



The Beacon

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We are a progressive church. I know that for some this is not a surprising statement and for others the label of progressive or liberal will cause them to wonder, “when did that happen?” A more honest statement would be that some of us at first Baptist are liberal and some of us are conservative. To be even more accurate I would say some of us are conservative about some things and liberal about others. OK, really any label would not capture our diversity of thought and experience. I, for one, count our diversity as a strength and the last thing I would want to do is alienate anyone who might bristle at the label of progressive or liberal. However, this distinction is important for us. Even though we are a church that values diversity, and we hope that every person feels free to think and feel any way they like, the fact that we approach our ministry from the progressive theological perspective is important. There are a couple of reasons I feel like I need to make this case at this time.

The first is that it is a progressive theology that has brought us to the ministries we do as a church, such as reaching out to the LGBT community, and interacting with other faiths and traditions on important issues. Seeking justice and exploring the Bible from a historical critical perspective only happen because our theology points us there.

The second reason, and perhaps the more important one, is that I have come to believe that the conservative theology of my youth is just not right for me anymore. I also think that, that taken to its logical conclusions, it is harmful and dangerous. Fundamentalism has brought the church to a place where it is met with suspicion and disdain in the world today. It seems that the bulk of our ministry is helping people heal from the hurts they have incurred at the hands of a fundamentalist religion of some sort.

So since I think this is important and it seems unlikely that I will get everyone to a class that engages this subject in a more conversational setting, I intend to spend the next year writing some articles that lay out exactly what is meant by the label “progressive”. It is my prayer that it will spark some good conversation among us and I certainly invite you to talk to me about what you'll be reading here. In the meantime, I invite you to approach this topic with an open mind and an open heart. You may be surprised how much you relate to the theology we will be exploring together.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Curtis

Happening at FBC:

Jan 31: Pastor Curtis' Inquiry Class following worship
Feb 2: Beers and Bros at Fiddler's Elbow at 6:30
Feb 4: Baptist Day on the Hill
Feb 7: Communion Sunday
Souper Bowl Sunday
Annual Meeting follows worship in Keck Hall
Feb 10: Ash Wednesday Service at 7 pm in Skaggs Chapel
Feb 11: ABW Luncheon at noon
Feb 13: Snow day at Utaba
Feb 15: Office and Child Care Development Center closed for holiday
Feb 19: Council of Ministries Retreat 6:30 pm
Bingo at 7 pm
Feb 20: Council of Ministries Retreat at 8:30 am
Talent Show at 7 pm

Happy Birthday To: Feb 1: Marion Deware. Feb 2: Evan Williams. Feb 4: Ione Stephenson, Sharon Cooper. Feb 9: Joni Wilson. Feb 10: Julie Elston, Natasha Tutonda. Feb 13: Ryan Willett. Feb 15: Kathy Felker. Feb 18: Kavan Cannon, Kaitlyn Ellis. Feb 24: Emily Brown, Lisa Rausher Hekking, Feb 26: Rea Petersen. Feb 28: Charlotte Gibbons

Souper Bowl of Caring

Once again ABY kids will be at the doors of the Sanctuary on Feb 7 with soup pots in hand for you to donate to the Souper Bowl of Caring 2016. Cash, change, checks and credit cards accepted. Then join them upstairs in Keck Hall for a soup lunch by Chef Ken.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 10th.

We will be having our Ash Wednesday service at 7 pm in Skaggs Chapel. Please join us as we begin the holy season of Lent.

Church Talent Show—Feb 20th at 7 pm in Keck Hall

Yes! It is that time once again! Mark your calendar for Saturday, February 21 for this fun and crazy annual event! Maggie is looking for a variety of talent (and not so much talent) in addition to a great audience for those brave enough to get up on the stage. Please contact Maggie, preferably by email or some other written format by Feb 18th. If you choose to not perform, please come join the fun! Bring a snack to share (chips, veggies, fruit, dessert). Beverage will be provided. Poetry, singing, musical instrument, dancing, juggling, skits. All types of talent are welcome!

Contact Maggie at margaret.chaney@comcast.net or send a text message to 801-386-2022.

Snow Day at Utaba: We will be having a snow day on Feb. 13, 2016. Time 10 am until 4 pm. Lunch will be provided by the camp. Come out and enjoy the snow we have this year.

You are invited to the Coalition of Religious Communities' Presbyterian & Baptist Day at the Utah Capitol

Baptist Day at the Legislature is set for February 4!

You are invited to join Pastor Curtis on Capitol Hill for our day at the Legislature.

Talk to him about details. It would be great to have 19 to 20 folks up there for the day.

Meet in the Aspen Room of the Senate (East) Building. Sponsored by the Coalition of Religious Communities who urges you to commit to social justice by visiting the legislature on this special day and participating in the legislative process. It is best to take TRAX and then the #500 bus to the east entrance of the Capitol. Talk to Pastor Curtis for more information.

Get more information about CORC at:

<http://www.religiouscommunities.info>

Follow CORC on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/religiouscommunities/>

Or call Bill Tibbitts at Crossroads Urban Center,
801-364-7765 ex 107.

Christian Education for Adults.

Why Jesus?

Classes continue in the Library at 9:30 on Sunday mornings. Parents of children in the class on baptism are especially invited to attend.

January 31st – If I follow Jesus do I need to make changes in my life? Pastor Curtis will lead a discussion on what it means to be “born again.” Is it a necessary part of following Jesus? What kind of changes will I need to make to follow Jesus? Will it take a lot of time?

February 7th – Following Jesus – Does it Make a Difference? Does it make a difference how we live now? Can one person make a difference if he/she chooses to follow Jesus? Jesus focused his teachings on living now: living in right relationships with our neighbors and building a relationship with God. Audrey Kenyon will lead this discussion.

Ash Wednesday is February 10th and is the Beginning of Lent. Ken Burnett will be leading an adult discussion on Sunday mornings at 9:30 in the library during the Sundays in Lent. Plan to pick up coffee and breakfast at 9:15 and join the conversation on **Turning on the Light**. The class will center on learning how to use God's grace to re-connect with God, so we can live in the life-giving lightness of Jesus. As it says in 1 John 7: “But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.” Get out of Darkness! Easter is coming. It is time to get into the light.

Follow us on Facebook. Check our Website.

Pastor Curtis' Midweek Lenten Series:

"Final Words"

In life and in death, Jesus' words were powerful and meaningful. Despite the serious effort and increased pain required for Jesus to speak as he hung on the cross, Jesus spoke seven “final words”—statements that have much to teach us about Jesus, his Father, and ourselves:

Father Forgive Them

Behold Your Son...Behold Your Mother
My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?
Today You Will Be with Me in Paradise
I Thirst
It Is Finished
Into Your Hands I Commit My Spirit

In this study, Adam Hamilton explores these final words as seen and heard through the eyes and ears of those who stood near the cross.

Each study begins with the biblical account followed by a first-person story as might have been told from the viewpoint of one of the characters at the cross. Then the study explores the meaning of Jesus' dying words for our lives today.

Join the crowd now and experience the final words from the cross.

Beginning on Thursday, February 11 in the Library. Soup at 6:30 pm and the study going from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Annual Meeting—Feb 7, 2016

Yes it is that time again! We will meet in Keck Hall for the Souper Bowl Dinner and then begin our Annual Meeting for this year. We will report on the finances for 2015 and a look back at all we accomplished last year. We will vote on our new budget for 2016 and say thank you to Shannon Ellis and Julia Watson for their work on the Council of Ministries.

We will vote for the following officers:

Moderator—Esther Chelsea—McCarty
Child Care—Kathy Felker
Church Administration—Gene Miner

We will have a discussion and possible vote on the Alcohol Use Policy as presented by the Council of Ministries. Here is the policy for your review:

Alcohol Use Policy for First Baptist Church of Salt Lake City

Alcohol is not permitted at any event at First Baptist Church unless approved by either the Pastor or the Moderator. Approved alcohol use will be kept in moderation, well supervised and conform to the following guidelines:

1. All applicable State and Local laws and ordinances governing the serving and consumption of alcohol shall be followed when serving alcoholic beverages, including acquiring a permit as needed.
2. Events open to the public shall require advance ticket sales only. Tickets may not be sold "at the door" and all advertising for the event shall be within the event sponsor's organization.
3. Alcoholic beverages may not be sold at any event held at First Baptist Church.
4. Only beer and wine may be served.
5. Food shall be served and alternative, non-alcoholic, beverages shall be available.
6. Alcohol shall remain in the designated area only.
7. Alcoholic beverages shall be served by an adult aged 21 or older, rather than self-serve.
8. The person serving alcoholic beverages shall verify that the person served is aged 21 or over.
9. The person serving alcohol shall be willing to refuse service to individuals they consider intoxicated.

10. Alcohol will be monitored by the adult serving it.
11. The offering of alcohol will not be advertised or promoted in any way.
12. First Baptist Church shall be held harmless for any actions that arise out of the serving of alcohol pursuant to this

Recommendations from the Safety and Security Team to the Council of Ministries.

The Safety and Security Team a few times met to evaluate the safety and security issues related to the church and the Child Development Center. The team consisted of Gene Miner, Esther McCarty, Jeff Norris, Carol Wood and Pastor Curtis. We asked Peak alarm to do a walk through and offer us recommendations which we added to our own assessment. The following are our recommendations to the Council of Ministries:

Inexpensive Suggestions

1. **We recommend that the church lock all interior doors to rooms that are not immediately being used.** There are many places to hide in this building. We feel that limiting access to many of them will help. We are especially concerned with the Door into the Sanctuary and the access door to the cave. Locking these doors during the week would eliminate access to the cave and balcony which seems to be a favorite spot to hide.
2. **We recommend that permanent signs be displayed warning patrons to not leave valuables in their cars.** We seem to be an easy target for “smash and grab” crooks. Its common sense but we ought to inform people of the potential danger.
3. **We recommend displaying a “security vehicle” in the parking lot.** One of the recommendations from Peak alarm was to assign someone’s car to be a security vehicle which we would equip with a light and magnetic panel sign that says ‘security” on it. This car would be parked near the entrance. The light and sign would be removable and not cost a lot.
4. **Crash bars on all exterior doors.** Since equipping the gym with a crash bar, the incidents of the door being left unlocked has decreased dramatically. By installing crash bars on all exterior doors we eliminate the ability to unlock the doors without an allen wrench. This could be done one door at a time over time.

More Expensive Suggestions

1. **We recommend that the church install a camera monitoring system.** Peak alarm also suggested a camera system for both the exterior and interior of the building. The cost would be about \$1,000 for the monitor and \$1,000 for each camera attached to it. We can begin with just a few cameras and expand as needed. We recommend that we start with 3 outside cameras (two outside the doors, one in the parking lot.) and install more later.
2. **We recommend that if after these measures there is still an issue with people hiding in the building, we look at having a security guard check the building each night.** Peak alarm is getting us a bid on the cost of this.

First Baptist Church

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