



THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

Dr. Stephen D. Jones - Dezo Schreiner - Stephanie Spears - PASTORS

AROUND & ABOUT

2018

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2018 Has Been a Fun Ride!

It was a year and one month ago that you extended a call to me to serve you as your pastor. What a privilege and an honor it has been to serve such a wonderful congregation. It's been enjoyable working with other staff members who care so much about the future of our church.

During this first year together, a lot of things have happened in my personal life. And you have been very supportive and walking with me in all these things this year. You have given me strength, encouragement, and support. I know that you all are praying for me as I pray for you. A friend told me once that as a pastor the only way I can accomplish what God called me to do is by having faithful, wonderful, and loyal people behind me. You are the faithful and loyal people who support me during rough times as well as good. I believe God has brought us together for God's purpose. I am thankful for each one of you.

On December 8th, I will be in Columbia for my final ordination council in order to be ordained by the Great Rivers Region of American Baptist Churches. Pray for me as I prepare to answer the questions of the council in a 60 to 90-minute session. Also keep the council in your prayers as they vote this coming week.

I wholeheartedly enjoy preaching and sharing the pulpit with Dr. Jones every other Sunday and enjoy working together as co-pastors. While this might sound biased, I believe First Baptist Church of KCMO is the most diverse and welcoming congregation in the KC area. We are diverse not just in background but also in our articulation of faith. We welcome our differences and we have a welcoming and affirming community. I think it is fair to say that our church is a representative of what heaven looks like--don't you agree with me? I believe the only way to have effective ministry is to have people in one accord-- that is what is happening in the life of our church. We should give thanks to God for the good work God is doing through our church. During my first year, here are some of the things that I have witnessed.

- Spiritual growth that is happening in our midst.
 - 15% of our congregation is planning to go on mission trips to Nicaragua and Costa Rica in 2019.
 - The successful Nicaragua Push to support AMOS.
 - A church with both a teachable and learning spirit.
 - A church family responding with full support of families and friends of those we lost during the last year.
 - It is outstanding that we are already surpassing our monthly income projections.
 - Our members care about the future of our church. Soon a canopy will be up in the North Entrance. It's a gift from the Aber family.
 - The thirst for learning which is a sign of a church that believes in discipleship.
 - One of our members, Jill Clingan wrote a wonderful Advent devotional book for our congregation.
 - The members who signed up to volunteer for the dozen ministries which Flo Brown was engaged in -- all behind-the-scenes, administrative work within our church.
 - The growth of the Food Pantry Ministry. It's an entire neighborhood acting together to help the Red Bridge Food Pantry address local hunger in our community.
- The above list is why we pledge every year to support our church with our money, time, skills, and talents. First Baptist Church of Kansas City Missouri is making a huge difference in the life of the

people in our community here and abroad.

Our series for this Advent Season focuses on incarnation. We are reminded that God is among us and God is doing new and amazing things in our midst.

The more I learn about the rich history of our church, the more hope I have for our future. Our church at some point had thousands of members with minimal diversity. However, today we have over 100 members with 10 different nationalities represented. This is a sign that God is not done with us yet. The best is not in the past, God's "greater glory" is yet to come! With over 100 members, we continue on strong – building upon the foundation laid by our FBC family before us – we continue living out a Beloved Community in such hopeful and real ways. God is not done, we must continue – not by mimicking the past – but by following Jesus into the vast expanse of the future – which holds such promise.

As we prepare to enter 2019, I ask that you pray for your pastors and pray for the congregation, so that we can continue to grow closer to God—by building Christ's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

It has been a fun ride, let's continue on! --Dezo Schreiner



Lowering the Sanctuary Pulpit – After four years of conversation and consultation, the decision was reached by the Church Executive Council to use a Memorial Gift given in memory of Rev. Dr. Malcolm Haughey and his wife, Dorothy, to lower our pulpit. The existing pulpit's height is out of proportion to the size of the sanctuary and hasn't been used in recent years. The current pulpit is five steps higher than the chancel and expert woodworkers from Olathe will lower the pulpit to one step above chancel, while maintaining the beautiful design of the pulpit. IT will be done sometime in the next six months.

ADDING A HYMNAL: The Worship and Music Committee and our choral director, Donna Fast, are recommending that we add a second hymnal, "Celebrating Grace: a Baptist Hymnal", to our pews. The current hymnal is of Presbyterian origin and includes many songs not of our tradition and leaves out many familiar Baptist hymns. In the Commons is a sign-up list for those who would like to give \$25 as a memorial to a loved one. If enough people support this, we can proceed with this project. We would leave one maroon hymnal in each pew rack and add a forest green hymnal to each pew rack (Celebrating Grace).

Installing the New Canopy – the new canopy entrance over the north entrance to the Commons is being constructed now and should be installed in the near future. Thanks to the family of Ken and Sara Jane Aber who gave memorial funds for this to happen.

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**

ALL ABOUT FIRST BAPTIST PEOPLE

We pray for...

- † Martha Brown is getting stronger and is in less pain. We rejoice!
- † Brenda Brown, monthly chemo treatments to treat her cancer
- † The loved ones of Richard Becker, who passed on to eternal life on Thursday, Nov. 19. A memorial service was held after worship on December 2 at 1:00 pm
- † Patty Van, at home
- † Becky Boden who has been hospitalized recently at Shawnee Mission, but will be moving Nov 29 into Solstice Senior Living Center 1098 NE Independence Ave #122 Lee's Summit, MO
- † Valerie Caroll, daughter of Bill and Christine Rinck, in serious health situation
- † Jerry Mustapha who has been hospitalized recently and is recovering at home
- † Sherry Mustapha who will have heart valve replacement surgery at KU Medical Center on Dec. 6.
- † Lyndall Leatherman who recently fell from a ladder and fractured ribs. He was hospitalized at Research but now is home.
- † Lynn and Leonard Barbee, extending loving care in their home with their grandchildren
- † Pat and Jim Logan, at home
- † Bonnie Randa, Martha Brown's daughter having abdominal surgery Nov 29 in Ohio.

We give thanks for...

- † Richard Becker, who donated the grand piano in his home for our sanctuary. This allowed us to move piano's around. The former sanctuary piano is in the library where the choir rehearses; the former piano is the library is now located in the Fellowship Hall.
- † Paul Sienkiewicz who spearheaded a sale of green wreathes in support of our Central American mission trips
- † We give thanks for Dawn Kirton who arranged the beautiful thanksgiving display for the communion table
- † All those who participated in the Trunk or Treat on Halloween Night. We co-sponsored this with St. Peter's and All Saints Episcopal Church and had around 250 children.

We rejoice with...

- † Dezo Schreiner who is preparing for her final ordination council in order to be ordained by the Great Rivers Region of American Baptist Churches
- † Kathie Manda and all the leaders of boards and committees who participated in drafting the 2019 budget
- † Audrey Dibble and members of the 2019 Nominating Committee who recruited new elected leaders for our church in 2019

We share our Long-term prayer for...

David Freeman (Debbie's brother) - Eva Knootz (Brenda Brown's Friend) - Becky Boden - JoAnn Gardner
Jan Carrigan - Brenda Brown - Susie Bolden - Bruce Carrigan - Pat Betteridge - 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





Upcoming Worship Sundays at 10:50 am



Incarnation: God Among Us!

The True Miracle of Christianity: God in Human Flesh

"We look at the Son and see the God who cannot be seen. We look at the Son and see God's original purpose in everything created." Colossians 1:15 (Message)

"Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father." John 14:9

The First Sunday of Advent, Dec. 2: "Awaiting the Messiah"

Stephen Jones, preaching

The Jewish anticipation of the Anointed One whom God would send.

Isaiah 9:4-7; 11:10-16; Numbers 14:14; Joel 2:27

The Jewish Expectation was for the re-establishment of a Jewish kingdom on earth through whom God would institute a new world order based on shalom. Yet, their "looking ahead" expectation set the stage for what God was about to do! Communion Sunday

The Second Sunday of Advent, Dec. 9: Incarnation: A New Start?

Dezo Schreiner, preaching

Is God capable of change? Is God capable of new starts? When God was revealed in Jesus Christ, wasn't this a "new start?" "Behold, I am about to do a new thing," says the Lord."

Isaiah 43:19; 2 Corinthians 5:17

The Third Sunday of Advent: Dec. 16: "Incarnation: God as Parable"

Stephen Jones, preaching

A parable is a story with an unexpected conclusion, a reversal of the familiar or the expected. Jesus' incarnation totally subverted the faithful paradigms of his day and his people.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent: Dec. 23: "Incarnation: Window to God"

Dezo Schreiner preaching

Jesus reveals God. Jesus is the window to God. "Jesus" and "God" are not the same thing. When we look at Jesus, particularly his sacrificial love on the cross, we see God most clearly. We see God through Jesus' lens. Colossians 1:15; I John 1:1-2

Christmas Eve Service, 6:00 pm "Incarnation: The Human Face of God"

Stephen Jones preaching

Luke 2 Nativity story; Jesus is the human face of God. John 14:9

Christmas Sunday, Dec. 30: "Incarnation: God Among Us"

Dezo Schreiner, preaching

Hasn't God always been "among us?" But doesn't incarnation radically re-define what this means? When God comes alongside us – what this it mean? What difference does it make? Rev. 2:3



The 2019 Recommended Nomination Report for leaders in the new year is posted in the Commons on the bulletin board.

The 2019 Draft Church Budget is posted in the Commons on the bulletin board

NICARAGUAN MISSION TEAM: Ready to Go!

We are thrilled to announce that the Nicaraguan Mission Trip working with AMOS in that Central American nation is now set.

The group leaves on Sunday, Jan. 20 and returns on Sunday, Jan. 27.

These are the participants:

Diana Parker

Mariko and James Prigel

Stephanie Spears and Joe Cooper

Daylin Rodriguez and Dalie Ortet

Margo Humenczuk

Stephen Jones

Karen Foster



Most of their work will be on the AMOS national headquarters in Managua, but on Saturday, Jan. 26, they will make a one-day trip to San Onofre, the village visited on our last mission trip, where we will lead programs for children and assist with health-related projects.

We need to raise \$5,000 in project funds to support the projects that our team will be involved in during this week. If you can assist, please give funds to our church noted for: Nicaraguan Mission Trip.

Christmas Wreaths and Boughs professionally made are on sale in early December through the church to raise funds for the mission trips.

We also have up to 9 people who have expressed interest in a Spring Mission Trip to Costa Rica. We will be going with our Great Rivers Region, staying at a Baptist campground, repairing and restoring structures there.

WOULD YOU BE A MISSION TRIP PATRON?

There are a lot of good reasons why many cannot make this trip to Nicaragua in January of 2019. But would you be a patron – and help support the mission projects of the ten members of our church who are going?

If you give \$250, we will list you as a patron of our mission trip. Your generosity is deeply appreciated. Watch for the list of Patrons in the Commons!



Calling teams Wednesday mornings at 9:30am: **Dec 12.** It would help if you would contact Karen Foster or the church office if you plan to participate.

FYI

ABWM

ABWM was able to send 2 boxes of shampoo, soap, and toothpaste, to Rainbow acres in Camp Verde, AZ. WE had hoped to collect 125 items we surpassed that thanks to all of your support. Special thanks to Jim Dingwerth for putting us over the top.

If you have any questions please call - *Sue Hansen President, 816-942-1334*

Food Pantry Needs for December Chicken (none on shelf as of today) Brown and White Rice, Dry Beans, Canned Peas and Fruit any variety. Hamburg or Tuna Helper. Non food items - Laundry Soap and Dish Soap.

December we will not have any donations from St. Thomas More Catholic Church. They will be back helping in January 2019. **Stocking Day will be December 3 at 1:15 pm. Thank you!**

Red Bridge Food Pantry

Dec 14 Friday, 1:30 – 3:30 pm Sacking Day for the Red Bridge Food Pantry We will fill the sacks for families in need in our wider community. Please speak with Sue Hansen if you can help.

Dec 15 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



THE LIVING NATIVITY IS COMING!

Saturday, Dec. 8, 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.

9:00 a.m. SET UP Luminaries and lighting!

Needs: Lots of actors to be a part of the scenes! Adults, Children! Youth!

- ♥ Two "holy families" with infants.
- ♥ Dec 8, 10 a.m. A team to set up the scenes and lighting on Saturday morning
- ♥ Dec 8, People to purchase high quality votive candles for the luminaries and to set them up
- ♥ Help with food and hospitality for all the actors and support staff
- ♥ Ushers and greeters as the cars arrive
- ♥ A costume person to help actors get ready.

SIGN UP SHEET IS IN THE COMMONS SOON!

THERE WILL BE A SHORT **PREPARATION MEETING** FOR EVERYONE INVOLVED IN THE LIVING NATIVITY AFTER CHURCH ON **SUNDAY, DEC. 2.**

Get in the Christmas Spirit

- ♦ **Saturday Dec 1, at 10:00 a.m.** Help Decorate our church for Advent and Christmas! Everyone is invited to decorate the sanctuary.
- ♦ **Sunday Dec 2, 5:00 p.m.** Annual Advent Family Night in Fellowship Hall: Dinner – Crafts – Gifts for City Union downtown Shelter; Visit by St. Nicholas – Caroling!
- ♦ **Saturday Dec 8, at 5:30-7:30 p.m.** Living Nativity: Saturday
- ♦ **Sunday Dec 23, at 12:00 p.m.** Christmas Caroling to our confined members
- ♦ **Sunday Dec 23, at 10:50 a.m.** Christmas Cantata by our Chancel Choir
- ♦ **Monday, Dec 24, at 6 p.m.** Annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



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! 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 gospel of Mark

Bob Price Holloway 90th birthday cake



Thank you to the Clingans for hosting our Annual Children's Fall Outing. And thank you to pastor Steve and Lyndell who volunteered to help. The children had a lot of fun.



2019 Stewardship Emphasis

Say "YES!" to God!

"The nature of Christ is YES! All of the promises of God have their YES in Christ Jesus."

II Corinthians 1:19-20

HAVE YOU RETURNED YOUR 2019 COMMITMENT CARD?

TOGETHER, AS WE RESPOND, WE SAY "YES!" TO GOD!!

When we say YES! To God, wonderful things happen!



First Baptist Church of Kansas City, Missouri

Dr. Stephen D Jones, Dezo Schreiner, and
Stephanie Spears, Pastors
100 W Red Bridge Road
Kansas City, MO 64114



TIME SENSITIVE INFORMATION



Geraldine Raines	01
Ian Velez	02
Jayne Humenczuk	04
James Everly	07
Stephen Jones	09
Paul Sienkiewicz	13
Karmyn Velez	17
Janelle Jones	18
Terri Freeman	20
Dezo Schreiner	26
Jack Agard	27
Thelma Sickles	31

SUNDAY MORNING CHILDREN'S SCHEDULE
Beginning immediately,

Here is the Sunday Morning Children's Schedule

Nursery Care – Infants through 3 year old's – 9:30 am – Noon (toddlers may be taken by their parents to the worship service through children's conversation)

Children Aged 4 through 4th Grade: 9:30 – 10:30 am
Class in Lime Room, Jolie DiGiovanni

Using the Rotation Learning Model

10:50 am – Attend Worship Through children's Conversation

11:15 am – Children's Church in Lime Room

Youth 5th Grade through 12th Grade: 9:30 – 10:30 am
In Youth Classroom upstairs