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"Return Service Requested"



## Visioning Update Inside



November 7, 2018

## the SPIRE

### In This Issue:

- Pledge Sunday
- Report on Church-wide Visioning work
- Resident's Corner
- Advent Announcement
- Quarterly Financial Update
- Inclement Weather Policy
- Webcast Update
- ABC Missions Report
- VAC Family Christmas
- CDC T-shirts for sale

November 7, 2018

# the SPIRE



**First Baptist Church**  
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## Annual Pledge Walk November 18 and 25

As we look to our annual Giving Season and ask our members to consider pledging support of the church in 2019, I am grateful for the work of our Visioning Team and our church over the past few weeks. When I think about why I give to First Baptist, the thoughts and dreams shared around the tables remind me of the deep gratitude I have for all God has given me, and for the work that we do, and will continue to do, together. As you (and your family) reflect on supporting our church financially this year, I invite you to consider what you are grateful for at First Baptist. For me, I'm thankful that I continually experience meaningful and creative worship here. I appreciate the opportunities to live in authentic community while growing in my faith with other Christlike people. I am proud of the open-mindedness and deep care for all people celebrated in our church family. I believe First Baptist is the best place for my family to grow into Christlike people in authentic community. For all of these reasons, I expect my giving toward First Baptist to increase. Life feels 'Better, Richer, Truer' and for that joy, I want to gratefully respond!

Hopefully you received a commitment card and letter in the mail recently asking you to think about how you will give financially to God through First Baptist in 2019. These pledge cards are important because they help us to plan for the dreams and visions we have discussed for our future. We are asking our First Baptist family to fill out and turn in these cards during our worship services on November 18 and 25. Your commitment will help provide for the life and ministry of our First Baptist family. Please prayerfully consider how you can help make 2019 an outstanding year.

Respectfully,

Stephen Hoell, Finance Committee Chair



My/Our good faith  
estimate of giving for  
2019 is:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per week, or  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month, or  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per year.

*Giving can be automatically deducted from your checking account (monthly only), simply by attaching a voided check from that account with the monthly amount indicated.*

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Apt. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

*We appreciate your generosity.  
This commitment may be revised  
or canceled at any time.*

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## A Beautiful time of Visioning: Next Steps

In worship, when I invite you to pass the peace of Christ you do so enthusiastically, greeting each other and chatting even when it is time to sing the next hymn or praise song. I chuckle that it always takes several attempts to get you to go back to your seats. The two visioning weekends that we just held felt a little like the passing the peace. I loved hearing the laughter and conversation that was happening around the tables. It was indeed good to be together and hard to get you all to move on to the next question. I was pleased with the enthusiasm and the wide range of people who participated. But I know you are wondering, what happens now?

The goal of the visioning process is to help us focus our intentions as we seek to be Christ-like disciples, in authentic community, for the good of the world. It is a chance to think about how we, as First Baptist, use our voice, our energy, and our money to share the inclusive, transforming love of God in the next few years to come.

Throughout the two visioning weekends, we were collecting information and feedback from you. Now, we have a mound of data to sift through. The Visioning Team which is made up of John Adams, Oleta Forsee, Sandy Hall, Noah Hartsfield, Stephen Hoell, Ross Kasmann, and Kim Siegenthaler will begin organizing all the information that we collected and sifting through it looking for themes, ministries or needs that were mentioned repeatedly, unexpected



*Great conversations about our bright future*



*Lots of thoughts about our current ministry endeavors*

opportunities and values that emerge. After we compile a list of these focus areas, we will come back to the church for future input. We hope to gather the congregation again in early 2019 to discuss our findings. Thank you for your participation and excitement about our church!



*An Asset Mapping exercise leads to lots of new and interesting ideas*

*Carl McEntyre*



## Contemplative Advent Small Group

Most days, I feel more like a human “doing” than a human being. Constantly consumed with my to-do lists, tasks to accomplish, and gold stars to earn, I often reach the end of the day and wonder where the time went. This drive, in and of itself isn't a bad thing. I love making to-do lists and I love the feeling of a job well done. But, if I'm not careful, I will buy in to the message that I am what I do.

Because of this, I have leaned into spiritual practices that push against my desire to be a human doing and challenge me to be a human being. I have found that centering prayer and mindfulness practices are essential to my spiritual wellbeing. Sitting in stillness and doing nothing, even if just for a few moments, brings me back into the present moment and away from planning and accomplishing. These spiritual practices remind me that I am more than what I do.

In the past, the season leading up to Christmas is often when I fall the hardest into doing-mode. Perhaps it is my final push to reach my end of the year goals or maybe it is the consumer-driven culture that is in overdrive leading up to Christmas. But, whatever the cause, the month of December often feels frantic. There are, of course, gifts to be bought, trips to be planned, parties to attend, and on and on it goes. Before I know it, I look up and think “Wow! How did I miss it again?” It is normal for me to get consumed with all the to-do lists and holiday preparations, and I don't think I am alone in this.

This is why I love the season of Advent, which is by far my favorite holy season of the church calendar. I love getting to light candles and intentionally focus on the themes of hope, peace, joy, and love. Advent calls us to something different, something slower. Advent reminds us that we are more than human doings; we are human beings.

This Advent, I will be leading a contemplative small group during the 10:15am Spiritual Formation hour. During the small group, we will engage in the spiritual practices of Lectio Divina and centering prayer and have conversations about contemplative living. I am excited to wait in silence and in anticipation with you. For questions regarding this small group offering or to sign up email me at [bnull@fbc-columbia.org](mailto:bnull@fbc-columbia.org).

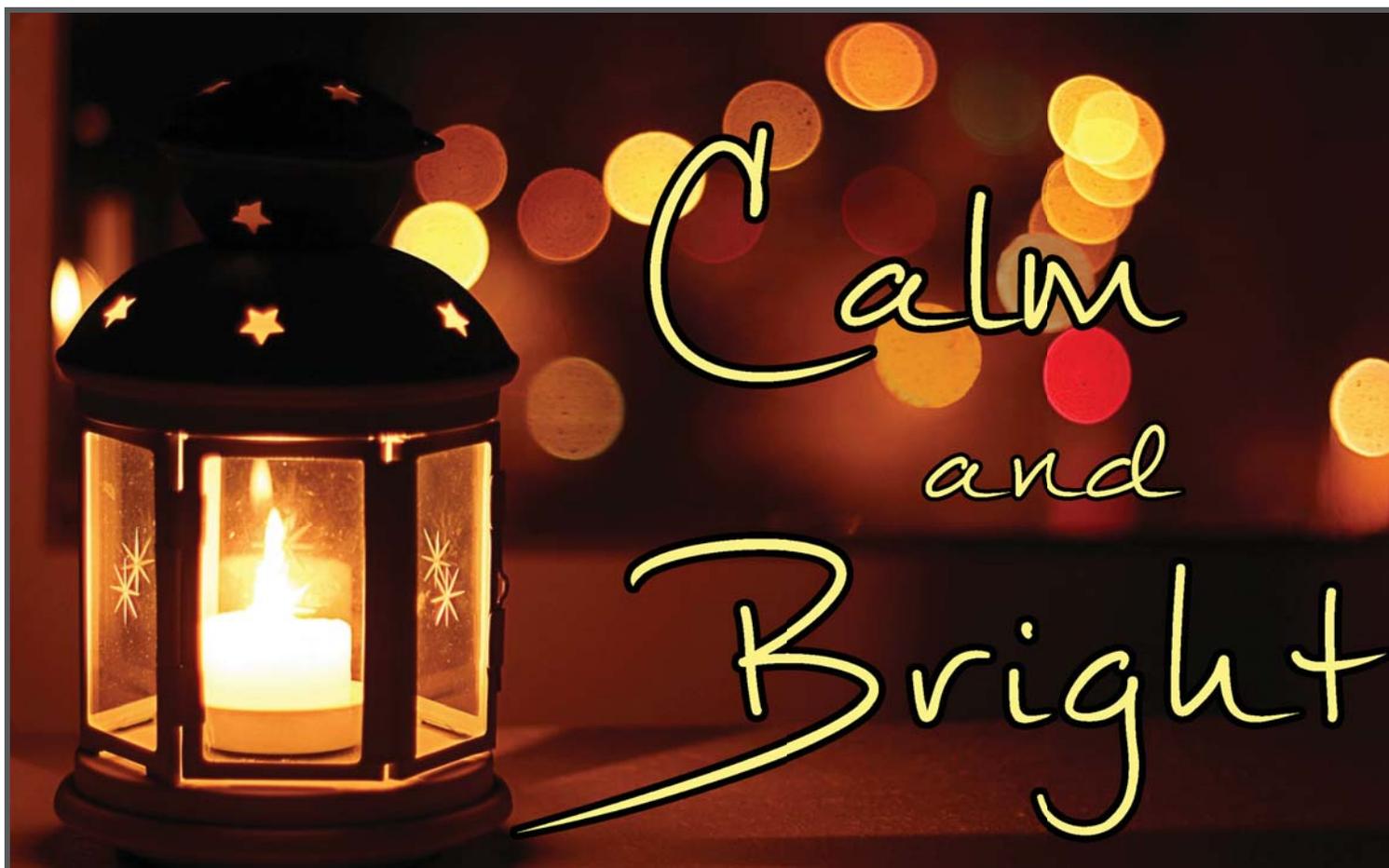
*Brittany McDonald-Null*



## Civil Rights Pilgrimage November 9-13

Twenty-seven people from five congregations will be taking part in the Civil Rights Pilgrimage on November 9-13. 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. Senior Pastor Carol McEntyre, Pastoral Resident Brittany McDonald Null and several other First Baptist folks are participating in the trip! The pilgrims will be visiting significant civil rights sites including the National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, TN, Rosa Parks Museum and the National Monument for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, AL, and attend worship at Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, AL. Please keep this group in your prayers as they travel this week.





## Announcing our Advent Theme for 2018- Calm and Bright

Something holy takes place each Christmas Eve at First Baptist when we gather at 11:00pm for worship. For our final act of worship, we surround the sanctuary with candlelight and sing together the beautiful carol, "Silent Night." This year marks the 200th anniversary of the writing of this carol, and in commemoration, we have designed our Advent them around the words, "Calm and Bright."

In our Advent worship we will explore the implications of a world that finds peace in Christ and of a world that radiates the light of Christ's presence. Join us as we await the coming of Christ's light and the dawn of redeeming grace.



## Preparing for the Season

November 25- Following each worship service we will set up the Christmas Trees in each worship space.

November 26- Decorating Party begins at 6:00pm in the Sanctuary. Join us to help prepare for Hanging of the Green.

November 27- Decorating Party follow-up beginning at 9:00am in the Sanctuary. Join us to help prepare for Hanging of the Green.



## Advent Highlights

December 2 - Hanging of the Green- During our worship services, all First Baptist members and friends will have the opportunity to help decorate our church for the month of Advent

December 2, 9, 16, and 23- Contemplative Advent Small Group meets at 10:15am for conversations about contemplative living

December 24 - Christmas Eve Worship 11:00pm- Candlelight, communion, and "Silent Night." An annual homecoming favorite



## Parties

December 9- College and Young Adult Christmas Party 5:30pm at the McEntyre's home

December 16 - Annual Christmas Dinner 5:00pm-Good food, good fellowship and great joy! Come dressed in your favorite or ugliest Christmas outfit

December 19- Youth Christmas Party 6:00pm at the McEntyre's home



## Holiday Concerts at First Baptist

*(times and program information to follow in the next Spire)*

December 2 - Columbia Youth Chorus

December 7 - Odyssey Chamber Music Series

December 8 - Columbia Civic Orchestra

December 9 - Columbia Handbell Ensemble and the Columbia Youth Chorus

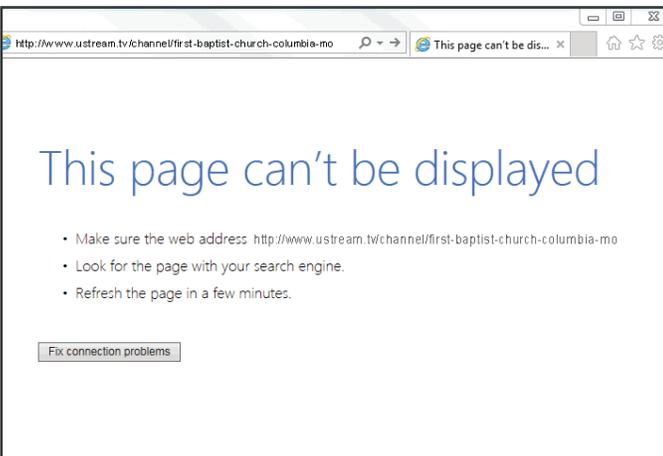




## Quarterly Financial Update

As we look forward at the future of First Baptist, it is important to think about how we will continue to provide the tools and resources needed to accomplish the opportunities before us. Your gifts help fund our mission's efforts, church ministries, staff salaries, and our beautiful facilities. Through the end of September, we have received about \$247,000 in pledged and unpledged gifts (we budgeted to be at \$273,000). While our pledged giving is on target for the year, our unpledged gifts have fallen behind what was expected, leaving a larger deficit to reach our budget goal of \$364,200 for 2018. On top of this, the church has incurred some unbudgeted financial responsibilities due to changes in tax liabilities and budgeting that have added around \$23,000 to our projected expenses. We are still hopeful to reach our goals between now and the end of the year, but we need your help. Maybe you are able to increase or catch up on your pledge. Maybe you didn't pledge last year but are able to give a little more to help with these needs. Your gifts, prayers, and support are greatly appreciated. As we continue to realize the amazing ministry opportunities, we have discussed in our Visioning process, please consider what you can give now to ensure a continued bright future for First Baptist. Thank you,

Nick Kieffer, Church Treasurer



## Traditional Service Webcast to Return November 18

A few weeks ago, First Baptist suffered electrical damage from storms that affected several areas of our operation. The unit that allows us to broadcast the Traditional service over the Internet failed. The device has been sent for repair, and should be returned to us by November 13. Unfortunately we will not be able to webcast the Traditional Service on Sunday Nov 11. To our members who join us each week online, the Awakening Service will be broadcast live at 9:15am on Sunday and the recording will be available to watch anytime after the service. Thank you for your patience.



## Office Closed

Please note that the church office will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 22 and 23, to observe the Thanksgiving holiday.



## Winter Weather Cancellation Policy

Should snow, ice, or other inclement weather fall on the weekend, Sunday morning Awakening Worship and Small Groups will be canceled; we will join together in one combined 11:15am worship service. On the weekdays, our policy is to cancel all events if Columbia Public Schools are canceled. Notification will be made on the church facebook page or at these local media stations: KFRU (1400 AM), KPLA (101.5 FM), Zimmer Radio Groups, KOMUTV8, and KMIZ-TV17. We will be listed as First Baptist Church-Columbia.



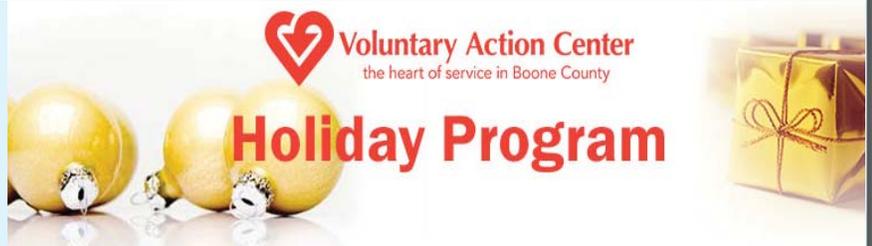
## \$2,027 for Hurricane Relief from First Baptist

Thank you to everyone who gave to help those who have suffered greatly in light of the damage done by recent hurricanes. We raised over \$2,000 to give to the American Baptist "One Great Hour of Sharing" offering. One Great Hour of Sharing is administered by the World Relief Committee of the Board of General Ministries of American Baptist Churches USA and includes all ABC disaster relief work. One hundred percent of donations to One Great Hour of Sharing go towards relief efforts, no dollars are retained for administrative costs. Your generosity will be a tangible and needed example of Christ's love to those who are trying to rebuild their lives in the wake of these storms. Thank you for giving.

## VAC Family Christmas

First Baptist is sponsoring 3 families this year through VAC's Holiday Program. Voluntary Action Center (VAC) is a non-profit that exists to help low-income individuals and families bridge the gap

between crisis and stability and improve quality of life in Boone County. Each year VAC coordinates the collection and distribution of food and gifts for approximately 4,000 people during the holiday season. First Baptist is participating once again in this needed ministry. In addition to toys, books, and games, families often receive needed clothing and household supplies through this program. Cards with individual gift requests will be available Sunday November 18 on the bulletin board, in the hallway, outside the Sanctuary. Get involved by choosing an item that you would like to donate, take the card, then return the purchased item to the church by December 9. Items do not need to be wrapped but we do ask that you include the card from the bulletin board with your gift. We will also accept monetary donations to go towards gifts. Simply indicate "VAC Family Christmas" on your check or offering



## Child Development Center Fundraiser

The Child Development Center will not be hosting our annual auction. Instead, help support the Child Development Center through the purchase of a t-shirt. Proceeds will help purchase t-shirts for the children for Christmas and will serve as marketing in the community!

Both adult and youth sizes are \$10 each. T-shirts will be delivered in time for Christmas and to kick off our 50th Year celebration!

To order, please contact Jess Wolfe at [ccddirector@fbc-columbia.org](mailto:ccddirector@fbc-columbia.org)

