



Welcome Statement

On Tuesday, January 26 First Baptist gathered to reflect on the Widening our Welcome process, to talk about the statement that the Shepherding Team (Dave Bennett, Noah Hartsfield, Amanda Stone, Mary Lou Spradling and Khaki Westerfield) had crafted to add to our website, which clarifies what we mean when we say we welcome LGBTQ individuals and families. It was a meaningful evening of conversation and reflection on how we continue to move forward as a church where all are welcomed and included in the Body of Christ.

During the discussion, it was suggested that a few changes be made to the statement that the Shepherding Team had crafted. Following the discussion, the Shepherding Team took those changes into consideration and adapted the statement accordingly. The new revised statement has now been added to our website.

The First Baptist website, fbc-columbia.org, has a page entitled "Beliefs," which is where the new revised statement has been added. It is below, as seen in context, on the website.

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 people of every age, race, gender, economic reality and LGBTQ status. We believe that all people are created in the image of God; thus, all are welcomed to participate fully in the life of our church and can serve in leadership.
- ...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.

I am grateful to the Shepherding Team for their leadership of this process and the many hours they spent planning the Widening Our Welcome process, hosting the sessions and crafting the statement. In addition, I know we didn't start the discussion from scratch. We built on the work the church had already done regarding this issue. Still, I want you to know how proud I am of our church for walking through this process in such a prayerful, thoughtful and respectful manner.

—Carol McEntyre, Senior Pastor



Did You Know?

A few odds and ends to ponder as we near the end of February:

Did you know...that Room at the Inn had a successful re-entry into First Baptist? Beginning around 1:30 Sunday afternoon, volunteers began the process of setting up the Room at the Inn shelter in our Fellowship Hall. Following the Awakening Worship, many helped remove First Baptist furniture, chairs and even our Lenten cross - the RATI volunteers then set up 43 cots for the homeless, set up an area for eating, an area for watching movies, and an extensive sign in area for the residents. This is an amazing collaboration! If you arrive at 5:30 pm you will see 8-10 volunteers from all over Columbia making sandwiches, heating up coffee, and getting ready for the check-in. First Baptist folk have been among the teams of volunteers and we are grateful. One of the "super volunteers" told me how grateful she was that our church would take the risk to make this happen, especially in a newly renovated space. It is a leap of faith, but it is our calling. I'll hope to see some of you Sunday morning around 8:15 to help set up the space again for worship.

Did you know...that in talking to friends and relatives of Marsha Randell following her death, they were quick to point out that Marsha came to First Baptist because she loved the diversity and acceptance of our people? She loved the fact that we cared for and loved everyone who walks through our doors. It's a great reminder to us all that the love of God is for all people, and we do our best to emulate that love.

Did you know...that people are grateful that our church opens our doors to so many community organizations? Last Friday night, our Odyssey Chamber Music Series Baroque concert was an enormous success - great attendance and a great concert, and so many kudos for the church's willingness to promote, fund, and welcome the series. Then, all day Saturday, the Columbia Chorale and the University of Missouri School of Music held a clinic/festival for men's voices, with ages ranging from 4th grade to 90. The energy and enthusiasm for the event rivaled the thanks that we received for hosting.

Did you know...Carol and Michael met Marin earlier this week? We'll give you an update on Sunday.

What a great and loving congregation - thanks for being a part of God's work in this place

—Ed Rollins, Associate Pastor

Prayers & Concerns:

The church extends sympathy to the family of Marsha Randell, who passed away on Saturday. A visitation will be held at First Baptist on Saturday, February 27, at 10:00 am, followed by a memorial service at 11:30 am.

Gisela Groiss suffered a mild stroke on Sunday. She is recovering at home.

Betty Blase is at Lenoir, recovering from a mild stroke.

Marjorie Bay has moved into Lake George Assisted Living. She is adjusting well.

Harry Cathey is at the Bluffs.

Bob Smith is receiving hospice care at the Neighborhoods.

Joyce Riley is at The Neighborhoods.

Barry Kausler is undergoing chemotherapy treatments for colon cancer.



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.

Volunteer Now for Room at the Inn

Room at the Inn arrives today! 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. Sign up today to help!



Circle Meeting

This group of women meet on the first Thursday of every month at 1 p.m. to talk about ways to promote mission work, hear from guest speakers and walk through life together. On March 3, we will join together in the conference room to roll bandages. We will also hear from Director of Children's Ministry, Yvette Chambers.



Child Development Center

The Child Development Center Preschool is now enrolling for summer and the 2016-2017 school year. Our summer program will be June 6-June 30 and July 6-August 5. We welcome children ages 2 through 5. Our hours are 7:15 am-5:30 pm Monday-Fridays. For more information contact Ms. Debby at 573-443-7677 or cdcdirector@fbc-columbia.org

We are collecting store receipts for a fundraiser with Shoparoo. Last year schools nationwide earned over \$800,000. Receipts from any store will help us earn instant cash donations and entries into sweepstakes of up to \$15,000. We have placed a basket in the hall by the nursery to collect receipts. We will be happy to scan your receipts!

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Glenn Owings, Custodian

“Return Service Requested”



Holy Week

In one month we will be traveling from Lent into Holy Week and the celebration of Easter. In our Lenten journey, we welcome Milton Horne to our pulpit on Feb. 29 and March 6 - Ed Rollins will preach on March 13 - and former interim pastor Mike Graves will be here on Palm Sunday (March 20) and Easter Sunday (March 27).

On Good Friday, **March 25**, we will gather for worship in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 pm. This most meaningful service reminds us of the suffering and pain that Christ endured during the crucifixion. We will gather around the cross, as we have during Lent, for a time of communion, prayer and reflection.

On Saturday, **March 26**, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt for children from toddlers to 3rd grade. There will also be face painting, bubbles, games, story-time, and more!

On Sunday, **March 27**, Easter services begin with the Sunrise service led by our youth on the front Broadway steps at 8:15 am. Following this we will share in our annual Easter brunch, followed by our worship services at 9:15 and 11:15 am. We look forward to a wonderful day of celebration. Please invite a friend to come with you, as we worship the risen Lord.

