BAPTISTS & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN AMERICA
Pastor Julie

JUSTICE & JOY YOUTH CHOIR CONCERT
Sunday, July 9

STORIES OF HOSPITALITY
Doug Duvall

PASSPORT MissionBASE BEGINS
Serving D.C.

PREACHERS IN JULY
Sunday, July 2, 16, 23

NEW SoF EVENTS
Make Friends
Q: Name the place where the following law was enforced: those not attending religious services twice daily were subject to whippings and imprisonment.
A: Jamestown—the first permanent English settlement in the Americas, in the colony of Virginia, where the Church of England was the established official state church.

Q: Name the place where this practice was enforced: only church members were eligible to vote in public elections. Those who did not belong to the Church were not citizens, only inhabitants. In this place some dissenters were hanged.
A: Massachusetts Bay Colony, 17th century America.

Q: Where did the following take place? In 1651 three Baptists—John Clarke, John Crandall and Obadiah Holmes—were arrested. The charge: conducting an unlawful worship service. They were placed in prison and were fined, with the provision that if the fines were not paid, they would be publicly whipped. Two were freed when friends paid their bail without their knowledge, but Obadiah Holmes was given 30 lashes with a 3-corded whip, the same sentence given to violent criminals.
A: Boston, Massachusetts

America finally won our independence from England. But the Constitution that was approved in September of 1787 included no guarantee of religious freedom. It was the Baptists, inspired by the Scriptures, who lobbied government leaders like James Madison and Thomas Jefferson to add a Bill of Rights. It was largely because of the influence of Virginia Baptist preacher John Leland that James Madison pressed for the First Amendment to the Constitution, forbidding the government to make any law “respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.”

Baptists are known for a lot of things in America, some of them rather embarrassing. But one piece of our Baptist identity we can be proud of is our unwavering insistence upon religious liberty for all people.

Methodist historian Frank Mead paid Baptists this compliment: “They are God’s patriots—putting allegiance to Him always above allegiance to Caesar. Freedom of conscience and complete divorce of Church and State! How they have suffered for that! They have faced mockery and mud, fines, whippings and iron bars; they have been burned at the stake and pulled on the rack, but they have held to it.” (Frank S. Mead, See These Banners Go (New York: The Bobs-Merrill Company, 1936), 97)

So as you watch fireworks light up the sky next Tuesday night, let yourself breathe a prayer of gratitude to God for this brave, steadfast, insightful tribe to which we belong.

Peace and grace,

Julee
PREACHERS IN July

**JULY 2ND**

**ALYSSA ALDAPE**
Associate Pastor for Young Adult and Youth Ministries
Pastor Julie attending the biennial gathering of American Baptists/USA

**JULY 9TH**

**PASTOR JULIE**

**JULY 16TH**

**AMANDA TYLER**
Executive Director, Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty (and a member of the FBC family!)
Pastor Julie on retreat with the Shalem Institute (see article on page 4)

**JULY 23RD**

**CHARLIE FULLER**
Executive Pastor
Pastor Julie on vacation

**JULY 30TH**

**PASTOR JULIE**
JUSTICE & JOY - VISITING YOUTH CHOIR SINGS SUNDAY, JULY 9

Sunday, July 9 the Youth Choirs from Smoke Rise Baptist Church and First Baptist Church Chattanooga bring their Justice & Joy tour to FBC Washington D.C..

PASTOR TO PARTICIPATE IN 18-MONTH SHALEM PROGRAM

Pastor Julie has been accepted into the 18-month Clergy Spiritual Life and Leadership Program, offered by the Shalem Institute in Washington. The program includes two week-long residencies at Bon Secours Spiritual Center in Ellicott City, MD. The first residency takes place July 11-18, 2017; the second takes place in August of 2018. This ecumenical program offers a dedicated time for nurturing one’s own soul and for deepening one’s contemplative orientation as a congregational spiritual leader. Julie’s academic and practical work in this program will be undergirded by the ongoing work she is doing with her spiritual director. She also will enlist the help of a lay listening group made up of individuals in the First Baptist family.

SHEDDING THE ROBES (FOR A LITTLE WHILE)

The air conditioning in our sanctuary, while functional, is not operating at full capacity (temporarily). During these hot weeks of summer, while we are addressing our A/C issue, the choir and worship leaders will not robe for worship.

Youth and Chaperones from King’s Cross Church, Tullahoma, TN joined us for worship last Sunday. They loved the organ and Lon’s demonstration! What a great way to lean into our year of hospitality at First Baptist DC! Pray for this group of 40 as they serve in DC with Passport MissionBASE.
STORIES OF HOSPITALITY: DOUG DUVALL

In my mind, First Baptist has always been synonymous with hospitality. I remember my first visit, early in 2000. I had all the jitters any first-time visitor has when checking out a new church. I had barely peeked inside our front entrance when I met Dan Olander, who graciously escorted me to a Sunday School class he knew I’d enjoy. That was the beginning of my long association with the church I now call home.

Long before I made the decision to join FBC, I was a faithful devotee of Paul Nelson’s Couples class. Paul often sent me handwritten notes of encouragement, thanking me for participating. For this relatively new visitor, it was heartwarming to receive these notes, and it showed me this is a church full of love and care. When I became a member in 2004, Rod Coates and Mary Pawlowski helped me get acclimated in my new church family. Both of them provided much encouragement and friendship in my early years and continue to do so. And Adrian Harward has always been my church “mom” and a constant source of strength and wisdom. So you see, if it wasn’t for the hospitality, encouragement, and love of many special folks here at First Baptist, I might still be searching for a church home!

DEEPEN YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF MINISTRY THROUGH EfM

Informational Meeting Sunday, July 9

EfM (Education for Ministry) is a lay theological education program offered at First Baptist. Weekly seminars meet from September to June. Through academic study, theological reflection and worship, participants grow theologically and learn what it means to be effective ministers in the world. An annual fee covers materials and administration. All are welcome to attend an informational meeting held on July 9th in the Meadows Room, immediately following worship.

Questions? Contact Ellen Parkhurst, 703-683-1273; elparkhurst@verizon.net.

DON’T LEAVE VALUABLES IN SIGHT

Several cars have been broken into in the vicinity of our church lately. Just a friendly reminder: never leave valuables in plain sight when parking your car on the street, or even in our breezeway.
Make New Friends at FBC this Summer!
Once again this summer, the Christian Ed. Committee is organizing opportunities for connecting with one another (while having fun!). Everyone is welcome to all events.

Host the Fun
Would you like to host something during the Summer of Fun? Contact Lucy Plovnick, at lhp@msk.com.

Sunday, July 9, 5:30-8:45pm
Basilica Organ Concert & Dinner in Brookland

Friday, July 21, 6pm
Dinner & The Capitol Steps

Saturday, August 5, 6pm
Game Night in Columbia Heights

Saturday, August 12, 6pm
Wine & Cheese on the Rooftop

Sunday, September 17, 1:35pm
Washington Nationals vs. L. A. Dodgers @ Nats Park

2017: WILDGOOSE!
Wildgoose is an annual gathering where persons of faith meet in nature and connect with friends new and old. Pastor Alyssa along with other faith leaders will host sessions at Lead Now for first call ministers on topics such as self-care, social justice, advocacy, and other topics key to doing ministry well. Pray for Alyssa and the other leaders as they prepare for this intentional time of mentoring and formation. Pray they also don’t encounter any bears!
DEACON ORDINATION
FBC PRAYER & CARE

- Kevin Austin (Denny’s younger brother)
- Mary Lou & Ed Fry
- Kaye Shelnutt (mother of Alexandria Lovelace)
- Herb Plovnick (Robert’s father)

NO ORDINARY TIME THIS WEEK

We will not meet for Ordinary Time on June 29th. Alyssa is in Atlanta for a conference.

DEACONS ON-CALL

WEEK OF JULY 2:

Kathy Whatley

WEEK OF JULY 9:

Erik Smith

The on-call deacon is your lay contact for prayer concerns during their week of service.

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