



# THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

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

## AROUND & ABOUT

2019

JANUARY

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### ***Settled Faith Vs. Stretching Faith***

Were you nurtured in a “settled faith”? This is a faith where the boundaries as well as the core of faith are well-established. We know what we believe. We know how to act. We know what we are FOR and what we are AGAINST. We know what faith looks like. My childhood faith was a settled faith. We knew what we believed – and we didn’t much appreciate when that was challenged or questioned. Questions or doubts were the enemies of faith. Faith was characterized by a solid, firm wall and questions tended to develop fractures in the wall.

By the time I was a teenager, I became somewhat of a nuisance to my home church. I no longer accepted what was presented as faith by my Sunday School teachers. I wanted to know why? I also wanted to know why not? In other words, I presented too many challenges and too many questions. I can’t believe how gracious my parents were in allowing for this. I know on occasion that it presented some tension in their relationship with their peers and friends.

Nearly every teenager my age, except one other, drifted away from my childhood church by the end of our high school years. I did not drift away. But neither did I accept everything on face value. I have no idea why I was wired that way – and largely still am – but it felt like I was born to question, born to challenge. And I grew up in exactly the right generation: the generation of the 60’s when our generation challenged so many of the accepted norms:

Why must whites and blacks live segregated lives from each other?

Why must there be economic disparity in our country based on the color of one’s skin?

Why must we allow poverty in the richest nation in the world?

Why must some children be born into plenty and others born into poverty?

Is the world meant to operate by inequality?

Does heaven (or the world to come) matter more than life in this world?

Are we called as Christians to long for another world, or work to make this world better?

Is war the only way to resolve international issues?

Is God annoyed with my questions?

Somehow, I was just born for the 60’s, born to challenge and question. I wasn’t attracted to a settled faith, but rather to a searching faith. That is as true for me in 2019 as it was in 1966. If anything has been constant, it is that I am attracted to Stretching Faith.

A Stretching Faith is based on questions. It gravitates toward challenges. It is most comfortable when assumptions and stereotypes and traditions aren’t accepted on face value. Stretching involves reaching ahead of us – but it also involves letting go of our *faith in the past*.

A Stretching Faith involves relinquishing “the way things have always been,” so we can begin to embrace a new reality and a new set of experiences.

All of us were raised in a different era in terms of race relations in America. Even twenty years ago, we had very different understandings. All of us were raised in a different era in terms of gender relations in America. What it means today to be a woman or man is very different from a generation before us. All of us were raised in a different era in terms of sexuality. Everyone of us have been challenged by men loving men, or women loving women.

I received a Christmas letter from a former pastoral colleague, a woman I deeply respect. She and her husband live with her daughter and their granddaughter. We see them periodically, and we know that their granddaughter, almost from the beginning, found it awkward being female. She dressed and acted like boys. And this thanksgiving, after years of counseling and prayer, Lillie made a big decision. Her grandmother wrote me and stated, “In July, Lilly found the words to express to us that her authentic self was that of a boy. So, we have been in a process of adjusting. Acceptance was a total given but adjustment has been a bit slower. Mostly with his new name and the pronouns. His name is now Luke. And he is the happiest young man you can imagine. Once Luke was ‘out’ he just took off emotionally and is one happy boy!!!” I couldn’t have read that twenty years ago and been pleased by it. I would have wanted to argue with it. But I’ve been stretched in this area and have found that this is entirely believable, very acceptable, and I can take joy over what my friend wrote to me.

A Stretching Faith has brought me to new places! It has opened new horizons for me! Of course, faith matters. God matters. Jesus matters. And traditions matter – though I try not to be wed to them. But I’m ready for 2019, even though I do not know where it will take me. I’m ready for new horizons, new questions, new affirmations of life. And I’m ready to journey in 2019 with you, members of my journeying, stretching community of faith. And if you need things to be a little more “settled” in your life – that’s okay with me as well!! – *Stephen Jones*



**Jan 13, 6 pm**

**Featuring: “The Sons of Brasil”  
—Brazilian Jazz, Kansas City-Style!!**

**Visit our website to see new changes: [www.fbckcmo.net](http://www.fbckcmo.net)  
(You may tithe through our website under the “Donation” tab)  
And you can visit our new website: [www.kcjazzvespers.com](http://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 resulted in an excellent prognosis!
- † Patty Van, at home
- † Becky Boden, now living at Solstice Senior Living Center 1098 NE Independence Ave #122 Lee's Summit, MO
- † Valerie Carroll, daughter of Bill and Christine Rinck, in serious health situation
- † Sherry Mustapha who had successful heart valve replacement surgery and continues under doctor's care
- † Glenda Huckabey, upon the death of her brother, Sam, who passed on at the age of 63; his memorial service was in their hometown of Hutchinson, KS. Dec 29th
- † Lynn and Leonard Barbee continuing to provide loving care in their home for their youngest grandchildren
- † Pat and Jim Logan, at home
- † Dawn Kirton, hospitalized with the flu
- † Marvin Combs, now under hospice care at Raymore Nursing Center
- † Kathy Hinton in Menorah Hospital for high blood pressure.

### **We give thanks for....**

- † Yvonne Walker for preparing the reception for Dezo's ordination
- † All the families who lit advent candles during this season: Sue, Nicole, Dennis, Jack and William Fugitt; Jill, Amalie, Jack and Matt Clingan; Effie and Ava O'Conner-Fortson; Geneva Abel with Amyiah, Andre, Arionna, Nelly and Janellys; Justin, & Jessica Dayton, Leslie, Mason and Jaylynn

### **We rejoice with...**

- † Gary Ferguson, who joined our church by Christian experience; Gary dates our own Andrea Davidson; Gary is an RN and now is a school nurse with the Lee's Summit School District. He has two children, Nicholas and Maddie. Gary and Andrea are active in the JAMS Class
- † Rev. Dezo Schreiner who was ordained in our church on Dec. 30. A large crowd celebrated with her!
- † Daylin Rodriguez who has earned her M.D. degree at the end of 2018!!

### **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 - David Humenczuk

### **We share our prayer for Those Far away...**

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



### **Prepare for Annual Meeting**

- ◆ 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.

# Upcoming Worship Sundays at 10:50 am

## Sunday, Jan. 6, communion, Epiphany Sunday, "God With Us!"

Dezo Schreiner preaching. God with us and God among us – these are central theological ideas of Christianity. God comes among us through the Christ child. Rev. 2:3 and/or Ephesians 3:3-9 and Matthew's Magi story  
Communion will include people coming forward for the Ritual of Cleansing.

*New Worship Series:*

## **LOVE COMES FROM GOD** **A Focus upon I John 4**

### Sunday, Jan. 13, "A New Commandment: To Love"

I John 2:7-11, Stephen Jones, preaching. In John's letters, he commits to a radical new focus on the commandment to love. This leads up to I John 4 where the implications of this love comes into focus.

### Sunday, Jan. 20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday; "First Love,"

Dezo Schreiner, preaching. "First Love", I John 4:19; "We love because God loved us first." What does "first love" mean – loving first?

### Sunday, Jan. 27, "We Are From Love; We Are From God!"

I John 4:6-7 Dezo Schreiner, preaching; John tells us twice that: "We are from God." Because we come from God, we also come from love.



## 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?**

*We are praying for 100% response from our Members and Friends!*

*Help us reach this goal! We say "YES!" to God when we speak and act and give together!*



## Join us in Mission

### Nicaragua:

In just two weeks ten FBC members will embark on a mission trip to Nicaragua at the invitation of our American Baptist mission partners Drs. David and Laura Parajon'. We will stay at the AMOS mission center in Managua, Nicaragua from January 20-27 and work with the AMOS missionaries there. The AMOS delegation leaders have arranged for us to take a one day trip to the community we served in 2017 to do follow up visits on the water filters we placed in homes and to deliver much needed food and medicine. We are very excited to see our friends in San Onofre' and to see the washing/shower facility that was built after our last trip. AMOS stands for A Ministry of Sharing Health and Hope, and that is precisely what we will endeavor to do!

Our friends in Nicaragua have suffered the loss of jobs due to unrest and loss of tourism, food and medicine shortages since April of 2018. Although the unrest has calmed, the lost jobs and services have not recovered. In addition to the day trip to San Onofre, we will serve at the AMOS clinics in Nejapa, Managua counseling those who have been traumatized by the unrest, helping youth in computer education programs, and helping to reinforce the AMOS campus to make it more secure should more unrest occur.

This trip is critical to the AMOS mission and people of Nicaragua as most other non-governmental agencies and charities left the country when the unrest started in April 2018 and have not returned. Government clinics are very short on medicine and getting needed foods and medicine to those in rural areas has been very difficult. Now that the unrest has diminished, AMOS needs funds and volunteers to deliver food and medicine to the communities and we need your support to provide the needed funds.

### Costa Rica:

In March, six church members will travel to Costa Rica at the invitation of our Baptist brothers and sisters to have worship and fellowship with Costa Rican Baptists and to help refurbish the Baptist Camp Ochomongo that was built with American Baptist funds in the early 1980s. As with our homes and other buildings, painting and restoration are needed to keep the camp buildings safe and serviceable. We will work alongside Costa Rican Baptists to do the restoration work. We will visit a peace park and other pertinent sites and work with our American Baptist Missionaries in Costa Rica.

How you can help:

Pray for the people of Nicaragua and for the AMOS mission.

Prayer for the Costa Rican Baptists, our missionaries, and the churches and mission work there.

Pray for the mission team members as we travel and serve in Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

Donate so that we can provide the needed materials, food and medicine. Please put donations marked for "mission trip" or "mission project" in the offering plate or send to the church office. Continue to support the "Penny Fund".

**Yours in mission;**

**Nicaragua team:** Joe Cooper, Steve Jones, Karen Foster, Mariko and James Prigel, Margo Humenczuk, Diana Parker, Dalie Ortet, Daylin Rodriguez, Stephanie Spears

**Costa Rica Team:** Amelie, Jack, Jill and Matt Clingan, Donna Fast, Margo Humenczuk

### 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!



# FYI

## ABWM

ABWM, will meet Jan 12, at 10 a.m. Our topic is "Women On the Run" Subject: Sarah Lewis / Harvard Museum of Modern Art / Manhattan NY, Speaker is Kathie Manda and Marilyn Greene will give the Devotional. Please join us for education, fellowship, and fun.

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

**Food Pantry Needs for January:** Boxed potato flakes or canned potatoes, peas, carrots, spinach, lima beans. Jelly, Beef Stew, Not food items Laundry and Dish soap. Anything else such as Boxed meals, tomatoes, tooth paste, personal hygiene items are always appreciate.

### Red Bridge Food Pantry

**Jan 18, 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.

**Jan 19, 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

# ATTENTION!

**IN JANUARY, WE RECEIVE THE RETIRED MINISTERS AND MISSIONARIES OFFERING** to thank American Baptist pastors and mission leaders who served our denomination. They receive an annual love-gift offering in appreciation. The other purpose of the offering is to provide an emergency fund for working pastors who face financial challenges. Envelopes are in the pews

### Dates to Remember

- ◆ **Thursday, Jan. 10, 6:00 pm**, Souper Bowl of Caring – Planning meeting, in Fireside Room
- ◆ **Sunday, Jan. 13**, Executive council Meeting, noon, Fireside Room
- ◆ **Sunday, Jan. 13**, 2:30 pm – Nicaraguan Team Meeting
- ◆ **Saturday, Feb. 2, 3-5**. SOUPERBOWL OF CARING: collection of food; 5-6:30 pm, Soup and Salad Dinner Come help us host this annual event in our Fellowship Hall in support of the Red Bridge Area Food Pantry
- ◆ **Sunday Feb 3, Noon**, ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CHURCH



Calling teams Wednesday mornings at 9:30am: **Jan 9 & 23**. It would help if you would contact Karen Foster or the church office if you plan to participate.

# 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  
All are welcome to attend!

### NOTE CHANGES

- ♥ Because Time Warner apparently merged with Spectrum, I have had to change my email address of many years. It is now: [Phallquist15@charter.net](mailto:Phallquist15@charter.net). I hope to be called back by the IRS in less than a month though no firm date yet. I look forward to again attending FBC. Merry Christmas to you and all the staff of First Baptist. [Pat Hallquist](#)
- ♥ Peg Morgan has a new phone number: 816-518-4133



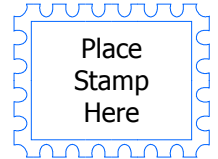
*Thank you*

Dear FBC family,  
Thank you so much for all the goodies, Christmas cards, and birthday cards. You all never cease to amaze me! Also, thank you for a beautiful ordination service and reception. I am so thankful for each one of you. Wishing you all a prosperous and blessed New Year! *Blessings, Dezo*

My Dear FBC Family,  
I can't thank you enough for all the warm thoughts, and prayers I have felt through this time of loss. Your cards, calls and gifts in Sympathy and for Christmas are cherished. Thank you all for your support. My heartfelt thanks to you, *Love Glenda*



**First Baptist Church of Kansas City, Missouri**  
 Rev. Dezo Schreiner, Dr. Stephen D Jones, and  
 Stephanie Spears, Pastors  
 100 W Red Bridge Road  
 Kansas City, MO 64114



**TIME SENSITIVE INFORMATION**



Spruce Owens	03
Pamela Mack	05
JoAnn Gardner	07
Sherry Mustapha	13
Margaret (Peg) Morgan	16
Christopher (Kit) Leonard	18
Gay Barton	18
Jim Dingwerth	20
Lynette Adkins	22
Earl Kane	26
Matthew Huckabey	27
Leonard Barbee	31

**SUNDAY MORNING CHILDREN’S SCHEDULE**

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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> Grade through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade:** 9:30 – 10:30 am

In Youth Classroom upstairs