaming Heretics and Heavy Drinkers*, was published by Fortress Press in July 2017.

Bill earned a BA from Texas Wesleyan University; his MDiv from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; and a PhD from Boston University. He writes a twice-monthly column for Baptist News Global and is an ordained Baptist minister. His spouse, Dr. Candyce Crew Leonard, is professor of Humanities at Wake Forest University with specialization in Spanish literature. They have one daughter, Stephanie. The Leonards are members of First Baptist Church, Highland Avenue, the oldest African American Baptist congregation in Winston-Salem.

### WINTER FORUM SUNDAY SCHEDULE (MARCH 4)

- 9:00am Breakfast in Fellowship Hall
- 9:30am Bill Leonard leads combined adult & youth Bible study hour
- 11:00am Bill Leonard preaches in worship

# GROW

## SUNDAY MORNINGS AT FBC

First Baptist Church offers several good options for people who want to join with others in connecting with God through Scripture. Current Sunday morning adult groups include:

### **Journey to Wholeness and Healing** (taught by Paul Clark)

*New 5-Week Class on Sundays @ 9:45am; Room 315*

What about our life's journey makes us blue? How does God bring healing as we share our stories and care for one another? How does the Bible help us as we grieve? You are invited to take part in a five-week small group experience dealing with loss, grief and the journey to wholeness, led by teacher and storyteller Paul Clark. The group will meet on Jan. 14, 21, 28, and Feb. 4 and 11 in room 315 (take elevator in the O Street entrance to the 3rd floor).



### **Perspectives** (taught by Dinh Tran)

*New 5-Week Class on Sundays @ 9:45am; Room 315*

This group connects the Bible with life choices and current issues and is composed of adults in their 20s, 30s and beyond.

### **Tapestry** (taught by Dennis Lambert)

*9:45am in the church library on the 2nd floor*



This intergenerational Bible study group uses a variety of study materials, some denominational and some reflective of FBC's ecumenical theological tradition. Discussions draw upon weekly reading assignments and related scriptural texts. Composed mostly of adults 50 and older, this group enjoys a free exchange of ideas in an atmosphere of friendship. One of their primary objectives is to find relevant scriptural approaches to life. All are welcome.

### **First Thing** (facilitated by group members)

*9:30am In the Conference Room on the 2nd floor*

A group for all ages that practices the Christian spiritual discipline of contemplative prayer using the Centering Prayer method. Prayer is followed by discussion of a book dealing with prayer or other spiritual practices. If you are curious about connecting with God through prayer, silence, and spiritual discipline, give *First Thing* a try.

# GROW

## FBC STAFF SPEAKING, LEARNING AND LEADING THIS WINTER & SPRING



**Alyssa Aldape** (Associate Pastor for Young Adult and Youth Ministries)

**January 25:** Participating in the ordination council for Jennifer Hawks, a member of McLean Baptist Church in Mclean, VA, and Associate General Counsel at the Baptist Joint Committee.

**February 28th - March 2:** Attending Oasis, a retreat for youth ministers, in Montreat, NC, where she will help to coordinate worship and lead a breakout session on ministry with young adults in urban settings.

**Now through April 28:** Serving on a planning team for the annual Alliance of Baptists Gathering in Dayton, OH (April 28 - May 2)



**D'O Dillard** (Church Administrator)

**January 27:** Serving as Head Teller for the 123rd annual Episcopal Diocese of Washington Convention at the National Cathedral. D'O also just started a 3-year term on the Vestry (similar to our Church Council) at her home parish, the Church of the Epiphany.



**Charlie Fuller** (Executive Pastor)

**January 10-12:** Leading the CBF Illumination Project in Decatur, GA

**February 1-8:** Leading The CenturyMen in a recording session, Nashville, TN (there will be other trips this year for additional recording and production).



**Julie Pennington-Russell** (Senior Pastor)

**Jan. 22-26:** Attending (with Tim) a leadership retreat with author and faith leader Brian McLaren, New Orleans, LA

**Feb. 2-4:** Leading annual women's retreat and preaching in worship at Second Baptist Church, Little Rock, AR

**Feb. 11:** Preaching at Calvary Baptist Church, Waco, TX (installation of Mary Alice Birdwhistell as Senior Pastor)

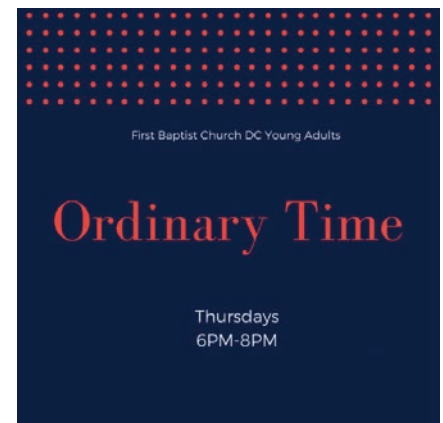
**April 11:** Preaching at Campbell University Divinity School, Buies Creek, NC (commencement)

# CONNECT

## ORDINARY TIME

**Thursdays @ 6pm (This Week: Matchbox Pizza - Near U Street)**

Young adults from FBC gather every Thursday at 6pm for friendship and conversation at restaurants or taverns around town. Join us as we seek the presence of God in the ordinary spaces. This week we'll pick it back up after an Advent pause. Meet us at Matchbox Pizza on 14th St. NW at 6pm. Questions? Contact Associate Pastor Alyssa Aldape [aaldape@firstbaptistdc.org](mailto:aaldape@firstbaptistdc.org). Come when you can and as you are!





# SERVE

## SERVE BREAKFAST AT CHRIST HOUSE THIS SUNDAY

**Sunday, January 14, 2018 @ 7am (Christ House - Adams Morgan)**

FBC members and friends are invited to serve breakfast at Christ House Sunday, January 14 at 7am. Christ House, which provides comprehensive healthcare to men experiencing homelessness, is located at 1717 Columbia Road, NW in Adams Morgan. Contact Dinh Tran at [dinaford@gmail.com](mailto:dinaford@gmail.com) for more information and to volunteer.

## MLK DAY OF SERVICE

**Monday, January 15, 2018 @ 10am (Washington Hebrew Congregation - Cathedral Heights)**

First Baptist Church has received an invitation from the Washington Hebrew Congregation to join them at their 16th annual Day of Service to honor Dr. King's legacy with acts of service that aid the homeless and at-risk in our community. Spend the morning preparing meals, sorting donated clothing and food, making craft projects, and more. The WHC meets at 3935 Macomb Street, NW; phone 202-362-7100 or go to [whctemple.org](http://whctemple.org) for more info.

## CHURCH COUNCIL MEETS JANUARY 21

**Sunday, January 21, 2018 @ 12:30pm (Rm. 315)**

The first Church Council meeting of 2018 is scheduled for Sunday, January 21 at 12:30pm in Room 315. Committee chairs, please submit any reports to the Moderator, Rod Coates ([roderick.coates@gmail.com](mailto:roderick.coates@gmail.com)) and the Administrator, D'O Dillard ([ddillard@firstbaptistdc.org](mailto:ddillard@firstbaptistdc.org)) by noon on Friday, January 19.

# GIVE

## MISSIONS OFFERING FOR ABC & CBF UPDATE

The following amounts were donated to our mission partners: \$1152.50 to America for Christ/World Mission Offering (ABC) and \$1455.50 to Offering for Global Missions (CBF). Thank you to all those who gave and affirmed the efforts of missionaries serving around the world.

Also, the offering collected last fall for the work of the DC Baptist Convention ("The Blessing") totaled \$1100.00.

## 2018 COMMITMENT CAMPAIGN UPDATE

We concluded our pledge campaign with commitments from 56 individuals & families and a total of \$310,680. A brief summary of these numbers: Our entire budgeted contributions for the fiscal year are \$332,500. This amount includes not only pledged contributions but also unpledged gifts, as well as "loose plate" contributions (cash given with no record of the giver). Though we just missed our goal of 60 commitments and \$332,500, receiving pledges within \$22K of our total budget is still a healthy outcome. What's more, of these fifty-six commitments, twenty-two represent first-time pledges (!), and nine givers increased their commitments from 2017. Sincere thanks to all who contribute gifts of money, time and ministry through First Baptist Church.

## THANK YOU FROM YOUR FBC STAFF

A heartfelt thank you to all those who so generously contributed to the Love Offering for the FBC staff.

We feel loved and appreciated!

## EVENTS

### Sunday, January 14

**9:30am:** Church School for All Ages

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

**11am:** Worship (Sanctuary)

**1pm:** James Sutton Memorial Service (Sanctuary)

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

### Monday, January 15

FBC & CDC closed in observance of M.L. King holiday

### Tuesday, January 16

**6:30pm:** Education for Ministry (Rm 214)

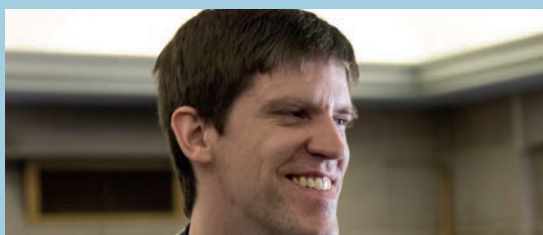
### Wednesday, January 17

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

**6pm:** Dinner (Fellowship Hall)

**7pm:** Conversation with Rev. Dr. Donna Claycomb Sokol (Fellowship Hall)

## DEACONS ON-CALL: WEEK OF JANUARY 14:



Erik Smith

## WEEK OF JANUARY 21:



Rose Smith

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

## FBC PRAYER & CARE

### This Sunday: A Celebration of Life for James Sutton

This Sunday, January 14, we will gather at 1pm in the FBC Sanctuary and give thanks to God for the life of Jim Sutton who died December 17th. Burial will take place at Arlington Cemetery (date TBA). Please remember Jim's wife Mary Lou in your prayers.

### Sympathy to:

- Shirley McBeath and family in the death of her brother, James F. Nickell, on December 26 in Nebo, IL, following a stroke.
- Carolyn B-Roebuck and family in the sudden death of her cousin, Annette Adams, on Dec. 18; funeral takes place in FL on January 16.
- Mary Lou Sutton and family in the death of James Sutton on Dec. 17. Jim's memorial service takes place on Sunday, January 14, 2018, in the FBC Sanctuary at 1pm.

### Recently Added

- Chuck Golden—recovering from back surgery on January 8th

## Church Staff

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