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Visit us on our website
www.belovedcommunitykc.org
or on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/fbckc

Co-Pastors
Rev. Dezo Schreiner
& Rev. Dr. Stephen D Jones

Around & About - MARCH 2025

Retirement, Coming!

I was the runner-up to the pastoral search which resulted in the calling of Rev. Doug Valentine as the pastor of this church. I was in Seattle at the time and trying to return to the Midwest for family and professional reasons. Doug was one of two effective pastors in that period. The other was Rev. Leo Thorne. Neither was a native Midwesterner and both seemed to thoroughly enjoy their years in Kansas City. Just one concern: they each stayed five years. And the interim before and after these pastors lasted from 18-24 months. All research shows that a church doesn't begin moving forward until several years into a new pastor's tenure.

The pulpit committee that called me was in 2013, following Doug's return to the East coast. I received the call while I was concluding my interim pastorate at Prairie Baptist Church, which lasted three years. Thus, on October 1, 2013, I became the pastor of this church.

The pulpit committee was very clear that they wanted a longer pastoral tenure. I was 63, almost turning 64. I was known to a number of church members at the time because I was a "son" of the congregation, having begun my pastoral career here as an intern in 1969. So, I wasn't unknown and had preached here quite a few times over my career. This has always been our "home church."

I promised them that I would come at 63 and stay for ten years, working well past normal retirement age. I didn't announce my retirement until I reached 76. It was my intention to set up a "succession plan" that could possibly lead to even longer-term stability. Then came Pastor Dezo. She came to this church as a nursing student at Avila, and then discerned that she should enter Central Seminary, earn her Master's degree, with the possibility of remaining in the USA or returning to her native Haiti. You know the rest of that story.

The congregation voted to launch a new model, a co-pastorate. It was the second co-pastorate of my career, but honestly, I have never served as a "senior pastor" in any of the churches I have served. I have always developed collegial pastoral styles, and generally have been partners with many women and pastors of color to add more diversity to the church I was serving.

I think we have proved that the co-pastorate has been highly successful, embodying on our pastoral team the diversity that already exists within the congregation. And Dezo and I have worked extremely well together, complementing each other with different styles and skill sets.

The difference will now be evident to everyone: you have one full-time pastor, someone whom you have known as your pastor for over seven years.

The transition following my retirement will be natural, without disruptive change. Over coming months, you will be recognizing Dezo's pastoral leadership in a fuller way. Good for her; good for you!

Continued...

Continued...

Regardless of how long Dezo stays, and I for one would hope for a good number of years, or if other collegial pastoral styles are formed in the future, it means that the impact of my 11 ½ years, and the impact of Dezo's 7 ½ years, will extend far into the future.

Pastoral transitions can be fruitful, but I suspect right now most of us would agree we hardly need a risky transition when a new pastor arrives and it takes 2-3 years of "getting acquainted" before you can move forward. And of course, that person might not be a good "fit."

American Baptist clergy have a code of ethics that requires that when a pastor resigns or retires, they withdraw from the congregation to give the continuing and future pastors rooms to serve. Thus, I will step back from the church in this period of Dezo's expanded pastoral role among you and will only return as a member when and if she and church leaders feel that a solid foundation has been established. Jan and I are "church people," so we will not "play hooky." We'll be visiting other churches and no one knows the future.

But I assure you, my heart will be with you always, as this church has been held deeply in my heart since 1968, when I first discovered First Baptist Church. This has been our home church as we have served other ABC churches. I believe most of you know our story: Jan was a cradle-roll member of this church; her mother was a deacon; and we met serving as co-directors of a summer neighborhood children's ministry at the Linwood church. We were married in the Red Bridge Sanctuary on March 28, 1970.

With all that history, it means that you will be in my prayers, heart-felt! One thing is for certain: I won't be your pastor after April 1. I have discerned, after much spiritual reflection, that you are ready, and Dezo is ready, to write a new and exciting chapter in this church's life. Nothing else went into my decision to retire at this time.

A number of you have asked: "Am I ready?" And, "What will you do next?" Thank God for good health and vitality, and since I have never retired before, I frankly don't know what to expect. Facing a more uncertain future, I have some apprehensions, of course. Most importantly, I know that God will be with me, and with Jan, opening whatever avenues of service, but even more so, that our hearts will be with you now, tomorrow, and always!

Pastor Steve (Friend Steve after April 1)

OFFERINGS



Financials

In February, our special monthly offering went to our Deacon Fellowship Fund which assists persons and families within our congregation to nearby in transition or crisis.

We gave: \$230.00

give and receive grace through the
DEACONS' FUND



March Offering

In March, we receive the American Baptist America for Christ Offering which supports the work of our own Great Rivers Region and across America! The need is great – please give generously! Note your check for the AFC offering, made out to First Baptist Church, or you can use special AFC envelopes in the pews.

ALL ABOUT FIRST BAPTIST PEOPLE

WE PRAY FOR...

- Bill Rinck is waiting treatment for ongoing and severe back pain. We keep Bill and Christine in our heart-felt prayers. Valerie Carroll, daughter of Bill and Christine Rinck, and Mary Ann, granddaughter, courageously facing health issues in Ireland.
- Sue Hansen at Brookdale Care Center in the memory care unit
- Debbie Ebright experiencing back pain
- Please pray for someone in hospice care.
- Dixie Kelly has been wearing a heart monitor to help doctors decide how to treat blockage in arteries in her neck. We pray for Dixie and Jim.
- Susan Smith is receiving good care at home. Pray for her and for Sally who is coordinating her care.
- Pat Betteridge is home but struggling with vision and back pain
- Patty Vann is now living in her new home in Holton, KS. Her address is: 321 Bonner Road, Holton KS 66436. Phone: 785-362-2218
- Pray for Adesjola Tucker for traveling mercies as she goes to Washington state for the funeral of her Grandfather.
- Pray for Andre, Geneva Abel's grand nephew.
- Sue Fugitt experiencing back pain, at home.
- Janelle Jones tried to stop her parked car with her two oldest daughters still inside and was hurt. She broke a bone in her foot trying to bring the car to a stop on a steep incline outside their home.
- Dwight Crosby will undergo surgery on March 18 for prostate cancer, early detected.
- Daylin and Dalie Rodriguez Ortet, who held a federal contract to serve the needs of undocumented children and youth in the Midwest, first had their funding cut-off, but it has now been restored!
- For Pastor Dezo as she completes her final dissertation and receiving the Doctor of Ministry degree from Chicago Theological Seminary.



WE SHARE THANKS TO...

- The many members of our church who prepared "Black History Moments" and children's conversations enlightening us as to the many profound contributions African Americans have made in America's history.
- Eyvonne Walker, our director of music, who brought two wonderful concerts to our church during Black History Month and introducing many to our church!
- Pastor Steve spoke on Feb 26 to a women's group at Country Club Christian Church on the contradictions of White Christian Nationalism

WE SHARE OUR LONG-TERM PRAYER FOR...

Nancy Bundy (Fighting Cancer) — Dixie Kelly — Susan Smith — Patty Vann — Donna Hopkins — Becky Boden — Pat Betteridge — Valerie Carroll (Daughter of Bill & Chris Rinck) — Justin Prigel (In the Military) — Dale Rider (Former FBC Organist/DoM)



**Join us for an Open House to
explore Central Seminary's
new main campus!**

Saturday, March 15th from 2-4pm

**8620 W. 110th St. Suite 200,
Overland Park, KS 66210**

Announcements

JOIN US

Happy Retirement

Sunday, March 30: This is Pastor Steve's final Sunday before retirement, and also opportunity to celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary which occurs on March 28. There will be a potluck dinner following worship in their honor. We encourage you to come share personal stories about how Steve impacted our lives. It will be a great celebration!



CHURCH HERITAGE ROOM:

open again! Be sure and visit a new bulletin board with "13 Things that Have Made Our Church Unique!"

CHURCH LIBRARY IMPROVEMENT

Our church library has been reduced in the size of its collection by about 50%. The good news is that the books that continue are much more relevant to our current era. The books are organized by easily recognizable topics. The library is an open system. Visit the library, find a book you want to read, take it home, and when you are finished, return it! Easy!



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH EVENT: Showing of the film, "Six Triple Eight." *The Six Triple Eight* is a 2024 American war drama film written and directed by Tyler Perry on the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion.

During WWII, the only US Women's Army Corps unit of color stationed overseas takes on an impossible mission in Tyler Perry's drama based on a true story. Kerry Washington and Oprah Winfrey both star in this superb cast.

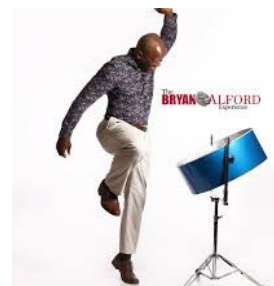


Join us on Sunday, March 9, at noon in the Fireside Room where we will eat chicken salad sandwiches and watch the movie. Short discussion will follow.



KC JAZZ VESPERS: 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY!

KANSAS CITY JAZZ VESPERS is now planning for the TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF KC JAZZ VESPERS, which began on Jan. 11, 2015. For the March 16 Vespers Bryan Alford and his seven-piece jazz ensemble will perform. Bryan plays the kettle drum as a solo instrument and brings a multi-talented group of performers. On April 13, Alex Abramovitz and his Swingin' KC Jazz Band will be performing out of the "swing jazz" tradition. All vespers begin at 6 pm, and offer 100 minutes of professional jazz with an intermission offering words of inspiration from our pastors.



MORE²

Our Church Joining Transforming Conversations Cohort

A group of 7 MORE2 congregations in Greater KC are joining a cohort of churches to become involved in Transforming Conversations in which we as a congregation have directed one-on-one conversations about our church, our vision for the future, next directions, and new outreach thrusts. The Executive Council has asked the Deacons to give leadership to this program. It involves Pastor Dezo and our deacon co-chairs, Lynette Adkins and Toni Page, as our leadership team in this effort. We are now recruiting from 5-8 volunteers who will engage in one-on-one conversations with members of our church. The training for this will occur on Saturday, March 29, from 9 am to 2 pm. We would love to have people step up to volunteer! Talk with Toni, Lynette, or Dezo for more information.

FOOD PANTRY

RED BRIDGE FOOD PANTRY ACTIVITY DATES

Monday, March 3rd — 1:15-3:00 p.m. — Restocking Day
(Volunteers Needed!)

Wednesday, March 12th, 6PM — **Deadline for clients call Food Pantry Phone Line.** If you know of a family in need of food assistance, have them call the Food Pantry Line (816-908-7800) anytime BEFORE 6 p.m. on Wed., March 12th. They will need to provide the requested information and a phone number. They will then receive a return call which must be answered before their request for food can be processed.

Friday, March 14th — 1:15-3:15 p.m. — Fill Food Pantry Orders

Saturday, March 15th — 9:00-11:00 a.m. — Clients Pick Up Orders

⇒ **Potential clients who live in our south Kansas City area can be referred to call:**
816-908-7800

For February, we served 18 families and 63 individuals. Thanks to everyone's generosity with both the regular and the Souper Bowl food drives!

Red Bridge Food Pantry NEEDS — March 2025:

- ⇒ Canned Vegetables (especially peas, mixed veg, carrots, beets, mushrooms, potatoes, peas and carrots, sauerkraut)
- ⇒ Tomato Sauce and Paste
- ⇒ Facial Tissue (regular sized boxes)

Contact Tarah Kruger with any questions at
tarahkruger@sbcglobal.net

A grateful mother wrote a note to the pantry: *"Please know how special you are and what a blessing you are!!"* and that includes all of YOU who make the pantry possible!

Help the Red Bridge Food Pantry Provide Spring Break Meals for Red Bridge Elementary School

First Baptist has been asked to provide meal boxes for ten families at Red Bridge Elementary School over spring break (March 24 through 28). These are families which usually receive BackSnacks through Harvesters for weekend meals but need additional help for the spring break week. Your generosity in providing food to the food pantry (and food provided by Harvesters) has provided most of the food we need. We would appreciate donations of canned fruit, canned pasta meals (Spaghetti Os, Beef-A-Roni), and canned stews and chili.

What we really need are several church members to pack the boxes in the Fireside Room at 12:30pm on Thursday, March 20. If we have a half dozen people it should only take an hour and a half to get everything ready to go. If you can help, please sign up on the green sheet one of the next two Sundays or let Bill Humenczuk know by phone or e-mail. Thank you from your food pantry and the staff at Red Bridge Elementary School.



Spotlight on Sue Hansen

Sue has been a member of the beloved community for over 20 years. Family-centered is the best short description for Sue Hansen. She grew up in a house with her grandparents living upstairs. Her one brother was 10 years older, but she still hung around him and his friends a lot. Sue married her sweetheart and they quickly had two daughters to raise. Her heart was big enough to consider life as a foster parent, and a 6-month-old baby came into the family and stayed to be adopted 9 years later. The fourth child became gravely ill and suffered traumatic brain damage. He required special care and attention his whole life, but Sue devoted herself to him and his care, even traveling to visit him and 'take him outside' after he moved to a group home.



At one point, Sue wanted to take tennis lessons, but that was an unnecessary expense for a young family. Sue took a job at the local McDonalds to pay for her lessons. That turned into a 42-year career as the morning coffee lady. She never met a stranger and was always willing to help with anything. She gave rides home, clothes, food and love to her co-workers regularly.

Sue met Don Hansen at a wedding she was catering. They bonded instantly and married almost a year later. They were hoping for a few good years together, and they were blessed with 32 years full of travel and service to others. Family continues to be important, and Sue's church family has been a blessing to her after Don's passing.

Given a day to herself, Sue would call her friends and get together for lunch. Her five best friends were formed during a weight Loss class when her kids were small in the early 1960s.

You might not know that Sue was a very accomplished seamstress. She single handedly sewed the uniforms for several cheerleader squads, and designed a beautiful Lady Di wedding dress for her daughter, which included a 'Gone with the Wind' skirt of peek a boo lace.

Sue is now dealing with memory loss. She is very loved by her church.

Upcoming Worship Schedule

—In-person in the Sanctuary and LIVE on Facebook at 10:50 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. on our website—

UPCOMING WORSHIP THEME: THIS IS OUR TIME! THIS IS GOD'S TIME!

Rev. Dezo Schreiner & Rev. Dr. Stephen D. Jones, preaching
2025 Lenten Preaching Schedule
The Beloved Community of FBC KCMO

† Wednesday, March 5, 2025 — 6:00pm:

Ash Wednesday Simple Meal and Service, Fireside Room

"A Time of Confession", Pastor Steve, preaching; I John 1:9

Confession is "good for the soul, it clears our hearts and minds of "old stuff" that diminishes so that God's New Thing can enter! Service concludes with imposition of ashes and holy communion.

† Sunday, March 9th — 10:50am:

The First Sunday of Lent

"A Time of Reflection", Pastor Steve, preaching; Luke 6:12

We often do not take time to reflect, to pause where we are and take stock.

† Sunday, March 16th, — 10:50am:

The Second Sunday of Lent

"A Time of Discernment", Pastor Dezo, preaching; Luke 6:12-16

Discernment is a spiritual activity, it is "lifting up before the Lord" our predicaments, our situations, our chaos, our blessings, and inviting God to show us the way, to open the door.

† Sunday, March 23rd, — 10:50am:

The Third Sunday of Lent

"A Time To Claim and Be Claimed", Pastor Steve, preaching; Deuteronomy 7:6-8

First of all, before all else, we have to know Whose we are; it's our primary and ultimate relationship of God which we must claim, and then allow ourselves to be claimed by God. With this priority established, life suddenly makes sense like never before.

† Sunday, March 30th, — 10:50am:

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

"A Time for Expansiveness", Pastor Steve, preaching; Luke 7:22

Small dream and small thinking will never do for the people of God. We are to think expansively, outside the box, to envision God's New Thing. It is Steve's final Sunday and Joy Yonga Choi will be singing and Stephanie Parham will also participate along with Pastor Dezo.

FBC Music -- Eyvonne

So Many People to Thank

The beginning of this year has been quite the roller coaster ride... God's grace has been with us in a mighty way, after welcoming our beloved Steve McBride into His Heavenly home. His presence, steadfast service and musical prowess left us with a sizable heart-shaped hole in our FBC Music Ministry, but the goodness of God and the movement of Holy Spirit has given us a new voice, in the person of Samuel Okwo! Rev. Steve and Samuel are blending their voices together like two peas in a pod!

Even through our falling snows and frigid temperatures, our Celestial Ringers and Chancel Singers have persevered and offered up to our Congregation and to our Creator the consistent, matchless beauty of music in our worship services. The Celestial Ringers' presentation of "O Love, that Wilt Not Let Me Go" was so heartfelt and sure. Last Sunday's Special Music offering of, "Teach Me Lord, to Wait/On Eagles Wings", by the Chancel Singers was masterfully sung, but our cohesiveness was such that it was clear that, as I say frequently, we "left enough room for the Holy Spirit to come and sing along with us!"

And then there was February... Our Beloved Community of FBC-KCMO was truly blessed by all of the contributions of the Black History Month Celebration Committee!!! For our Music Ministry, I must say THANK YOU to FBC for your presence and any donations given at the Marvin Byas Singers and A-Flat Youth Orchestra, to Diana Parker, Laurie Tourtellot, Adesjola Tucker (luncheon setup - Byas concert & ushering), Deacon Lynette Adkins (concert attendance and ushering), David & Rev. Toni Page, Sandi Leonard (strong-arms, ushering, equipment logistics), Bill & Margo Humenczuk (A/V recording, donation accounting), Rev. Steve Jones (Article interview and advertisement in the Martin City Telegraph), Pat Hester (the Black History Month Celebration bracelets), Rev. Dezo Schreiner (making sure I had proper rest and food to keep up my strength), Robin King (inexhaustible patience and forbearance). If I have forgotten anyone, please remind me promptly! We truly have a beautiful Beloved Community at FBC! I remain deeply blessed because of my FBC-KCMO church family!!!

Thank You!

Church Calendar

- **March 2nd** — Sunday, at 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome!
- **March 2nd** — “**Hope Rests in God’s Promises!**”; **Pastor Dezo, preaching. Communion Sunday.**
- March 3rd — Monday, 1:15 p.m. Restock Pantry with Donations
- March 4th — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- March 5th — “**A Time of Confession**” - **Ash Wednesday Simple Meal and Service at 6:00 p.m., Fireside Room, Pastor Steve, preaching.**
- **March 9th** — Sunday, at 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome!
- **March 9th** — “**A Time of Reflection**” - **The First Sunday of Lent; Pastor Steve, preaching.**
- **March 9th** — Sunday, at 12:00 p.m. “Six Triple Eight” movie showing, fireside room
- March 11th — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- March 12th — Wednesday, Deadline to Request Food from the Food Pantry
- March 12th — Wednesday, at 6:00 p.m. Music Skill Builders (Eyvonne 816-289-4793)
- March 12th — Wednesday, at 6:30 p.m. Celestial Ringers - Handbell Choir
- March 12th — Wednesday, at 7:30 p.m. Chancel Singers
- March 14th — Friday, 1:15 p.m. Fill Client Food Pantry Orders
- March 15th — Saturday, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Clients Pick Up Food Pantry Orders
- March 15th — Saturday, 2:00-4:00 p.m. Central Seminary’s Open House
- **March 16th** — Sunday, at 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome!
- **March 16th** — “**A Time of Discernment**” - **The Second Sunday of Lent, Pastor Dezo, preaching.**
- **March 16th** — Sunday, at 6:00 p.m. KC Jazz Vespers - Bryan Alford and his 7-piece band
- March 18th — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- March 19th — Wednesday, at 6:00 p.m. Music Skill Builders (Eyvonne 816-289-4793)
- March 19th — Wednesday, at 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir
- March 19th — Wednesday, at 7:30 p.m. Chancel Singers
- **March 23rd** — Sunday, at 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome!
- **March 23rd** — “**A Time To Claim and Be Claimed**” - **The Third Sunday of Lent, Pastor Steve, preaching.**
- March 25th — Tuesday, Congregational Check-in and Bible Study (via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.)
- March 26th — Wednesday, at 6:00 p.m. Music Skill Builders (Eyvonne 816-289-4793)
- March 26th — Wednesday, at 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir
- March 26th — Wednesday, at 7:30 p.m. Chancel Singers
- March 29th — Saturday, at 9:00a.m. - 2:00 p.m. MORE2 Transforming Conversations Training
- **March 30th** — Sunday, at 10:00 a.m. Musical Ensemble Rehearsal - All are Welcome!
- **March 30th** — “**A Time for Expansiveness**” - **The Fourth Sunday of Lent, Pastor Steve, preaching.**

We have an adult Sunday Morning class, the Journeys Class, meeting weekly at 9:30 am using the Journeys curriculum. Meets in the Cross-Generations Classroom, 9:30 am Sundays.

Everyone is welcome!!





First Baptist Church of Kansas City, MO

100 West Red Bridge Rd,
Kansas City, MO 64114

Place
Stamp
Here

Co-Pastors: Rev. Dezo Schreiner & Rev. Dr. Stephen D Jones

TIME SENSITIVE INFORMATION

EXTRA



March Birthdays

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| Yui Tadokoro | 01 |
| Joe Cooper | 01 |
| Laura Martinez | 03 |
| Tim Link | 05 |
| Andrea Ferguson | 07 |
| Vickie Murray | 16 |
| Kent Bevan | 17 |
| Margo Humenczuk | 23 |



TUESDAY MORNING, 10AM CONGREGATIONAL CHECK-IN AND BIBLE STUDY ON MARK'S GOSPEL

WE ENCOURAGE THOSE WHO LISTEN ONLINE TO OUR WORSHIP SERVICES TO ALSO PARTICIPATE IN THE TUESDAY ZOOM CALL. IT WOULD ADD A FACE-TO-FACE HOUR OF INTERACTION WITH OUR PASTORS. WE USE THE HOURS FOR PERSONAL CHECK-IN, PRAYER, AND BIBLE STUDY. JOIN US!

(TAUGHT BY PASTORS DEZO AND STEVE)

Method 1 – Video and Audio by Smartphone/Tablet/PC

1. Go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/555892911?pwd=SFNmQUlVTDtRaHlDaVYrN3l5bzJlVQY09>
2. Meeting ID: 555 892 911
3. Password: 1

Method 2 – Audio ONLY

1. Call 312.626.6799 US (Chicago)
2. Meeting ID: 555 892 911
3. Password: 1

Website: www.belovedcommunitykc.org

TO WATCH OUR WORSHIP SERVICE **LIVE** AT 10:50AM ON
FACEBOOK GO TO:

<https://www.facebook.com/fbckc/>

TO WATCH IT ON THE CHURCH'S WEBSITE GO TO:

<http://fbckcmo.net/worship-services>

(The services will be posted on our website at 1:00PM)