

June 6, 2018

the SPIRE

First Baptist Church
columbia



Summer Session at First Baptist Church Child Development Center

The Child Development Center (CDC) kicked off its summer session with a bang! We are very excited to welcome new and returning children to the Child Development Center! This summer, the Child Development Center has three full classrooms and an amazing staff. The teachers have wonderful, fun, educational activities planned for both June and July sessions. The summer sessions offer opportunities to blend summer fun with our Project Construct pre-school curriculum while providing quality care for working families. The teachers have put a lot of preparation into their classrooms and lesson plans to ensure a fun, enriching summer.

With three full classes for summer sessions, the CDC has added four wonderful new teachers:

- Alissa Shoemaker is a graduate of the University of Missouri School of Social Work, who recently felt a calling to further her career as lead teacher of the Bee Room.
- Lynn Alley holds a Bachelor's degree in Education from Columbia College, and a Master's in Elementary Education. She is lead teacher of the Train Room.
- Krista Riggs is a junior at the University of Missouri studying Human Development and Family Science (Pre-Child Life). She is the assistant teacher in the Bee Room.
- Mary Emerson holds an Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Education. She is the assistant teacher in the Train classroom.



Summer session teachers and children enjoy the awesome playground.



The Resident's Corner

A few weeks ago, I wrote a blog post for Baptist Women in Ministry about what has surprised me thus far in my journey as your Pastoral Resident. The Pastoral Residency Team asked for me to include it in this week's Spire as a launching point for a new section called "The Resident's Corner." As always, I am grateful for our ministry together as we continue to learn from one another and strive to be people of great courage and vulnerability. I am honored to be your Resident.

Leaning Heavily into Grace by Brittany McDonald-Null

Throughout seminary, I focused much of my energy on student ministry. As I began to notice a gentle nudge toward the pastorate, I knew I had so much more to learn. A pastoral residency seemed like the perfect fit for me. A residency would allow me to spend two more years honing my skills as I bridged the gap between theological education and ministry experience. I knew that to be a better equipped pastor I needed more time preaching in the pulpit, providing pastoral care, and learning about church administration. I am happy to report, a little less than half way into my residency at First Baptist Church, Columbia, Missouri, I have had gained all that.

My church is a "teaching congregation." Teaching has been part of the church's ethos from its beginning, so initiating a pastoral residency program fit the congregation's character. When the members decided to hire their first pastoral resident, they agreed to encourage, equip, and educate that resident. I can attest that they have done precisely that. First Baptist agreed to help me shape my pastoral identity and to embrace my pastoral authority, and they have taken their agreement to heart. Each Sunday I receive affirmations for my assigned duties.



To my surprise, receiving affirmation has proven to be quite the challenge for me. I am much more likely to believe the criticism than the compliments. I think this is because I have already prepared myself for the worst. When I walk into my pastoral mentoring sessions, I have with me a list of everything that I did wrong in my previous sermon. No joke! I expect the worst, yet the words I hear repeatedly are "Brittany, you are being too hard on yourself."

When I preach, I put so much time, energy, and heart into the sermon, but I often become incapacitated with feelings of inadequacy. I am getting better with time, but my self-criticism still can be overwhelming. After one particularly mediocre sermon, I stepped out of the pulpit with a deep sense of shame. "You fought so hard to get to this point," I thought, "And you went and botched it!"

As members of the congregation spoke to me following the service, I could not help but qualify their affirmations. "They have to say kind things." "They are being too generous." "They must not have listened to the sermon that I just preached." I left that Sunday full of self-pity and shame.

But this is also why being a part of a teaching congregation has been essential for my formation. As I processed through that preaching experience with one of my mentors, I realized that although I thought I was discrediting myself, I was actually devaluing the very people I have come to love.

Accepting feedback, whether positive or constructive, is difficult for me. I hold myself to such ridiculously ambitious standards that I struggle to see improvement. Yet the very nature of this position challenges me to listen with gratitude. My church is so generous and giving. Part of developing my pastoral identity is inexplicably bound to their life-giving words.

My shame and self-doubt have been roadblocks to vulnerability, as is often true. When I allow shame to shut me in, I miss out on the mutual ministry of encouragement and kingdom building taking place at First Baptist. I am constantly humbled by the privilege of serving in this role. Being a pastoral resident gives me the opportunity to confront my character flaws in a safe and nurturing environment, one where people will continue to embrace me and my pastoral identity even when I do not.

Allowing people to speak truth into my life is difficult, for it requires a particular type of vulnerability, one that takes an exorbitant amount of practice. It requires showing up in people's lives, but more importantly, it requires letting them show up in mine. It means taking their words to heart, trusting in something greater than myself, and leaning heavily into grace.



Sponsoring the Network of Affirming Baptists at CBF Annual Gathering



Cooperative
Baptist
Fellowship

A couple of weeks ago, the Missions Team approved a request for \$1,000 to help sponsor the inaugural Affirming Network Breakfast on June 14 at this year's Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) Annual Gathering in Dallas. Just as a reminder, until recently, CBF had a hiring policy that prohibited employing LGBTQ staff members or sending LGBTQ missionaries. In February, the Governing Board adopted a new hiring policy that eliminated the previous discriminatory language. However, along with that new policy an "implementation procedure" was put in place, which states that CBF will continue to restrict missionaries and some other key ministerial positions to those "who practice a traditional Christian sexual ethic." It was a good step in the right direction, but it is still not justice.

In response, a group of individuals and churches are banding together to form the Affirming Network within CBF life. The Affirming Network will be led by LGBTQ Christians; it will be a place where churches can go to get resources related to inclusion, and where LGBTQ seminary students can go to find field placements and scholarship funds. The Network is also an acknowledgment that simply having a nondiscriminatory policy or being welcoming and affirming doesn't mean that LGBTQ individuals will have a fair shake.

I am excited about First Baptist being a sponsor of the breakfast. The breakfast is in the same building as the conference, making it an important, visible event in the life of CBF. Since this is not a budgeted item, we want to give you the opportunity to donate to the sponsorship. This is a great opportunity to send our funds to denominational efforts that align with our values. If you want to give to this effort, make your check out to First Baptist Church and put in the memo line: The CBF Affirming Network. Mail it to the church office or drop it in the offering plate on Sunday morning.

Thank you,

Pastor Carol McEntyre

P.S. Yes, I am on Sabbatical. I wrote this before I left!

Civil Rights Pilgrimage

November 9-13

A pilgrimage is a journey taken for spiritual growth and transformation. It is an opportunity to get out of your comfort zone and be open to new insights and deeper understandings. The Civil Rights Pilgrimage is the culmination of Critical Conversations (a discussion about racism and how faith communities can bring about grassroots change,) which has been a collaboration between Second Baptist Church, Broadway Christian Church, and First Baptist Church. The pilgrimage will visit significant civil rights sites and museums in the South. Priority will go to those who have participated in the Critical Conversations. Further information will follow.



First Baptist South Dakota Trip



For those taking part in the South Dakota trip this summer (July 6-12) please turn in your \$100 payment by June 17. We are planning to meet on Sunday evening June 24 and July 1 for a time to get to know each other and to do a little training. We will meet at the McEntyre's house for dinner and discussion beginning at 5:30pm. Participants are asked to join the Sunday Morning Small Group discussion that began June 3 entitled "Street Theology". We look forward to seeing what God has in store for us this summer.

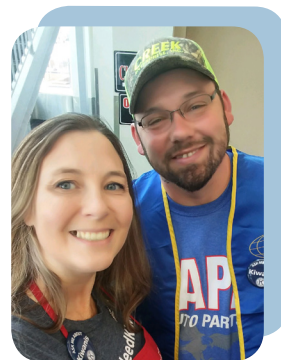


The Church Family



Connor Edward Steere, born to Brian and Jennifer Steere on July 10, 2017, was dedicated at First Baptist Church on Sunday, May 20 at the Combined Worship Service. Connor and his parents are pictured at left with Pastor Carol McEntyre. Jennifer's sister and parents also shared in the joy of the occasion.

Rebekah Robertson joined First Baptist Sunday, May 20 at the Combined Worship Service. Rebekah and husband Bill Tucker began attending First Baptist last spring after Sherry Wyatt welcomed Rebekah to the Enneagram studies. As a "5" on the Enneagram, Rebekah couldn't pass up this chance to learn about something new! Rebekah oversees administration for an Edward Jones branch office. Bill manages Creek Enterprise's fleet of vehicles. Bill and Rebekah are grateful to feel right at home in a church within walking and biking distance from their house in the North Village Arts District. Rebekah grew up in Warrenton and attended Lindenwood University. She loves singing in the church choir, sharing books in her Little Lending Library and discovering old gravestones. Two of her sons, Ryan and Logan, live in Warrenton. Bill is a member of the Baptist Church in Marshfield. He loves to shoot pool and tinker with (and drive!) fast cars. His son, Camron, lives in Washington. Bill and Rebekah enjoy volunteering for Boonslick Kiwanis, and share a love of travel.



Jess Wolfe joined First Baptist Sunday, May 27 at the Traditional Service. Jess is originally from Duluth, MN and moved to Mid-Missouri in 2011. Jess has many interests including music, gardening, and academic work. It is because of these passions that Jess was drawn to employment as the Director of the Child Development Center, as well as to worship and fellowship at First Baptist Church. Jess began attending the Traditional Service in August and joined the Psalm Players and Chancel Choir mid-winter. Jess' four children: William (11), Ophelia (9.5), Anya (4.5), and Odin (22 mos.) attend nursery care, Sunday School, and church services regularly each week. Jess' family currently resides in Glasgow, MO, but is looking forward to moving to Columbia once their house is sold.

Angel Kenison-Scott joined First Baptist Sunday, May 27 at the Awakening Service. Angel and Russ Scott met in college at a theater rally in 2000; they married 5 years later and moved to Columbia in 2007. They started attending First Baptist in October 2017 on the recommendation of two close friends, Kimberly Moeller and Ashley Evans, and find joy in both the Awakening and Traditional worship services. They have a wonderful energetic 4-year-old son, Emerson, who is the sunshine of their lives. Angel has a Master's degree in Library Science with a specification in Juvenile & Young Adult (YA) Literature. One of her passions is connecting young readers with books. She is an avid reader along with Emerson, who also adores books, superheroes, trains, marble racers and the outdoors. Angel is a taxonomist for MBS Textbook Exchange LLC; Russ works at MBS in Independent Contracts. Russ is an active member of Columbia's community theater scene where Angel makes occasional guest appearances. Angel loves writing and is a member of the Love in the Time of YA Books book club where she first became friends with Kimberly and Ashley.





First Baptist Men Gathering This Summer

First Baptist is looking to revive an old tradition. In 1928, our church began a men's gathering as a way for the men in the church to better get to know one another. The fellowship centered around a meal together and various different programs and activities. The intent, as Howard B. Lang would later write, was to, "promote a more friendly fellowship among the men of the church and keep informed of ways they can assist in promoting activities and programs." This summer, First Baptist is offering a reboot of this time-honored tradition through July as a way to bring people together from different services to learn more about each other, our church, and our Creator. All men are welcome and encouraged to attend. See the schedule provided below.

June 10: We want to encourage all of our men to bring a dish or dessert to sale for the Pepto Bismol Bake Off at the church picnic. Items will be auctioned off to raise money for the Civil Rights Pilgrimage set for this fall.

June 19, 7:00-8:00 am: We will meet for breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. We will hear a report about the Pepto-Bismol Bake Sale, have a time of prayer for our church and each other, hear some words of encouragement, and, of course, enjoy some good food and fellowship.

July 3, 11:45am-1:00 pm: Lunch will be at Shiloh (402 E Broadway)! Drop by and join us.

July 17, 7:00-8:00 am: Gather for breakfast as we commune around the tables, talk about possible interests for the group, pray for the needs of our church, and even try our hand at singing a tune. It promises to be a memorable morning.

July 31, 11:45 am-1:00 pm: Our last stop for July is at G & D Pizzeria (2101 W Broadway). We hope you will make an effort to come by and check in as we look towards fall and a new semester (or more importantly, and new football season!)

Your Diaconate at Work

Do you ever wonder what happens to the flowers given to beautify our worship space? As deacons (members of the diaconate team), Ed and Betty Felts take small bouquets made from the original arrangement to various homebound or in-hospital members as they visit. Our deacons also send birthday cards, recruit scripture readers for worship, prepare Communion, provide ushers and support personnel for funerals held at the church, help recognize special events such as the arrival of a child, and perform various duties to help orient newcomers to the church. By the way, if you wish to keep the flowers you gave for Sunday, you are welcome to take them with you after worship.



The Next Few Sundays

June 10

- Preaching - Brittany McDonald Null, Pastoral Resident
- Small Group Discussion - Brian Ford on "The Theology of Neighbor"

June 17

- Preaching - Nick Foster, Executive Director of the Voluntary Action Center
- Small Group Discussion - Brian Ford on the Separation of Church and State

The Child Development Center Preschool is now enrolling for 2018-2019 school year. We welcome children ages 2 through 5. CDC hours are 7:15-5:30 Monday-Friday. For more information contact Jess at 573-443-7677 or cdcdirector@fbc-columbia.org.



Child Development Center
at First Baptist Church Est. 1969



Summer and Sabbath



Finding time for Sabbath Rest

This summer, while our Pastor Carol McEntyre is away on Sabbatical, she is encouraging the whole First Baptist family to find time for Sabbath rest.

“Sabbath requires surrender. If we only stop when we are finished with all our work, we will never stop, because our work is never completely done. With every accomplishment there arises a new responsibility... Sabbath dissolves the artificial urgency of our days, because it liberates us from the need to be finished.”

— From Wayne Muller’s book *Sabbath*

Sabbath Attire

This summer, we invite you to wear your new First Baptist T-Shirt and send a digital photo of a place or experience that says “Sabbath” to you. Photos could be from a vacation you take to a restful place, but if you are not traveling, then what about a enjoying sunset in your backyard, a napping toddler, a meal on the patio, or picking the tomatoes in your garden? Pastoral Resident Brittany McDonald Null gives a wonderful example. Post your photos on the First Baptist Facebook page, or send your summer Sabbath picture to Administrative Assistant Brenda Rice at brice@fbc-columbia.org.



Prayers and Concerns

Prayers for Melinda Adams and son Emmett Frederick, as they travel to Florida this week for Emmett’s gender confirmation surgery, which takes place on Thursday.

Diana Groshong, who is recovering from shoulder surgery.

Barbara Miller on the death of her sister, Phyllis Camden; prayers also for Phyllis’ daughters.

Ann Blase, who has an infection in her knee.

Gloria Bradley, long-time First Baptist member, who is in University Hospital.

Sheila Brookes, who is having surgery on June 13.

Trish Blair, who has resumed chemotherapy. Trish’s birthday is coming up on June 19. If you would like to shower her with cards and well wishes you can send them to P.O. Box 1013, Columbia MO 65205.

Barry Kausler, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.

Koge Yasuda, who is in hospice care.

Debby Riley, for strength as she has treatments for cancer.

Celebrations

Congratulations to Tommy Groshong on his graduation from Air Force boot camp in San Antonio. Tommy is the son of Reese and Susan Groshong and the grandson of Kee and Diana Groshong.



First Kids **CAMP** SHIPWRECKED July 30- Aug 3, 2018



Register Your Children Now for First Kids Camp!

First Kids Camp is an all-day camp for 3-year-olds through those entering 6th grade next fall. Details, including cost and a link to sign up, are available on our website, fbc-columbia.org. To help us plan for enough volunteers and supplies, please register by July 15. For questions, or to volunteer, please contact Lillian Hoell at lillian.hoell@gmail.com or Yvette Chambers at chambers@fbc-columbia.org.

Youth Summer Movies



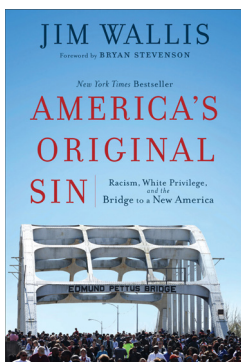
Students are invited to join us at the movies! On June 19 we will see *The Incredibles 2* at 11:45am. On June 26 we will see *Jurassic Park - Fallen Kingdom* (time not yet released but plan on the early showing). Both shows will be at Forum 8 theater. RSVP to mmcentyre@fbc-columbia.org by June 17 for a FREE ticket.

Game Night

Attention all strategy board game lovers: whether you prefer building railroads across America, saving the world from a pandemic, building settlements in *Catan*, or catching werewolves, we've got the event for you! Join us, June 23 from 4-7 pm in the Fellowship Hall, for an evening full of fun and [friendly] competition. Bring your favorite strategy card and board games and a few dollars for pizza! Childcare will be provided. Contact Brittany McDonald Null at bnull@fbc-columbia.org if you have any questions or need childcare.



Critical Conversations in Troubled Times



First Baptist, Second Missionary Baptist, and Broadway Christian Churches are participating in a conversation about racism and how faith communities can help bring about grassroots change. Our June 3 meeting was canceled, so **our next meeting will be Sunday, July 8 at 5 pm at Second Baptist Church**. The book *America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America* by Jim Wallis is the basis for discussion. Feel free to purchase your own copy and join the conversation at any time. The July 8 session will be a discussion of chapters 6-7.

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Michael McEntyre, Associate Pastor

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Brittany McDonald Null, Pastoral Resident

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Yvette Chambers,

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Music Staff:

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Shelby Myers, Awakening Praise Band Director

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Child Development Center:

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Support Staff:

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Brenda Rice, Project Coordinator

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Bethany James, Nursery Director

Jason Bell, Custodian

“Return Service Requested”

Annual Church Picnic at the Twin Lakes Pavilion This Sunday, June 10 at 3 pm All are welcome!



All are invited to an afternoon of games, fishing, biking, walking, running and playing, and, of course, the annual egg toss championship competition.

At 4 pm we will enjoy 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

Pepto-Bismol Bake Off to raise money for the Critical Conversation's Civil Rights Pilgrimage

We are asking the men of the church to bring homemade items to auction at the church picnic on June 10th to help raise money for a new ministry opportunity. As a culmination to the Critical Conversations between Second Baptist, Broadway Christian, and First Baptist, those who participated in the conversations will have the opportunity to take part in a Civil Rights Pilgrimage in the fall to several historical sites across the South important to this crucial work. Money raised at the auction will help pay defray the cost of transportation to make this trip more affordable. So fire up your oven and mix up something tasty to put on the auction block for June 10th!