



## THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

Dr. Stephen D. Jones - Dezo Desauguste, Rev. Stephanie Spears - Rev. Victor Velez - PASTORS

# AROUND & ABOUT

2018

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### **PRAYER IS MORE THAN TALKING!**

Every tradition should be able to critique itself. It helps us understand that we are not “the only way” or that we have an exclusive claim to the truth. And it helps us strengthen our tradition. There can be little doubt as to the strengths of American Baptists. They largely revolve around our five Baptist liberties which I think we embody more fully than any other Baptist group or denomination.

They are:

**Scriptural Liberty:** the freedom to interpret scripture as each person feels led

**Priestly Liberty:** the freedom to relate directly to God without the necessity of a human intermediary and the importance of the ministry of all Christians without hierarchy

**Church Liberty:** the freedom of each congregation to make its own decisions and follow Christ

**Religious Liberty:** the separation of church and state and the freedom of all religions to practice their faith without interference

**Soul Liberty:** the freedom and responsibility of each person to form their own relationship with God In Christ.

We should be rightly proud of these distinctives. However, we must also be able to critique our own tradition. You have heard me say that I began the Ritual of Cleansing many years ago on the first Sunday of the Fall and of the New Year because we don't emphasize the importance of confessing our sins and receiving God's pardon on a regular basis in our worship. At least on these two Sundays, as we prepare to receive Holy Communion, we emphasize God's marvelous forgiveness.

Another critique of Baptists that I would offer is our one-sided approach to prayer. Baptists seem to think that prayer only involves talking. We talk. God listens. And then, of course, God responds to our requests in one form or another. But this is such a one-sided view of prayer. God surely listens, but God also speaks! God speaks to us all the time, through the beauty of a flower, through a walk in the forest, through the wisdom of a child, in the quiet of our soul, in a sermon or song, through communal study with other Christians, and through friends and family members. God whispers – all the time! But, we have to listen.

Baptists like to fill up our prayer time with our words. We aren't so good at Quiet Listening, which is another word for meditation or spiritual contemplation. We don't have as strong a tradition in this arena as do the Catholics or Anglicans or Orthodox or Quakers. Unless we learn how to “be still before the Lord,” and listen “for that still, small voice,” we miss the two-way power of prayer. Prayer is both talking – sharing with God – and it's listening – quieting our noisy souls so that we can hear God speaking to us.

Lent is a particularly significant time for quiet meditation. I would say that First Baptist Church of KCMO is particularly strong in outreach, in mission, in serving of Christ's hands and feet. And this is tremendous. We're good at “doing.” But there is another important dimension which is the “being” side: being with God, resting in the Ground of All Being. Meditation requires skill and practice. Sure, you can just be quiet

and listen, but usually our minds are so active with thoughts racing to and fro, that we aren't really listening for God. We are so easily distracted. Spiritual exercises of using mantra's, deep breathing, guided meditation, and listening to God through Scripture (lectio divina).

On Palm Sunday evening, at 6:00 pm, the pastoral team and deacons will offer an evening of Meditation and Spiritual Preparation for Holy Week. It will include singing, scripture, prayers of healing, and a Labyrinth Walk. This approach might be new to you. But overcome the lack of familiarity and join us on Sunday evening, March 25, 6:00 pm

On Good Friday, March 30, 1:00 pm, we will have opportunity pray and sing and worship with our Episcopal neighbors, as we process behind a cross between neighboring churches. I hope you will plan to join us as we cross over into traditions that are different from our own, but also rich in meaning.

– Stephen Jones



**Winter Jazz Vespers**  
**March 11, 6 pm**  
**Featuring: Kelley Gant & En Masse**

Kelley is one of our youngest jazz performers – her first time to perform for us. She is bringing a four-piece band and it promises to be an exciting evening of jazz.





**In Loving Memory of  
Glen Thompson**



**The Hancock Singers  
By Bob Holloway**



**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: **Mar 14 and Mar 28.** 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.

## ***ALL ABOUT FIRST BAPTIST PEOPLE***

### **We pray for...**

- † Sue Fugitt who is hospitalized while on Vacation in Orlando FL.
- † Paul Sienkiewicz who recently fell and is home recuperating.
- † For the family of Rev. Harriet Buttry who passed away Feb 22 at John Knox Village in Hospice care. Arrangements pending.
- † Lloyd Brown at home awaiting his doctor's recommendations for cancer treatments.
- † Geraldine Raines, member of our church living in southern Missouri, in a care facility recuperating from an obstructed digestive tract
- † Mariko Prigel who was struck by a side-view mirror on a truck while walking across a parking lot. She suffered a concussion and has been gradually regaining strength. We give thanks for what could have been a much more serious accident!
- † Marvin Combs, released from overnight hospitalization following several TIA's, but now regaining strength
- † The family of Chet Young who passed on to eternal life on Saturday, Feb. 3. His funeral was officiated by Pastors Jones and Desauguste on Feb. 10.
- † Harriet Bonner, in her 100<sup>th</sup> year, still living with her granddaughter, Tonya, in the Baltimore area. Stephen Jones recently spoke with her on the phone and she sends greetings. She is recuperating from several medical issues but alert and responsive.

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

- † Carole Raines, Sue Hansen, Stephanie Spears, Dezo Desauguste, Audrey Dibble, Jan Jones and Stephen Jones who represented our church at the Public Issues Forum of MORE2 on Feb. 8. It is a wonderful celebration of the work of MORE2.
- † Kathie Manda who has agreed to chair the Board of Finance for the coming year and for Ken Fast (CH) and Freddie Harper (V-CH) who have agreed to lead the Board of Trustees.
- † Claire Chadwick who begins as our new Children's Learning Community teacher on March 4.
- † The planning team of Black History month. Sunday, Feb. 18, was a real highlight as four women of our church, Dawn Kirton, Lovie Harper, Stephanie Spears and Yvonne Walker prepared a delicious soul food dinner for a "full-house" in Fellowship Hall! Planners of the month were: Jessie Carpenter, Pat Hester, Lynette Adkins and Yvonne Walker.
- † Leonard Barbee and his marvelous family of singers who presented a gospel music concert in our sanctuary on Feb. 18. Leonard, two of his brothers and sister formed a powerful and inspiring quartet, thrilling everyone who attended! It was a rare reunion for the Hancock singers and we are grateful that they got together for us!

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

- † The family of Glen Thompson who gave the funds to remodel the front white sign on Red Bridge Road. For the first time in many years, it is fully illuminated and looks beautiful (see photo on page 2). Only the exterior painting of the sign remains to be completed as weather permits.
- † Andrea Davidson who brought her Hickman Mills Freshman Choir to sing for us on Feb. 25! We are grateful for Andrea's wonderful ministry of teaching music with her students!
- † Freddie Harper for taking the leadership of the monthly men's breakfasts and to Dennis Fuggit who is the wonderful breakfast cook each month! John Hopkins and Bill Betteridge alternate as the Bible teachers.
- † Sue Hansen, Dixie and Jim Kelly and all the volunteers who made the Souperbowl of Caring such a success. Again this year we had nearly 4,000 food items donated and a wonderful ecumenical and community dinner of soup, salad and dessert on Feb. 3
- † John Barton who was awarded the Pioneer award, by the Missouri Angus Assoc. in Columbia, MO on 2/24

### **We share our Long-term prayer for...**

JoAnn Gardner - Jan Carrigan - Robert Woods

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

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



## Upcoming Worship Sundays at 10:50 am

### 2018 LENTEN WORSHIP PLAN

#### ***“Women on the Journey to the Cross”***

*...The Hidden Role of Women in the Passion Story...*

*Women have been sidelined during the Lenten Season because few played a key role. However, women were present throughout the story, mostly by their own choices, compelled to stand with Jesus in the closing events of his life.*

#### **The Third Sunday of Lent, March 4**

**“Two Mothers of Disciples...At the Cross”**, Dezo Desauguste, preaching

The mothers of the disciples stood at the cross, in solidarity with their absent sons, braving ridicule, standing with Jesus in his dying hour. Matthew 27:55-56 — Communion Sunday

#### **The Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 11**

**“Women Benefactors...at the Cross”**, Stephen Jones, preaching

There were women who provided for Jesus and the disciples while in Galilee and several were women of financial means and social prominence. Among these could have been Joanna, wife of Herod’s steward, Chuza, and a woman named Suzanna. These two women were cured by Jesus of evil spirits and infirmities, and risked their reputations standing beneath the cross. Mark 15:40-41; Luke 23:49; 8:1-3

#### **The Fifth Sunday of Lent, March 18**

**“Jesus’ Mother: Relationships Transformed”**, Dezo Desauguste, preaching

From the cross, Jesus transformed his relationship with his mother and the beloved disciple. John 19:26-27

#### **Palm Sunday, March 25**

**“Daughters of Zion...Unafraid!”**, Stephen Jones, preaching

Beginning with our traditional Palm Sunday Processional of banners and children bringing forward the gladiola’s as their gift to Jesus and the waving of palm branches high in the air!

It was the daughters of Zion who in their public celebration were encouraged to accept Jesus as a “humble king, riding on a donkey,” and give thanks for him! John 12:12-15

#### **Easter Cantata: Name of Cantata**

“Hallelujah! What a Savior!”

A Cantata of the Crucified and Risen Christ

Compiled and edited by Lloyd Larson and Bryan Sharpe

#### **6:00 pm AN EVENING OF SPIRITUAL PREPARATION**

in our Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall including a Meditative Worship Experience and a Labyrinth Walk (March 25) at the beginning of Holy Week.

### **Maundy Thursday Service, 6:00 pm, March 29**

#### **“Women, Preparing for Jesus with Death on Their Hands”**

Dezo Desauguste speaking; Women were expected to prepare bodies of loved ones with burial ointments. But these women were not kinsfolk of Jesus, but respected and followed him.

Luke 23:55-56 Agape Meal and Service of Darkness

(please bring a plate of potluck finger food to share with others) in Fireside Room.

This is one of the more beautiful and inspiring worship experiences of the year! Join us!

### **Ecumenical Good Friday Service, Noon 12:15 & 1:00 pm, March 30**

Those who wish to participate in the Procession of the Cross may gather at noon at the Red Bridge Shopping Center where we will process the cross around the Center and then to St. Peter's and All Saints Episcopal Church at 12:15 pm to participate in their Good Friday liturgy. Then we will process the cross (or drive for those who prefer) to our church, leaving at 12:45 pm and beginning our Good Friday worship at 1:00 pm. Our service will last less than 30 minutes.

We regret to share the news that the Red Bridge Church of Christ has voted to close and the building is being taken over by another Church of Christ congregation which will operate on several sites. The Red Bridge Church and its pastor, Rev. Chris Wise, have been significant partners with us and we will miss their presence.

### **Easter Sunday Service, April 1, 10:50 AM**

**“Mary Magdalene...A Walk in the Garden”**, Stephen Jones, preaching

Mary came to the garden expecting death, and as she walked in the garden was entrusted with a victorious message in the first encounter with the Risen Lord! It was difficult for the others to accept her and dismissed her testimony as an idle tale! Matthew 28:1-8; Mark 16:9-11 — Communion Sunday

#### **Early Easter Service, 9:00 – 9:30 am “Some Women Astounded Us”**

Story of the Road to Emmaus; Luke 24:22 Dezo Desauguste, preaching

#### **Easter Congregational Breakfast, 9:30 – 10:30 am. Fellowship Hall**

*We need volunteers to make a breakfast casserole, breakfast sweet rolls, or bowls of fruit. Sign up on a Green Sheet and bring the food to the breakfast by 9:20 am (or earlier to bake the casseroles).*



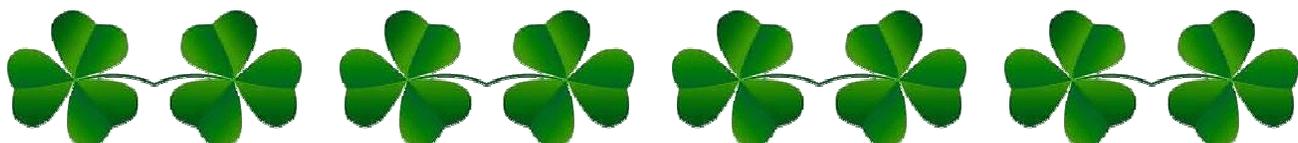
### **Join us in Mission in Nicaragua in January 2019!**

Please join us for a **no obligation informational session on the upcoming trip on Sunday March 4<sup>th</sup>** immediately after church. We'd love to have you join us!

Tentative dates are Friday, January 4, 2019-Sunday, January 13, 2019. If college students can join us, this should get them back prior to the start of Spring Semester.

For more information on AMOS see:

<http://www.amoshealth.org> or <http://www.amoshealth.org/walkwithme/> .



# FYI

# ABWM

This month we decided to go Grace Baptist Church for the Area 5 gathering. We will meeting April 14 in the Fireside Room. Our program is "Refugees At Our Door" given by Jan Jones. She has invited a "Dreamer" to speak. We invite you to join us. If you have any questions please call - *Sue Hansen President, 816-942-1334*

**Food Pantry Needs for March** any food item , Laundry products, Dish soap, Kleenex  
**If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please call Sue**

### Red Bridge Food Pantry

**Mar. 16 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.

**Mar. 17 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 souperbowl of Caring turned out a "full house" in Fellowship Hall - by far the majority was members of the sponsoring congregations: First Baptist, Red Bridge Church of Christ, St. Peters and All Saints Episcopal Church, St. Mary and St Mark Egyptian Coptic Church, and Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church. But leaders of other churches came as well, including Holmeswood Baptist and Evangel Church. Greetings were brought from DeRon McGee, Missouri State Legislature from this district, and from our 6th District City council members: Scott Taylor and Kevin McMannis. John Sharp brought greetings from the Community Assistance Council. The children of Red Bridge Elementary collected 1400 cans for the food pantry! And the Center Middle School Boys Basketball team with coach Zach Eubank worked throughout the afternoon bringing in food items from cars. Thanks to Dixie and Jim Kelly and Sue Hansen and our many volunteers who pulled off a 2nd Souperbowl of Caring!



## Welcome

Meet Claire Chadwick, our new teacher for the Children Sunday Learning Community. Claire earned her Masters of Divinity from Central Baptist Theological Seminary in 2014. Claire worked as a program director at Camp Judson for 11 years 2001-2012 in Erie, Pennsylvania where she grew up. She also volunteered as Sunday School Teacher at First Baptist Church of Overland Park for the past 5 years. She now lives in Overland Park with her dog, Mr. Darcy, her sister, Kolina, and her sister's dog, Nymeria. She loves hiking and gardening and all puppy dogs. Claire said, "I am excited to be a part of the ministry team at First Baptist Kansas City, MO." *Please, pray for our children ministry!*



### **WORM – Workshop Rotation Model ...for Children's Sunday Learning Community...**

**9:30 – 10:30 am – Every Sunday!**

First Baptist Church, KCMO – Launch Date: **March 4, 2018**

*An interest-center workshop rotation based on exploring a story from scripture through multi-dimensional, creative approaches (drama, music, video, art, & games)*

**Lead Teacher: Claire Chadwick**

# 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.



## **BIBLE STUDY – TUESDAY MORNINGS, 10 – 11 AM**

Dr. Jones is leading the group in studying the book of I John

All are welcome to attend!



CULTIVATING LEADERS  
**EQUIPPING DISCIPLES**  
HEALING COMMUNITIES  
Ephesians 4:11-13

### **America For Christ Offering**

In 2018, during the month of March, we take this American Baptist offering which supports our ABC ministries across the USA and Puerto Rico. 29% of this offering goes to Regional Ministries in our Great Rivers Region. 59% goes toward the work of the American Baptist Home Mission Society which sponsors chaplains in institutions, helps churches

find new pastors, resettles refugees, evangelism and church transformation, volunteer mobilization, disaster relief in the USA, prisoner re-entry, loans to build churches, coordinating the ministries of American Baptist Homes, American Baptist Colleges and Universities, and ABC seminaries.

We "build up the body of Christ" by giving to the America for Christ Offering. Our First Baptist Goal for 2018 is \$2,500. We will introduce the offering on March 4. An envelope is attached to this issue of the Around and About, and additional envelopes are in the pews. Please give generously as we seek to expand the ministry of Christ by American Baptists around the USA! - The FBC Mission Board

### **LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH:**

- 1) **A Lenten Prayer and Sharing Group** continues to meet in the home of Jan and Steve Jones, 100 W. 108<sup>th</sup> Court (just 3 blocks from church) on Friday evenings through- March 16 at 7:00 pm Dezo and Steve co-lead this group.
- 2) **An Evening of Spiritual Preparation on Palm Sunday Evening, March 25**, the first day of Holy Week at 6:00 pm which includes a Meditative Worship Service, with Scripture Reading, Singing and Meditative Praying for Holy Week, a Labyrinth Walk, and a Ritual of Healing. The Meditative Service will last 30 minutes and then invite everyone downstairs to Fellowship Hall for the Labyrinth Walk and Ritual of Healing.
- 3) **An Ecumenical Good Friday Service at noon on March 30** with St. Peters & All Saints Episcopal Church "Way of the Cross" as we walk and carry the large cross with services in each location as we recall the Good Friday experience of Jesus carrying the cross to Calvary. Service at St. Peters & All Saints 12:15 pm and 1:00 pm at First Baptist Church. You are welcome to drive or walk.



**First Baptist Church of Kansas City, Missouri**  
 Dr. Stephen D Jones, Pastor Dezo Desauguste,  
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Place  
 Stamp  
 Here

TIME SENSITIVE INFORMATION



*Birthdays  
 of the  
 Month*

- Betty Cauthon 01
- Yui Tadokoro 01
- Joe Cooper 01
- Stephanie Davis 06
- Laura Sienkiewicz 03
- Bill Thornton 03
- Stephanie Davis 06
- Randall Palmer 11
- Jolene Everly 11
- Vickie Murray 16
- Kent Bevan 17
- Margo Humenczuk 23



**Hancock Singers Feb 18th**  
 Our own Leonard Barbee with his  
 brothers and Sister



**Feb 18 Soul Food Dinner  
 Was a Big Success.**

