

First Baptist Church of Salt Lake



The Beacon

The Newsletter of First Baptist Church of Salt Lake City—
November 2016 Vol 10 Issue 10

Website donated by XMission: www.firstbaptist-slc.org



Like us on Facebook
fbcslc



Follow us on Twitter @

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. – 2 Corinthians 9:7

It is November and that can mean only one thing . . . Stewardship Month. This month we will be asking you to prayerfully consider your support for the ministries represented in the church budget for next year. It is my prayer that this is a joyful exercise for all of us as we reflect each year on what God is blessing in our church and our part in all of that.

The Spirit of God has been very active in our midst and our ministries are thriving. More and more we are gaining a reputation as a church that really cares about the community and works to make a difference. I know this because people approach me to ask about our involvement in community issues and we are sought out when things

need to get done. This is all due to our commitment to doing good for the sake of doing good. This year, I am proud to see our reach expand beyond Salt Lake and reach out to Alaska where our Young Adults went on a mission trip. Our faith formation teams are really incredible as we engage in our spiritual growth. From Adult Sunday School to Praise Club we have dedicated teachers who put hours in to making sure we have great opportunities for growth. Our youth group has been thriving under Tommy Burnett's leadership and with the help of his team. Here again, people have approached me asking about our youth program looking for a safe and supportive place for their young people to explore their faith and themselves. We provide such a space. Our most cherished value is relationship and we continue to find ways to connect with one another through fellowship. As a family we always look out for and care for each other. Each Sunday becomes a celebration of these wonderful values and this wonderful church as we share in the blessing of joyful and relevant worship. In addition to all this, our church is a gathering space for the community at large, hosting AA groups and music concerts, children's theater and weddings, graduations and basketball programs for kids in need.

You all have been generous with your time, talent and treasure and it is my prayer that what you have experienced as a result is God's incredible blessing that comes from such

generosity. We are reaping the blessing of doing ministry that matters and that changes lives. We have accomplished much in the last year, not the least of which was securing the funds to renovate the parking lot. Yet there is still a lot more to do. In the coming year we hope to engage in serious outreach and grow our numbers. We hope to be able to add some staff before the end of the year. We will join God as He continues to keep transforming lives. We will continue to be a safe and supportive place for people to explore and grow in their faith. We will continue to be a place of welcome. We will continue to reach beyond our walls to make a difference. We together will accomplish all these things and more than we can hope for or imagine. This has been God's promise to us.

Please prayerfully consider your level of financial support for the ministries of the church year. I encourage each of us to increase our giving as we are able. Thank you so much for all you have done and continue to do.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Curtis

Happenings at FBC in November:

- Nov 1: Beers and Bros at Fiddler's Elbow at 6:30 pm
- Nov 5: Child Development Center Fall Fund Raising

Dinner 6:30 pm

- Nov 6: All Saints Day
Quarterly Business meeting follows worship
- Nov 10: AB Women's luncheon at noon
- Nov 11: Church office closed for holiday
- Nov 13: Guest Preacher Pro Voice
- Nov 18: Third Friday Bingo at 7:00
- Nov 20: Thanksgiving Service and Dinner
Decorate the Church for Christmas
- Nov 22: Council of Ministries at 5:45 pm
- Nov 24-25: Church and Child Development Center closed
for Thanksgiving
- Nov 27: First Sunday of Advent

Nov 6—Turn your clocks back one hour or you will be very early for church!

Happy Birthday To: Nov 4: Michael Davies. Nov 5: Capri Gregson. Nov 8: Brett Ellis. Hanna Hussan. Nov 10: Jeanne Hall. Nov 11: Debra Nelson, Mae Piccone, Kelly Byrnes. Nov 15: Richard Brown. Nov 19: Christine Crepeau. Nov 25: Ashley Romo, Elijah Nelson. Nov 28: Mike Cannon. Nov 30: Jace Wolters.

Join us for our Quarterly Business Meeting—Nov 6
following People Need People dinner. We are going to try something new! Come hear about the state of the church

and join in the discussion.

ABGIRLS will be selling locally grown potatoes beginning Nov 6—2 pounds for \$1.

Thanksgiving Service and Dinner

Nov 20th. Worship at 11 am. Dinner follows in Keck Hall. Come join your church family in Thanksgiving worship and then our traditional Thanksgiving Dinner. We furnish the turkey, dressing, potatoes and gravy. We need folks to bring side dishes to share, and pies. There are sign up sheets by the office door to indicate you'll bring pies, salads, sweet potatoes or green bean casseroles. Ken will be looking for men to cook turkeys and help in the kitchen.

Help decorate the church for Christmas—following Thanksgiving Dinner come help the youth decorate the church. We need many hands to fluff bows and greenery and hand decorations on the tree.

Changes to the new directory:

Pastor Curtis Price

Apt number is 216 and his phone number is correct on the first page but wrong under his listing. It should be 801-671-9072

Charles Payne and Chad Hansen—2099 W 4700 S Apt
C207 Taylorsville 84129
Wilma Nichols-- phone number is 801-541-5067

The Rummage Sale has come and gone and there are many thanks to be given.

First, thank you to those who came and helped put the tarps down on the gym floor.

Thank you to everyone who helped bring the treasures stored in 4 rooms of the church down to the gym.

This year we added 2 days to the sale which worked out well but we also lost that time for setting up. Many thanks go to those who worked many hours for 8 days getting everything ready for the sale to begin.

Then thank you to all who helped for both 3 day weekends—helping customers, refolding, straightening tables and cashiering. (Amy—we had such fun again using your antique cash register, I could have sold it many times over. Thanks You!)

Next, a big thank you goes to all of you who helped pack up

everything left over and getting them ready for the M.S. to pick them up. Also, thank you to everyone who helped take the tables down and carry them back upstairs to the Social Hall. Thank You to Bob and his crew for cleaning the tarps, folding them and putting them away.

And last, but not least, thank you to everyone for your donations to the sale.

A lot of work goes into putting a sale on and I can't thank everyone enough for all your great help. This year we took donations of warm clothes and blankets to the Homeless Youth Resource Center and donated a large amount of clothing to the Baptist Concern Center in Glendale Park. This center is operated by Calvary Baptist church and a Southern Baptist Church to offer help and support to those in need. They were so excited and appreciative.

The other treasures that were left were picked up by the M. S. Society (Multiple Sclerosis) and will be delivered to Saver's Thrift Stores. It took 3 truckloads to get all the treasures as we had so much this year.

I need to say a very special Thank You to Shirley Cannon who has worked with me as co-chair of the sale for many years. We've had a great time. Thanks to Dennis for all his help in advertising the sale and his willingness to help us

whenever we needed anything and Thank You to my daughter, Robyn Rausher Fellows who has basically been my right hand with all her hard work for many years. And now the big news of the day—we made \$7,128.00. Praise the Lord! Thank You again everyone—we've had a good run.

All My Love,
Judy Rausher

Child Development Center News:

The Fall Fund Raising Dinner will be held Nov 5 in Keck Hall at 6:30 pm. Tickets are \$35 and must be purchased no later than Nov 1st. There will be a silent auction with great prizes including tickets to Disney Land for 4 people. Come support our Child Center. For tickets call the center at 801-582-6230.

Rev. Susan Chorley of Exhale joins us for the Pro-Voice Tour

About three years ago I was in the middle of a divorce. It was a huge event in my life. It was both a relief and a devastation. It was both heart wrenching and liberating. it

was redemptive and sinful all at the same time. Many see divorce as a very black and white issue, particularly when it involves clergy. The Bible can be seen to outright forbid it. Yet, in the midst of this life transforming event, none of that came into play in regards to how I was cared for by this congregation. It didn't matter what the reasons were or who was to blame; the faith community surrounded me with mercy and caring and nurtured me through the experience without judgment or condemnation. The only reactions I experienced were support, grace and love.

There are many circumstances in our lives that are a lot like divorce. They are complex, multilayered and not as black and white as they often seem. Abortion is one such circumstance. Rev. Susan Chorley is sharing her story about choosing to have an abortion at a time when she was a mother, a minister and a wife. She is not telling this story because she is pro-life or because she is pro-choice. She is telling this story because it is an important part of her life experience and it has been a part of what has shaped her. I have personally listened to many women share with me the pain and struggle of making this decision and it is never black and white and it is always riddled with feelings of grief and sorrow. Unlike me with my divorce, the last thing they would expect to experience in church would be support and love. So many women have had abortions and don't feel they can bring their whole selves to church because of the

way this and so many other topics have been talked about. Here is what Susan has said about the experience.

When I had my abortion, I felt the church's silence and the awkward lack of acknowledgement of the decision I made for myself and my family, as well as my feelings of sadness and loss. I know I'm not alone.

I have started to share my own abortion story from the pulpit in Protestant churches across the country because I want communities of faith to be places that embrace each person's full humanity. Through this process I have witnessed how sharing our stories is a way into community and belonging. After hearing mine, others share their own hidden stories back with me. And, in that moment—we find one another and we are connected.

Susan has embarked on a preaching tour about leaving shame outside the door of the church and creating a place where women can share their stories and bring their whole selves to their faith life and communities. She will be sharing her story at First Baptist Church on November 13, 2016.

Please Read This Important Disclaimer:

If the idea of hearing about someone's abortion story in church makes you uncomfortable my pledge is this: this will be a space for grace. This is not a pro-abortion nor an anti-

abortion sermon. You are free to leave with the same opinions you came in with. What I do hope happens is that you hear a person's real story and the role faith did (and didn't) play in that story. I wanted Susan to share her story because I have heard people's stories who would never in a million years feel like they could share those stories within their church family, on this topic and others. The faith community really must be a place where we can come with our whole selves and not be afraid to share even the most difficult part of our lives, especially when they have been so formative. For this reason, I feel this is an important story to hear. Susan is a phenomenal preacher; I know you will be blessed.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Curtis

Christian Education for Advent: Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

First Sunday; Nov. 27th Preparing the Way for Jesus. Mark 1: 1-11.

Mark begins his narrative by reminding us that John the Baptist told of one that was to come as it was prophesied by the prophets of the Old Testament.

1. Did the people who heard Mark know about these old

prophecies and what difference did it make to them?

2. Does knowing that people looked to the Old Testament for understanding that someone would come to bring healing and understanding of God make a difference?

3. Is there prophecy in the world today? How do we recognize it?

4. In the scripture passage, Mark 1:1-11, what do we learn about God?

Is God still present and at work in the world today?

Second Sunday Dec. 4th - Trusting in God's Plan – Story of Mary – Luke 1:26-38

Luke's narrative tells how the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, a young girl who lived in a small village in Galilee called Nazareth. The angel's words to her were to “Rejoice, you are favored.

God is with you and you are blessed among women” What follows doesn't seem like news to be rejoicing about. What young girl, engaged to be married, wants to be told God wants her to be a mother? How is she to explain this? The angel goes on to explain and he also reassures her that her relative Elizabeth is also pregnant and will be a help to her. This narrative ends with Mary's acceptance and trust in God in spite of the possible consequences of this happening.

1. How do you think this news would be received by the people in Nazareth? What about Mary's family? Will they be happy or embarrassed?
2. How about Gabriel? Who is this guy and how do we think about angels?
3. What is this story telling us about God? Doesn't God know about the consequences facing an unwed young girl?
4. How might we deal with kind of situation today? Is God's love demonstrated here?

Third Sunday: Dec. 11th Forgiven and Accepting God's Plan – Story of Joseph- Matthew 1:18-24

Matthew tells the story of Jesus' birth, but he takes pains to show how Joseph was confused and sad and probably frustrated to know his betrothed was pregnant. It's not hard to imagine how that news would be like a "bombshell" and hard to accept. Again an angel appears to Joseph and assures him that this is God's doing and not Mary's infidelity. He lets Joseph know that God has a plan for this baby. The angel refers to the prophecy, "Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son and his name shall be called, Immanuel" which means God with us." Joseph forgives and accepts God's plan and takes care of Mary.

1. How must Joseph have felt when he heard the news

that Mary was pregnant?

2. How was the angel's message able to reassure Joseph? Referring to the prophecy touched on Joseph's faith and understanding of who God is.
3. How does our understanding of who God is help us to face difficulties that seem to have no easy answer?
4. How do we let God know we accept or reject His plan for our lives?

Fourth Sunday: Dec. 18th Rejoicing in God's Goodness

- Mary's Visit to Elizabeth – Luke 1:39-45

The Song of Mary Luke 1:40-50

Luke tells the story of Mary traveling to her relative Elizabeth who is 6 months pregnant (with John the Baptist), Elizabeth is much older but can fill the role of mentor to this young girl. The story tells that when Elizabeth greeted Mary, the baby "leapt" in her womb. Elizabeth "filled with the Holy Spirit" recognized Mary's pregnancy with Jesus. She tells Mary that all will be fulfilled as she had been told. Elizabeth's response is joyful. And the next part of the text is Mary's response in Song. This is a joyous song of praise and acknowledgement of God's plan.

1. How do you think Mary felt when she left Nazareth and walked the long journey to visit Elizabeth? What did she

hope to find when she visited Elizabeth?

2. Being young and inexperienced, would Mary get the reassurance and help she needed from Elizabeth?

3. Why do you think Matthew included Mary's song in his gospel?

4. Do we learn anything about God in this part of the narrative?

5. Does the birth narrative have any relevance for us today?