

First Baptist Church of the City of Washington D.C.

"Every Member Engaged in Ministry..."

December 17, 2008

Coming Up:

Tonight's Schedule:

5:00 FBC Handbell Choir
Rehearsal in Room 320.

6:00 Wednesday Dinner
in Fellowship Hall.

7:00 Advent Worship in
the Sanctuary.

Sunday, December 21

11:00 Worship

We look forward to hearing Rev. Deborah Cochran. Also, the worship this Sunday will be centered around a cantata, Wondrous Child Divine.

Recent Additions:

Rejoicing:

Dr. Randy Ashcraft and wife, Ann, are our new Interim Pastor family

Natalie and Craig Stapert in the birth of Annelise Stapert on December 9. The proud grandparents are Robert and Deborah Cochran.

To our prayer list:

Lloyd Preslar is receiving hospice care

Margaret Boushka

Glenn Bratcher is doing well after knee surgery

Vital Signs:

Sunday, December 17, 2008

Attendance	144
Church School Attendance	68
Weekly Needs:	14,030
Offering	8,642
Shortfall	5,388
YTD Shortfall:	188,357

Dr. Randall Ashcraft Affirmed As Interim Pastor

The First Baptist Church of the City of Washington, DC is pleased to welcome Dr. Charles Randall (Randy) Ashcraft as our Interim Pastor, effective Monday, January 5, 2009. The church membership unanimously voted Dr. Ashcraft into the position at a special called business meeting following the morning worship service on Sunday, December 14, 2008. Dr. Ashcraft was personally recommended to the Interim Search Committee by Dr. Daniel Vestal, Executive Coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Dr. Ashcraft has over 30 years of preaching and pastoral experience. He was most recently the Senior Minister at Leesburg Baptist Church, and he and his wife, Ann, reside in Loudoun County. He has also held the Senior Minister position at the Bayshore Baptist Church in Tampa, FL, at Trinity Baptist Church in Seneca, SC, and at Park Forest Baptist Church in Dallas, TX. Prior to serving those churches, he held associate minister positions at other churches in TX and OK. The Interim Search Committee members began their work over the summer, advertising the position in various Baptist and other Christian publications and websites and received several applications. They then narrowed the pool down to three outstanding candidates, based on their review of recommendation letters, sermons, and resumes. They listened to sermons on CD submitted by each of the final candidates, heard each of them in our pulpit, and invited each of them in for an in-depth interview with all of the Committee members. Ultimately, the Committee nominated Dr. Ashcraft because they believe that he shares the values of our church, encourages the ecumenical perspective that we cherish, and has the preaching ability that will challenge and inspire us week after week. We hope you will join us in welcoming Dr. Ashcraft and his family into the FBCDC fellowship. His first sermon as Interim Pastor will be on Sunday, January 11, 2009.



(L-R) Dr. Ashcraft and Denny Austin; Ann and Randy Ashcraft



Potluck Luncheon rescheduled for January 11

The first Sunday of the month is usually when we have our Potluck luncheon following the Communion service, but in January we will have the potluck luncheon on Sunday, January 11, to welcome Dr. and Mrs. Randall (Randy and Ann) Ashcraft to First Baptist Church. Plan now to attend and meet the Ashcraft family.

What A Whirlwind Week It Was!

So many diligent efforts came to fruition last Sunday I can hardly list them all. First and foremost there was the unanimous decision to call Dr Charles Randall (Randy) Ashcraft to our pulpit as Interim Pastor. The collective sigh of relief I sensed in the congregation after that vote spoke volumes. Randy, we joyfully welcome you and Ann, and gratefully look forward to your leadership during this period.

And speaking of joy – how about the joyful noise that resonated throughout the sanctuary Sunday evening? Once again maestro Schreiber and his cohort of choirs, singers and instrumentalists magnificently demonstrated why the FBC-DC Music program is in many ways the “glue” that holds us together and also attracts so many visitors. ‘Nuff said – If you were not there (or even if you were) be sure to see our AV wizard, Chip Haley, for a copy of the DVD when it is available.

With all the comings and goings of the year end and holiday season your Council has found time to work on several important matters. As you know, our governance requires us to have a Quarterly Business Meeting and we are expected to have a 2009 Budget in place by now. Well, we just flat ran out of days. As Reverend Cochran pointed out, we should not let ourselves get so wrapped up in business matters that we fail to take full measure of the joy and renewal Christmas offers. Taking this advice to heart, we decided not to press for hasty decisions just to meet self-imposed deadlines. Rather we decided to take the time needed to discuss, reflect and communicate sound budget recommendations and so have decided to delay the Budget vote and Quarterly Business Meeting to Sunday January 11.

Please mark that date on your calendars. Because of the way the holidays fall, we agreed to push potluck back a week to the 11th of January and use that time for the Quarterly meeting where we will formally welcome the Ashcraft family, vote on the 2009 Budget and attend to any other business matters.

Looking forward into 2009, there are many challenges we face – you know what they are and I will not repeat them here.

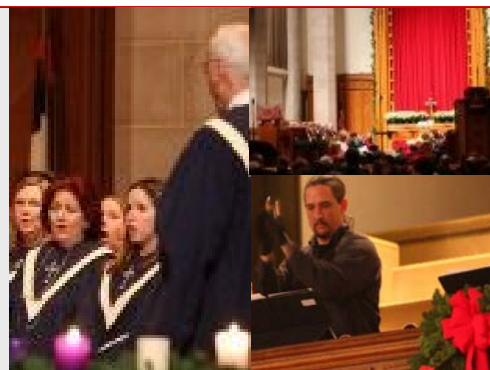
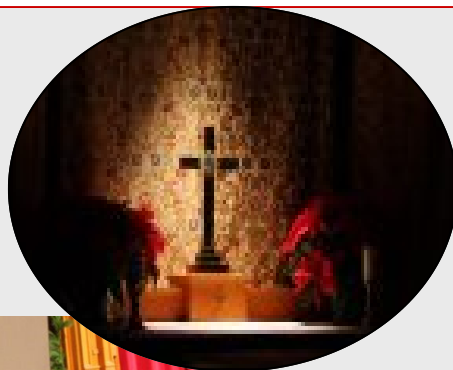
Looking back on 2008 – and the way we have come through one of the most challenging periods in our 200+ year history - I am more confident than ever, given our Faith, our Hope, our Love and our Joy, that we are ready to move forward in fellowship as a growing, healthy congregation toward the greater glory of God.

Merry Christmas to all.

Denny

Moderator

The 52nd Candlelight Carols Service on December 14, 2008



Meet Your Deacon "on-call" for this week



This week's deacon on call is Ken Ellison. Ken grew up in Memphis, Tennessee and moved to Washington in 1976 after completing law school. He received his BA at Rhodes College, his JD at Harvard Law School and his M. Div. at Wesley Theological Seminary. He currently works as Senior Housing Advisor at SOME (So Others Might Eat). Before his position at SOME, he worked at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and practiced law.

Ken first joined FBC over twenty years ago and says he is part of the church because of "the people – they are my extended family." As a deacon, he says he enjoys the "congregational care" aspect of the position. In the past, Ken has also served as the church moderator and chair of the FBC foundation, and has enjoyed being a part of FBC's

mission outreach projects, including the recent trip to help build a medical clinic in Nicaragua and three trips to Cuba.

Ken and his wife Becky and two children, Matthew and Amanda, live in Arlington. Becky grew up at First Baptist and her mother, Ramona, continues to sing in the church choir. Matthew and Amanda both attend Yorktown High School.

If you have a prayer request for Ken this week, you can reach him at kwellison@msn.com or 703-533-7783.

A Christmas Thank You for the Staff

During this season of giving, we think of our Church Staff to whom the congregation owes appreciation for serving the church family so faithfully during the past year. Therefore, as has been the custom for many years, please prayerfully make your gift to the Staff Christmas Fund. You may do so by placing your gift in the form of a check or cash in an envelope noting on the outside that it is for the "Staff Christmas Fund."

Personal Note

Mrs. Evangeline Dennis will be returning home on Monday, December 22. Please keep Mrs. Dennis in your prayers for a safe trip. It was one year ago on December 16, that we celebrated Ambassador and Mrs. Dennis' wedding anniversary in the Fellowship Hall on December 17.



Altar Flowers

Please sign up for the giving of Altar flowers honoring or memorializing those you wish to recognize in your life.

The cost of flowers is \$60.00 for the two large altar arrangements. The sign-up book is on the window ledge on the second floor of the Education building just outside the Church Office. We need your help in filling up January's Sundays, as well as any other dates through-out the year. Call 301-929-9261 for more information from Shirley McBeath.

Pledge Card Reminder

Your Stewardship Committee continues to work on the church's 2009 budget. Members who have not returned their pledge cards are urged to do so as soon as possible. This is critical as the committee and Church Council must make important program decisions based on anticipated income. Please give this matter your prayerful consideration and place your pledge card in this Sunday's offering or put it in the Treasurer's mailbox on the 2nd floor.

Special Performance by Clark Smith

Tomorrow, December 18, FBC's own Handbell Soloist, Clark Smith, joins forces with Charles Miller and National City Christian Church's Majestic Organ for a half-hour of Christmas music like you've never heard before. The performance will be at 5 Thomas Circle, N.W. at noon.

The Last Issue of the Update for 2008

Due to the holiday season, the next issue of the *Update* will be published on Tuesday, January 6, 2009. Submit your articles for this issue on or before noon on Monday, January 5. Please see the article on page 4 for more information.

Season of Prayer Verse: Luke 1:35

The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God..."

Movement of prayer: Read – Reflect – Respond – Rest – Remain

Bits and Pieces



Combined Adult Church School Classes

The adult Church School classes will meet in joint session in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 28, at 9:30 a.m. Regular classes will resume on January 4, 2009. Dr. Bill DeVries will be teaching the class. The lesson topic is Hebrews 11: 1-7, which discusses the issue of faith. This is a good topic with which to end the year, as well as, begin a new year. Plan now to participate in this special event.

Life Line Screening Protect your health. Protect your life.

Life Line Screening will be at First Baptist Church on Thursday, January 8, 2009, in the Fellowship Hall to provide these non-invasive, completely painless screenings using Doppler ultrasound technology.

Pre-registration is required. If you are interested, please call 1-800-324-1851 or you can visit Life Line Screening on the web at www.LifeLineScreening.com to get more information and to schedule an appointment.

Speakers

Sunday, December 21
Chancel Choir Cantata
Rev. Deborah Cochran,
Acting Senior Pastor

Wednesday, December 24
Christmas Eve Service at
4:00 p.m., building opening
to the public at 3:00 p.m.
Rev. Deborah Cochran,
Acting Senior Pastor

Sunday, December 28
Lessons and Carols

Calendar of Events

MONDAY, December 22
12:00 - 1:00 Sanctuary Open

TUESDAY, December 23
12:00 - 1:00 Sanctuary Open
7:00 - 8:30 Pastor Search Committee/Library

WEDNESDAY, December 24
CDC and Church Offices Closed
3:00 Building opening to the public
4:00 Christmas Eve Service

THURSDAY, December 25
Christmas Day
Building Closed

FRIDAY, December 26
CDC and Church Offices Closed
Building Closed

SATURDAY, December 27
Building Closed

SUNDAY, December 28
District of Columbia Day
9:00 Silent Prayer/Chapel
9:30 Church School for all ages
11:00 Worship: Lessons and Carols
12:15 Choir Rehearsal/Room 312
2:00 The Church of the Good News of Salvation,
(Spanish Language) Room 315/Apostolic
Church Ministry, Ethiopian church, Room 103

New Schedule
for the *Update*
will start on
January 6, 2009



- The new publication/distribution date for the *Update* will be on Tuesday afternoon.
- The new deadline for submitting articles for the *Update* will be the preceding Monday at noon for publishing on the following Tuesday.

This new schedule will enable the *Update* to be received by electronic mail in advance of the Wednesday night activities.

CHURCH STAFF:

Deborah Cochran, Acting Senior Pastor
Lon Schreiber, Organist/Choirmaster
Dennis Lambert, Church Administrator
Jean Weber, Administrative Assistant
Steve Hunter, Building Engineer
Toni Fajemisin, Director, Child Development Center

We're on the Web!
www.firstbaptistdc.org