

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

June 30, 2009

Coming Up:

Wednesday's Schedule:

6:00 Handbell Choir/
Room 320
7:00 Christian Ed.
Committee/Small
Dining Room
7:30 Summer Small
Group:
Lectio Divina/
Conference Room

Recent Additions:

To our prayer list
The Langley Family

Vital Signs:

Sunday, June 28, 2009

Attendance	137
Church School Attendance	82
Weekly Needs:	14,030
Offering	6,551
Shortfall	-7,479
YTD Shortfall:	-134,722

The Rest of the Message

Sunday I mentioned in my message hearing Frederick Beuchner, noted author and minister, share in a lecture to ministers how important it is to "listen to your tears." "Be conscious of what makes you cry and why. Be cognizant of what makes you laugh out loud as well," he said. He was instructing preachers on how to become better communicators, but in fact, offered priceless insight into daily living. So often we are cut off from our emotions. The demands of urban living, the pace we keep, and the aversion we have to allowing feelings to take a rightful place in our day: all of these things keep us distanced from our real

selves. I am reminded daily how important it is to have a place where we can share our deepest longings, griefs, hopes, and fears. Church is to be that place. Ken Medema, the famous pianist, vocalist, and song writer, once sang in regard to this vital role of church, "If this is not a place where tears are understood, where do I go to cry?" Good question.

Every Sunday someone enters the sanctuary at First Baptist exhausted from the struggles of the week. Tears are the only expression of worship offered on such a Sunday. Carlyle Marney, the great Baptist theologian and pastor spoke at a service of worship following the assassination of President Kennedy. He began his

message with these words: "The most proper function of a temple according to Unamuno, is to provide a place to go for common weeping. When our common weeping is uncovered, and a common grief is discovered, it ordinarily reveals that all who weep, when they weep, weep for the same thing. We weep because we are human. We weep over our common humanity... It is then, altogether fitting and proper that we should come here as Christians to do our public weeping together. This is the place to do that." I agree.

Blessings,
Randy

Potluck Meal This Sunday

This Sunday, July 5, will be the first Sunday of the month, which means we will celebrate communion during worship and then gather in the Fellowship Hall for a potluck meal. Please bring friends, family members, and co-workers to worship with you on that day, and bring enough food to share with our many guests. A-I: meats; J-O: desserts, rolls and fruits; and P-Z: vegetables and salad.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Our parking lot will undergo significant resurfacing Thursday, July 2 through Saturday, July 4. During this time it will be closed to *all* vehicles. We anticipate it being reopened on Sunday, July 5.

Meet Your Deacon "on-call" for this week

Each week the FBC Update publishes a short profile of the 'on-call' deacon for the week.



This week's deacon on-call is Julie Pascu. Julie originally hails from Georgia, growing up in Rome and Atlanta. She holds a master's degree in Education and works as a teacher and private tutor.

Julie moved to Washington, D.C. in 1964, coming to the city because she and her college roommate wanted to experience a part of the country outside of Georgia. Introduced to First Baptist by her roommate, Julie began attending the church later that fall. She enjoys the music and worship at the church, as well as having the "friendship and support" of members of the congregation.

Her favorite part of being a deacon is "getting to know people I would not otherwise have an opportunity to get to know, both on the Diaconate and in my care group." In addition to serving the church as a deacon, she is a facilitator of the "First Thing" contemplative prayer group, which meets on Sunday mornings.

In her spare time, Julie enjoys reading, traveling and growing bonsai. Julie and her husband Dan, a retired astronomer, live in Bethesda, Maryland. They have three sons and two grandsons.

If you need to contact Julie with a prayer request this week, you can reach her by phone either at (301) 530-5258 (home) or (240) 381-4288 or by e-mail at juliepascu@starpower.net.

Summer Scholars Series

The Summer Scholar Series will be sponsored by the Breakfast Club, which meets every Sunday in Room 103-105. We have invited various scholars across a wide variety of expertise to join us this summer for a new opportunity in learning and discipleship. We hope that you will plan to join us.



The next speaker in the series:

July 5, Dr. John Killinger. The Rev. Dr. John Killinger and his wife, Anne, reside in Warrenton, Virginia. A former pastor in Baptist, Presbyterian and Congregational churches, he also taught for fifteen years at Vanderbilt Divinity School and was Distinguished Professor of Religion and Culture at Samford University in Birmingham. He is the author of over 50 books, among them *God, The Devil, and Harry Potter*. Because Dr. Killinger's interests are broad, his writings have touched on many subjects: Christian history, personal spirituality, world religions, preaching, worship, church politics, the Gospels as devotional literature, secular writers and artists, and the relationship between theology and contemporary culture.

Summer Scholar Series lineup:

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| July 5 th , 2009 | Dr. John Killinger, author and former pastor and professor. Dr. Killinger will also be our guest preacher during worship. |
| July 12 th , 2009 | Dr. Daniel Dapaah, John Leland Center for Theological Studies. |
| July 19 th , 2009 | Rev. Brent Walker, Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty. |

Season of Prayer Verse: Mark 6:3-6

"Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house. And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching."

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

Balancing the Books

No one who reads, sees or listens to news reports these days needs a reminder that we are in tough economic times. Corporate bankruptcies, job losses and falling home prices have prompted Congress and federal banking regulators to respond with unprecedented amounts of money to shore up the U.S. economy.

First Baptist Church is facing its own economic crunch--one for which there are no federal bailouts or stock purchases. In order to avoid spending cuts that could impair the basic services of the Church, we are asking the members and friends of First Baptist to help us close a shortfall of \$115,000 in contributions.

If you made a specific dollar pledge for the fiscal year that began in January, please check your giving records to make sure that you have fulfilled half of that pledge by July 5. If you pledged to tithe regularly, please check that you have given the full 10 percent of your income to date. If you are a new member or a regular attendee who did not make a pledge, consider setting your own giving plan and write a check.

If each person who attends First Baptist on Sunday added \$37.50 per week—or \$150 per month--to their regular giving through the end of 2009, we could close the current budget deficit. We know that is a lot to ask in these times, but the church cannot meet its obligations without additional giving from members and friends.

Think of it as an investment in the brightening future of First Baptist Church--an economic stimulus to match the spiritual stimulus that is already underway.

The Stewardship Committee

SUMMER SMALL GROUP ON PRAYER

Want to deepen your spiritual disciplines? Then join us for a small group exploring some of the ancient Christian prayer traditions. For the first session we will focus on Lectio Divina which is Latin for "Divine Reading," and is a way of praying the scriptures. There are four steps in this practice: read, reflect, respond, and rest in the Word of God. This contemplative method of prayer helps us to deepen our understanding of the scripture. This practice will also strengthen our relationship with God, and help us as we try to follow Christ's teachings in our daily lives.

This study will begin tomorrow night, Wednesday, July 1, at 7:30. The group will be led by members of the First Thing Church School Class. At our first meeting we will discuss other spiritual disciplines that might interest the group.

If you would like more information or are interested in attending the small group, please call or email Julie Pascu at 301-530-5258 or juliepascu@starpower.net or Deborah Cochran 202-387-2206, ext. 240.

Church Council Retreat Scheduled

Your Council has been working hard to prepare for the arrival of our new Pastor as well as getting organized to address some of our other challenges. In order to help focus our efforts, the Church Council will be on a one day Retreat, Saturday, July 11th. The overarching theme of the work the Council has been doing recently is "*Getting to the Next Level - Realizing the Mission and Vision of FBC*". The specific purpose of the coming retreat is positioning FBC for the next decade through congregational growth and outreach by getting the most out of what we do best.

There are so many things we are capable of doing well. What the Church Council hopes to achieve is a sharp focus on making sure we have the people and resources in place to make now through the end of 2010 a watershed period in the history of The First Baptist Church of the City of Washington, D.C.

We ask for your prayers and support as we head into this important event.

Denny

Bits and Pieces



Sing-A-Long and Story Time

Do you know any moms, dads, or nannies looking for something fun to do with their infants or toddlers? Let them know about a Friday morning sing-a-long and story time for infants/toddlers and their caregivers. The sing-along will be great fun for all! The next



sing-a-long class will be Friday, July 10, at 11 a.m. at The First Baptist Church of the City of Washington, D.C. in Room 105. For more information about this program, please contact Micah Hildenbrand at micah.hildenbrand@gmail.com.



Tell Your Story This Summer

This is the summer to tell your story for our FBC archives. You can tell it in writing or record it. If you need a place here at the church to record your story, contact Juanita Wright at Juanita.wright@verizon.net or Carol Thomas at 703-644-0193.

**Wednesday Night
Food and Fellowship
on July 15th
in the Meadows Room.**

The **FBC Picnic** will be held on Saturday, September 12, at the Upton Hill Regional Park, Arlington Va. from 11-3 p.m.

Calendar of Events

**July 6—9 CDC Vacation Bible School/Fellowship Hall
Theme: "Creation"**

MONDAY, July 6

12:00 - 1:00 Sanctuary Open

TUESDAY, July 7

12:00 - 1:00 Sanctuary Open

WEDNESDAY, July 8

11:00 Staff Meeting/Conference Room

12:00 - 1:00 Sanctuary Open

6:00 - CDC Committee/Small Dining Room

6:00 Handbell Choir/ Room 302

THURSDAY, July 9

12:00 - 1:00 Sanctuary Open

FRIDAY, July 10

11:00 Sing-A-Long and Story Time/Dawson Room

12:00 - 1:00 Sanctuary Open

7:00 Church Volleyball/Gym

SATURDAY, July 11

Church Council Retreat at DCBC

9:00 - 2:00 Building Open

12:00 - 2:00 FBC Basketball/Gym

SUNDAY, July 12

9:00 Silent Prayer/Chapel

9:30 Church School for all ages

11:00 Worship

2:00 The Church of the Good News of Salvation,
(Spanish Language) Room 315/Apostolic
Church Ministry, Ethiopian church, Rm. 103

AED Training

Scheduled for July 25

Dr. William and Mrs. Linda Devries will be conducting training classes for using FBC's Automated External Defibrillator (AED) equipment on Saturday, July 25, 10 :00 - noon. The training will take place in the Fellowship Hall. Ushers and Deacons are strongly encouraged to learn how to use this essential life-saving equipment; other interested individuals are also welcome to attend. Enrollment for each session is limited, thus, advance registration is necessary. After attending the June 25th session, Charlotte Straight wrote, "This is a not-to-be-missed opportunity! Dr. Bill and Linda present this life-saving training in a manner that is easy for anyone to understand. While it empowers and instills confidence, it is also an enjoyable experience and you will feel a new comradeship with your fellow trainees. No prerequisites. No experience necessary. Sign up now by calling the church office! You'll be glad you did."

CHURCH STAFF:

Randy Ashcraft, Pastor in the Interim
Deborah Cochran, Associate Pastor
Lon Schreiber, Organist/Choirmaster
Dennis Lambert, Church Administrator
Jean Weber, Administrative Assistant
Steve Hunter, Building Engineer
Toni Fajemisin, Director, Child Development Center
Samuel D. Hill, Ministerial Intern

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