



FIRST MEMPHIS

A Different Way to be Baptist

200 E. Parkway N.
Memphis, TN 38112-5414
901-454-1131
www.fbcmemphis.org

REMINDERS

Sunday, March 3, 9 am

Join us in the Welcome Center for our monthly First Cup gathering.

Wednesday, March 6, 6:15 pm, Ash Wednesday Service

Our Lenten Journey begins with Ash Wednesday, join us in the Chapel for this meaningful service.

Saturday, March 9, 12-2 pm

Bring a picnic lunch and join us for a Family Play Day at the Fourth Bluff Park.

Stewardship Sunday will be March 31. Learn more about the 2019 Stewardship Campaign on page 2.

The **Calvary Lenten Preaching Series** begins March 7. Learn more on page 2.

Our Youth head to Alabama at the end of the month for a **Spring Retreat**. Learn more on page 4.

Together

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March 2019

God's Love is Consistent, Even in Change

CLAY WILSON, CHAIR, DEACONS

It has been said that the only two things in life that are certain are death and taxes—a fairly cynical, if not downright depressing, observation.

I would propose, however, that there is another constant in life: change.

I'm pretty sure this is not an original observation. In the early 1980s song "Tom Sawyer" (not necessarily the best source of theological insight, I know, but...) the main character "knows changes aren't permanent/ but change is."

As I noted in a piece I wrote for the January "Together," First Memphis has seen its share of change recently. That being said, the church's lay leadership and administrative staff have been working hard to help maintain some sense of stability during this time of transition.

Dr. Randy Hyde has been ably filling our pulpit and is committed to doing so in the near-term. In upcoming weeks, there are plans to have guest preachers from both outside and within our congregation. For the future, the Personnel Committee should soon begin reviewing candidates for the planned Intentional Interim minister.

Dr. David Dennis, a professor of Music at Union University, is serving as our Music Ministry Interim. He is rehearsing with the choir on Wednesday nights, and leading them and the congregation in Sunday morning worship services.

And, of course, our own Holly Hatton is serving as our Interim Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator. Holly has been giving the Children's Sermon on Sunday mornings, helping to coordinate Sunday School and Missions, leading the Youth in

Bible Study on Sunday evenings, and even preparing for Passport Camps in June.

Our Deacons have been continuing their ministry of reaching out to the church's shut-in members, and Deacon volunteers have stepped up to conduct hospital and prospect visits and assist in planning worship.

And of course, our Sunday School teachers and nursery workers continue to be faithful week in and week out, helping to provide the consistency that has allowed this Congregation to continue for nearly 180 years now.

Undergirding this consistency, though, is another, greater Faithfulness. I would propose that, in addition to the two I mentioned at the beginning of this article, there is one more certainty in life: the Love of God.

A quick online search for the term "unfailing love" reveals 40 instances in the Bible, nearly all of them in Psalms. While some translations render it "mercy" or "loving kindness," the New International

Continued on page 6

LENT

Ash Wednesday Service

MARCH 6, 6:15 PM, CHAPEL

Join us for our Ash Wednesday Service, Wednesday, March 6 at 6:15 pm in the Chapel.



LENT

Calvary Lenten Preaching Series

TUESDAY-FRIDAYS IN LENT

Our community enjoys a wonderful opportunity each year during Lent to worship together and hear some of the country's finest preachers at Calvary Episcopal Church, Tuesday-Friday at noon, March 7-April 12.

This year's series will see the return of favorites such as **Rabbi Micah Greenstein** and **Daniel Matthews**. Other speakers include **Dr. Brian McLaren**, and **Rev. Dorothy Wells**.

Weekly speakers will be listed in our Worship Guide. Details are also available on the Calvary website: www.calvarymemphis.org/learn/lenten-preaching-series/.

And, of course, enjoy lunch before or after the service at the Waffle Shop.

MEMORIALS

In memory of **Frances Walker** by

Charles & Margaret Hubbert

Mark & Sally Smith

In memory of **Eva Green** by

Ms. Carole Jackson

In memory of **Ernie Elder** by

Dr. & Mrs. John McCall, III

In memory of **Helen Joy Hansard** by

Dr. & Mrs. John McCall, III

STEWARDSHIP

2019 Stewardship Campaign

MARCH 31

Our 2019 Stewardship Campaign will be held in March and culminate with Stewardship Sunday on March 31. A congregational lunch will be held in Fellowship Hall following worship.

A letter about Stewardship from the Finance Committee, along with pledge cards for the 2019 Stewardship Campaign, will be mailed March 18. You can also pick up a card in the Welcome Center prior to Stewardship Sunday. You may also set up your pledge online.

Please prayerfully consider your financial support for this year. A stewardship update will be given in morning worship on March 24, highlighting the impact your stewardship has on the life of the church.

You can bring your pledge card forward in worship March 31. Also, the model church will be in the Welcome Center on March 24 if you wish to bring your card on that date. You are welcome to mail your card to the church at any time.

INTERIM

A Note from Dr. Randy Hyde

SUPPLY PASTOR

As I write this column, I have been with you three Sundays. Janet and I want to express our deep gratitude for the gracious way you have received us into your church family.

We have been hosted by the Richardsons (two generations!) and Ann Powell, who have made us feel at home and have even very kindly tolerated our old war stories as we sat around the table. We look forward to the weeks ahead as we get to know you better and share church life together.

I've included my sermon schedule for the times we will be with you still. It is my understanding that on three Sundays the pulpit will be

filled by church members and a guest preacher. I am confident you will be in attendance and give them your full attention, as you have me. You are indeed a gracious church family.

March 3: Transfiguration Sunday

Lord's Supper Meditation: "On Keeping It to Yourself," Luke 9:28-36

Lent

March 6: Ash Wednesday

"Sanctuary," Psalm 51

March 17: Second Sunday in Lent

"Ain't Nobody Got Time For That," Luke 13:31-35

March 24: Third Sunday in Lent

"What Does Repentance Have to Do

With It?" Luke 13:1-9

March 31: Fourth Sunday in Lent,

Stewardship Sunday "Stewardship and Trust," Matthew 25:16-30

April 7: Fifth Sunday in Lent

Lord's Supper Meditation: "Mary, Did You Know?" John 12:1-8

Holy Week and Easter

April 14: Palm Sunday

"The Lord Needs It," Luke 19:28-40

April 21: Easter Sunday "But..."

Luke 24:1-12

April 28: Second Sunday in

Easteride "On Being Converted All Over Again," John 20:19-31

CHURCH

Office Schedule

CHANGES TO FRONT DESK SCHEDULE

Our new camera/door system is in place, allowing our office staff to monitor the door from their offices.

We are grateful for the faithful dedication of our volunteer receptionists for the last seven years.

Beginning in March, we will be using our volunteers at the front desk for more specific needs, by focusing on morning shifts, staff vacations, and special events.

We ask all of our church

members to call ahead when making appointments to come to the church, and, when possible, to schedule these meetings prior to 2 pm daily, Monday-Thursday.

Please note that the church office is closed on Fridays.

Thank you for working with us as we adapt to our new office routine.

MISSIONS

Missions Moment

STILLWELL IN SOUTH AFRICA

As many of you know, our former associate pastor, Brittany Stillwell, has begun her new ministry with Door of Hope in South Africa.

During her tenure for the next few months, she will be pastoring the staff and spreading stories about the difficult, loving work of caring for abandoned babies.

While she is halfway around the world, she is still in our thoughts and carries us with her in her travels.

For more on Brittany's adventures, learning a new "language", driving on the wrong side of the road, and trying to grocery shop, follow her [blog](#).

YOUTH

Spring Retreat

MARCH 29-31

Alabama Adventure: Youth Spring Retreat Friday, March 29 through Sunday, March 31.

We will leave the FBC parking lot on Friday at 4 pm, and return Sunday at 4 pm.

The Malone family has generously offered us the use of their home in Houston, Alabama.

We are looking forward to time spent in fellowship and



reflection on Smith Lake, and in Bankhead National Forest.

The cost for the retreat is \$25. The deadline to sign up is Sunday, March 3. Contact Holly Hatton with any questions.

FAMILIES

Family Play Day

MARCH 9, 12-2 PM, FOURTH BLUFF PARK

Join us Down By the Riverside.

FBC families are invited to a Family Play Day Saturday, March 9, from noon-2 pm, at Fourth Bluff Mississippi River Park.

Bring a picnic* and a kite for some family fun down by the riverside.

*Check their Facebook page for available [food truck options](#).

CHILDREN

Children's Missions

MARCH 24, 4-5 PM

Due to Spring Break, Children's Missions will only meet once this month, on March 24.

Come join us as we learn about CBF Field Personnel and the communities and cultures that they love, and as we discover fun and creative ways to serve others.

Let [Holly](#) know if you'd like to volunteer to help.

CHILDREN

Children's Missions Art Fundraiser

THANK YOU



generosity is shared with others.

We love you,

FBC Children's Missions Group



Thank you to our Church Family for being enthusiastic patrons of our art!

Our Missions Fundraiser this year made \$796.00!

Our next step is to decide who to give this money to.

We'll take some time learning about our mission partners, and will keep you posted on how your



SENIOR ADULTS

Valentine Visits

WOMEN OF FAITH SS CLASS



The Women of Faith Sunday School Class joined with the Senior Adult Committee to visit some of our homebound members, wishing them a Happy Valentine's Day during the week of February 10.

SENIOR ADULTS

Senior Adult Trip to Calvary Lenten Preaching Series

Mark your calendar!

Our Senior Adult Committee has planned a trip for our Senior Adults to go to Calvary Episcopal Church for the lunch at the Waffle Shop.

Following lunch, they'll attend the April 11 Lenten Preaching Series featuring poet, Marie Howe of Columbia, Sarah Lawrence and New York Universities.

More information will be available in March.

MISSIONS PARTNERS

Family Promise Need

DONATIONS TO HELP REPLACE BEDS



Family Promise of Memphis, a local Missions Partner that's housed in First Baptist Church is in need of donations for new beds.

FPOM recently purchased a new trailer that contains 15 beds that are moved between different hosting congregations.

The trailer and beds were stolen in February. Insurance will cover the cost of the trailer, but

not the beds.

FPOM is raising funds to replace these beds. The cost per bed is \$300. These beds are a vital aspect of FPOM mission to continue to provide a safe haven to families experiencing the crisis of being homeless while they work to achieve sustainable independence.

If you can help, or would like more information, contact [Tommy Westbrook](#), director of FPOM.

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a different way to be Baptist

God's Love is Consistent, Continued from page 1

Version uses “unfailing love.”

Not being a Hebrew scholar, I can't vouch for the accuracy of this translation but it certainly fits as a trait of God revealed in the rest of Scripture. And I think it certainly applies to our church's current situation.

No matter the changes that come along, we, as the members of this body, are held in the unfailing love of God. The Apostle Paul stated it even more explicitly: “For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 8:38-39, NKJV).

God's Love is more certain than taxes; it is more certain, even, than death. And a love that constant can surely see us—and this Church—through life's other certainties of change.

GIVING

Giving Options Available

CONTACT FINANCE OFFICE FOR DETAILS

FBC has several giving options available to you!

You can have automatic recurring offering withdrawals set up from either your bank account or credit card.

Do you have trouble remembering your checkbook on Sundays? Don't write checks anymore, but want to give an offering to FBC? Have you been wanting to charge your offering to your credit card?

Recurring payments can be set up weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually.

We can help! Contact Lisa in the finance office (454-1131 or lbutts@fbcmemphis.org), and she'll explain the process and help you get started.