

May 3, 2017

the SPIRE



First Baptist Church Day of Service with ForColumbia

Many thanks to those who braved the rain to help with our ForColumbia projects on Saturday April 29th. Our folks sorted clothes at the Wardrobe; helped kids tie-dye shirts, gave away books, taught about healthy food choices, and more at the SAFE Kids event; built 226 square feet of shelving for a food pantry, scraped and painted walls, and replaced ceiling tiles at Russell Chapel; and did our own version of an extreme makeover for one of the bedrooms at the area women's shelter. Our church joined with countless other volunteers from churches around Columbia to make a difference in our community.



At left: before and after pictures of the bedroom at the women's shelter.

Below: Steven Hoell works at the SAFE Kids event at Hearnies.

**If you didn't get the chance to help,
you still can!**

Because of the rain, several of the projects had to be postponed. ForColumbia is looking for volunteers to help THIS SATURDAY, MAY 6 starting at 9:00am. Volunteers are asked to work from 9-noon (if you can stay longer, great) at the Blind Boone Community Center, 301 N. Providence. Work will include planting some bushes and flowers, spreading a LOT of mulch, and maybe even painting some of the black fence-work around that property.

To sign up, simply email your interest to info@forcolumbia.com. Let them know you are willing to help with the Blind Boone Community Center and approximately how long you can stay. Many thanks to those who worked so hard to put all of these projects together and to all who volunteered to make it happen.





Predatory Lending

Since its inception, I have been a part of the monthly clergy round table for Faith Voices, a grassroots, faith-based organization formed to improve the quality of life in Columbia and throughout Missouri. This week, Columbia Faith Voices asked if First Baptist would host a press conference about predatory lending on Friday, May 6 at noon in front of the church. When I got the call, I sent an email to the Church Council asking for their support in hosting the event, and they agreed.

Here is why I think this is important: We say that we are a church that “celebrates and promotes Christ’s call for social justice and seeks to make a difference in our community and world.” Scripture speaks strongly against unjust lending and taking advantage of the poor. Just to give you two examples: in Ezekiel 18, the prophet describes a righteous man, observing, “He does not oppress anyone, but returns what he took in pledge for a loan. He does not commit robbery but gives his food to the hungry and provides clothing for the naked. He does not lend to them at interest or take a profit from them.” This doesn’t mean you can’t make money in the lending business, but it warns against using financial leverage to hurt those with few other options. And Proverbs 2:22 puts it like this: “Do not exploit the poor because they are poor and do not crush the needy in court.”



Payday loan shops are everywhere in our country and especially in Missouri. Our state is home to more payday lenders than McDonald’s, Starbucks, and Wal-mart stores combined. Payday loans are small, short-term loans that are secured by a borrower’s personal check. The average interest rate and fees on such loans in Missouri is 450%, with a cap set at 1,950%. While a payday loan seems like a good solution at first, its terms tend to trap people in debt. Because the loan and fees are due in full within two weeks to a month, the borrower is forced to come up with a sizable amount of cash in a short time. As a result, the borrower often ends up taking out another loan to pay off the first. According to the Center for Responsible Lending, the average payday loan borrower takes out nine loans per year!

On February 25, Faith Voices clergy met with Speaker of the House Todd Richardson at the Greene County Baptist Association to talk about predatory lending reform. Speaker Richardson said he would support the bill filed by Missouri House Representative Lynn Morris of Ozark. HB 1105 would cap the rate for all payday and title loans at 36% annually, all fees included. However, with only a few days left in the legislative session, it looks like the Missouri House will stall on having a hearing on a Republican-led bill geared to cap payday loans at 36%.

It is really no wonder, because between 2011-2015:

Speaker Todd Richardson took \$18,500 in contributions from payday lenders

- Chair of the Financial Institutions Committee, Rep. Sandy Crawford, took \$13,050 in contributions from payday lenders
- The Missouri Republican Party took almost \$80,000 in contributions from payday lenders
- The Missouri Democratic Party took \$50,000 in contributions from payday lenders

Consequently, to push the bill forward, Faith Voices chapters in Springfield, Jefferson City, and Columbia are organizing on May 5th at noon, a week before the end of the legislative session, to:

- Lift up the role of faith communities to bring public witness to the moral choices of our elected officials.
- Place clear bipartisan responsibility in the hands of our state legislators.
- Call out legislators on both sides of the aisle who take payday money and tie this problem to the larger issue of money in politics, and name money in politics as a moral issue.
- Lift up the legislators who co-sponsored this bill - Rep. Lynn Morris (R) and Rep. Martha Stevens (D)
- Call on people of faith to join us and raise their voices in support of these moral issues.



Payday Lending: How it affects borrowers Two real-life stories

"I have four [payday lenders]. On a monthly basis I pay \$350 worth of interest ... In a way they are doing a favor for people, but in the long run it's not a favor. You have to pay them to get your money back so you can pay someone else. It's not designed so you can get yourself together - it's designed for you to come back to them (payday lenders)." L. Smith

How a payday loan spirals into long-term debt: Patricia's story:

Patricia, a retired nursing home aid, encountered medical issues and decided it was best to move closer to her family. To do so, Patricia had to pay double rent for one month and rent a small moving truck. This was

more than she could afford on her small monthly disability income. Since her family members were also struggling financially, she sought out cash from payday lenders to help her cover moving-related expenses. Patricia took out three loans: two for \$200, and another for \$150. The total interest for these loans totaling \$550 amounted to \$123.50, resulting in her having to pay back \$673.50 (\$550 principal plus \$123.50 in interest) to fully retire the debt. With her limited income, she was unable to pay more than the interest on the loans. For nearly two years, Patricia continued to pay the finance charges each month. Patricia paid over \$2,700 in interest only, and not one penny toward the principal balance of \$550.

Come out to the press conference at noon this Friday and stand against predatory lending.

Cain McEntyre



The Child Development Center Preschool is now enrolling for summer 2017 and the 2017-2018 school year. The summer program will run from June 5-June 29 and July 6-July 27. We welcome children ages 2 through 5. CDC hours are 7:15-5:30 Monday-Friday. For more information contact Ms. Debby at 573-443-7677 or cddirector@fbc-columbia.org.



OFFERING FOR
GLOBAL MISSIONS

Our First Baptist family raised \$2902 to support the work of Cooperative Baptist Field Personnel around the world through the CBF Global Missions Offering. The CBF Offering for Global Missions is the foundational means of support for CBF's mission enterprise, providing an array of tools and resources needed to live out the Fellowship's mission commitments of cultivating beloved community, bearing witness to Jesus Christ and seeking transformational development. First Baptist's goal was \$2000. Thank you for generously supporting this important work.

Notes of Thanks

Thank you to so many talented musicians for sharing their gifts with us in our musical worship services last Sunday.



- Alex Bennett and the Awakening Praise Band - they do amazing work every week but Sunday was really terrific.
- Julie Walker for her beautiful solo during the Awakening Worship Service.
- For three outstanding accompanists during the Traditional service: Deb Carr, Bruno Nascimento, and Robert Wells.
- The Chancel Choir, Chancel Bells and Psalm Players Band for their leadership and special music.
- Hugh Emerson, Eli Marchbanks, Ben Worley, and Ed Rollins for the “Wonderful Grace of Jesus” quartet.
- Bria Jones for helping to conduct and lead.
- Lexie Kieffer for leading “Light Dawns.”

It was a wonderful time of worship. Thanks to all of these who helped, and for all of you who created songs of praise to God in our worship.



Children Leading in Worship

We love when children can help lead in worship services. On April 30th, they assisted in taking up the offering in both the Awakening and Traditional services.

Left: Chandler Wyatt with Gilam and Gregory Galloway.

Right: Liz Stone and Jack Pestle with Olivia and Camille Chang.

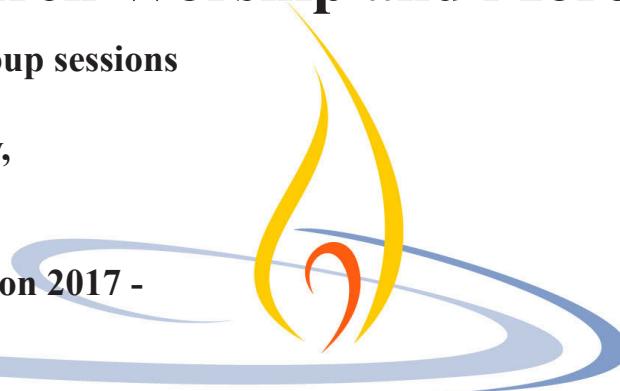


Sunday June 4th - All Church Worship and More!

10:15 am - Regular Sunday Morning Small Group sessions

**11:15 am - Combined Worship in the Sanctuary,
celebrating the birth of the Church**

**12:15 am - Lunch and business meeting to vote on 2017 -
2018 Endowment recommendations.**



PENTECOST

Spiritual Life



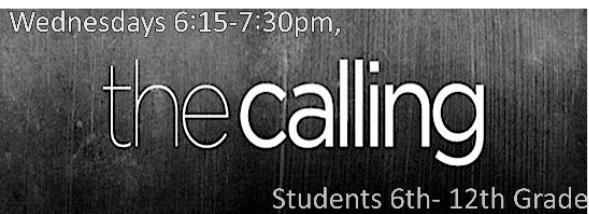
Baby Dedication

Congratulations to Gareth Thomas Henley on his dedication at the Traditional Worship Service on April 30. Born April 29, 2016, Gareth is the son of Sam and Crystal Henley.



New Sunday Morning Small Group

A new small group just for women meets on Sundays at 10:15 in the hospitality room off the Sanctuary. We hope that this will be a place for women to develop deep friendships, share joys and concerns, support one another and study scripture together.



Only 4 more weeks for The Calling, our weekly youth Bible Study during the semester. We will continue to meet on Wednesday nights (6:15-7:30pm) through May 24th. Information about summer plans is coming soon.

Our Weekly College and Young Adult Bible Study is Wrapping up for the Semester.

On Sunday May 7th we will meet for dinner and reflections on the semester. Finals start on Monday. For anyone still in town on Sunday May 14th, make plans to join us for a movie night celebration.

Attention all graduates!

Senior Recognition Sunday May 14th

First Baptist Church would like to honor all our high school and college graduates on Sunday, May 14th during both of our worship services. Seniors are asked to bring their cap and gown to church for the services if possible. We will process in for both services and sit together. Graduates will be asked to share graduation information and future plans during the service. In between the services, our congregation is invited to congratulate our graduates between the sanctuaries in the Children's Building. There will be cake and snacks. Congratulations to all our grads!





Upcoming Events

First Baptist Adventures: May Edition

Come join us for an old time hymn sing and BBQ!

Place: Larry & Esther Rollins, 4211 Fall River Drive

Date: May 27th

Time: 1:30 pm to 3 pm

Cookies and tea provided

Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 5:19-20)



Columbia Handbells in Concert

“It Don’t Mean a Thing if it Ain’t Got that Swing” is the thematic concept for the spring concert of the Columbia Handbells in our sanctuary this coming Sunday, May 7 at 3 pm. As the title suggests, toes will be tapping and rhythms will be popping! We’ll feature a Celtic dance, a tango, a polka, and of course, a swing. You’ll also hear some of the concert that is being prepared by the choir for the late June concert the ensemble will present as guest featured choir for Area 1 of the Handbell Musicians of America (Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts). It will be a grand afternoon of great music – plan now to take a bit of time this Sunday to hear some fabulous music. Tickets are \$7 in advance, \$10 at the door, and \$1 for children under 12 – contact Ed Rollins or Noah Hartsfield for ticket information.

Odyssey Season Finale: Knoxville & Mexico

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with a Mexican-infused program highlighting Parra Aguilera’s Escenas de la Infancia and Copland’s El Salon Mexico, contrasted with two American works – Barber’s Knoxville: Summer of 1915 with soprano Carline Waugh, and Ives’ Violin Sonata with violinist Amy Appold and pianist Peter Miyamoto. Please join us in a joyous Mexican feast at the reception!



Annual Church Picnic at the Twin Lakes Pavilion

June 11 at 3 pm

All are welcome to join us for games, fishing, biking, walking, running, and playing!

This year’s egg toss championship is up for grabs. Who will scramble to the finish line to take on the yoke of victory?

At 4 pm we will enjoy a special treat - the Pepto Bismol Men’s Bake-off and Auction for Missions!

Men, bring your best baked treats - and everybody, bring your checkbook.

It’s a sweet way to raise money for missions.

At 5 pm dinner is served. The main dish (Lee’s fried chicken), drinks, and place settings are provided.

Please bring food for 12, according to the first letter of your last name:

A-G Veggies

H-S Side Dishes

T-Z Desserts

At left, contestants line up for the egg toss while Kim Siegenthaler, right, eggs them on.



Community News



Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Celebration of Excellence

Last week, approximately 100 individuals from around the state gathered at the Mizzou Alumni Center to recognize three individuals for their work in ministry. One of the recipients was Neil Ostercamp, Gary and Colleen's (our organist) son, who grew up here at First Baptist. Neil is full time music minister/worship leader for The Gathering, a multi campus church in St. Louis. In many ways, First Baptist helped prepare Neil for ministry – he was active in all aspects of our church life, participated on numerous mission trips, became one of our first Awakening Worship leaders and helped to make Jazz Nativity something to be looked forward to by our community. The award for excellence is a wonderful affirmation for ministry and an encouragement to keep up the good work.

Many thanks to the following First Baptist volunteers who helped CBF Heartland host this event: Brenda Rice, decorator extraordinaire; Joe and Oleta Forsee, set up, clean up, and registration; Ross and Michelle Kasmann, greeters; Ken Hutchinson, photographer; and Yvette Chambers, cleanup.



For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.
Song of Solomon 2:11-12

Prayers and Concerns

The Residency Team, as they make their decision on which candidate to select for our first Resident.

Barry Kausler, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.

Trish Blair, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.

Koge Yasuda, who is in hospice care.

Lynn Lampe, whose husband Rob will begin treatment for prostate cancer in June.

Auben & Myra Galloway and family, on the death of his sister, Amber Galloway.

Lili Vianello and John Shrum, as they prepare for John's surgery for prostate cancer on May 22.

Mike and Cheryl Brewer's nephew Daniel Dooley passed away suddenly from a heart attack last week.

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

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:

Janet Deneke, Administrative Assistant
churchinfo@fbc-columbia.org

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

Bethany James, Nursery Director
Glenn Owings, Custodian

"Return Service Requested"

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

Congratulations to Our Graduates!



Bria Jones is finishing her degree and certification in K-12 Music Education at Mizzou.

Bruno Bastos do Nascimento is completing his Master in Orchestral Conducting at Mizzou, and will return to Brazil as Associate Conductor of the Amazon Philharmonic.



Karlye Jeffries will be graduating from Battle High School and will attend Moberly Area Community College on an A+ scholarship. On finishing her Associates Degree, she plans on attending Central Methodist University on a Theater Scholarship.

First Baptist celebrates the accomplishments of all our graduates as they continue to discover God's calling and direction for their lives.

Many blessings on the journey ahead.