

December 28, 2015

# the SPIRE



Celebrating  
**190**  
years



## Leadership Dinner

On Tuesday, **January 12 at 5:30 pm** in the Fellowship Hall, everyone who serves on one of First Baptist teams (Congregational Care, Teaching Team, Worship Team, Mission Team, Telling Team and Administrative Team) is invited to a Leadership Dinner. We will eat together, orient you to your work, talk about the expectations of our leaders, worship and sing. Please RSVP to Madison Reynolds at [churchinfo@fbc-columbia.org](mailto:churchinfo@fbc-columbia.org) and be sure to tell her it is for the leadership dinner!

**LEE'S**  
Famous Recipe Chicken

# *Risk Something for God!*

**All Church Worship, 11:15am January 17**

**Followed by the Annual Celebration of Ministry Luncheon**

On Sunday, **January 17**, join us for All Church Worship at 11:15 am followed by a Celebration of Ministry Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. 2015 was a great year at First Baptist. We want to pause to look back over the year and celebrate all that God has done in and through us. We will see some highlights of the year in photographs and hear from our ministry teams about what they accomplished in 2015. We will also vote on our 2016 Church Budget.

10:15 am Adult, Youth and Children's Small Groups will meet as usual. Then, we will gather for All Church Worship at 11:15 am in the sanctuary.

Parents please pick up your children from extended session and the nursery after worship and bring them to lunch. After they have eaten lunch, Yvette Chambers, Director of Children's Ministry will take the older children upstairs for some fun activities and the nursery will be reopen.

Reserve your spot for lunch by contacting Madison Reynolds at [churchinfo@fbc-columbia.org](mailto:churchinfo@fbc-columbia.org). Lunch will be \$5.00 per person and will include chicken, green beans, mashed potatoes and a biscuit.

1112 East Broadway, Columbia, MO 65201-4999 573-442-1149 [fbc-columbia.org](http://fbc-columbia.org)





## Widening Our Welcome

In the fall, First Baptist went through the process of Widening Our Welcome and clarifying what we mean when we say, "We welcome people regardless of their sexual orientation." We spent time studying scripture, listening to the testimonies of LGBT individuals in our congregation, hearing from pastoral care professionals and from noted Baptist ethicist David Gushee. I have heard from many of you that this was a meaningful time of study and discernment.

First Baptist has a long history of recognizing God's love for all humanity and being a safe place for LGBT Christians to live out their faith. As a result of this history and the Widening our Welcome process, the Shepherding Team (Dave Bennett, Noah Hartsfield, Amanda Stone, Mary Lou Spradling and Khaki Westerfield) and the Church Council (Diana Groshong, Kee Groshong, Abby Hartsfield, Noah Hartsfield, Ross Kasman, David Lang, Pam Humphreys, Justin Riley, Bob Stewart, Brian Steere, Khaki Westerfield) have affirmed the adoption of a clarification to our Welcome Statement that will be placed on our church website.

The First Baptist website, fbc-columbia.org, already has a page entitled "Beliefs" which states, We are a church that...

- ...blends biblical faith with intellectual integrity, respecting a person's right to think freely
- ...values everyone's gifts for service and leadership, both women and men
- ...welcomes all persons regardless of age, race, creed, gender, economic status or sexual orientation
- ...affirms spiritual experiences of new members from both Baptist and non-Baptist backgrounds
- ...values different expression of worshiping God, both contemporary and liturgical
- ...receives joy from intergenerational experiences and ministries
- ...celebrates and promotes Christ's call for social justice
- ...seeks to make a difference in our community and world
- ...is a family where joys, sorrows, hopes and dreams all meet at the table of our Lord
- ...understands that unity does not require uniformity.

We plan to add the statement:

- ...believes all people regardless of sexual orientation are created in the image of God; thus, all are welcomed to participate fully in the life of our church.

In addition, we are planning to add a statement to the website wedding page that says:

- Our sanctuary is open to both members and nonmembers, regardless of sexual orientation, for wedding ceremonies. (All couples are required to abide by the First Baptist wedding policies.)

On Tuesday, **January 26 at 5:30 pm** in the Fellowship Hall, you are invited to come and reflect on the Widening our Welcome process, to affirm the statement which will be added to our website, and to talk about how we move forward as a community where all are welcomed and included in the body of Christ. Child care will be provided and dinner will be available for \$5.00 per person.

### Holiday Hours

The church office will be closed on  
December 31 & January 1.

### Facility Use

Please remember to reserve your meeting space at First Baptist by contacting the church office at churchinfo@fbc-columbia.org.



## Prayers & Concerns:

*The church extends sympathy to the family of Julie Anson, who passed away suddenly on December 11. Plans for a memorial service are still pending.*

**Joyce Riley** is at the Neighborhoods for therapy.

**Nelda McCrory** recently had a mild stroke. She was able to go home for a few days, but is now back at Boone Hospital.

**Bob Smith** went home from the Neighborhoods last week.

**Barry Kausler** is undergoing chemotherapy treatments for colon cancer. He recently had a

successful surgery to reinsert a stent.

**Marsha Randell** had a PET scan that showed a new, larger malignancy in her liver. She may start a different chemo regiment to try to shrink it, with hopefully minimal side effects.

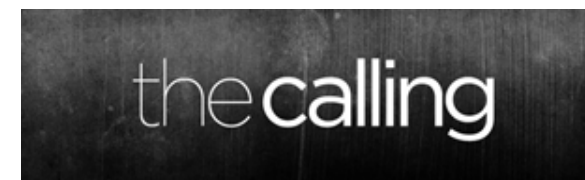
## Celebrations

*Congratulations on the birth of Eleanor Elizabeth Holmes. Born November 14, 2015 to John Robert and Sarah Holmes. The proud grandparents are Delton and Janie Jacobs; the proud great-grandparent is Lu Jacobs.*

## Worship Art on Display

**January 6-9**, Ed Rollins will be leading sessions at the National Conference for Sacred Music in Corpus Christi, TX. He was asked to lead sessions on the use of liturgical art in worship, and sessions for handbells. Since most of First Baptist's art is collaborative, Brenda Rice will be co-presenting and Sue Hammann will be offering assistance. The presentation will be delivered to our First Baptist friends and family following the conference.

## Students, College & Young Adults



The Calling kicks off again **January 10** with a trip to Lazer Lanes! We will meet at the church at 4:30 pm to head to the facility (or you can meet us there at 5:00 pm). We will start with bowling and a bit to eat before battling it out in the lazer tag arena. The cost of the night is just \$5 (youth may want to bring extra money for arcade games). As always, friends are welcome. Please contact Michael McEntyre at mmcentyre@fbc-columbia to RSVP or sign up in the youth room.



There will be an important Youth Parent Meeting on **January 24** in the youth suite on the 3rd floor at 4:00 pm following the Town Hall meeting. We will discuss the upcoming semester, our annual youth-led Easter Son-rise service, several activities, and our summer plans (including camp). Youth parents, please make every effort to attend.

## College and Young Adults

Our College and Young Adult Bible Study will break until **January 24**. Blessings to all of our students and young adults as they travel this holiday season. Don't forget to mark your calendars for our College/ Young Adult Retreat coming up **February 5-7**.



1112 E. Broadway  
Columbia, MO 65201-4999

Non-Profit Org.  
U. S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Columbia, MO  
Permit No. 19

Ministerial Staff:

**Carol McEntyre**, Senior Pastor  
[mcentyre@fbc-columbia.org](mailto:mcentyre@fbc-columbia.org)

**Ed Rollins**, Associate Pastor  
[rollins@fbc-columbia.org](mailto:rollins@fbc-columbia.org)

**Michael McEntyre**, Associate Pastor  
of Youth, College & Missions  
[mmcentyre@fbc-columbia.org](mailto:mmcentyre@fbc-columbia.org)

**Yvette Chambers**, Director of Children's Ministry  
[chambers@fbc-columbia.org](mailto:chambers@fbc-columbia.org)

**Nene Peter**, African Minister  
[nenerwenya@gmail.com](mailto:nenerwenya@gmail.com)

**Rubin Byishimo**, African Worship Leader  
[byrubin@yahoo.fr](mailto:byrubin@yahoo.fr)

Music Staff:

**Colleen Ostercamp**, Organist  
[gostercamp@gmail.com](mailto:gostercamp@gmail.com)

**Alex Bennett**, Awakening Worship Coor.  
[abzandercole1@gmail.com](mailto:abzandercole1@gmail.com)

Child Development Center:  
**Debra Riley**, CDC Director  
[cdcdirector@fbc-columbia.org](mailto:cdcdirector@fbc-columbia.org)

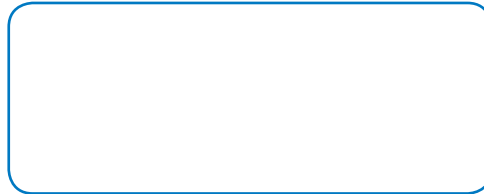
Support Staff:

**Madison Reynolds**, Administrative Assistant  
[churchinfo@fbc-columbia.org](mailto:churchinfo@fbc-columbia.org)

**Brenda Rice**, Project Coordinator  
[brice@fbc-columbia.org](mailto:brice@fbc-columbia.org)

**Glenn Owings**, Custodian

“Return Service Requested”



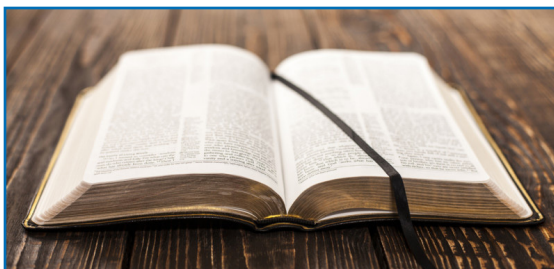
## The Bible: Many Books, One Book

How are the ancient words and ideas of Scripture related to our 21st century world? Or do they relate at all? We have the Scriptures of our Bible but often have no idea how they relate to us and to each other. Do they tell one story or many conflicting stories?

NEW  
BIBLE STUDY  
OPPORTUNITY

Beginning Monday, **January 25** at 1:00 pm, in the parlor, First Baptist will offer a 12-week overview of the Bible, our sacred Scriptures, as we have received them. We will consider the texts in their original oral as well as written settings with some discussion of the ancient world of the Bible. We will note the conversations occurring between the different writers & texts as they struggle to understand the God who claims them for His own people. We will look at the context of their writing and interaction with other oral traditions and written literature of their day.

The basis will be that these Scriptures are the Word of God and they are for all the people of God. They are to cause us to give thanks to our God for His gracious gift.



The class will be taught by David Gifford, a new member at First Baptist, who practiced gastroenterology for 30 years and also found time to do graduate work in Biblical studies at SWBTS. He has taught Bible classes in multiple Baptist & Methodist churches. His focus is on the text in its original setting as a way to better grasp and understand God's Word as it is received today. We look forward to having him teach at First Baptist.