

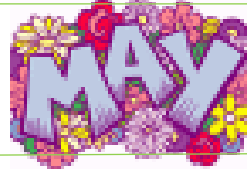


THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI
Dr. Stephen D. Jones - Dezo Desauguste, Rev. Stephanie Spears - Rev. Victor Velez - PASTORS

AROUND & ABOUT

2018

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DENUCLEARIZATION

Human beings hold in our hands the capacity to destroy human life on earth as we know it. Nuclear weapons falling in the wrong hands can do extraordinary damage to the earth's ability to sustain life. This gives us almost god-like power: the ability to end life on earth, not on God's time-table, but according to our own self-destructive tendencies. Widespread use of nuclear weapons would hurt everyone through atmospheric radiation, enemies as well as allies.

It has been exciting to watch the leaders of North and South Korea walk across the demilitarized zone and discuss making peace between their two countries and ridding the Korean peninsula of nuclear weapons. Much of this is due to the South Koreans electing a leader who deeply desires to reduce the tension and build peace. He masterfully used the Winter Olympics to extend an olive branch of peace which North Korea quickly accepted. We look forward to President Trump meeting with the North Korean leader and continuing the progress toward peace already begun.

Yet, as positive as this appears, and nothing is a "done deal" until fully negotiated, I am deeply troubled by the consideration that the United States might pull out of the 2015 Iran Nuclear Accord, which was entered into by the USA, Russia, China, Germany, France, the UK and Iran. No multi-lateral peace accord is perfect and this one isn't either. But it seems to be working as Iran has stopped development of nuclear weapons according to in-depth inspections. Getting Russia and China to agree to this Accord was a major accomplishment. I certainly hope we do not unilaterally withdraw from this agreement because it would risk restarting Iran's nuclear program which represents great risk for that area of the world. I am aware that the government of Israel has objected to the accord but in fact, Israel has the most to gain by Iran not developing nuclear weapons.

Iran is not a problem-free nation. It funds revolution in Syria and other trouble-spots in the Middle East. But they have elected a more moderate President and I fear that an American withdrawal will cause right-wing forces in Iran to prevail.

Please join me in prayer that the United States will do all we can to support North and South Korea in bringing peace and denuclearization to that area of the world, and that we will remain in the Iran nuclear deal as it brings stability and safety to the Middle East. If anything would go against God's will, it would be for human beings to bring about destruction of the world that God has created. Earth will not last forever. It can't support life forever. But it must come in God's timing alone. – [Stephen Jones](#)

RESPECTFUL CONVERSATION ON GUN VIOLENCE

The congregation had a respectful conversation about gun violence at our April congregational dinner. Guns are used to kill 30,000 Americans every year. The USA has nearly six times the gun homicide rate of Canada, 7 times that of Sweden, 16 times that of Germany. We make up less than 5% of the world's population yet own roughly 42% of all the world's privately owned firearms. Missouri leads the nation in our black homicide rate (seven years running). We know there are a variety of opinions in our congregation – but we were able to talk together. Below are the proposals discussed around the table reflecting different

proposals on how to reduce gun violence. We took a poll at the end of the program and the “FBC Poll” reflect that poll.

PROPOSALS TO REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE:

- **SAFER SMART GUNS** Develop new technology to have safety measures embedded in guns; fingerprint scanners, codes and chips can be used to ensure that only the rightful owner of a gun can use that gun; reducing anger-related use of guns. **FBC POLL: 10**
- **GUN SALES** Most guns are not purchased in gun stores. Many second-hand guns are sold at temporary gun shows by unlicensed dealers. Require that guns be sold only by licensed dealers. **FBC POLL: 7**
- **UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS** Establish a national registry of gun owners, currently prohibited by law. Institute a waiting period between purchase and ownership of the gun. Require universal background checks before any gun purchases. **FBC POLL: 7**
- **ASSAULT WEAPONS** Reduce access to dangerous weapons by banning high capacity magazines and bump stocks, automatic and semi-automatic weapons. Re-Institute federal assault weapons ban (in effect from 1994-2004). Sponsor a buy-back program of these high capacity weapons. **FBC POLL: 7**
- **TRAIN POLICE** to use more non-lethal methods; provide better training for mediation skills by police. Provide more training to improve racial sensitivity and reduce bias. **FBC POLL: 7**
- **GUN DEALERS** 5% of gun dealers sell 90% of the guns used in crimes. Establish a code of conduct to which all gun dealers must be held accountable. Crackdown on dishonest dealers. **FBC POLL: 6**
- **INNER CITY MEDIATION** Advance the “Cease-Fire” approach to inner city gun violence by using trained mediators who are former gang members with clout in violent neighborhoods to break cycles of retaliation and shootings. It’s proven effective. **FBC POLL: 6**
- **LIMIT THOSE WHO CAN PURCHASE GUNS** Reduce access to firearms to youth (only with parental consent), to individuals at risk of harming themselves or others, to those convicted of violent crimes or domestic abuse, or those with serious mental, anger or emotional issues. **FBC POLL: 4**
- Require **mandatory training** of all gun owners before a permit is granted. **FBC POLL: 4**
- **SUPPORT GUN VIOLENCE RESEARCH.** End the (almost 20 year) federal prohibition that prevents the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC; the nation’s public health agency) and National Institutes of Health to study this issue and provide science-based guidance. **FBC POLL: 3**
- **SCHOOL VIOLENCE** – Fund initiatives that enhance school safety; lock down all school doors when in session requiring visitors and students to enter through a staffed entrance; use metal detectors and stronger door locks; have armed staff on duty whether security or trained teachers. **FBC POLL: 3**
- What about “open carry” laws which allow licensed guns to be openly worn in any public setting?
- Your ideas and proposals...*Hold parents of under-age children who use a gun responsible.* **FBC Poll: 1**



Trustee Updates

- † Seek Volunteers: to sand and paint the four columns in front of our church facing Red Bridge. Due to budget constraints, we hope to paint the columns with volunteers. Anyone interested in participating – please speak with Stephen Jones.
- † A contract to replace deteriorating sidewalk, curbs and ramps in six areas around the church. many are safety hazards.
- † We are pleased with the new look of the front sign on Red Bridge. It was re-wired, with new sign facing, and then re-painted. It stands out both in the daytime and nighttime. It was funded by the family of Glen Thompson through our church memorial fund.

ALL ABOUT FIRST BAPTIST PEOPLE

We pray for...

- † Martha Brown who is having pulmonary and respiratory issues, unable to attend church right now
- † Lloyd Brown who is home now but still weak. Lloyd appreciates our prayers and concern!
- † Harriet Bonner who passed away while living with her granddaughter in Baltimore. Harriet had been a moderator of our church and an active leader for many years. There will be a short memorial service in our church within the next few months. Harriet had just turned 100.
- † Kit Leonard who suffer several bone fractures in his hands from a biking accident.
- † Patty Vann, in-between caregivers, at home
- † Bill Betteridge who is working with a cardiologist on heart-related issues.
- † Leonard Barbee who is making progress with eye-related issues
- † Dixie Kelly making a strong recovery from a serious respiratory condition.
- † Kathy Hinton who has been hospitalized repeatedly over the last 6 weeks for heart-related issues
- † Mariko Prigel recovering from a concussion, but back at work again.
- † David Freeman, Debbie Ebright's brother, who was injured in an auto-related accident
- † Melba McIntosh, who was the primary caregiver for her cousin Ferrell Newsom that passed away recently.
- † Jack Bales who left KC on April 28 to relocate back to Branson, MO. He expressed his heart-felt appreciation for his many friends and the blessings of participating in our church.

We give thanks for....

- † The Clingan's who had an egg sale from their chickens and many of the Nicaraguan group who delivered and spread mulch – all to raise money for next January's Nicaraguan trip.
- † James Prigel for donating the mulch.
- † Bill Humenczuk's successful mission work trip to Arroyo, Puerto Rico during Holy Week.

We rejoice with...

- † Carole Raines proud Great Grandmother of Stella Kate, born in Baton Rouge
- † Skye Neal, a young adult mother in our congregation who has made a first-time profession of faith in Jesus Christ and will be baptized on May 20.
- † William and Christine Rinck who came forward on April 22 to join our church. William is a Psychiatrist and has worked for many years at the KC VA Hospital. Christine has a Ph.D. who worked at UMKC for many years before retirement. Christine is a cousin to Virginia Munoz.
- † Dezo Desauguste who will graduate with the Masters of Divinity degree from CBTS on May 12.
- † Daichi Tadokoro who will graduate from KU School of Music with a teaching certificate on May 12.
- † Travis Triplett who graduates May 20 from Rockhurst High School and will attend St Louis University to study Physical Therapy.
- † Kit Leonard who will graduate from OU with a BS in Physics and a minor in French and music on May 12
- † Joe Cooper who graduated from Lane College on April 28 with a BS in Computer Science.
- † Brian Jones, son of Jan and Steve, graduating from Wayne State University on May 8 with a bachelor's degree in special education.
- † Vicky Murray who has made wonderful progress since her surgery and is back at church again!
- † Krista Ramirez who had major surgery for cancer April 12, but has now been pronounced cancer-free! She will have short-term radiation treatments.
- † Becky Boden, at home and doing great!
- † All the pre-kindergarten children who graduated from Punkin Patch on Thursday, May 3 in our sanctuary.

We share our Long-term prayer for...

JoAnn Gardner - Jan Carrigan - Robert Woods - Brenda Brown - Susie Bolden - Bruce Carrigan - Pat Betteridge
Richard Becker - 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

PENTECOST 2018 WORSHIP SERIES

Evidences of the Spirit

Where do we see the Spirit of God at work?



May 6, Communion Sunday, “The Evidence of Originality”,

Dr. Stephen Jones, preaching Text: Romans 12:2; Gen. 1:27

The hallowed saints and leaders of our past reflect our continued originality as a congregation. As the oldest free-standing Protestant church founded in Kansas City, our legacy continues to open doors and make a difference. We are all one-of-a-kind – and that’s God’s intention!

May 13 Mother’s Day: “The Evidence of Harmony”,

Pastor Dezo Desauguste, preaching Text: Acts 1:12-14;

The harmony that exists within our congregation wasn’t always present in our past and is a marvelous evidence of the Holy Spirit at work in our midst.

May 20, PENTECOST SUNDAY: “The Evidence of Powerlessness”,

Dr. Stephen Jones, preaching Text: 2 Corinthians 12:7b-10

We are in our strength in our weakness, power in our powerlessness: Jesus’ subversive message. It will also include a service of Christian baptism.

May 27, Memorial day week-end, “The Evidence of Healing”,

Dr. Stephen Jones, preaching Text: Luke 17:11-19;

Our congregation naturally offers a healing climate for seeking and hurting persons already in our congregation and coming into our congregation. It’s the work of the Spirit. Service of Christian Healing will occur at the close of this service. Tolling of the Bells for those who have passed on over the last year.

MORE2 ANNUAL BANQUET

THURSDAY, JUNE 14, UNION STATION

Tickets: \$75. We will sit in two tables of ten from First Baptist Church. Please plan to join us by signing up on the Green Sheet or contacting the church office. This Banquet is always a highlight of our year with MORE2 and we will celebrate our many victories of the past year.

BACKPACKS FOR BETHEL CHILDREN - We've been asked as a congregation to contribute 10 filled backpacks for older elementary/middle school children - due by end of July. The list of items needed is on the long table in the Commons. Please sign up to:

1) sponsor one or more backpacks yourself **2)** ask a friend at church to join you in co-filling a backpack **3)** give funds for a mission board member to fill a backpack

This is always a blessing for the children of Bethel -- most of whom are immigrant families.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING ... during the month of May, we will take the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering used by American Baptists to respond to natural disasters and human need around the world, including in the USA. Please give generously so that we can respond quickly to humanitarian crises and need. Envelopes are in the pews. You can make your check payable to First Baptist Church, noted for OGHOS offering.

Nicaragua Mission

We received a letter of gratitude from Drs. David and Laura Parajon, who are the directors of AMOS, an American Baptist-related health ministry in Nicaragua who hosted our last and next mission trips to that country. AMOS was started 11 years ago and just last year, it served nearly 70,000 vulnerable people in six regions of Nicaragua, and they reduced neonatal mortality in ten municipalities. We look forward to sending our mission team next January, 2019.

Spring clean and support the January 2019 Nicaragua mission trip!

Please bring the items to church no later than **May 20th** to raise funds for the 2019 mission trip. Gently-used clothing, linens, jewelry, shoes, accessories (such as belts and purses), and small household goods.

Sort by **soft goods**: Clothing & Shoes, Men's, Women's, Children's, Hats, Mittens, Scarves, Ties, Nylons, Socks, Underwear and Purses. **Tie shoes together with a rubber band, so they stay a happy couple. We repurpose single socks and tattered clothing into rags for insulation.**

Books: Hardback and Paperback Books, Magazines, Records, Tapes, CDs, Videos, DVDs, and Computer Software.

Hard Goods: Pots, Pans, Utensils, China Cups, Vases, Dishes, Cutlery, etc.

Please ensure the electronic items you're donating are in working condition.

A MISSION PROPOSAL... Bill Humenczuk returned from his work/mission trip to the Baptist Church Mission in Arroyo, Puerto Rico with a proposal that we become a mission partner church with this small mission congregation. Much of the damage from Hurricane Maria has now been repaired, thanks to Bill's team and others. We urge you to visit the Facebook page of the Misión Bautista de Arroyo, church that Bill worked on in Puerto Rico, it's www.facebook.com/misionbautistaarroyo. Mission partnership is a way to be prayer and mission partners, but it doesn't necessarily imply financial support. Please speak with a member of our Mission Board: Diana Parker, Jan Jones, Paul Sienkiewicz, and Margo Humenczuk.

GREEN LAKE, WISCONSIN WORLD MISSION CONFERENCE

The World Mission Conference at our national ABC conference center will be July 4-7 (Wednesday through Saturday). We stay in our beautiful First Baptist Lodge, the Wilson-Peniston Lodge, for free. We have funds set aside in the 2018 budget to help with conference registration costs for anyone who requests it. We will carpool, perhaps using the church bus if we have enough people going. The only out-of-pocket expense is for groceries we purchase and the food we prepare at the lodge. So it is remarkably inexpensive and you will meet ABC missionaries from around the world and address such key issues as global trafficking, immigration, evangelism, and justice-seeking. Contact any member of the Mission Board if you are interested in attending: Jan Jones, Diana Parker, Paul Sienkiewicz, Margo Humenczuk.

FYI

ABWM

ATTENTION ABW! Meeting date has changed due to graduations! We will meet Friday May 11 at 10:00 a.m. Mother's Refuge is sending a speaker We have a check to give them from the Penny Project we have been collecting on Sundays. We invite you to join us. Dezo Desauguste graduates May 12 at 10:00 a.m. from Central Seminary a group of will be going if you'd like to join us.

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

Food Pantry Needs for May Peanut Butter and Jelly, Salad dressings, Dish soap Paper towels & Boxed meals.

Red Bridge Food Pantry

May 18 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 Sue Hansen if you can help.

May 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



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: **May 9 and 23**. 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.



FBC Graduates Picnic

Stephanie Spears is hosting along with Mariko Prigel and Sandi Leonard a picnic for the church graduates on **June 2, 4-7 pm**. At Stephanie's home: 5039 Paseo Blvd KCMO, 64110 Please call Stephanie with questions at: 913-523-5576

CELEBRATING OUR HERITAGE....There are three new documents that were made available on April 29, as our church celebrated its 163rd year: 1) 11 Defining Moments in our church's heritage; 2) A reflection by Matt Hamblen on the riots that impacted our church and the Linwood neighborhood in the 60's; 3) A document celebrating our 105th year since the founding of our church's first weekday care center for young children. These documents are available in the Commons.



Spring Jazz Vespers

May 20, 6 pm

Featuring: Charles D Williams

Every year we conclude by bringing back Charles Williams – one of our gifted and appreciated performers!



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 & Cocoa!

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 book of Jude

All are welcome to attend!

Choir

After May, the choir will take a break for the summer. Donna will be making a schedule for special music. If you would like to provide special music please contact Donna Fast, Music Director.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: JUNE 4-7, 5:30-7:30PM We need volunteers to be a part of the leadership team, and volunteers to help prepare the Tuesday and Thursday evening meals for the children. Contact Dezo or Pat Hester.

- ♥ **Monday May 14, at 2 pm**, Board of Missions meet in the Fireside room
- ♥ **Wednesday May 16, at 5pm**, Punkin Patch Board meeting in the Fireside Room.

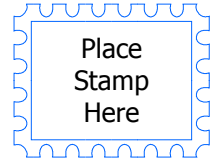
Thank You

Dear First Baptist Friends,
Thank you very much for your Easter greetings signed by many! Some I know others I don't.
I appreciate being remembered.
With Love Vivian Davidson

Many thanks for making Jan Carrigan feel so loved and special by her church on Easter Sunday. So many of you came over to say hello and mentioning her in the sermon was exceptional and so very appreciated by our family. Sending the Lilly home with her was super sweet. WE enjoy sermon and all the special love that was extended.
Jan says Thank you for the Easter card many of the church signed. *Warmly, the Carrigan family, Kevin & Cheryl Schifferdecker, Jason Carrigan, Kyra & Chris Borgman & Bruce Carrigan*



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TIME SENSITIVE INFORMATION

Birthdays of the Month

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| Maybelle Rose Logan | 09 |
| Matt Clingan | 11 |
| Jackson Clingan | 11 |
| Shirley Kane | 15 |
| Cassie Shumate | 18 |
| Zayda Harper | 19 |
| Audrey Dibble | 20 |
| Rachele Velez | 20 |
| Lovie Harper | 27 |
| Lloyd Brown | 28 |

DINNERS OUT – the Deacons are once again offering Dinners Out in the Summer of 2018. We use the church bus and travel to a family-owned restaurant somewhere in the wider KC area – preferably a short drive out of the city. If anyone has ideas on good restaurants, please let Stephen Jones know. **The first Dinners Out is on Thursday, May 17, leaving from the church at 5:00 pm** and eating at Luigi's Italian Restaurant on Liberty Square. This has been one of favorite restaurants over the past two years.

Defibrillator Training

BE WATCHING for the announcement of a 5-hour training for our new Defibrillator given to our church by Gay and John Barton. The Defibrillator will be kept on the bottom shelf of the Welcome Center in the Commons, readily available when a medical emergency arises. The training should occur one Saturday in April open to any interested person.