

Widening Our Welcome

Here at First Baptist, for many years, we have welcomed people who are LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) to fully participate in the life of our church. However, the church has never addressed the issue of whether or not our sanctuary can be used for same-gender unions, or if we would consider hiring or ordaining a person who is LGBT. The Church Council feels that it is time to clarify what we mean when we say, "we welcome" people who are LGBT. As a result, the Council has appointed a Shepherding Team, made up of Dave Bennett, Noah Hartsfield, Amanda Stone, Mary Lou Spradling and Khaki Westerfield, to lead the church through the process of widening and clarifying our welcome statement. The Shepherding Team has put together a series of theological and scholarly based lectures and discussions that will begin in August.

Sunday, September 6 at 10:15 am in the Parlor

Warren Sapp, an American Baptist Pastor and counselor, will be with us to talk about his experience of caring for LGBT persons in his clinical practice and his interpretation of scripture on the LGBT issue.

Tuesday, September 8 at 5:30 pm, over dinner, in the Fellowship Hall*

We will hear testimonies from First Baptist members, including Sarabeth Rhodes, Anne Bills and Nate Jones, about coming to terms with their sexual orientation and what it has been like to be Christian and gay. Come hear their stories! Please make your dinner reservation (\$5/person) with the church office: 573-442-1149.

Sunday, September 13 at 10:15 am in the Parlor

Dr. Jeanne Hoeft, Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology and Pastoral Care at St. Paul Seminary, will be with us to talk about the difference between sexual orientation and gender identity.

Sunday Mornings September 20- October 11 at 10:15 am in the Parlor

Bob Russell, Khaki Westerfield and Deb Carr will alternate teaching a Bible Study examining Biblical texts through multiple lenses.

Noah Hartsfield will be facilitating an alternative small group class, called, "What Is Jesus?" for those who do not wish to participate in the Widening Our Welcome Sunday morning Bible study.

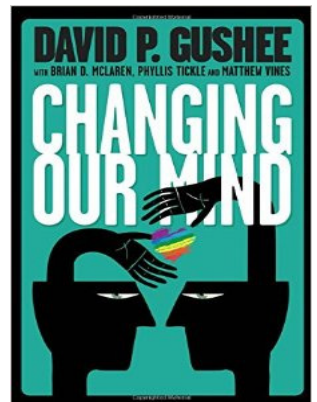
Saturday and Sunday October 17-18: Fall Sheppard Lecture



David Gushee, Professor of Christian Ethics and Director of the Center for Theology and Public Life at Mercer University, will be with us for our Fall Sheppard Lecture. 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.

For any Christian, who has long desired for LGBT Christians to be treated equally and fully included in the community of faith, but has struggled with Christian tradition and the verses of the Bible that mention homosexuality, reading *Changing Our Mind* will be transformative.

Copies are available for purchase for \$18, in the children's building hallway before and after worship on Sunday mornings.



*Child care will be available for the evening events.

Youth



Lots of Fun in the KC sun!

Our new semester is off to a great start. Our new Youth Sunday Morning Small Groups have started (10:15am Sunday mornings).



Our students had a great time at SkyZone and playing Whirlyball to kick off the new school year.

Youth Parent Meeting

Attention all parents of youth. There will be an important meeting for youth parents on Sunday **Sept 13th** at 4:00pm to discuss our Fall plans for Student Ministry, our upcoming Ski Trip, and a mission trip possibility for next summer. Please mark your calendar now to attend.



Our weekly gathering for Middle and High School students will start Sunday **Sept. 13th** at 5:00pm. Each Sunday night our students gather to grow in Christ through community building events, great lessons, and (new for this semester) 9 SQUARE!

College



College Students are Back

Just a reminder to our First Baptist family that with the new semester comes the opportunity to connect with new students. I want to encourage all of you to be aware of guests and visitors joining us for worship over the next few months. Take time to introduce yourself and those around you. If you can, invite students to join you for lunch. There will be flyers with upcoming events for college and young adults in both areas of worship, be sure our guests know about our activities. If possible, try and connect our college guests to one of our current students or myself. Lastly, if you have a great conversation with a student, be sure to send me an email at mmcentyre@fbc-columbia.org and let me know so I can be sure to follow up that week. The most recent studies available show that college students need places where adults care for and connect with them. I hope you will join me in making First Baptist a home away from home.

Thanks,

Michael McIntyre

Upcoming College and Young Adult Events:

- Progressive Dinner Dessert and Laser Tag Night- Sept 12th 7:30-9:45pm. Come grab dessert as we host the BSU Progressive dinner and stay for a night of Laser Tag on the top two floors.
- Coffee and Waffles (our Sunday night Bible Study for College and young Adults) kicks off at 8:00pm on Sept 13th. Each week we meet on the 3rd floor to learn, laugh, and grow together in our faith. Our focus for the fall will be on The Words in Red, exploring the teachings of Jesus.
- Night Under the Stars Sept 27-28th. College students are encouraged to volunteer to help lead this challenging weekend for students on understanding poverty and homelessness in our community.
- The Fall Lecture Series with David Gushee Oct 17-18th. This event is a great way for college students to learn how to engage difficult topics of faith.
- The Afternoon at the Bay Farm on Oct 25th is a great way for students to get to know our church community, have fun, and eat a great meal!
- First Baptist Tailgate Party November 21st. Come on by and show your Mizzou pride as the Volunteers from Tennessee are in town trying not to lose to MU...again.