



Our journey through the season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18, when we gather in the Fellowship Hall for worship. For this worship, and all of the Lenten Season, we will offer a unique prayer opportunity to help us find "The Way." We have borrowed an indoor Prayer Labyrinth that will be open multiple times during Lent in the fellowship hall for prayer. The labyrinth is a path which leads, via a circuitous route, to the center of an intricate design and back out again. A labyrinth's route is unicursal; that is, it has only a single path. Unlike a maze, a labyrinth is designed for ease of navigation, and it is impossible to get lost within one. Labyrinths are used to facilitate prayer and meditation. Often during prayer, we get distracted. Walking the labyrinth helps keep us focused. The most famous prayer labyrinth today is probably an ancient one in the cathedral of Chartres, France (pictured above). The Labyrinth we have borrowed was created by James S. (Jimtu) Hogue as his Eagle Scout project in 2010, just before he turned 18. He is currently a message therapist, working for himself in Chamois, Missouri. He attends church at Columbia United Church of Christ. We are grateful to him for allowing us to borrow the labyrinth.





Community **News**



As you know, I am working on my Doctorate of Ministry in worship, preaching and spirituality at Drew University in Madison, New Jersey. This spring, I move into the research phase of my doctoral work. Since worship is the core of our life together as a church, I have chosen worship as my area of research. The purpose of my research project is to learn about what makes worship meaningful to the people at First Baptist Church, to discover what elements of worship help you to connect with God and to evaluate my leadership as I work with our staff to put together worship. To design and implement the project, I have chosen a Lay Advisory Committee (LAC) to work alongside me. Members of that team are: Randy Wyatt, chair, Bob Stewart, Deb Carr, Marilyn Zumwalt, Abby Hartsfield, Mark Thomas and Anne Bills. Ed

Rollins, Associate Pastor for Music and Administration, Alex Bennett, Awakening Worship Coordinator, and Brenda Rice, Special Projects Manager, will also be involved in the project development.

Specifically, the project will be implemented during the season of Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday on February 18 and ends on Easter which is April 5. The LAC, the worship staff and I are creating a series of worship services for Lent. The services will include elements that are familiar to you and perhaps some elements that are new too. On three of the six Sundays during Lent, we will conduct surveys after Awakening and Traditional Worship to allow you to give us feedback on the service. We will ask you which parts of worship were the most meaningful to you and when you connected with God in worship. I hope you will make an extra effort to be here during Lent and participate in the project.

In addition to the survey, the LAC and I will be conducting in-depth oral interviews with 13-16 individuals in the congregation to learn about what makes worship meaningful. Our goal is to have a cross section of the congregation participate in the interviews; we need both men and women, a range of ages over 18, and people from both Traditional and Awakening Worship. We are going to choose the interview participants by lottery, which means those of you who are willing to participate will have your names put into categories i.e. Awakening Worship, Traditional Worship, and age and then, we will draw 13-16 names out to be interviewed (gambling here at church, how ghastly!). If you would be willing to participate in the lottery you can let us know by sending me an email at mcentyre@fbc-columbia.org or by signing up on Sunday mornings beginning this week. Thank you for your support and encouragement as I continue working on my project.

Thank you,

Pastor Carol McEntyre

Congratulations

At a recent MU basketball game, Keith Roys was recognized as a Kemper Teaching Award winner. He is pictured in the center of the photo.



CommunityNews



Prayers & Concerns:

Lina Berrier's cancer markers are up and she will be undergoing additional treatments.

Khaki Westerfield is recovering from surgery, at home.

Pat Breece is recovering from surgery, at home.

A Note:

A note of thanks to my dear friends at First Baptist for remembering me with prayers, hospital visits, cards and flowers. I am most grateful.

— Pat Breece

Game Night, January 24, was a lot of fun!



(left)
Heated action at the domino table.

(right)
Jenja don't move,
control your breathing...
please don't fall!



Habitat House

Nene and Francine Peter have been approved to receive a Habitat House! Construction has begun. Habitat anticipates the project will take around 7 months to finish. The family has to complete 500 sweat equity hours before they move into the house. Habitat uses the term "sweat equity" to refer to the hours of labor homeowners dedicate to building their homes and the homes of their neighbors. Sweat equity also reduces the amount of paid labor needed for a house, which in turn helps reduce cost. After 50 hours, the Peter's friends and family can help complete the other sweat equity hours. If you would like to volunteer to help out with their sweat equity hours, you can do so on Fridays from 8:30 am-4:30 pm by calling the Habitat office at 499-1202. They will direct you to a work site. You can also volunteer on Saturdays from 8:30 am-4:00 pm by signing up ahead of time by email at showmehabitat@yahoo.com. When the house is complete, First Baptist is going to finish it out by doing all the yard work. We will let you know the details for that project this spring.



UpcomingEvents

All Team Meeting

On Tuesday, February 17 all the Teams and the Church Council will meet in the fellowship hall at 5:30 pm for dinner and a kick-off to the new year. We will eat together, get to know the new people joining our leadership teams, talk about expectations for 2015, and then break into our individual teams to dream and plan for the year at 6:30 pm. Please respond to Madison Reynolds, Administrative Assistant, at churchinfo@fbc-columbia.org by noon on February 16 to let her know if you plan to attend dinner.

Talent show. Chili and Brownie Cook-off

First Baptist has talent! On Saturday, February 21 at 5:30 pm you are invited to put together an act, display your art, sing, or even dance to entertain your friends and family. You are also invited to bring a crock-pot of your best chili and a batch of your scrumptious brownies for the cook-off. Votes will be cast with tickets for the best chili and brownies. Acts for the talent show should be 5 minutes or less and should be approved by the Fellowship Team. Email Paula Thomas at paulalou52@gmail.com to enter.



The sisters of First Baptist Church, filled with the Spirit at the 2014 talent show!

African Children's Choir

On Wednesday, February 25, the Boonslick Chordbusters will host a concert with the African Children's Choir in the Sanctuary. They will be joined by the Missouri Symphony Society Children's Choir and the First Baptist Church Revival Choir. Tickets are \$10 each, and may be purchased beforehand, or at the door. For more information, please call 573-529-6821.



You're Invited

You're invited to Bill Gortmaker's birthday. Bill, Colleen Ostercamp's father, turns 90 on March 12. Join the family on Friday, March 13 for some cake in the fellowship hall, open house from 7:00-8:30 pm.

Collecting E-Readers

Sherry Wyatt is collecting gently used electronic readers (with the chargers please), such as NOOKS, KINDLES, KINDLE FIRES, and other e-readers. These readers will be used to support a free reading program within the Columbia Public Schools called "My On." Thanks for supporting these educational and recycling endeavors. See Sherry for more details.

UpcomingEvents

Eat, Pray, Sew

Eat, Pray, Sew will have their next meeting on Friday, February 13 at 10:30 am in the Library. Come to pray and sew; bring a lunch as well! A current project: pillowcase dresses.



Lenten Book Study

Beginning Sunday, February 22, there will be a teaching series on The Gift of Years: Growing Older Gracefully by Joan Chittister. More information will be available soon!



ROOM AT THE INN will open at First Baptist Sunday February 21! Volunteer training will be Monday, February 16 at 6:30pm. Be sure to sign up to serve!

First Baptist will host Room at the Inn from February 21 - March 10. All volunteers need to attend at least one training session before serving. **The last training session will be held Monday, February 16 at 6:30 pm at First Baptist.** Room at the Inn is a winter shelter designed to provide a warm place to sleep for those in need from 7:00 pm-7:00 am through March 10.

Room at the Inn Volunteer Opportunities:

Setup Hosts 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Set up cots and prepare linens for the night; set up food table; prepare snacks and drinks and set them out; set out games, cards, books and other entertainment materials; make sure area is clean; assist Manager and In-Take coordinator as needed.

Evening Hosts 6:15 pm - 11:30 pm

Greet and help guests check in as they arrive, coordinate with the guests to set up their sleeping area, monitor food table and replenish food and drink as needed, visit with the guests and assist as needed, assist Manager and In-Take coordinator as needed

Overnight Hosts 11:15 pm – 5:30 am

Visit with the guests and assist as needed, inform Manager of any disruptive behavior, one overnight volunteer may sleep while the other two remain awake, two volunteers must be awake at any given time, for safety reasons, make coffee in the morning as people begin to wake up, assist Manager as needed.

Morning Hosts 5:15 am - 7:30 am

Awaken Guests, set out breakfast food, arrange cots and linens in an orderly fashion, clean up food and mop floors.

For more information or to volunteer you can check out: http://www.roomattheinncomo.org.





Baptist Women in Ministry

Baptist Women In Ministry celebrates Martha Stern Marshall Month of Preaching

Since 2007, Baptist Women In Ministry has invited Baptist Churches to participate in Martha Stern Marshall Month of Preaching by having a woman preach during the month of February. This annual event is named for Martha Sterns Marshall, an eighteenth-century Separate Baptist woman who was known for her preaching. Here at First Baptist, we have a woman in the pulpit every Sunday, but for many Baptist churches this is still a foreign concept, which means young Baptist women who feel called to preach and pastor have few pulpits available to explore their gifts.

On February 8, we will celebrate First Baptist's long history of encouraging women in leadership and ministry. Moray Kiehl who was ordained in 1977 at First Baptist, will be with us to share her story. Elizabeth Buckner, a current Central Seminary student, will be preaching for us and Stephanie Williams, a senior at Westminster College, will be sharing about her call to minister and her choice to attend seminary in the fall.



Elizabeth Buckner loves calling Kansas City, Missouri, home after living in Texas, California, Georgia, and Montana. At nine she accepted Jesus Christ during a dinner conversation with her dad about Cabbage Patch Kid Dolls. A graduate of William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri, with a double major in history and psychology Elizabeth now finds her nose buried in theology books as a **create** scholar ("A different approach to the Master of Divinity... this unique degree program is designed for learners called to serve God in novel ways and through highly creative means.") at Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Shawnee, Kansas. She and her create cohort travel to Thailand and Myanmar in March to cultivate cross-cultural communication and understand contextual theology. For five and a half years Elizabeth served as the administrative assistant at Tower View Baptist Church. Presently, she is spending her time being a single mom to Katarina (age 11) and Ben (age 10), volunteering as PTA President at Ben's elementary school, blogging at adventurouslyauthentic.com, and hiking 100 Missouri miles to earn the 2015 Governor's challenge. Elizabeth, her children, two old gray cats, and a rescue dog named Sandy live in Kansas City North. (Pictured: Elizabeth rests on a limestone outcropping while hiking in Blue Springs, Missouri, where legend has it Jesse James and the Younger brothers hid out. Elizabeth is convinced Jesse took a break on this very same limestone boulder!)

Youth, College & Young Adults





You may have noticed that our youth are trying a new approach to fundraising this year. Don't worry, it's not cookie dough or popcorn or an astounding assortment of wrapping paper (although if this doesn't work, I'm not ruling anything out). Instead of coming to the church with multiple fundraisers throughout the year asking you to buy something you may or may not really want, I want to make the process simple.

If you would like to help make sure that every student who wants to go to events like youth camp, fall retreat, and other ministry outings has the resources available to them to participate, check out the Youth Envelope Challenge located on the bulletin board in the Children's Building hallway during the month of February. All the money raised by this challenge will go directly to the Youth Scholarship Fund, allowing us the freedom to work with families needing further assistance to make sure no student is left out because of financial restraints. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

College and Young Adult Bible Study - NEW DATE!

Several of our students have a conflict with meeting on Tuesday nights this semester, as a result, we are switching our College and Young Adult Bible Study to Sunday nights at 8:00pm beginning Feb 8th with a kickoff dinner. This semester we will be looking at the ministry of Paul and his epistles. Because of Room at the Inn, we will meet in the Youth Suite on the 3rd floor. The College and Young Adult Bible Study is a weekly gathering of college students and 20 somethings designed to explore our faith and build community



All students 6th -12th grade are invited to join us Sunday nights at 5:00pm in the youth suite for the Calling. This semester we will tackle some of the big questions of faith, join the Lenten journey, and embrace the beauty of Christ in each of us. I hope you will make plans to attend.



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Ministerial Staff: Carol McEntyre, Senior Pastor mcentyre@fbc-columbia.org

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Marsha Randell, Dir. of Children's Ministry randell@fbc-columbia.org

Nene Peter, African Minister nenerwenya@gmail.com

Rubin Byishimo, African Worship Leader byrubin@yahoo.fr

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> > Support Staff:

Madison Reynolds, Administrative Assistant churchinfo@fbc-columbia.org

Brenda Rice, Project Coordinator brice@fbc-columbia.org

Glenn Owings, Custodian

"Return Service Requested"



Friday, February 6 at 7:00 pm Baroque Classics

Our annual Baroque concert comes perfectly paired with Classic Masterpieces and a dedication to Ann Harrell, UMC vocal faculty member, who has inspired so many young, great singers.

Featured are countertenor Chad Payton in Bach Cantata, pianist Peter Miyamoto and soprano McKenzie Miller in a sublime concert Aria by Mozart, and the Odyssey Chamber Ensemble lead by conductor Kirk Trevor.

Circle Meeting

The Ann Judson Christian Action Circle will meet on Thursday, February 5 at 1:00 pm in the Library.