

August 2, 2018

the SPIRE



First Baptist Church
columbia



Fall Kickoff: Farewell to Summer Save the Date!

Sunday, August 26 after Worship

As we look toward the end of summer, we are preparing for our annual Fall Kickoff after Traditional worship on Sunday, August 26. We will have a tropical theme this year.

The church will provide the chicken, as well as beverages and tableware. We know you will please the crowd with your delicious side dishes and desserts!

You can look forward to limbo, a bounce house, a wet sponge toss, and other tropical activities - or you can simply sit and relax.



Unidiversity Camp Report

“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.” Matthew 11:28-30 (The Message Version)

These words guided our week at Unidiversity camp. The theme for camp this year was Rhythm. We learned about the importance of Sabbath and finding rest in God’s unforced rhythms of grace. It seemed a timely message considering our church’s focus this summer. It made me smile at God’s persistence and creativity.



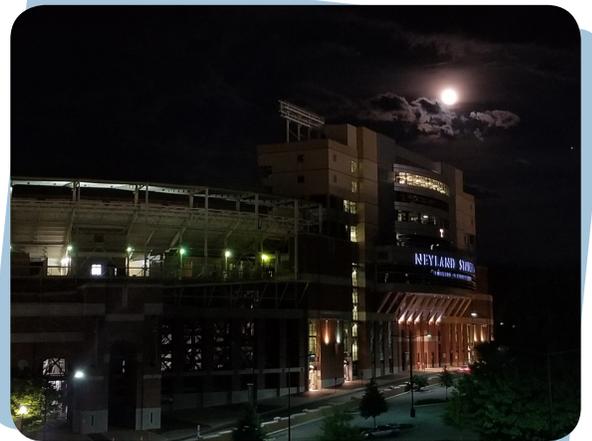
We began our week in the mountains of East Tennessee. We are grateful to Gary and Terry Lethco for the use of their cabin for a few nights. The view from the porch was the perfect backdrop for the week. It was a time to breathe deep and listen for what God was trying to tell us.

Our camp this year was on the University of Tennessee’s campus. Our days were filled with morning celebrations, interesting seminars, fun electives, free time activities, nightly worship, crazy uNight challenges, and quiet times for our group to come together and connect with our Creator and each other. Since this was our first experience with Unidiversity camp, I was grateful to have all of our youth leaders and workers there to help evaluate the week. I think our leaders had as much fun as our students and

I am thankful for their amazing commitment to our youth.

As best I can account for, this was my 40th week of youth camp as either a camper, counselor, leader, youth pastor or director (I went to several weeks of camp a year for some of that time; don’t try to make me older than I am!). Youth camp has been an incredibly impactful time in my life. It was where my passion for faith was ignited, and where my calling to ministry was first felt. It was also where many of my major life decisions were influenced. I believe in camp and in getting our youth away from their normal schedule to hear from God.

It is out of that rich history that I make this confession: these past few years of camp have felt different to me. Maybe it is my age or the result of our efforts to reshape the way we engage in youth ministry at First Baptist, but I am awed by the sense of community that I felt with our group at camp. It is hard for me to adequately describe, but this week felt more like a trip with the family than a week at youth camp. My focus was not on logistics, schedules, numbers, and finishing. Camp was not a task to accomplish. Instead, it was about the 12 other people who were with me. It was about knowing what was happening in all of our lives and seeing God use each of us to minister to the other. We had fun together. We laughed together. Sometimes we cried together. Through it all God taught us that the unforced rhythm of grace was all around us. It was a beautiful week with beautiful people. It was a picture of what it means to be the body of Christ, and a testimony to what it means to be part of First Baptist.



Thank you.

~ Pastor Michael

Unidiversity Camp Report



Special thanks to Link Hudson for touring us around the Vol Network and Stadium.



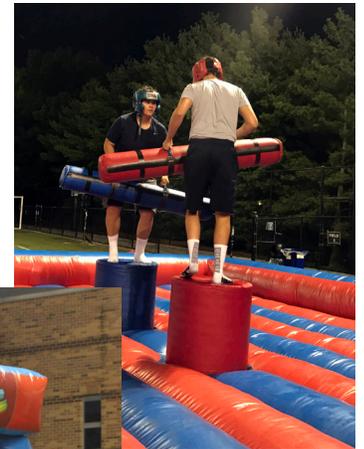
Lexie Stone, Rachel Jeffries, and Bri James heading out to dinner.



A little bit of family fun.

Game Night!

Below, Rachel Jeffries demolishes Jason Tratchel up the Slope.



Above, it was brother against brother as Joe and Will Edgar battled it out for bragging rights.



Sunrise from our porch



Church family,

When Michael and I were dating, I got the chance to study abroad in England for a month. I missed Michael so much. This was before broad use of cell phones or the invention Facetime and Skype, which meant we didn't get to talk very much. About halfway through my term, Michael called the flat where I was staying. The phone was on the lower level of the building and I was the third floor. I heard someone yelling, "Carol has a phone call." I thought it might be Michael, so I ran down the stairs. By the time I got to the phone I was crying. The thought of talking to him filled me with joy. Honestly, in that moment, I knew he was the one because I had never missed someone like that before.

First Baptist, you aren't my first love, but I certainly have missed you! It is a good sign that I am ready to come back from sabbatical. I am ready to be pastoring and preaching again. I am grateful for sabbatical; it has given me a chance to spend a bit more time with my mom as her health continues to decline, and it has given me the opportunity to get significant work done on my dissertation. Thank you so much for the time away. I am grateful.

I will be back on Sunday, August 26. For three weeks, I will be preaching on some themes from my sabbatical. Before I left for sabbatical, I thought I would be preaching about sabbath, rest and silence. While I have certainly gotten some rest, these topics haven't really been the focus of my sabbatical. Instead, some surprising themes have emerged. Everywhere I went this summer, the issue of justice for immigrants came up, as did the #MeToo movement. I want to share with you what I learned this summer about these issues and our faith. Finally, I want to talk about my dissertation. Some of you were around when I did the project for my dissertation, during worship, in the spring of 2015. I never reported the results to you! We adopted our daughter Marin and my project got put on the back burner. It has been fun to reengage that work. I know sharing about my dissertation sounds boring, awful, but I promise it is interesting. I look forward to telling you about it. So, I hope you will join us for worship on August 26 as I begin talking about some themes from my sabbatical.

In addition, on August 26, during the small group hour at 10:15, I will be in the conference room to discuss the book *Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal and Delight in our Busy Lives*, for those of you who read it this summer.

~Pastor Carol



Scholarship Singers and Friends Reunion Concert

August 18 – 7 pm

In just a matter of weeks, 19 former First Baptist scholarship singers and a few other friends will return to Columbia to present a concert in our sanctuary. The concert is part of something we are calling the Celebration Series, a variety of



music and arts concerts/festivals presented through 2019, in commemoration of Ed Rollins' 30 years as Associate Pastor at the church. The concert on August 18 will feature some amazing music performed by these exceptional young singers. Following the concert, there will be a reception in the Fellowship Hall. The group will sing several selections in our traditional worship the next day. Invite a friend and plan to be in attendance!

Scholarship Singer Reunion rehearsal in Kansas City, Kansas last Saturday. From left to right: Lindsey Lang, Frank Fleschner, Christina Casey Ray, Ed Rollins, Andrew Lang, Becky Steere Lindenmuth, and Ben Donnelly-Strait.



Upcoming Preachers

August 5:

Brittany McDonald Null, Pastoral Resident

August 12 & 19:

David May, Director of the Master of Arts at
Central Baptist Theological Seminary

Adult Small Groups

Our regular adult small groups have resumed. If you are not part of a small group, we encourage you to visit one of the three at 10:15 am:

- Faith Forum in the second floor classroom, next to the elevator
- Discussion Class in the parlor on the second floor
- Connections in the 2nd floor library.

Critical Conversations Ice Cream Social

First Baptist, Second Missionary Baptist, and Broadway Christian Churches have been participating in conversations about racism and how faith communities can help bring about grassroots change. We have concluded our discussions on the book *America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America* by Jim Wallis. As a celebration of the relationships developed and the conversations had, First Baptist will be hosting an ice cream social for all who participated in the critical conversations on August 12 at 5 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Broadway Christian has generously offered to provide the ice cream. Bring your favorite ice cream toppings or cookies and let's celebrate together!



Show Us Your Sabbath

We hope you've been enjoying the bulletin board in the children's hallway, where we are posting the pictures you share of your sabbath!

Here, Mark and Paula Thomas show us how to relax in Metropolis, Illinois.



Finding time for Sabbath Rest

Dallas Willard was once asked, "What do I need to do to be spiritually health?" Willard responded, "You must ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life."

Regularly, you need to set aside a large block of time to be unhurried and unproductive. Do nothing. Don't try to make anything happen. Relax. Pray. Enjoy God and your family. That is practicing Sabbath.



Child Development Center
at First Baptist Church Est. 1969

The Child Development Center (CDC) is now enrolling for the 2018 - 2019 school year. Our Back to School open house is Monday, August 13 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm. First day of school is Tuesday August 14. Class sizes are limited, so contact Jess Wolfe, CDC Director, asap to schedule a tour or to enroll: cdcdirector@fbc-columbia.org or 573-443-7677.

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

Brittany McDonald Null, Pastoral Resident

bnull@fbc-columbia.org

Yvette Chambers,

Director of Children's Ministry

chambers@fbc-columbia.org

Music Staff:

Colleen Ostercamp, Organist

gostercamp@gmail.com

Shelby Myers, Awakening Praise Band Director

smyers@fbc-columbia.org

Child Development Center:

Jess Wolfe, Director

cdcdirector@fbc-columbia.org

Support Staff:

Janet Deneke, Administrative Assistant

churchinfo@fbc-columbia.org

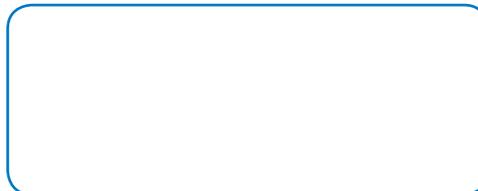
Brenda Rice, Project Coordinator

brice@fbc-columbia.org

Bethany James, Nursery Director

Jason Bell, Custodian

“Return Service Requested”



Child Development Center

at First Baptist Church Est. 1969

Blessing of the Backpacks

Please join us on Sunday, August 26 during both the Awakening and Traditional Worship services for a Blessing of the Backpacks as part of our 2018/2019 Fall Kick-Off. All children from the Child Development Center (CDC) and First Baptist Church are welcome to participate in this special blessing. Awakening Contemporary worship is held at 9:15 am in the Fellowship Hall. Traditional worship takes place in the sanctuary at 11:15 am.



Back-to-School Supply Drive

This fall, as a service to the Child Development Center mission at First Baptist Church, we are holding a back-to-school supply drive. We are asking for school supply donations such as paper, markers, glue, and the like. After August 6, cards listing the items that we need will be located on the bulletin board in the CDC hallway. To get involved, choose an item you would like to donate, take the card for that item, and bring the item back to either the CDC or First Baptist Church's office. Contact Jess Wolfe, Director of the Child Development Center, with questions at cdcdirector@fbc-columbia.org. If you aren't able to go shopping but would still like to help, you can make a monetary donation to the Child Development Center marked 'back-to-school.'