

February 10, 2016

the SPIRE



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190
years



Lenten Worship

As a visual enhancement for our Lenten worship, we invited any and all to “color” a cross. We provided the coloring pages and our First Baptist family has certainly taken the time to create expressions of beauty. Crosses have been made, by children and senior adults alike, with water colors, markers, crayons, and pencils. One of our artists used markers that bled through the paper so he had an image on both sides of the paper. He even took the time to write these words:

“Two words came to my mind. How the colors bled through and how the color seemed to be washed out on the reverse side. Just like the real cross, its image can be bold and stand out so strong, but just as Jesus’ blood was given for us, it bled through to us. Just as his love and sacrifice washed away our sins, this image became washed and created a scene of the cross that is soft and beautiful. This is God’s love for us...it can be bold and bright but it can be soft and washed, creating a whole new image in our life when we choose to accept it.”

We’d love to hear more of your thoughts as we gather around “The Beauty of the Cross” this Lenten season.

Thank you,

Ed Rollins, Associate Pastor, and Brenda Rice, Project Coordinator for Arts and Media





CommunityNews



On February 17, Michael and I will be traveling to China to pick up our daughter. You will be glad to know that she finally has a name, Marin Lian McEntyre. Marin means of or across the sea; and Lian (pronounced Lee An) is a Chinese name which means graceful willow. (We thought it was fitting that the Hebrew acronym if Lian can be translated, "God gave me a daughter.") Marin is 14 months old and in her short life she has had many different caregivers. As part of our preparation for adoption, our agency has worked hard to help us understand how to make the best transition for Marin to our family. When adopting a child who has had multiple caregivers, the research shows that it is important for the new family spend some time "cocooning." The idea of cocooning is to help Marin form strong attachments to Michael and me as her dad and mom, not just the new caregivers. To do this, it is important to simplify life, settle into a routine, and, if possible, limit the number of caregivers to just mom and dad for several months.

Our daughter's life has been very topsy-turvy to this point and she needs to learn that she can count on us. We want to firmly cement in her mind that we are her forever family; that's why Michael and I are both taking some parental leave when we return. I will be out of the office and not preaching from February 17-April 21. On April 24, I will resume preaching and worship leadership but will continue to have part-time office hours until the end of May. Michael McEntyre, (a.k.a my husband, Marin's dad, and our Associate Pastor of Youth, College and Young Adults, and Missions) will be out of the office February 17-March 17th. He will return to the office March 20th, but move to sharing part-time office hours with me beginning April 25th until the end of May. All Sunday activities for students as well as our College and Young Adult Ministry will continue on normal schedule during this time.

We cannot express how grateful we are to the personnel committee and First Baptist Church for working with us to come up with a plan for our leave that allows us to spend time bonding with our daughter. Your affirmation of the importance of family and of the role of both parents in raising children is another example of the faith of this progressive community. Please pray for us while we are away. We have been told by Marin's foster mother that Marin is very afraid of strangers, which is what we are. Pray for Marin that she will be filled with God's peace and that she will bond with us quickly.

Be assured that while we are away, you will be in good hands. Our Associate Pastor, Ed Rollins will be available for pastoral care needs and we have arranged for several talented preachers to lead us through the season of Lent and celebrate Easter with our community.

Thank you,
Pastor Carol (a.k.a. Nate and Marin's mom)

On the next page, see some of the preachers who will be covering while I am on leave:

Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee is excited that Carol, Michael and Nate will be welcoming Marin Lian to McEntyre family. We have reviewed the Covenants that were provided by the church when Carol and Michael were called into ministry with us. We are thankful that the language was intentionally added at that time for the possibility of an adoption. The church will be providing Family Leave for Carol and Michael between February 17 and June 5.

Michael is back covering Sunday activities on March 20 and Carol resumes Sunday responsibilities on April 24. Part-time workweek schedules have been approved until June 5. As a congregation we are pleased to provide this bonding time to give the very best opportunity for the McEntyre family to be as one and find new patterns of living together.

Thank you, Charles Hunter, Personnel Committee Chair

UpcomingEvents



First Baptist presents a Movie Night for all ages! Gather in the Fellowship Hall for pizza prior to the movie.

Popcorn will be provided during the movie. Adults will be watching and discussing "The Emperor's Club," a feel good movie about a dedicated teacher (Kevin Kline) who has spent his entire adult life inspiring his students and then comes to appreciate that his students taught him just as he taught them. The movie is rated PG-13 for some language and sexuality. We hope you'll stay for a brief discussion following the movie.

Childcare will be available for infants and preschoolers.

Noah and Abby Hartsfield will be hanging out with the children on the 3rd Floor as they watch a movie of their own.

Sock shower for Room at the Inn

The Diaconate Team is collecting new or gently used socks and other cold weather accessories to have available for guests when we host Room at the Inn February 21-March 4 in the Fellowship Hall. There will be collection boxes located outside the sanctuary and in the elevator lobby.

Flower Vase Collection

Have any extra vases taking up space under your kitchen sink? If so, the Diaconate Team would love to have them! We are in need of vessels to transport flowers to members who are either home bound or in the hospital after service on Sunday. There is a collection box in the elevator lobby. If you have any questions please contact Rena Tratchel at rjtratchel@gmail.com.



Video Highlighting First Baptist

The Telling Team, one of First Baptist's ministry teams, is charged with promoting First Baptist in the community and encouraging people to visit our church. The Telling Team has contracted with Visionworks Marketing Group and Shelia Kausler to produce a short video about the church. Our hope is that the video can be used on the church website, on Facebook, on YouTube and perhaps in other ways to spread the word about First Baptist. Shelia Kausler, a member at First Baptist, will be filming in worship, in Sunday Morning Small Groups, and at other First Baptist functions, collecting footage for the video. Many of you have already signed a talent releasing giving us permission to use your smiling faces. However, if you do not wish to appear in the video please do not hesitate to let the church office know by sending an email to Madison.Reynolds@churchinfo@fbc-columbia.org.

New Indoor Signage

The Telling Team has also been re-doing the interior signage at First Baptist. The signs needed to be updated to reflect new room names and a new color scheme inside the building. In addition, many times signs serve as greeters. They can either welcome people into the building and put them at ease or they can create confusion. Interior signage is important for helping guests feel at home and find their way around our building. You will notice that some of the new interior signage has been installed but the Telling Team still has a few more signs to order and some repair work to complete. We hope to complete this project within the next few weeks.



1112 E. Broadway
Columbia, MO 65201-4999

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Ministerial Staff:

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

Ed Rollins, Associate Pastor
rollins@fbc-columbia.org

Michael McEntyre, Associate Pastor
of Youth, College & Missions
mmcentyre@fbc-columbia.org

Yvette Chambers, Director of Children's Ministry
chambers@fbc-columbia.org

Nene Peter, African Minister
nenerwenya@gmail.com

Rubin Byishimo, African Worship Leader
byrubin@yahoo.fr

Music Staff:

Colleen Ostercamp, Organist
gostercamp@gmail.com

Alex Bennett, Awakening Worship Coor.
abzandercole1@gmail.com

Child Development Center:
Debra Riley, CDC Director
cdcdirector@fbc-columbia.org

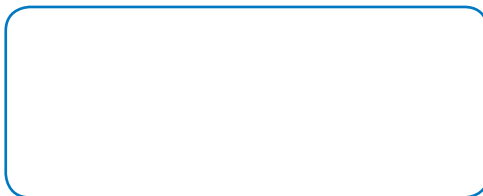
Support Staff:

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

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

Glenn Owings, Custodian

“Return Service Requested”



Volunteer Now for Room at the Inn

Room at the Inn is almost here! 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 4. You can click on the Rotator on the church website (fbc-columbia.org) to sign up for volunteer slots. Guests will arrive at First Baptist on Sunday evening, February 21. Sign up today to help.

