



THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI
Dr. Stephen D. Jones - Rev. Dezo Desauguste - Rev. Stephanie Dean - Rev. Victor Velez - PASTORS

AROUND & ABOUT

2017

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COMING OF AGE

Something unexpected is happening in our midst. We have been praying for it and working for it over the four years I have been your pastor. We are “coming of age” in terms of our financial stewardship as a congregation.

Many years ago, the church began adopting budgets that did not balance. And, probably, it was okay because generally churches underspend their budgets and hopefully bring in more than anticipated income, so it all works out. Only, it hasn't. And we have ended the last few years “in the red.” Even though we underspent and brought in more income, still, we have ended up adding to an historical debt.

This year, for the first time in my pastorate, and for many years before, projected income exceeds expenses of for 2018 by \$4,300. Now that income includes a draw from endowment that amounts to \$12,000 a month. One might argue that endowments in local churches aren't meant as a nest-egg, or even an investment, they are meant to undergird ministry. But to draw from our endowment to this extent isn't sustainable. We have to increase the percentage of our annual giving in relation to our budget.

Over the past two years, we have been looking through the budget trying to reduce spending. We had an expensive floor mat contract, an expensive elevator maintenance contract, and a copying machine contract, and an unsustainable mission budget that needed to be trimmed. And we've done it. We've also considered a few other cost-saving ideas that church leaders are not yet ready to implement – but we'll keep searching and proposing ideas to reduce expenses.

I hope you realize that even with four pastors, all our compensation fits under the one pastoral salary I was offered four years ago. Because I have a pension and social security, I've been able, and the church has agreed, to divide my compensation three ways, and now with Dezo, four ways. The only increase has been the outside grant we just received from the Dianne Shumaker foundation to support part of Dezo's salary over the next four years. In the 2018 budget, you'll see \$15,000 grant in income and expenses, which is the part of the grant we have already received for the coming year.

But back to that “coming of age.” Among our Commitments for 2018, there are 18 new commitments and they total \$22,660! Our over-all commitments for 2018 total \$173,725.00 That compares to \$123,416 in 2017. Though throughout 2017, our giving has far exceeded that level. Through October, our actual giving has been \$125,507 and by the end of the year that could easily reach \$145,000. So our growth, thankfully, isn't sudden but gradual.

If those who have yet to turn in their commitment for a new year keep up the same pace, we might be able to consider dropping our endowment draw by \$500 a month. This would be a most encouraging sign! Truly, a coming of age in a congregation that increasingly and steadfastly demonstrates faithfulness in so many ways, including financial giving. But our faithfulness is also in mission outreach! 34 families received a thanksgiving distribution of food through the Red Bridge Food Pantry. That includes 34 turkeys from our church and St. Peters and All Saints. And there's another mission trip to Nicaragua planned through the health ministries of AMOS. And we have a growing number of new people who want to participate. We

have three new mentors at Red Bridge Elementary School.

In about every way imaginable, if this church sets a goal – we reach it! I thank my God every time I think of you.

And now we enter the Advent Season – a Season of Expectancy! How will God's Spirit break out amidst an expectant people? What New Thing will God introduce? —Stephen Jones



**Sunday Jan 14,
2018 6 p.m.
Sons of Brazil
(Latin Jazz)**



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROLING TO OUR CONFINED MEMBERS: **Sunday, Dec. 17**, after church. We'll have soup and salad lunch and then take out caroling on our confined members.



Compassion in Action
... heart prints of love meeting the needs of the people!

– 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: **Dec 13 and Dec 27**. 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.

**Visit our website to see new changes: www.fbckcmo.net
And you can visit our new website: www.kcjazzvespers.com
And you can visit us on facebook: **First Baptist Church KCMO****

ALL ABOUT FIRST BAPTIST PEOPLE

We pray for...

- † The family of Glen Thompson, long-time active leader in our congregation, who moved to Nevada to be near family over five years ago, passed on Saturday, November 18. Services were held Nov 30 here at FBC.
- † Jo Everly upon the death of her beloved life-partner and husband, James. She has now moved to Village of Jackson Creek in Independence.
- † Janelle Jones has finally returned home from the hospital after gall bladder complications that kept her in the hospital for five weeks. We are grateful for her improved strength and healing.
- † Elizabeth Jones, Steve's mother, developed serious swallowing issues, and is now back at Brookdale on State Line passed Nov 22. services will be held at First Baptist Eldon MO Saturday Dec 2 at 10:00 a.m.
- † Patty Vann who continues to appreciate our prayers. She is in physical therapy at home.
- † Ken Aber who now is in independent living apartment at Bishop Spencer Place near the Plaza.
- † Lloyd Brown at home undergoing cancer treatments every three weeks but improving in strength and vitality. Such a joy to see him back at church when he is able!
- † Becky Boden recuperating at home
- † Debbie Ebright's brother, David, in Kentucky, treating a large tumor in his throat
- † Condolences are expressed to Peg Morgan upon the death of her brother, Stanley Bell, Sr., in Scranton, PA. Peg was born into a family with 11 siblings and she is now the only one still living. We praise God for Peg's vitality!
- † Roberta Stevenson's son-in law Randy William is receiving Chemo and radiation

We give thanks for....

- † James and Mariko Prigel who hosted children and young adults at their farm for a hayride, pumpkin carving, and bonfire on Oct. 29!
- † For all the volunteers who opened their trunks to hundreds of children and families at the Trunk or Treat event on Halloween night in our parking lot, Oct. 31.
- † A third successful Kansas City Jazz Vespers this fall – all of which have made a small profit.
- † Flo Brown who again created the beautiful Thanksgiving Harvest decorating our communion table. It was at the center of worship on Nov. 19 and 26

We rejoice with...

- † Gay Barton who had made strong progress in responding to her respiratory disease.
- † Stephen Jones was invited back to his former congregation, First Baptist church of Dayton, Ohio, and preached the installation service for their new pastor, Rev. Dr. Kent Berghuis, on Sunday, Nov. 26
- † Four Red Bridge congregations who re-started the tradition of holding a Thanksgiving Union Service on Sunday evening, Nov. 19. Pastors Desauguste, Jones and Velez participated. It was nearly a full house!
- † Daichi Tadokoro for his senior recital on Nov. 5
- † The Dianne Shumaker Foundation which has generously given our church \$50,000 so we could call Dezo Desauguste as full-time co-pastor starting Nov. 1! We will use \$15,000 of this gift in 2018.
- † Dezo Desauguste upon her graduation from Central Baptist Theological Seminary in September. The church presented her with three Italian stoles in the four liturgical colors. Dezo is now pursuing her R1 immigration status and preparing for her ordination next year.

We share our Long-term prayer for...

JoAnn Gardner - Jan Carrigan - Chet Young - Harriet Bonner - Robert Woods - Harriet Buttry

We share our prayer for Those Far away...

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

2017 Advent and Worship Theme

The Star: Leading to Christmas

10:50 am Service



December 3, First Sunday of Advent:

“A Star Shall Come out of Jacob”

Numbers 24:17a-b; Stephen Jones, preaching
Old Testament prophesy speaks to what God is about to do,
and the world has never been the same. Communion Sunday

December 10, Second Sunday of Advent,

“The Star Awakening the Shepherds”

Luke 2:8-14; Dezo Desauguste, preaching
A great light shone around the shepherds, unaware of what God was doing.
Bell choir plays

December 17, Third Sunday of Advent,

“The Star Frightens the Unprepared”

Matthew 2:1-7, Stephen Jones, preaching
Herod heard that a star announced a new-born king of the Jews, and he was frightened.
The Christmas Musical, "Hope" will be presented by our chancel choir

December 24, Fourth Sunday of Advent,

“The People Who Have Walked in Darkness”

Isaiah 9:2 “...have seen a great light!”
Dezo Desauguste, preaching, 10:50 am service

December 24, Christmas Eve Service, 6 pm

“The Star over the Place Where Jesus was Born”

Matthew 2:9-11 The star led the wise sages to the place of Jesus' birth

December 31, the First Sunday of Christmas,

“The Light Shines in the Darkness”

John 1:4-5 Dezo Desauguste, preaching “...and the darkness did not overcome it.”

January 7, 2018, Epiphany Sunday,

“The Star Alerting the Wise Sages”

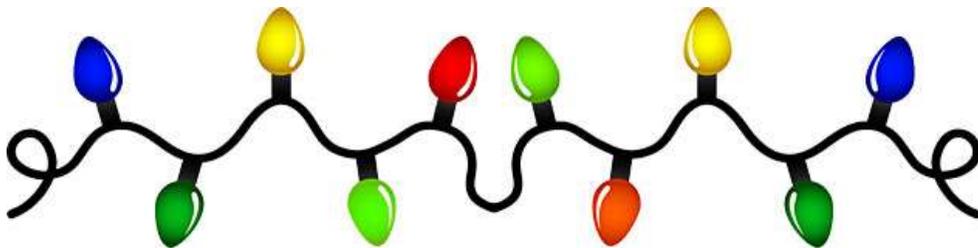
Stephen Jones, preaching, Matthew 2:1-2;
The Wise Sages were watching for signs, waiting to respond. Communion Sunday

Merry
Christmas

THE LIVING NATIVITY IS COMING! Saturday, Dec. 9, 5:30 – 7:30 pm

You can Help! Spread the Word! Invite Families and children to come! It's a drive-through experience on our church's circular drive.

- ♥ **Needs:** Lots of actors to be a part of the scenes! Adults, Children! Youth! We need two "holy families" with infants.
- ♥ We need one or two more persons to help set up the scenes on Saturday morning, **Dec. 9, 10 AM**
- ♥ We need people to purchase high quality votive candles for the luminaries and to set up the luminaries on Dec. 9
- ♥ We need help with food and hospitality for all the actors and support staff
- ♥ We need ushers and greeters as the cars arrive
- ♥ We need a second costume person to help actors get ready.
- ♥ **THERE WILL BE A SHORT PREPARATION MEETING FOR EVERYONE INVOLVED IN THE LIVING NATIVITY AFTER CHURCH ON SUNDAY, DEC. 3.**



I would like to say thank you to our church family who attended or send prayers for Daichi's senior recital !! It went very well!!! James and Mariko Prigel

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP SHEETS

For children remaining in worship on Sunday mornings, we now have children's bulletins at the usher's stand in the back of the sanctuary. It's four pages of puzzles and games – all related to the sermon of the day! Go back and pick yours up before or during the service.

FYI

ABWM

December 9, ABWM will meet at 10 am in the fireside for our Christmas Tea. A program provided by Martha Brown on 'Black Madonna' *Please plan on coming early a few of our ladies have another event so we will be done at 1:00 p.m.*

Please bring your favorite Christmas treats, candy or cookies to share. All Women Welcome! If you have questions about any of these events please call,

- Sue Hansen President, 816-942-1334

Food Pantry Needs for December Vegetables - corn, green beans, peas, carrots, etc. Dry beans - Navy, pinto etc. Box Meals - Hamburger helper, tuna helper, skillet meals, Pasta Sauce, canned meat - chicken or tuna. Non Food items - Dish soap, Paper towels, Kleenex

We are really growing fast the last few months we have added 5-6 families per month. With everyone's help we were able to provide the makings for Thanksgiving meal for each family. Thank you to everyone who provided Turkey, or funds to purchase them! Thanks to the volunteers who filled orders, packed produce, and carried orders to the cars. Jim, Dixie and I appreciate all the "Yeses" we get when we ask for help. Thank You! We had 34 families sign up to get food. 112 Family members.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please call Sue



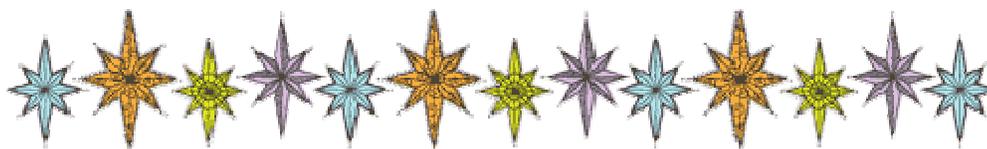
Sue reading to children of families picking up from food pantry

Red Bridge Food Pantry September

December 15, 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 Dixie Kelly or Sue Hansen if you can help.

December 16, 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



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 members and friends of the church in need.



BIBLE STUDY – TUESDAY MORNINGS, 10 – 11 AM

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

All are welcome to attend!



Order Fair Trade Coffee, & Chocolate! Talk to **Ken Fast** to purchase and Help those who are trying to Help themselves!

ANNUAL ADVENT FAMILY NIGHT AND DINNER

Sunday, Dec. 3, 5-7 pm.

Join Us for Dinner, (donation suggested \$5). There will be crafts, stockings for reStart , Christmas Caroling. (A special guest will appear for the all to enjoy.)

For the entire congregation!



Young Adult Thanksgiving Dinner



James and Mariko Prigel hosted a fun Thanksgiving party, for the young adult's. We ended up with 33 people from 7 nations: America, Japan, Nepal, India, Cuba, Venezuela, and Haiti They each brought their own countries dish, so we enjoyed different food, including turkey from American tradition It was absolutely wonderful.



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TIME SENSITIVE INFORMATION

October Fun at Prigel's Farm



The church received a lovely thanksgiving note to the church for the many kindnesses extended to her in her ministry with young children at our church. A copy of the note is on the bulletin board.



WEEKLY CHRISTMAS GIVING...every Sunday of advent we urge you to bring these items into the sanctuary. Each week, the children will come out into the pews to pick up the gifts you bring. Only the Dec. 3 gifts need to be wrapped.

Dec. 3: Bethel Family Christmas Gifts

Dec. 10: Underwear and socks for children at the Red Bridge Elementary School

Dec. 17: Children's books, women's socks, slippers, alarm clocks for Mother's Refuge

Dec. 24: Mittens, gloves and scarves for Bethel Families