



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

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | MAY 2018

# 4 PENTECOST SUNDAY: MAY 20

Celebrating God's gift of Holy Spirit to the Church



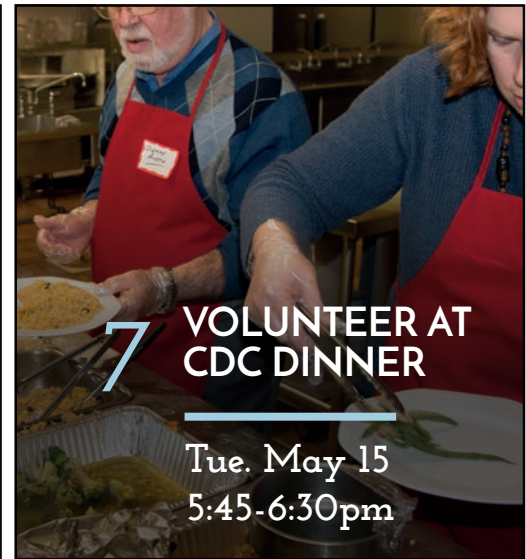
**6 SERVE BBQ @CHRIST HOUSE**

Mon. May 28  
9:45am-2:30pm



**6 YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

Sun. May 6  
9:45am Rm. 103



**7 VOLUNTEER AT CDC DINNER**

Tue. May 15  
5:45-6:30pm



**3 FBC ANNUAL MEETING**

Sun. May 6



# First Glance

**5 NEW FIRST GLANCE BEGINS THIS SUNDAY (5/6)**

5-Wk Orientation - RSVP Today!

# FROM THE PASTOR



Christ of the Breadlines (by Fritz Eichenberg)

There came a defining moment for Jesus at the beginning of his public ministry. Showing up one sabbath day at his boyhood synagogue in Nazareth, he read to the congregation from the prophet Isaiah and, in that moment, declared his own agenda:

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me.  
He has sent me to preach good news to the poor,  
to proclaim release to the prisoners  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to liberate the oppressed,  
and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*

Did you catch the agenda? It's pretty short: good news to the poor; release to prisoners; sight to the blind; liberation for the oppressed; and announcing God's favor on everybody. This past week, two different gatherings caused me to think of Christ's agenda and of the different opportunities we have to embody good news:

## Through acts of compassion:

Last Friday night at the Christ House (<http://christhouse.org>) volunteer appreciation dinner (which we hosted), I found myself thanking God for the chance to partner with an organization that offers healing and hope to men who are both sick and homeless. Did you know:

- Christ House (CH) offers 24-hour medical care.
- The average length of stay for a CH resident is 41 days.



# FROM THE PASTOR

- In 2017 CH served more than 195 patients. Case managers assisted patients in obtaining benefits, legal documents, and referrals to mental health services, transitional living programs, and vocational training programs.
- In 2017 CH provided more than 50,000 meals and offered 330 classes and activities for the residents, including substance abuse recovery, educational activities and health promotion classes.



## Through advocacy:

At a meeting I attended with D. C. Attorney General, Karl Racine a week ago at First Congregational United Church of Christ, along with Ken Ellison, Rob Marus and Kate Campbell (see Kate's article on p. 10) I found myself wondering what "good news to the poor" might look like in D.C. with regard to housing. Did you know:

- There are 40,000 people on the waiting list for DC public housing.
- The 2001 zip code is the second most rapidly gentrifying zip code in the country.
- The D. C. Zoning Commission recently tripled the size of the downtown area but has failed to require developers to build any affordable housing under Inclusionary Zoning as they must do elsewhere in the city.
- The proposed DC 2019 budget for homeless housing falls short by \$30 million, while the Council has recently voted to subsidize development at Union Market at a cost of \$82 million.

Sometimes good news to the poor looks like a cup of cold water (or a hospital bed) offered in Jesus' name. Sometimes it sounds like a voice advocating for policies that look out for the most vulnerable. What's your piece of Christ's agenda? What's our collective piece together?

Pondering good news...

*Julie*



## ANNUAL MEETING - SUN, MAY 6

Practice your jitterbug and prepare to celebrate all that God is doing in and through First Baptist Church at the Annual Congregational Meeting. Join us for this informative, FUN gathering on May 6, during the "First Sunday" potluck luncheon. Door prizes and chocolate guaranteed. Newcomers welcome. (The FBCDC Foundation Annual Meeting immediately follows the congregational meeting.)





## PENTECOST SUNDAY: MAY 20

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

We sometimes call Pentecost the birthday of the Church of Jesus Christ. Luke described in the second chapter of Acts how on that day, 50 days after Easter, the Spirit of God fell like a fire and blew like a wind on 120 men and women. When Holy Spirit came to them, the fears they had felt melted away and the silence they had been keeping got filled up with speech, and they streamed into the streets of the city (where a church belongs) to meet their neighbors with good news.

Join us on Sunday, May 20, when we celebrate God's gift of Holy Spirit to the Church. A jazz ensemble will play in worship and we'll hear the words of Scripture read in a variety of languages.



# WORSHIP

## CHARLIE FULLER PREACHING MAY 27

FBC Executive Pastor Charlie Fuller will bring the message in worship on May 27, the Sunday after Pentecost. Pastor Julie will help lead worship that morning as well. Charlie began his ministry at FBC on January 1, 2017 and spends the bulk of his days working with FBC lay leaders to ensure our congregational systems (finances, facilities, personnel, communications, etc.) are in alignment with our mission and vision.



## YOUTH SUNDAY - SAVE THE DATE - JUNE 3

On Sunday, June 3rd, our youth will lead us in worship, we'll recognize and pray over incoming youth, and celebrate communion together in worship. You won't want to miss experiencing worship with our young people. Potluck lunch in the Fellowship Hall after- ALL are invited!

# GROW

## NEW FIRST GLANCE BEGINS THIS SUNDAY (RSVP TODAY!)

**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!

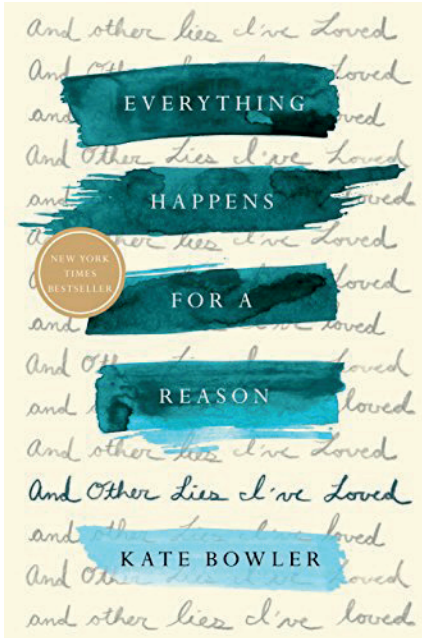
Bonus: enjoy excellent coffee and breakfast nibbles!



RSVP: <https://goo.gl/Z6N81D>



# GROW



## YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY BEGINS SUNDAY, MAY 6

Join the young adults as they read through Kate Bowler's book: "Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lies I've Loved". Together we'll read through a chapter and talk about what we've read. All are welcome.

Would you like your own copy of the book? Buy it here: <http://a.co/flJCWMw>

Sunday school will begin Sunday, May 6th at 9:45 AM in rooms 103-105 right next to the O Street entrance. All are welcome!



# SERVE/CONNECT



## OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE! MEMORIAL DAY BARBECUE AT CHRIST HOUSE MONDAY, MAY 28, 9:45AM-2:30PM

Volunteers are needed to set up, serve barbecue and enjoy games with the residents of **Christ House**, a residential medical facility for homeless men in D.C. Christ House also asks that we bring desserts for the event. This is a fun opportunity to serve others.

First Baptist served at the Labor Day Christ House barbecue last September and had a terrific time. We also need desserts! Whether or not you can serve on Monday, we invite you to bring a dessert on Sunday morning, 5/27, and leave it in the church kitchen. Questions? Contact Alyssa Aldape at [aaldape@firstbaptistdc.org](mailto:aaldape@firstbaptistdc.org).

# SERVE/CONNECT

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! CDC "HURRIED FAMILY" DINNER TUESDAY, MAY 15

First Baptist Church understands the often stretched-to-the-limit nature of family life in Washington, DC. As an expression of our support and encouragement, we are serving supper to the parents and children of our Child Development Center on Tuesday evening, May 15, at 6pm in our Fellowship Hall. **We need FBC volunteers**

**from 5:45-6:30 to help serve the meal.** Please let one of our CDC Committee members, Becky Ellison, Sarah Hodges-Austin, Beth Prince or Jacqueline Lee, know if you can help. Come and meet our CDC friends!



## 4 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SERVE BREAKFAST AT CHRIST HOUSE SUNDAY, MAY 13

We invite you to be the hands and feet of Christ on Sunday, May 13, at 7am by serving breakfast to the residents of Christ House, a medical facility serving unhoused individuals in the Adams Morgan area. (First Baptist serves this community on the 2nd Sunday of every month.)

Christ House is located at 1717 Columbia Rd., NW, Washington DC 20009, and volunteers are finished in time to get to FBC for Sunday Morning Bible Study and Worship.

Sign up at <http://www.firstbaptistdc.org/christ-house-breakfast-signup/>.



## AFTERNOON ICE CREAM SOCIAL - HAND CRANK OR ELECTRIC MAKERS NEEDED

Afternoon Ice Cream Social in June sponsored by the Children's Ministry. Needed: Hand crank or electric ice cream makers. Please contact Kelly at [kmp@firstbaptistdc.org](mailto:kmp@firstbaptistdc.org) if you are willing to offer a loaner. Will return promptly after event. Thanks!

# EVENTS

## SUNDAY, MAY 6

- 9:30am: Sunday Morning Bible Study for All Ages
- 9:30am: First Glance Session One (Rm 315)
- 10am: Chancel Choir rehearsal (Rm 312)
- 11am: Worship (Sanctuary)
- 12pm: Pot Luck Luncheon/  
FBC and Foundation Annual Meetings (Fellowship Hall)
- 2pm: Worship in Spanish (Dawson Room)



## Monday, May 7

- 7pm: Runnymede Singers performance for family & friends (Sanctuary)



## Tuesday, May 8

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

## Wednesday, May 9

- 7pm: Malone University Chorale & Chamber Choir Concert (Sanctuary)



## Thursday, May 10

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

## SUNDAY, MAY 13

- 9:30am: Sunday Morning Bible Study for All Ages
- 9:30am: First Glance Session Two (Rm 315)
- 10am: Chancel Choir rehearsal (Rm 312)
- 11am: Worship (Sanctuary)
- 2pm: Worship in Spanish (Dawson Room)



## Tuesday, May 15

- 6pm: CDC Hurried Family Dinner (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:30pm: Education for Ministry (Conference Room)

## Wednesday, May 16

- 5pm: Sandwich making for Martha's Table (Fellowship Hall)
- 6pm: Dinner prepared by Chef Laval; cost \$8 (Fellowship Hall)





# EVENTS

## SUNDAY, MAY 20 (PENTECOST)

- 9:30am: Sunday Morning Bible Study for All Ages
- 9:30am: First Glance Session Three (Rm 315)
- 10am: Chancel Choir rehearsal (Rm 312)
- 11am: Worship (Sanctuary)
- 2pm: Dr. Ivo Kaltchev piano recital (Sanctuary)
- 2pm: Worship in Spanish (Dawson Room)



## Tuesday, May 22

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

## Thursday, May 24

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



## SUNDAY, MAY 27

- 9:30am: Sunday Morning Bible Study for All Ages
- 9:30am: First Glance Session Four (Rm 315)
- 10am: Chancel Choir rehearsal (Rm 312)
- 11am: Worship (Sanctuary)
- 2pm: Worship in Spanish (Dawson Room)



## Monday, May 28

**Memorial Day: FBC offices and CDC closed**

- 9:45am Serve Memorial Day Barbecue at Christ House

## Tuesday, May 29

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



## Thursday, May 31

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



## AFFORDABLE HOUSING UPDATE

Sobering obstacles face D.C. residents seeking affordable housing. As our neighborhoods gentrify at lightning speed, the District cannot maintain a sufficient number of affordable housing units for low- and, increasingly, middle-income residents – and 40,000 District residents wait on a list for public housing. Nationwide, the average age of a person experiencing homelessness is nine. For the poor in the District, average housing costs consume more than half of their income.

The First Congregational United Church of Christ on G Street NW founded the Homes for All in D.C. Task Force (HFADC) and has now been joined by the Cleveland Park Congregational United Church of Christ. On Sunday, April 22, the HFADC hosted D.C. Attorney General Karl A. Racine to discuss how people of faith can advocate for affordable housing.

While his office has successfully sued slumlords and unscrupulous developers as well as short-term rental companies that have taken scores of rent-controlled units off the housing market, Attorney General Racine encouraged people of faith to advocate for better citywide policies. Churches can host and organize forums for candidates seeking election to public offices in the District to learn their goals for affordable housing, he said. Attorney General Racine also encouraged churches to support organizations dedicated to the cause (such as Bread for the City, So Others Might Eat, and the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless), and to connect their congregants and neighbors with resources for tenants (such as the ones his office offers below). These efforts dovetail with civic initiatives such as increasing the city budget for affordable housing, incentivizing renovations of unused dwellings, and changing the law to hold predatory developers accountable.



"Housing is the base of security," Mr. Racine said. "It allows one to be safe – allows, in the proper setting, a familial base. I think that housing should be a right in the District of Columbia."

**To read:** *"Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City,"* by Matthew Desmond

**To visit:** *"Evicted,"* a free exhibit based on Desmond's book, at the National Building Museum (401 F Street NW) through May 19

**To research:** Civil actions filed by the Office of the Attorney General in D.C. Superior Court against the developer Sanford Capital, involving several apartment properties across the District (visit <https://oag.dc.gov/newsroom> and search for "Sanford").

**To share:** Resources for Tenants on Attorney General Racine's website; these resources include details on your rights as a tenant; where to turn for help if you are a tenant experiencing problems with your landlord; and how to document poor housing conditions caused by unscrupulous landlords: <https://oag.dc.gov/tenant-resources>

# NEW FEATURES

## PERFORMING/PRESENTING AROUND TOWN



We're adding a new feature to weekly Updates and monthly Newsletters: "FBC About Town". Are you performing in a play, concert, musical, opera, etc., and want to let your church family know about it? Or maybe you're presenting a lecture or have published an article and want to let friends at church know. Send an Internet link to [office@firstbaptistdc.org](mailto:office@firstbaptistdc.org) and we will list it in our weekly email Updates! (Links only; we can't include pdf posters.)

Rebecca Vander Veer dances and sings in Rodgers and Hammerstein's "South Pacific" May 4 - 19, 2018 with the St. Mark's Players (301 A St SE Wash., DC 20003). For more information: [http://stmarksplayers.org/?page\\_id=150](http://stmarksplayers.org/?page_id=150).

## COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Community Information will list news you can use as a resident in the DC metro area.

- Has a DC landlord told you that they do not accept vouchers? Voucher discrimination is ILLEGAL. Click here for more info: <http://nlsp.org/>
- Ever been late to church because of street closures? Sign up for AlertDC, which sends info such as traffic conditions, public safety incidents and severe weather: [alertdc.dc.gov](http://alertdc.dc.gov)

# MORE



## CUA PROFESSOR PIANO RECITAL MAY 20

Catholic University Professor Dr. Ivo Kaltchev presents a piano recital on our 9-foot grand Steinway, Sunday, May 20 at 2pm, in the Sanctuary. Dr. Kaltchev is head of the piano division at Catholic, and his program includes Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition, and preludes by Debussy and Gershwin. FBC members and friends are cordially invited.

## DEACONS ON-CALL: WEEK OF MAY 6:



Chelsea Clarke

## WEEK OF MAY 13:



Sadye Doxie

## WEEK OF MAY 20:



Kate Campbell

## WEEK OF MAY 27:



Erik Smith

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

## FBC PRAYER & CARE

### Sympathy to:

- **Randy and Graham Ashcraft** in the death of wife and mother Ann Ashcraft on April 15 in Richmond. (Randy was FBC's Interim Minister 10 years ago). Ann's funeral is this Friday, May 4, at 4pm, First Baptist Church of Richmond, with a reception afterwards at Branch Museum of Architecture (a short walk from the church). Randy's home address: 10 Tow Path Circle, Richmond, VA 23221; Email: [crashcraft1@gmail.com](mailto:crashcraft1@gmail.com).
- **Ann Bailey, Ken Ellison** in the death of their friend Bob Pohlman who passed away on April 26 from cancer. Bob was the original Executive Director of CNHED (Coalition for Nonprofit Housing and Community Development). His funeral is May 19 at 2pm at Christ Lutheran Church, 5101 16th St, NW. Please pray also for Bob's family.

### Recent Requests:

- **Violet Bakare**—injured hand that isn't healing properly
- Barbara Harlan (**Christi's** mother in Manhattan, KS)—health
- Melissa Browning (professor at McAfee School of Theology in Atlanta and friend of the **P-Rs**)—treatment for cancer

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