

September 16, 2015

the SPIRE



Celebrating
190
years



Fall Sheppard Lecture Series

Rev. Dr. David Gushee (pictured right) is the Distinguished University Professor of Christian Ethics and Director of the Center for Theology and Public Life at Mercer University. He is the author or editor of 20 books in his field, including *Kingdom Ethics* and *The Sacredness of Human Life*. He has been puzzling over Christians, conflict and change for a very long time. Gushee will be our guest Sunday, **October 18 for our Fall Sheppard Lecture** (see schedule below).



Dr. Gushee's release of the book *Changing Our Mind* added a new chapter to his scholarship and activism. In this book, Dr. Gushee makes a biblical case for all Christians to open their hearts to full acceptance and equality for gay Christians. You can pick up a copy of *Changing Our Mind* during the week in the church office or in the hallway outside the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings.

First Session:

9:15 am
during Awakening Worship

"How I Changed My Mind
on LGBT Inclusion"

Second Session:

10:15 am, over brunch in
the Fellowship Hall

"Revisiting Scripture"

Third Session:

11:15 am
during Traditional Worship

"Everyone Is Included -
from Genesis to Jesus"

Widening Our Welcome

Sunday Mornings Sept. 20- Oct. 11 at 10:15 am in the Parlor

As we continue the process of widening and clarifying our welcome statement, Bob Russell, Khaki Westerfield and Deb Carr will alternate teaching a Bible Study examining the Biblical texts that address homosexuality, through multiple lenses.





What would the US be like, if 49% of our population suddenly had to leave our homes? Where would we go? Who would take us in? In 2011, protests against the Syrian government and resistance against the rise of ISIS instigated a civil war in Syria. It is estimated that 49% of the population in Syria has been displaced. Millions of refugees from Syria and from war torn Iraq have fled; you have seen the images on TV. I don't pretend to understand all of the cultural and political issues that have led to this crisis, but I do know that scripture is clear that Christians have a divine mandate to love the foreigner and to welcome the stranger. Our first response to human desperation should be love and help. We need to resist the urge to picture these children, women and men coming across the sea as just potential criminals, or worse, terrorists, and see them for what they are, vulnerable people seeking refuge. Even if we overcome our fear, the problem seems daunting; how can we help?

If you are feeling really brave, you could sign the on-line petition encouraging the US to take in more refugees or you could donate money to organizations ministering to refugees in Europe. World Vision and Doctors Without Borders are two trustworthy agencies bringing relief to refugees. In coming weeks, you will be hearing about how American Baptist Churches are ministering to refugees, too. You could also pray. I came across this beautiful prayer from Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, an organization that is also doing good work with refugees:

Our Gracious Lord,
There are many in Your world today who have been forced from their homes by persecution and violence. Keep them in your constant care, and bring them to a place of safety. Be the Good Shepherd to refugees who are in flight. Guide them to the green pastures of safety. Be the Everlasting Father to refugees who have lost home and loved ones. Lead, protect and provide for them. Be the Great Physician to refugees who are suffering. Grant them healing and hope. Be the Hiding Place to refugees who are languishing in camps. Shelter their souls as well as their bodies. Be the Deliverer to refugees who have been able to return home. Restore their lives so that those who have sown in tears may reap in joy. Be the Wonderful Counselor to refugees who have been resettled. Help them find their way in a new land. Be the Giver of all good gifts to those who serve refugees. Empower them to do justice and love mercy and walk humbly with You. Be the Lord of lords to all the earth, that those who rule would do so in justice and righteousness, and no one would have to become a refugee anymore. We ask these things in the precious and powerful name of Jesus. Amen.

Carin McIntyre

A Big “Muchos Gracias” from “Barrito”

"I would just like to give a huge "Thank You" on behalf of my entire family for all the love, care and support shown to me by everyone at First Baptist Church through the "Barrito Party" on August 27th at Logboat Brewing. What a wonderful evening it was for me, Sheila and the kids and what an overwhelming turnout! I have known from the day I joined First Baptist Church that it is the most congenial group of people I've ever known, but I never quite knew the extent of the care until that night. I cannot thank you all enough!"
— Barry Kausler

Prayers & Concerns:

Lina Berrier is in Boone Hospital.

Bob Smith is home after a stay in the hospital.

Barry Kausler is undergoing chemotherapy for colon cancer.

Marsha Randell is beginning a chemo pill. She would appreciate prayers that the side effects won't be too bad.

Dell Keepers is recovering from a broken ankle, at the Bluffs.



Summer Book Discussions

You've read them over the summer, now it's time to discuss them. Join us for the discussions of the Summer Reading list books!

A New Kind of Christian

Brunch, Saturday, **September 19**, 10:00 am to 11:30 am

Hosted by Mary Lou Spradling

Facilitated by Noah Hartsfield

Location: The Home of Mary Lou Spradling

The Luminous Web

Pot-luck Dinner, Monday, **September 21**, 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Hosted and facilitated by Meridith Green

Location: The Home of Meridith Green

Introducing the Missional Church

High Tea, Saturday, **October 3**, 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Hosted and facilitated by John and Sandy Hall

Location: Church Parlor

*There is one copy of this book still available from the church office. Call 573-442-1149 to reserve.

Please RSVP to the church office with which events you will be attending. Feel free to attend even if you have not read or finished the book(s).

Children's Ministry Parent Meeting

Parents, you are invited to come and talk about the future of our Preschool and Children's Ministry on Tuesday, **September 29** at 5:30 pm in the parlor. The Personnel Committee has begun the process of looking for a new Director of Children's Ministry and we want to get your input. We are also inviting the Teaching Team and the Children's Ministry Team to come participate. We will be serving a taco bar from Moe's for dinner and there will be child care available. RSVP by 12 pm on September 28 at churchinfo@fbc-columbia.org.

Circle Meeting

On Thursday, **October 1**, at 1:00 pm, the Ann Judson Christian Action Circle will host Steven Long and Todd Pridemore, representatives of The Baptist Home, who will give us an overview of the Home's presence in the Central Missouri(Ashland) area. All are invited.

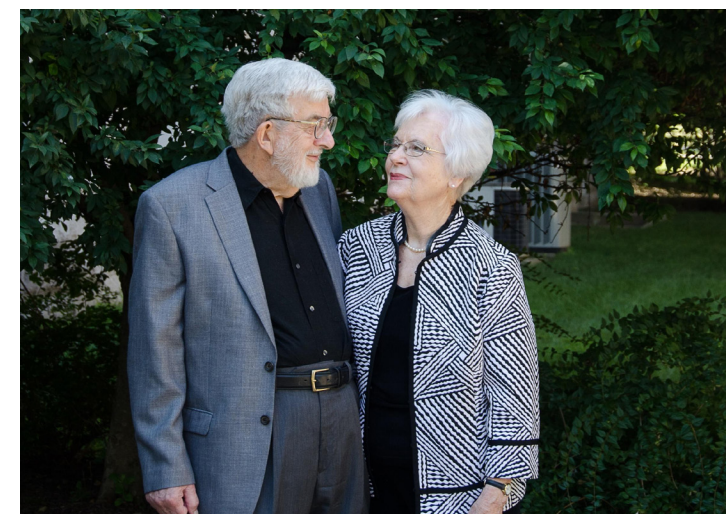
Join us to celebrate Jim & Verna Rhodes's 65th anniversary!

Saturday, October 17th 2:00 - 4:30 pm
Lenior Woods Community Center

Except for your presence, No Gifts, please!

DIRECTIONS TO LENIOR COMMUNITY CENTER:

- Turn "R" from "Grindstone" or "L" from New Haven Rd on to Lenior Street
- Take 2nd Entrance into Lenior Retirement Center and an immediate "R" on Cartwright Dr to the first STOP SIGN
- Turn "L" on Miller continue to the second Parking Lot on "L"-PARK
- Note "Community Center" sign on building
- *Grindstone (from West) and New Haven Road (from East) join at Hwy. #63





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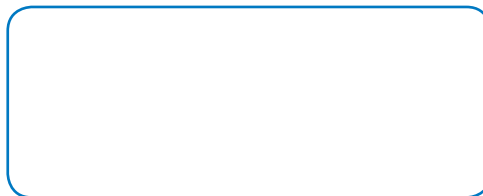
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Glenn Owings, Custodian

“Return Service Requested”



Night Under the Stars is Almost Here! Be Sure to Sign Up to Help.

We still need volunteers to help with Night Under the Stars on **September 27**. Night Under the Stars is a fundraising event for Room at the Inn designed to help students better understand the effects of poverty in homelessness in our community. There are lots of ways to serve.

You can sign up on-line on the church website (click the Night Under the Stars rotator, scroll down on the event page and choose volunteer here to pick your spot) or by emailing mmcentyre@fbc-columbia.org. We will also have a sign-up sheet between the buildings on Sunday. Look for a time you can help and volunteer.

Volunteer Opportunities & Schedule:

- Set Up Crew: Sunday, September 27, 2-4 pm
- Registration Desk: Sunday, September 27, 4-6 pm
- Leaders to join us for the Poverty Walk Sunday, September 27, 4-7 pm
- Facility Hosts: Sunday, September 27, 4-11 pm
- Workers for the Poverty Simulation: Sunday, September 27, 6-9:30 pm (These volunteers will serve as the leaders for different areas during the Poverty Simulation. You will be trained on what to do from 6-7 pm.)
- Over Night Shift: Sunday, September 27, 10:30 pm- September 28, 7 am
- Breakfast Crew: Monday, September 28, 6:30-8:30 am (This group will help cook and serve breakfast.)
- Clean Up Crew: Monday, September 28, 8:30 am-Finish



Thanks,
Michael McEntyre, Associate Pastor: Youth, College & Young Adults, Missions