



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

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | JUNE 2018

SUMMER ^{of} FUN

4 SUMMER OF FUN 2018 BEGINS

Two June Events | Get to Know One Another | RSVP Now | More in Jul-Aug



6 **LILIA ANN ABRON**
NEW DEACON

Sun., Jun. 10
Ordination



6 **PHILIP HAWKINS**
NEW DEACON

Sun., Jun. 10
Ordination



6 **DIDIER AHIMERA**
NEW DEACON

Sun., Jun. 10
Ordination



10 **PRESTON CLEGG**
GUEST PREACHER

Sun., Jul 1



10 **YOUTH LEAD**
SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sun., Jun 3

FROM THE PASTOR

BAPTISTS AND EXCLUSION: A TALE OF TWO GROUPS

On May 22, 2018, after more than a hundred years of affiliation, the Southern Baptist Convention officially severed ties with the D.C. Baptist Convention over its refusal to exclude from membership the historic Calvary Baptist Church, a 155-year-old D. C. congregation founded by abolitionists. At issue was Calvary's decision in 2017 to call Rev. Maria Swearingen and Rev. Sally Sarratt, a married lesbian couple, as co-pastors.

For more than a century, the DCBC has seen itself as a bridge between Baptist groups, remaining dually aligned with both Southern Baptists and the American Baptist Churches USA. In 1997, the DCBC widened its affiliation by uniting also with the predominantly black Progressive National Baptist Convention, and later with the Baptist World Alliance.

The SBC Executive Committee first communicated concern about Calvary early in 2017, just days after they called their new pastors. In February of this year, Dr. Robert Cochran, Executive Director/Minister of the DCBC (and a member of our congregation), flew to Nashville to meet personally with members of the SBC Executive Committee. Shortly thereafter, the Committee issued an ultimatum that the DCBC cut ties with Calvary within 90 days or face expulsion from the Southern Baptist Convention. Robert requested a conference call with SBC leaders so that a way forward might be negotiated, and relationship preserved. The Executive Committee



Rev. Maria Swearingen and Rev. Sally Sarratt

(continued. on page 3)

FROM THE PASTOR

declined Robert's request for conversation, choosing to communicate through an attorney who informed Robert by letter that he had "too many things to tend to that have a higher priority" and advising DCBC leaders "to work toward excluding the errant church from your fellowship by the date of May 20th."

Southern Baptists' fixation on exclusion has been a sad reality for decades. Since the 1970s, the SBC has established meticulously orchestrated, fiercely defended systems of exclusion that have done immense harm to churches and individuals.

The DCBC Board chose a different path.

The day before the SBC Executive Committee's May 20 deadline, I sat in a circle with other DCBC board members and staff who had gathered to talk and pray together about this matter. There was a spirit of kindness in the room. We began with a devotional led by board President Paula Moustos who read from Romans 14: "Why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you look down on your brother or sister?... Each of us will give an account of ourselves to God." Everyone was asked to share from his or her perspective about the matter at hand. I shared from my own personal relationship with Maria and Sally, two of the finest pastors I know. There was diversity of thought, as many board members come from the black church tradition which has been historically reluctant to welcome the LGBTQ community.

What unified the group was our commitment to the bedrock Baptist principle of autonomy of the local church. "My church would not make the same choice as Calvary in calling our leaders," said one board member. "But they listened closely to the Spirit, and who are we to say otherwise?" It was then pointed out by another board member (to a chorus of "Amen") that Calvary was the first Baptist church in the District to welcome black people into membership in 1954. Calvary's prophetic voice and their commitment to justice were acknowledged and affirmed. In the end, those present voted unanimously to reject the SBC's demand to exclude Calvary Baptist Church from membership in the DCBC, even if it meant being excluded ourselves by the Southern Baptist Convention. While there was sadness for some over the whole situation, there was a sense of peace, too.

I was honored to sit in that circle of fellowship and discernment that Saturday morning in May. I'm grateful for Robert Cochran's leadership, and that of the board. Mostly, though, I am grateful for the Holy Spirit, who continues the hard and holy work of knitting us together in the body of Christ.

Peace and grace,

Julie



"The DCBC Board chose a different path."

2018 SUMMER of FUN

First Baptist Church



Sunday, June 24 | 12:30-2:30pm
Watercolors @ The Drake with Tina Bailey

(Artist and CBF field personnel in Bali), Hosted by Pastor Julie



Friday, June 29 | 5:45-10pm
Marine Band Concert and Evening Parade

@ Marine Barracks in Southeast DC. Dinner at the Cava Mezze 5:45pm; Walk to Reserved Seats for Concert and Parade, Hosted by Amanda Tyler



Friday, July 13 | 6-9pm
The Capitol Steps (Comedy Troupe)

@ Ronald Reagan Building. Dinner at the Food Court @ 6pm; Show at 7:30pm
Hosted by Lucy Plovnick



Saturday, July 14 | 5-7pm
Wine & Cheese at The Chastleton

@ 1701 16th St NW, Hosted by Rochelle Howard



Saturday, July 28 | 1pm Lunch at a Maryland Crab House
Friday, August 3 | 7pm Nats Baseball Game (vs Cincinnati Reds)
Sunday, August 19 | 1-4pm Board Games & Lunch (Come & Go)
MORE EVENTS TBA



RSVP & DETAILS ONLINE @ WWW.FIRSTBAPTISTDC.ORG

SERVE/CONNECT

SUMMER OF FUN 2018

Every summer we devote intentional time and energy to building community, relaxing together and getting to know one another in new and fun ways (including newcomers, of course!). Two Summer of Fun events are planned for in June, with five more gatherings spread over the summer (and the possibility of additional events, as FBC folk volunteer to host).

Please see our [website](#) for RSVP information, along with provisions for making payments. Some of the events are free; others require purchase of a ticket (payable online). If navigating a website isn't your thing, just call our office and Zena Aldridge will be happy to assist you.



FIRST SUNDAY POT LUCK, ICE CREAM SOCIAL, FOUNDATION MEETING

Join us immediately after worship on June 3 for our First Sunday Pot Luck luncheon. *Last name beginning with A-L provides veggies/salad; M-Z meat/protein.* Dessert features a homemade ice cream social hosted by the Children's Ministry! The FBC Foundation holds its' annual meeting at the end of lunch. All members of FBC are eligible to vote on Foundation matters. Visitors and guests welcome!

CAPITAL PRIDE PARADE SATURDAY, JUNE 9

Join Pastor Julie and others from FBC who are marching with **AWAB** (**Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists**) at the Capital Pride Parade next Saturday, June 9. We'll join friends from Baptist churches in the DC area in showing love to people who are too often excluded from church.

As of publication time AWAB doesn't have info from Capital Pride about the time and location for meeting up. Step-off for the parade is 4:30pm. We will likely be near the end of the parade line. **Complete info will appear in next week's email Update.** The forecast says 86° and partly cloudy. The parade route is about 1.5 miles and there are some hills, so wear comfortable walking shoes and bring bottled water, sunscreen, and a snack. For more information, contact Pastor Julie at jpr@firstbaptistdc.org.



SERVE/CONNECT

MEET OUR NEWEST DEACONS

June 10: Ordination and Laying On of Hands During Worship

Lilia Abron, Didier Ahimera and Philip Hawkins begin 3-year terms of service this month. The congregation will have an opportunity to bless and pray for them on June 17, during worship.

Deepest thanks to Zena Aldridge and Mike Henson who just completed another term of deacon service. Their care, discernment and commitment to the way of Jesus are a blessing to us all.

Lilia Ann Abron

I was born and raised in Memphis, Tennessee to Baptist parents. I was baptized when I was 9 years old, sang in the junior choir, played piano, and was a member of the church sponsored Girl Scout troop from Brownie through Senior Scouts. I chose environmental engineering for my life's work, because I was raised to respect the earth, and all humans who live on this planet. I endeavored to raise my three sons as I was raised. All were baptized here at First Baptist where I have been a member for more than 35 years. I am a Christian and am accepting of all believers and non-believers. I look forward to my time serving you again as a deacon.



Didier Ahimera

I accepted Christ into my heart early in childhood and I have had the pleasure of worshipping at FBCDC since the summer of 2015. My family currently resides in Phoenix and nearly three decades ago they immigrated to the States from Burundi. Since joining this community of followers I've gotten to serve at Christ House on many occasions. My prayer is for the events of our community and the world to continue to stir our hearts so we are provoked to action, asking ourselves what more we can do.



Philip Hawkins

Church has been part of my fabric for as long as I can recall. But deeper than church, discerning the priorities of Christ has been part of my fabric since my early teenage years when I formally accepted Christ as Savior. I became part of the FBCDC family in April 2017 shortly after I moved to the DC area. I have two children - Eric (26) and Mallery (24). Both of my parents and each of my siblings (and their families) are still living, all in the north Georgia area. I actively engage in the music ministry of FBC. I also have a passion for working (voluntarily) with those who are in hospitalization with depression and related mental health diagnoses. My prayer for FBC is that we continue to support each other as we remain open to Holy Spirit's leading us through our present and our future.



SERVE/CONNECT

ANNOUNCING OUR NEW COORDINATORS FOR CHRIST HOUSE

The Missions Team is very excited and thankful that Molly Young and Oliver Mueller will be starting in July as the new Volunteer Coordinators for Christ House! And, a big, special thank you to Tim P-R for setting up a new **sign-up form** on the **FBC website!**



Molly and Oliver have been worshipping with FBC for a little more than a year now, but have been part of the DC community for a little longer, "Having lived in DC now for 7 (Molly) and 12 years (Oliver), we feel strongly about giving back to the community and doing this at Christ House brings us closer to God. By serving at Christ House we serve Him."

As a reminder, FBC serves breakfast at Christ House every second Sunday of the month. We need 3-4 people every month,

and all are welcome to volunteer. Sign up [here](#). Questions? Contact Molly and Oliver (mollyvyoung@hotmail.com; muller.oliver@gmail.com).

~ Chelsea Clarke, Missions Team Leader



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON D. C.
invites you to
A Heart for Liberia
Benefit Concert
All proceeds benefit the
Agapé National Academy of Music (ANAM) in Liberia



Featuring:

- Samson Tarpeh
Accomplished Liberian Pianist
- Wede Fahnbulleh, Vocal
- Sherylene Erice, Vocal

ANAM Liberia

SUNDAY
JUNE 10, 2018
2:00PM } FREE ADMISSION

Love Offering will be lifted; all donation are 100% tax deductibles

First Baptist Church of the City of Washington D. C.
1328 16th St NW, Washington, DC 20036
For more information contact Samson at: tarpehsamson@gmail.com

BENEFIT RECITAL FOR AGAPE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC

JUNE 10, 2PM

The Agape National Academy of Music (ANAM) is based in Monrovia, Liberia and has as its' mission "Making Liberian Children Successful through the Arts." ANAM was founded by Samson Tarpeh in 2008 in response to thousands of children in need of healing and spiritual development following 14 years of civil war in Liberia. Mr. Tarpeh, on piano, and accompanied by two vocalists, will perform in the Sanctuary on Sunday, June 10 at 2pm. One of ANAM's goals is to raise money for the project; a free-will offering will be accepted. Questions? Contact D'O Dillard at ddillard@firstbaptistdc.org. All FBC members and friends are cordially invited.

SERVE/CONNECT

BAPTIST PARTNERS

By Charlie Fuller

CBF, ABC, PNBC, AoB, DCBC, BWA. That's a lot of letters. Especially if you don't know what they stand for. Here are the answers:

- Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
- District of Columbia Baptist Convention
- American Baptist Convention
- Progressive National Baptist Convention
- Alliance of Baptists
- Baptist World Alliance

These are the distinctly Baptist partners with whom we work together as a church to bring the Kingdom of God to earth. Through partnering with and joining in with these larger communities we can pool our resources and accomplish far more for God's Kingdom than any church could do on her own. By joining in with other communities of Baptists we also experience the wonderful fellowship of growing together in ministry to our own local communities as well. By gathering with our Baptist brothers and sisters we learn, grow, and are blessed just by being together, sharing and hearing stories of how God is working and being present around the world.

Some of our Baptist bodies send and support missionaries around the world. (Pastor Alyssa's parents are CBF field personnel in Spain.) Some are powerful advocates in our culture, standing against things like payday lending and human trafficking, and standing for the marginalized such as immigrants. All of these groups seek to provide resources that help local churches better fulfill their missions.

In June, Pastor Alyssa and I will gather with CBF Baptists at their General Assembly in Dallas. In August, Pastor Julie will fellowship with Progressive National Baptists in Philadelphia. Both meetings will be a time of learning, growing, and sharing stories with those who share our own victories, struggles, and values.

It's important to note that these meetings are not just for clergy. They are for all of us who are interested in learning, growing, story-sharing, and worshipping with other wonderful Baptist people. It may be too late for this year, but I encourage you to pray about participating in these meetings yourself in the future.

We have a lot of partners. Thanks be to God for all the ministry that takes place through these wonderful communities of purpose!



SERVE/CONNECT

CHRIST HOUSE MEMORIAL DAY BBQ PHOTOS

Memorial Day volunteers from FBCDC helped to set up, serve barbecue, and enjoy games with the residents, staff and friends of **Christ House**, a residential medical facility for men experiencing homelessness in D.C.



WORSHIP

YOUTH SUNDAY: JUNE 3

We look forward to seeing you in church this Sunday, June 3rd! Our youth will lead us in worship and communion. Come see how God is using our church people in the world!



JULY 1: GUEST PREACHER PRESTON CLEGG

Rev. Dr. Preston Clegg, Senior Pastor of Second Baptist Church in Little Rock, will bring the message in worship on July 1st. Preston pastored churches in Arkansas, Texas, and Oklahoma before coming to 2BC in 2013. He received his BA in Christian Ministry from Williams Baptist College in Arkansas and his M.Div. and D.Min. from



George W. Truett Theological Seminary at Baylor University in Waco, TX. He and his wife Rebecca are native Arkansans, growing up in the delta of Eastern Arkansas. They have two sons, Paxton and Truett. Preston's greatest vocational passion is creatively preaching the good news so that it builds up the church and announces the Kingdom of God.

HONORING EfM GRADUATES IN WORSHIP



This Sunday in worship we celebrate with Sadye Doxie and Allen Norfleet as they graduate from the Education for Ministry (EfM) program. Every baptized person is called to ministry. Through academic study, theological reflection and worship, the four-year EfM program offers an opportunity to grow theologically and discover how to respond to the call to Christian service. The seminar group is the nucleus of the EfM program, consisting of 6 to 12 participants and a trained mentor who meet weekly from September to June. An annual fee of \$350.00 covers materials and administration. Contact Ellen Parkhurst for more info at elparkhurst@verizon.net or 703-683-1273. Explore EfM at <http://efm.sewanee.edu/about-efm>.

GROW

YOUTH ACTIVITIES FOR JUNE

Third Sunday

June 17th is Father's Day so there will be no Third Sunday Lunch for youth. We'll pick back up with Third Sunday in July.

An Exploration of Juneteenth

On Wednesday June 20th, students grade 7-12 will explore historic sites in the District. Together we'll visit Cedar Hill, the home of Frederick Douglass; make our way to Dr. King's Memorial, and end with lunch on The Mall. We'll meet at FBC at 9:30am and head out from there. Contact Pastor Alyssa for more details. aaldape@firstbaptistdc.org

Paddling the Potomac

The youth group will head down to Key Bridge Boathouse after church on Sunday June 24th to Kayak on the Potomac! Cost: \$16 for kayak. Bring a change of kayak-appropriate clothing and money for lunch. Contact Pastor Alyssa for more details. aaldape@firstbaptistdc.org

MORE

FBDC, MEET THE PASSPORT MISSIONBASE STAFF!

We are excited to host Passport MissionBase again this summer. This is a wonderful opportunity for youth and adults to see what God is up to in the District of Columbia and take part. Join us in praying for the Passport staff and for the youth groups who will come through our doors this summer.

Get to know the staff:



Beth Rooney, MB DC Community Life Coordinator
Is from Glen Allen, Virginia and is a freshman at the University of Virginia studying Elementary Education and Religious Studies.



Grayson Hester, MB DC Mission Project Coordinator
Is from Jefferson City, TN. Graduate of Carson-Newman University in Communication Studies and Religion and will attend McAfee School of Theology in the Fall.



Mary Mullen, MB DC Assistant Director
Is from Baton Rouge, LA and is a senior at LSU in Child and Family Studies, serves as a youth intern at her church and will soon apply to seminary.



David Luke, MB DC Director
Is seeking his masters in Fine Art from Howard University in Washington DC with the intention to one day teach fine art. Born and raised in Ocala, Florida, was a 2-time collegiate nationally ranked swimmer.



EVENTS

SATURDAY, JUNE 2

3-4:30pm: Churns and Chuckles Children's Ministry Event
(Fellowship Hall)

SUNDAY, JUNE 3

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 -- Youth Sunday (Sanctuary)

Communion

Education for Ministry Certificate Ceremony

12noon: Pot Luck Lunch (Fellowship Hall)

FBC Foundation Annual Meeting

2pm: Worship in Spanish (Dawson Room)



THURSDAY, JUNE 7

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

SATURDAY, JUNE 9

4:30pm: Capital Pride Parade (starts at 22nd and Q Streets)



SUNDAY, JUNE 10

9:30am: Sunday Morning Bible Study for All Ages

9:30am: First Glance Session Five (Rm 315)

10am: Chancel Choir rehearsal (Rm 312)

11am: Worship (Sanctuary)

Deacon Ordination and Installation

12:30pm: Deacons' Meeting (Rm 315)

2pm: ANAM concert (Sanctuary)

2pm: Worship in Spanish (Dawson Room)



EVENTS

SUNDAY, JUNE 17

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20

- 5pm: Sandwich making for Martha's Table (Fellowship Hall)
- 6pm: Cook-out in the Courtyard (Meadows Room if raining)

THURSDAY, JUNE 21

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

SUNDAY, JUNE 24

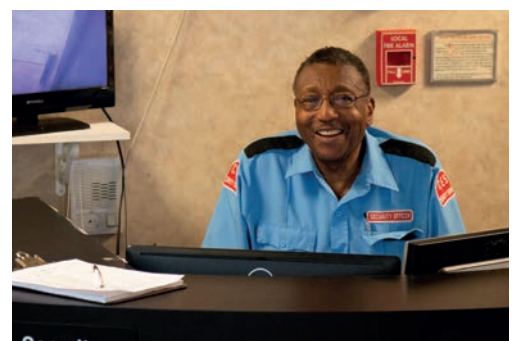
- 9:30am: Sunday Morning Bible Study for All Ages
- 10am: Chancel Choir rehearsal (Rm 312)
- 11am: Worship (Sanctuary)
- 12:15pm: Church Council Meeting (Rm 315)
- 12:30-2:30pm: **Summer of Fun: Watercolors @ The Drake**
- 2pm: Worship in Spanish (Dawson Room)

THURSDAY, JUNE 28

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

FRIDAY, JUNE 29

- 5:45-10pm: **Summer of Fun: Dinner & Marine Band Concert**



MORE

THE FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT TEAM (FIT) IS LISTENING

Earlier this year, Moderator Rod Coates appointed a Facilities Improvement Team (FIT) to review the status of our facilities and make recommendations regarding how we might repair and renovate them. Throughout our process we are praying and working while being constantly informed by our church's mission and vision statements.

In the next few weeks we will be asking our committees and other church leaders to respond to the questionnaire below. The FIT wanted the entire church to be aware of the actual questions we will use to guide these important discussions.

Thanks for using these questions to inform your prayers for this process!

The Facilities Improvement Team (FIT) is in the midst of working to determine what God would have us do with the facilities God has given us as a church. We've met and prayed and invite you to join us in our process.

We're engaging a listening process in order to hear God speak through the voices of God's people who call themselves First Baptist Church. In our first phase of listening, we want to engage our own people through our already existing structure of committees, leaders, and other teams. In our second listening phase, we will seek to hear the voices of the community that surrounds us.

We are committed to using the Mission and Vision statements adopted by the church in 2008 to guide our process of listening to God. Here they are:

Mission

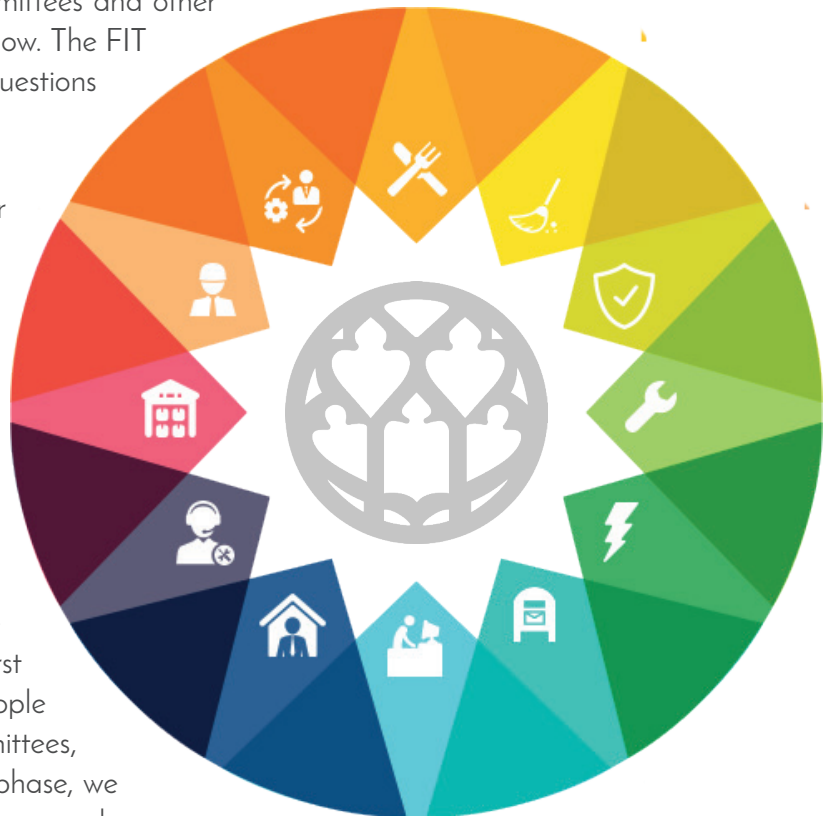
Our Mission is to **love** and **worship** God, to **love** and **serve** others, and to **share** the good news of Jesus Christ.

Vision

Our Vision is to be a church in which every member is engaged in ministry that impacts the neighborhood, the city, the nation, and the world.

In our first phase of listening, FIT members will meet with individual committees to listen to their thoughts and dreams about what God is doing with our church and what God could do with our church if we were to improve our facilities.

The questions that we plan to use are on the next page.



MORE

If you are not currently on a committee or other leadership team, you are invited to respond to the FIT chair, Charlie Fuller at cfuller@firstbaptistdc.org.

As always, we wish for our entire church community to join us in praying for this vital process for the ongoing life of God's ministry in our neighborhood.

FBC Listening Questions:

- How can our facilities facilitate closer relationships with God?
- How can our facilities help us carry out our mission and vision statements?
- How can our facilities foster closer relationships with our community?

- What's working?
- What are the tools you need?
- What are the facility barriers to our fulfilling our mission/vision?

- What kinds of spaces does your group need? How many spaces? Large/Medium/Small Space(s)?
- How many people do you need to accommodate?
- Does your group need a dedicated space and why? Preparation space?
- What kinds of storage does your group need?
- What kinds of access does your group need? Locations required? Access to? Access from?
- What kind of access do YOU need?
- What kinds of amenities should be provided in our facilities?
- Study spaces?
- Gathering/communal spaces?
- Stopping by to get coffee spaces?
- Technology needs?
- Food preparation needs?
- What else do we need to know?

Thanks for your participation in this vital process of hearing God speak!

FIRST COUNCIL MEETING OF NEW CHURCH YEAR: SUNDAY JUNE 24

The first meeting of the FBC Church Council for the 2018-2019 program year will take place on Sunday, June 24, following worship. If your committee/team has selected a chair, thank you. If not, please do so as soon as possible and send the name to Moderator Rod Coates at roderick.coates@gmail.com and Church Administrator D'O Dillard at ddillard@firstbaptistdc.org. If you are a chair and cannot make it to a council meeting, please designate one of your team members to represent your committee.

DEACONS ON-CALL: WEEK OF JUNE 3:



Kate Campbell

WEEK OF JUNE 10:



Sadye Doxie

WEEK OF JUNE 17:



Ellen Parkhurst

WEEK OF JUNE 24:



Doug Duvall

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

FBC PRAYER & CARE

Thanks be to God!

- Beryl Dennis has earned a D.Min. degree from Wesley Theological Seminary (ceremony was May 7)

Recent Requests:

- Kendall (June Millikan's niece): hospitalized in Maryland
- Al and June Millikan and family: attending a Celebration of Life this Sunday for Al's sister Diane Millikan, who died in January.
- James Benjamin (father of Carolyn B-Roebuck, CDC Director): health issues
- Ana Altiery (Anamer Castrello's mother in Puerto Rico): health issues

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-Roebuck

CDC Director

croebuck@firstbaptistdc.org



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

1328 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036

Phone: 202.387.2206

office@firstbaptistdc.org | www.firstbaptistdc.org