

**First Baptist Church
777 S 1300 E
SLC, UT 84102**

Congratulations to our 2015 High School Graduates: Lily Wood, Meghan Fellows, Rachel Winzenried, Taylor Hekking, Calen Mace and Frances Willberg. And to Ashley Roth who graduated from UVU. We will honor them at a coffee hour on May 25 following worship.

Church Finance Information: In an attempt to keep you informed here is a brief financial picture of the church as of 3/31/2015:

Giving by Church Members: \$58,397.00
Giving from Outside Congregation: \$40,103.558
Total Income: \$106,913.18
Expenses: \$92,961.58

We have paid off Tingey Plumbing and Heating and are making progress on the other accounts payable from 2014.

Thank You for being so faithful in your giving and supporting the missions of the Church.

Some of the offerings so far for the AB GIRLS Silent Auction: Pioneer Theatre, Repertory Dance Theatre, Natural History Museum, Grand Theatre, Utah Jazz, Utah Symphony/Utah Opera, Hogle Zoo, Utah Grizzlies, Classic Fun Center, Hale Theatre, Gallivan Center, Desert Star Theatre, Tracy Aviary, U of U School of Music, This Is the Place Heritage Park, The Leonardo, Salt Lake Film Society, American West Heritage Center, and Odyssey Dance Theatre.

May Mission Focus: Homeless Youth

In looking at the issues we as a church care about and the needs of our community the mission team zoomed in on the plight of homeless youth in our city. Throughout May we will be supporting efforts to address this critical and complex issue. More than 200 youth (that we know of) sleep on the streets of Salt Lake City every night. The reasons are many and varied and each has their own story to tell. But, as Jesus reminds us, "The Kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Matt 19:14. Our faith compels us to not ignore, but to contribute to addressing the issue. Here are some of the actions we are putting together.

- May 3rd, one of the leaders from the Homeless Youth Resource Center will talk to us about Salt Lake's Youth and about a new 24hr facility they are working on.
- We will be coordinating with other churches that host a feeding program on the weekends at the Pride Center.
- For the Can Can we will be collecting portable hearty foods such as canned ravioli and chili.
- We will be inviting people to be part of a task force to engage the church in ongoing projects that focus on the needs of Homeless Youth.

Give some thought and prayer to how you see yourself supporting this mission focus.

The Kid's Praise Club room has been painted thanks to Gene Miner and Debra McBride, has new carpet that was paid for in the church budget and new linoleum that the Child Development Center paid for. Thanks to all who had a part in making our Kid's Praise Room so clean and inviting.

CHILDREN'S PRAISE CLUB

Our Sunday Praise Club held during the Worship Service provides a Sunday School format which includes Bible study for children. We are sensitive to the developmental needs of our children and include hands-on activities for investigation and enjoyment.

At this time, we use "the One Room School" approach for children in K- 6th grade. As we grow in numbers, we hope to divide our students in K-2 and 3-6 grade age groups. For those children coming with adults at 9:30 on Sunday morning, we have an Activity Time for children to enjoy.

We have a Nursery/Preschool class for children held from 9:30-12:30. Children may come at any time during these hours. We are working to develop a meaningful curriculum for these little ones. Each Sunday they hear a Bible story, engage in play, enjoy working with crayons, puzzles and other planned experiences.

Parents are welcome to visit and enjoy what goes on in our Sunday gatherings. For more information, please talk to Jane Nelson, Chairman of Children's Ministry.

Make Summer Count!

Come to Camp Utaba for a week of getting away, connecting with old friends, making new ones, having fun and getting closer to God. There will be campfires, games and water fun. Our summer camps are open to young people of all faiths. So don't let summer go to waste. Make it count at Camp Utaba. **Camp Is JULY 12-17**
Teen Camp (grade 7-12) Directed by Curtis Price (801) 582-4921 Pastorcurtis@firstbaptist-slc.org . Kid's Camp (grade 3-6) Directed by Wendy Winzenreid 801-808-7796 and wendywinzenried@aol.com or Lisa Rausher-Hekking lhekking@msn.com and her phone is 801-755-3432.

As I look at this list, it seems like a lot on the one hand. On the other hand, these are things we are always striving for anyway. As we continue to be faithful to our calling and we pay attention to what is important, we will confound the naysayers and continue to be a thriving community long into the future.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Curtis

May at FBC:

Sunday at FBC:

May 3: Communion Sunday, People Need People Dinner
Guest Speaker from Homeless Youth Recourse Center
Kid's Praise Club Picnic at Sunnyside Park following worship.

May 10: Mother's Day

May 17: ABGIRLS Spaghetti Dinner and Auction following worship

May 24: Pentecost Sunday—Wear Red to Church
Coffee Hour will honor our Graduates

May 31: Baptisms, Christian Education Retreat following worship

The rest of the month:

May 5: Beers and Bros 6:30 Fiddler's Elbow

May 14: ABWOMEN Luncheon at noon in the Library

May 15: Bingo at 7 pm

May 16: Murray Madrigal Concert at 7 pm

May 19: Beers and Bros 6:30 at Fiddler's Elbow

May 20: Council of Ministries at 5:45 pm

May 25: Closed for Memorial Day

May 30: Rowland Hall Graduation 10 am

Salt Lake Choral Artist Concert 7 pm

Happy Birthday To: May 2: Hattie Layton, Billie Tripp. May 4: Joyce Urry. May 6: Julia Watson. May 7: Valerie Winn. May 9: Jeff Norris, Pat Schoenwolf. May 10: Bishop Brown. May 14: Brian Cooper, Cassie Cooper. May 15: Ken Burnett. May 17: Betty Burnett. May 19; Meghan Fellows. May 20: Ethan Alstrom. May 21: Steven Ireland. May 23: Al Heitman. May 24: McKenzie Nelson, Al Deware. May 25: Megan Roth, Augustine Tutonda. May 26: Bob Brown. May 31: Stephanie Gosdis, Guy Tutonda.

AB GIRLS are making sleeping bags for the homeless. This is an ongoing project. As you are doing your spring cleaning (and beyond), keep us in mind. We are collecting material such as old bedspreads, drapes, old blankets, mattress pads and any large durable pieces of fabric that can be stitched together to make a 7' x 7' square. We also need quilt batting (can be fiberfill) and men's ties. AB GIRLS need old mattress pads, light-weight blankets or quilt batting for their "ugly quilts" (bedrolls for homeless individuals). Donations can be left outside the AB GIRLS room. Thank you Paula Walker for the donation of yarn. Questions should be referred to Pat Ditton.

Tickets for the AB GIRLS Annual Spaghetti Dinner/Silent Auction will be on sale Sunday, May 3 and Sunday, May 10. A few tickets will be available the day of the event, Sunday, May 17, 12:30 p.m. If you have something to donate to the AB GIRLS Silent Auction (i.e. art, service, handmade item, etc.) contact Stephanie Gosdis at 801-712-0451 or stephanie.gosdis@kingsbury.utah.edu



The Beacon

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A Word About Naysayers!

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." – Joshua 1:9

I have been reading a lot of articles lately about the decline of religion and many that are suggesting that within a few decades religion will be a thing of the past. Many of these articles really seem to underestimate the complexity of religion or the veracity of Spiritual connection in community. Will religion change? Absolutely. We may not recognize the churches of tomorrow. Will religion go away? Never. The voices that are seeing this trend are listening to parties that do not in any way represent the bulk of religious thought in the world we live in. I rarely see an article that speaks to the kind of church First Baptist is.

However, having said that, there are some factors to pay attention to. I believe there are actions we can take to weather the storm of the coming changes in the ecclesiastical landscape. Here is a sampling of some of the truths we can pay attention to as a church as the world around us continues to evolve.

- Be true to ourselves. Often in the face of changing demographics the church panics and tries to change everything to mimic the latest and greatest mega church that just put out a program. Authenticity is one of the most important attributes a church can have in our world today. We must be who we are.
- Make changes so that we can **be** the gospel better. Being who we are does not mean not changing anything. Changes will need to come, but those changes really ought to be driven by a deep and urgent longing to minister to people. We'll choose to not be driven by fear of decline or budget issues, but by a longing to live out the gospel in our midst.
- Use the building; don't let the building use us. It is so easy to become focused on the building and the constant maintenance of the facility. The facility is here for the ministry, not the other way around.
- Help people follow their passion. We, as a church, are called to be a clearinghouse of ministry, a place where people seek out and live out a God-born vocation that contributes to the kingdom of God.
- Keep it real. So much of what is talked about focuses on style: what kind of music a church has, what type of worship service do you have, what is there for children etc. All of that is nice, but at the heart of it all, lives must be transformed or the church becomes irrelevant. We must, at our heart, always be about facilitating life-changing communion with God.
- Ministry is relational. What keeps church going and what will continue to keep church going is that it is a place of connection. It is a place where people can make deep and meaningful connections with other people. We are at our best when there are many avenues for people of all sorts to build relationships with one another.