

This past Sunday, we celebrated Epiphany, a day for recognizing Christ as the manifestation of God's light and power in the world. Though Christmas is the festival that became more prominent among Western Christians, the festival of Epiphany is actually the more ancient festival. Historically, it was the third most important event in the Christian year, after Easter and Pentecost, addressing the basic human longing for light in the midst of the darkest days of the year. While the Sundays between Epiphany and Ash Wednesday are understood as "ordinary time" and are typically referred to as the Sundays after the Epiphany, many churches and denominations now understand this time as its own season - the season of Epiphany, or "Epiphanytide." At First Baptist, we don't celebrate it as a special season, but the Scripture readings do continue to echo the themes of God's manifestation in the life and work of Jesus Christ.

As part of our observation of Epiphany this past Sunday in worship, we received "star words" - paper stars, each one with a different word printed on it.\* We each drew a star out of the basket at random, and I invited the congregation to receive their star words as a gift, a word to reflect on for the whole year, considering how God might be speaking through it. Some words were automatically encouraging or exciting or comforting; others were challenging, puzzling, or difficult.



I invite you to keep journeying with your word all year, reflecting on it and praying with it, talking about it with others if you choose, and seeing how it might lead you closer to God. Consider putting the word somewhere you will see it regularly - on your bathroom mirror, in your Bible or prayer book, hanging from your rearview mirror in your car, on your computer or calendar. If during the year you have some insight about your word that might be valuable to others, let me know - we might find ways to share our individual experiences with our church family. If you weren't at church this past Sunday but would like a star word, we still have plenty! You can select a word this Sunday after worship, or you can let me know you'd like a word, and I will select one (at random, without looking!) and send it to you.

I encourage you to be open-minded, open-hearted, and intentional about reflecting on where your word may intersect with your life and your faith. Who knows where God will lead you and what epiphanies you might have!

**“For last year’s words belong to last year’s language and  
next year’s words await another voice.” – T.S. Eliot**

\*Thank you to the following people for cutting out stars! Kat Becker, Paula Burton, Kathleen Ford, Beth Foster, Carolyn Grapentine, Kristin Reynolds, Carol Shannon, Julie Smith, and Robbie Stapleton.

## **Children's Christian Education**

Children and Youth are an important part of our life together at First Baptist Church. All children are welcome in worship. If you are visiting and would like more information about our ministry with kids and youth, please connect with our Director of Children's Ministry, Xan Morgan ([xan@fbca2.org](mailto:xan@fbca2.org)) or our Youth Minister, Stacey Simpson Duke ([staceyduke@gmail.com](mailto:staceyduke@gmail.com)).

### **We're back in the groove! Here is our Sunday morning scoop for Kids:**

Children are an integral part of our worshiping church family; children of all ages are welcome in worship. Staff and volunteers transition the kids during the morning. Our goal is to make it easy for parents to participate in "Second Hour," our adult class offerings.

#### Infant - 3-year-olds: room 307 on the 3rd floor

- 10:00 Worship with family, nursery available
- 10:30 Families may choose to have kids go to the nursery following Time as Children for a time of praying and storytelling in the nursery. Snack will be provided.
- 11:30 Children and nursery staff go to another play space (room 202 B) for Friendship Time.
- 12:30 Parents come to pick up kids in room 202B (Children's Ministry wing) after 2nd hour adult classes.

#### 4-year-olds - 2nd grade: room 202A

- 10:00 Worship with families
- 10:30 Godly Play Church School (room 202A)
- 11:30 Snack (room 202B)
- 11:45 Grace Notes Choir (room 202A)
- 12:00 Friendship Time staffed by Kate and Coley (room 202B)
- 12:30 Parents pick up kids after 2nd hour adult classes (room 202B)

#### 3rd - 5th Grade: Room 201B

- 10:00 It's "Stay for Second Sunday" so 3rd-5th graders will worship with their families for the whole service. (Church School is after Time as Children on 1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays.)
- 11:00 Fellowship Time with families
- 11:30 Friendship Time with Xan
- 12:00 Children's Choir with Shin-Ae (music room)
- 12:30 Parents pick up kids in the choir room after 2nd hour adult classes.

#### Youth (6th-12th grade)

- 10:00 Worship (Sanctuary)
- 11:00 Fellowship Time
- 11:30 Church School (Room 107) \*On January 13, the Youth are invited to attend the presentation on AMOS by Marissa Alaniz in the Lounge. Church School will resume on January 20.

### **Parents, see you at the annual meeting!**

Sunday, January 27th we will have our financial annual meeting following worship. We hope many parents stay for this quick (~40 minutes) and valuable meeting. Children will be engaged in their usual Sunday morning programming. After the meeting we will delight in a potluck lunch in the Fellowship Hall. The children will join their families for lunch.

### **Faith and Family Small Group**

The upcoming Faith and Family small group will meet on Friday, January 18th at the Morgans' home at 7:00 pm.



## **Opportunities for Kids to Serve**

We are committed to providing opportunities for the kids of FBC to make a difference in our local community and in the world.



**AMOS Toothpaste and Toothbrush Drive:** In early March, a group of FBC folks will be spending a week volunteering with our mission partners, AMOS Health and Hope in Nicaragua. One of their projects is to visit local schools to talk about dental hygiene. Each child will be given a toothbrush and toothpaste.



We are hoping to collect 100 toothbrushes and 100 tubes of toothpaste by February 17th. A collection basket will be in the hallway near the bulletin board where we'll be tracking our progress! Questions? Email Xan ([xan@fbca2.org](mailto:xan@fbca2.org)).

## **Adult Christian Education**

### **January 13th Special Second Hour Presentation**

Marissa Alaniz will be giving us an update on our mission partner in Nicaragua, AMOS Health and Hope, and her work with them. Please plan to join us!

### **Resuming January 20:**

Our Sunday morning Christian Education series, "For All the Saints," starts back up on January 20th. Each Sunday, members of our church family are offering presentations on some of the people whose lives have been inspirations and models for them. Some of our speakers are sharing about great figures from Christian history or from our own congregational history. Others are talking about people they have personally known whose impact on them was transforming. This is a great opportunity not only to learn about some remarkably inspiring and influential people, but also to become better acquainted with many in our own church family as they speak of the people and events that have helped give shape to their own lives and faith. Please join us for as many Sundays as you can.

### **Other Adult Education Opportunities:**

**Wednesday Bible Study** meets at 1:30pm in the Lounge. Paul Simpson Duke is leading a study of the Gospel of John.

**Small Groups:** We have continuing small groups centered on study, sharing, prayer, worship and mission meeting at various times. See Stacey or Paul for information on how to join an existing group or form a new group.

**College/University Students: The Gathering** is for undergraduates and graduate students. We gather every Wednesday evening during the school year, 5:00p-7:00pm, in the Campus Center, for a free, home-cooked meal, friendship, and spiritual growth. If you would like to receive our weekly e-newsletter, sign up here: <https://bit.ly/2N0FYGa>.

# FBC News & Happenings

## Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 27

Our annual financial meeting will be held after fellowship time (11:30) on January 27. After the business meeting we will enjoy a potluck lunch. Please plan to attend. There will be a sign-up sheet at the information desk and in the church office during the week. The Board of Care and Community will provide chicken, rolls, and beverages. If your last names begins with **A-D** = salad or some kind of vegetable, **E-J** = potato, rice, or pasta dish, **K-Z** = fruit or a dessert. Children will be engaged in their usual Sunday morning programming and will join their families for the potluck lunch in the Fellowship Hall .

## The 2019 Flower Calendar

The sign-up calendar is now posted on the downstairs bulletin board near the Lounge door. The flowers are placed on the chancel for each service. The cost is \$30 and your dedication goes in the bulletin. The flowers are yours to take after the Sunday morning service. Please sign up early to secure your date(s).



The Board of Care and Community and your congregation want to be available to help in life's difficulties and transitions, but we can only do that if we know your are experiencing them. We can offer visits, help with food, transportation and possibly other needs. If you or your family lets the church office know, we will contact you by your preferred method to see how we can help.

## Warming Shelter Opportunities

February of each year presents an opportunity for FBC folks to serve, and interact with, some of our neighbors who are housing insecure. We host these neighbors and friends on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the month. We have coffee and snacks, serve a warm meal, and socialize with our guests. We are looking for two people for each Tuesday and Thursday to provide the warm meal. Past providers have both provided home cooked meals and meals from Gordon Foods.

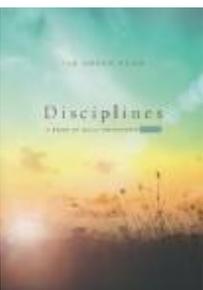
We expect 40-60 guests per day. We encourage meal providers to bring the food to FBC to be ready to eat about noon and to stay until about 1 to help clean up and visit with the guests. Of course, you can stay longer and participate in any activities of interest. Please either call or send a message to the church office, or to Ron Gregg ([rgregg9114@gmail.com](mailto:rgregg9114@gmail.com)) as to which Tuesdays or Thursdays in February work for you.

## Join the Sunday Morning Welcoming Team!

No meetings - just come and serve! Our Welcoming Team is one of our most important ministries. On Sunday mornings, volunteers stand in key places in the building to show hospitality to all who come for worship. Sign up online - Sign-up is online: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0d44afa928ab9-sunday> - it's fast and easy! Sign up on your own, with a friend, with a spouse, or with your whole family. Sign up once or multiple times. Serving on our Welcoming Team is a great way to plug in to ministry at First Baptist and get to know others in our community. Questions? Contact Sam Laidlaw at [laidlawsam7@gmail.com](mailto:laidlawsam7@gmail.com).

## Warming Center Collection

In February, we will once again host the daytime warming shelter on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We are collecting warm clothing including gloves, hats, mittens, and socks (look for sales!), plus personal products like toothbrushes and toothpaste, deodorant, shampoos, pocket tissue packs, combs, soap, etc. for our guests. There will be a basket near the Information Counter each Sunday.



## Resources for Personal Devotions

The Board of Christian Education invites you to use The Secret Place or Disciplines for your daily devotions. The Secret Place is available at the Information Counter (free). It is available in regular and large print editions and published quarterly. Disciplines has one-page daily devotions for the entire year and the scriptures are based on the lectionary. Each week you can read and meditate on the scriptures that will usually be included in the upcoming Sunday's worship service. Disciplines books are available from Sue Ellen for \$10.



M.I.S.S.I.O.N, a non-profit organization, is a collaboration between the homeless, the previously homeless and those who have never experienced homelessness. M.I.S.S.I.O.N provides a comprehensive, ever-expanding suite of services that addresses the different needs of different homeless communities. Their initiatives are homeless-directed; nonetheless M.I.S.S.I.O.N actively partners with community organizations and agents to create sustainable solutions. By working with faith-based organizations, law enforcers and city administrators, M.I.S.S.I.O.N hopes to create solutions that mutually benefit the homeless and society. M.I.S.S.I.O.N's unifying philosophy is that homelessness doesn't end with a house, it ends with community.



**FACES OF FAITH VIII**

Sunday, January 27, 3-5 pm (followed by our annual fundraising dinner 5:30-7:30) at the Hindu Chinmaya Mission on 4760 Packard, AA. (\$5 suggested donation)

Come hear the stories of local clergy & other designated religious leaders from 6 traditions. This year each will speak to the whole group on matters of compassion and mercy. Follow-up conversations will be probing and engaging.

The different traditions represented are Muslim by Leenah Safi, U of M, Association of Religious Counselors; Native (Anishinaabe) by Bruce Martin; Christian by Hillary Watson, Mennonite/Church of the Brethren; Atheist by Dan Thiel; Old Catholic by Gil Oswald; and Buddhist by Marta Dabis, JissiJo Zen Buddhist.

For more information, contact the Interfaith Round Table at 734-649-0107 or go to their website at [www.irtwc.org](http://www.irtwc.org).

# February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10:00 Worship 11:30 2nd Hour	4	5 Warming Center 1:30 ChristCare 5:30 Vespers	6 1:30 Bible Study 5:00 Gathering	7 Warming Center 7:30 Choir	8	9
10 10:00 Worship 11:30 2nd Hour	11	12 Warming Center 5:30 Vespers	13 *newsletter* 1:30 Bible Study 5:00 Gathering	14 Warming Center 7:30 Choir	15	16
17 10:00 Worship 11:30 2nd Hour	18 7:30 Racial Justice Grp	19 Warming Center 1:00 Beecher-Brewer Cir. 5:30 Vespers	20 1:30 Bible Study 5:00 Gathering	21 Warming Center 1:00 MacGregor-Stitt Cir. 7:30 Choir	22	23
24 10:00 Worship 11:30 2nd Hour	25	26 Warming Center 9:30 ABW Ministries 5:30 Vespers	27 1:30 Bible Study 5:00 Gathering 7:30 ChristCare	28 Warming Center 7:30 Choir		

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The Reverends Paul & Stacey Simpson Duke, Co-Pastors



**Next  
Newsletter  
Deadline:**  
*Sunday, Feb 10*