



THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

Dr. Stephen D. Jones - Pastor Dezo Desauguste - Rev. Stephanie Spears - PASTORS

AROUND & ABOUT

2018

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JESUS' THIRD WAY

We have been preparing sermons on the Abba (Lord's) Prayer. We both have been reading several books related to this prayer that was offered by Jesus for all disciples. We have found one book by scholar John Dominic Crossan ("The Greatest Prayer") to be particularly insightful. In one chapter, Crossan helps us realize how revolutionary and creative Jesus was as a first-century interpreter of God's ways.

The Jewish expectation of several hundred years prior to Jesus and 100 years following was quite different from Jesus: "The God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall this kingdom be left to another people. It shall crush all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever." (Daniel 2:44) Crossan writes, "Among the Jews, in this later period, there was a popular expectation of the awaited messiah among ordinary people. He would be the new David, a warrior leader like the old David a thousand years earlier. The new David would militarily liberate his people from their Roman oppressors now, as the old David had delivered them from their Philistine oppressors centuries before." (p.83) Throughout Jesus' ministry, people continued to thrust this warrior expectation on Jesus. They knew of no other way.

While Jesus is proclaimed as the Davidic messiah throughout the New Testament, Jesus clearly offered a different approach from other Jewish groups of the first century. "You could call his alternative vision a tradition swerve, a paradigm shift, a model change, or even a disruptive innovation." (84)

Jesus learned much from John the Baptist, but his vision of the coming kingdom also differed from John's. John said that God's kingdom was in the future. Jesus, however, said, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." (Mk 1:14-15) John also felt that we must wait for God to act. Jesus changed that: "You want God's intervention while God wants your collaboration." God's kingdom is here, but only insofar as you accept it, enter it, live it and thereby establish it." The issue is whether we join with God, participating in introducing God's kingdom on earth.

John announced the immediate advent of an avenging God. He urged people to take individual action to avert God's anger. "When enough people 'were baptized by John in the river Jordan, confessing their sins,' then God would arrive." But Jesus' idea involved more than individual change, one person at a time. The Lord's Prayer has no reference to solitary repentance.

Finally, "Jesus did not fit the ordinary paradigm of a new David as warrior deliverer of his people... He did not imagine himself or others in violent collaboration with a violent God... Jesus gave the nonviolence of God as the reason for his own refusal to resort to violence." "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you." (Luke 6:28)

"Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven."

In summary, "God's kingdom did not, could not, and will not begin, continue or conclude without human collaboration. It will not happen by divine intervention alone—neither to start, continue or conclude. That

is why Matthew's Abba Prayer has two even parts with the divine 'you' in the first half (verses 9-10) and the human 'we' in the second half (verses 11-13)." (94)

As St. Augustine once said, paraphrased, "God, without us, will not; as we, without God, cannot." It is amazing how Jesus, lacking advanced scholarly instruction, could have envisioned such a unique third way, not the general expectation of the Jews nor the frightening predictions of his teacher, John the Baptist. He envisioned a new way, God's way, which he offers to us in the Abba Prayer. – Dezo and Steve



FREE SUMMER OUTDOOR PATIO CONCERT

Sunday, August 26

6:00 pm Home-made Ice Cream and Dessert

7:00 pm Tom Aber & Ninkasi Woodwind Quartet
playing Ragtime, Tango, Waltz and Latin Jazz

Volunteering to bring home ice cream or dessert on the Green sheet.



Our 4th Season

Sunday, September 9, 6 PM

Millie Edwards & Band

Once Again, Millie Edwards launches our new season! Millie is always one of our most popular singers and we look forward to her leading off this year!



Patio Repair

The Trustees have approved extensive replacement of concrete in the patio, stairs and sidewalks around our church. Most of these repairs will occur on Monday, August 13. This happens to be a work day at Punkin Patch Teachers.



Welcome

Jolie DiGiovani as our new Sunday School Teacher. Jolie works for Punkin Patch CDC during the week and has many years experience working with children. She has been married for six years and has a 11 year old step daughter and a 2 year old son. Please sign up for one Sunday a month to volunteer to help her.

ALL ABOUT FIRST BAPTIST PEOPLE

We pray for...

- † Sue Hansen who had a heart attack Wed Aug 1, while at work for McDonalds. Drs. are running tests.
- † Martha Brown making progress on respiratory issues; still on oxygen
- † Brenda Brown, awaiting recent PET scan results for her liver cancer.
- † Lloyd Brown now completing three different radiation treatments; his radiologist is encouraged.
- † Flo Brown in severe pain after a fall and multiple fractured ribs.
- † Patty Vann, at home.
- † Tom Boden, diagnosed with lung cancer, undergoing chemo treatments & Becky at St Joe's
- † Danny Smith, Glenda Huckabey's brother, recently at Shawnee Mission Hospital, with cracked rib is with Glenda hoping to regain strength his overall health is much improved.
- † Dixie Kelly, recently diagnosed with shingles
- † Joanna Thomas, at Advanced Health Care Center improving after a broken leg
- † Valerie Carroll, daughter of Bill and Christine Rinck, in serious health situation

We give thanks for....

- † Freddie and Lovie Harper and Leonard Barbee for serving as master BBQ chef's and preparing the meat for our annual all-church picnic. The rain stopped, and over 60 people attended the picnic. Lots of great food, fun and conversation!
- † Jolie DiGiovani, our new children's Sunday teacher.
- † Thanks to everyone who made cloaks for the Red Bridge Elementary students (around 40 of them!) and to the 11 families or persons who contributed backpacks for Bethel Center students!

We rejoice with...

- † Ms Shirley Luplau was honored on July 29 for her 32 years of ministry in our church with young children. Carole Raines was a next-door neighbor of Shirley's at the time and also chair of the Board of Christian Education. Ever since, Shirley has specialized in a compassion of love for our church's young children! She has now recuperated after a fall in the late Spring. She decided to retire from this position at that time. We applaud Shirley and her awesome faithfulness to the children of our church!

We share our Long-term prayer for...

David Freeman (Debbie's brother) - Eva Knootz (Brenda Brown's Friend) - Becky & Tom Boden - JoAnn Gardner
Jan Carrigan - Brenda Brown - Susie Bolden - Bruce Carrigan - Pat Betteridge
Richard Becker - Roberta Stevenson - Marv Combs - Jolene Everly - Jim & Pat Logan - Randal Palmer

We share our prayer for Those Far away...

Thelma Sickles - Kathleen Brown - Marie Denton & Family - Maybelle Logan - Geraldine Raines - Bobbie Matson

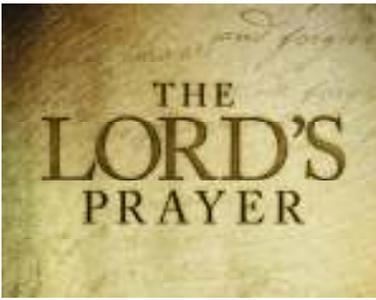
**WE'RE
HIRING!**



Church Employment needs:

The church will be employing from outside of FBC, a Sound Technician, 10:30 - Noon beginning mid-August. If you know of anyone with the skills and interest, please contact Stephen Jones.

The church also seeks to employ from outside of FBC, as a weekly nursery worker from 10:30 – Noon on Sundays. Speak with Pastor Dezo.



Upcoming Worship Sundays at 10:50 am

Second Summer Series:



“The Abba Prayer”

*How the Lord's Prayer shapes our faith today
Why is it so important that we include it in every worship service?*

Sunday, August 5, “Give Us Today Our Daily Bread”

What is the bread to which Jesus is referring? Often he uses prayer as a symbol of something else? Is he referring to actual bread that quenches our physical hunger? What does it mean if we took this prayer seriously? Stephen Jones, preaching; Communion Sunday

Sunday, August 12, “Forgive us our Debts as We Forgive our Debtors”

First century Judaism was built around a system of debts; the poor typically victimized by long-term debt to the landowners or the wealthy, in a hopeless mountain of debt. What does it mean to be liberated from a debt we cannot repay? Some Christians translate this as “sin” and some as “trespasses.” Dezo Desauguste, preaching

Sunday, August 19, “Lead Us Not into Temptation But Deliver Us From Evil”

The European Catholics have struggled with this part of the prayer for 17 years, believing it to be impossible that God would lead us into temptation or evil. The prayer was originally in Aramaic – could be this a translation issue? The real point is a prayer to keep us from evil and temptation. Temptation is all around us – always. Dezo Desauguste, preaching

Sunday, August 26, “For Yours is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory Forever.”

The prayer ends by acknowledging Ultimacy to God: Ultimate reign, ultimate, power and ultimate Glory. We live “in the meantime,” when these things appear to be up for grabs. But if we take history's long-view, God will ultimately prevail. Stephen Jones, preaching



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We have again been asked by Red Bridge Elementary School to serve a continental breakfast for the returning teachers on **August 10 at 7:30 am** in the library at the school. The American Baptist Women have done this the last two years. They need MORE volunteers for this breakfast. Please contact Sue Hansen or the church office.

FINANCIAL UPDATE: for June



We received the financial report from June and the news is good. Year to date:
January - June

2018: \$79,500 2017: \$71,387 2016: \$71,719 2015: \$68,688

We had the strongest June giving in four years.

However, in terms of pledges, we are running behind our projected budget. We have given in the first six months, \$78,775 and the budget calls for \$86,912. So we are \$8,136 behind budget on pledges.

Punkin Patch had revenues of \$70,109 and expenses of \$85,665, so they were over budget by \$15,556. For the year, they are much closer, only \$1,895 in the red. Summers are always hard on PP and we will be watching this closely. -- Kathy Manda is our Finance chair.

AUGUST COMMUNION OFFERING: UNITED MISSION BASICS GIVING OFFERING

In August each year, we take a special communion offering for United Mission Basics Giving (UMG). UMG is the basic mission support for American Baptists in our Region, around the nation and around the world. It touches every aspect of our ABC mission thrust. It supports the Office of the General Secretary, Homeland Ministries and International Ministries. Please consider a generous gift to support United Missions from our church. Make checks payable to First Baptist Church, noted for UMG. We will take this offering August 5.



– Join others in making a friendly call on one of our 13 confined members or upon members in the hospital. We will gather for prayer and organizing our visits on these Wednesday mornings at 9:30am: **Aug 8 and 22**. All are welcome. We go out in teams of two and make one or two calls before noon. It would help if you would contact Karen Foster or the church office if you plan to participate.

Defibrillator Training

BE WATCHING for the announcement of a 5-hour training for our new Defibrillator given to our church by Gay and John Barton. The Defibrillator will be kept on the bottom shelf of the Welcome Center in the Commons, readily available when a medical emergency arises. The training should occur one Saturday in April open to any interested person.

Visit our website to see new changes: www.fbckcmo.net

(You may tithe through our website under the “Donation” tab)

And you can visit our new website: www.kcjazzvespers.com

And you can visit us on facebook: First Baptist Church KCMO

FYI

ABWM

We had a planning session for our 2018-19 year it begins Sept. 8th at 10:00 a.m. Please join us for fun and service to our community and beyond. If you have any questions please call - *Sue Hansen President, 816-942-1334*

Food Pantry Needs for August *We are in NEED of youth or young volunteers for 3rd Fridays and Sat. to help with heavy lifting.* Items needed are Low sodium peas, corn, mixed vegetables and soup. Rice, canned low sugar fruit, 1/2 gal juice drink--low sugar if possible, box meals, Tuna & Chicken. Non food items: dish soap. All donations are appreciated. Stock Day is Aug 6, 1:15 p.m.

Red Bridge Food Pantry

Aug 17 Friday, 1:30 – 3:30 pm Sacking Day for the Red Bridge Food Pantry in our Fellowship Hall. We will fill the sacks for families in need in our wider community. Please speak with Sue Hansen if you can help.

Aug 18 Saturday, 9:00 – 11:00 am Pick Up day. If you know of a family in need of food assistance, contact our food pantry leaders. Dixie or Sue. Or have them call 913-313-0250

ALL CHURCH JULY PICNIC AND COOK-OUT!



Thank you Leonard Barbee and Freddie & Lovie Harper for cooking for us! And to all who brought delicious food to share!



FYI



Board of Deacons would like to remind you the **first Sunday** of the month is Communion Sunday. Please consider the Deacon fund, when giving. This fund is used to help people in need.



Order Fair Trade Coffee, Chocolate & Cocoa!

Talk to **Ken Fast** to purchase and Help those who are trying to Help themselves!



BIBLE STUDY – TUESDAY MORNINGS, 10 – 11 AM

Dr. Jones is leading the group in studying the book of Hebrews

All are welcome to attend!

Community Assistance Council Befit at the Red Bridge Blue Moose

The newly open Blue Moose Bar and Grill, located in the Red Bridge Shopping Center at 11134 Holmes, is hosting a benefit for the Community Assistance Council, a community service organization supported by First Baptist Church, on Tuesday, **August 14 from 5:00pm to 10:00pm**. **Mention the Community Assistance Council and 25% of your bill will be donated to CAC.** Reservations are not required but may be made at 816-759-8510. Please attend for a great meal and to support the organization which serves those in need in south Kansas City.

Save the Date:

Living Nativity Date: Saturday, Dec. 8, 5:30-7:30 pm!

Inform Line - Yes or No?

The Church Executive Council is inquiring of the congregation as to interest in continuing the INFORM PHONE LINE at the church. Please speak with Bill Betteridge or Jessie Carpenter if you use this service. Every week, the INFORM line is updated with prayer concerns.

DINNERS OUT –

We use the church bus and travel to a family-owned restaurant somewhere in the wider KC area – preferably a short drive out of the city. **DINNERS OUT DATES ARE:**

- ◆ Thursday, **August 23, 5:30 pm** Basha in Overland Park;
- ◆ Thursday, **Sept. 6, 12 pm** Webster's House Downtown KCMO



My son Daniel passed away in July 7. There was over 15 people from FBC that took time to attend Daniels Memorial in Higginsville July 14. We appreciate the support given to our family. Thank you for your love that continues to grow. We love our FBC family. Thanks for all the cards, notes and phone calls I received. It certainly helped me to know all of you were thinking of me.
— Sue Hansen and Family.



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TIME SENSITIVE INFORMATION



Birthdays of the Month

Bill Betteridge	02
Nicole Fugitt	03
Gayle Bradshaw	04
Cameron Leonard	05
Patricia Betteridge	08
Ken Fast	09
Mark Riles	14
Diana Parker	15
Justin Fugitt	18
Gerri Brown	20
Victor Velez	21
Dixie Kelly	23



First rehearsal for our fall and winter season Bell & Chancel Choirs will be **Wednesday, Aug. 29**

All are invited to join us.

Please contact Donna Fast about joining Bell Choir prior to **Aug. 29th.**

Bell Choir rehearsal begins at 6:15 pm,
Chancel Choir follows at 7:15 pm.

We make joyful noises unto the Lord!