



The Beacon

The Newsletter of First Baptist Church of Salt Lake City—
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We are Part of a Family, the Family of God!

September 11 will be our 2016 Celebration Sunday when we will be kicking off our 2016/2017 program year. This year we are having a family reunion. We are inviting all the people we have been missing at church to come home and join us. We thought this theme was good right now for a couple of reasons.

One is that we have noticed that a lot of people have been absent for a while and we have missed them. The truth is, as we have gotten bigger, it is easier for people to be gone and for people not to say anything or to reach out to them for a while. This is a natural and expected occurrence as a church grows to so big that it is difficult to know everyone in it. We are about at that point and so people have been gone and we have neglected to reach out. So this is our chance to reach out and invite them back. The member care Chair Rea Petersen has been working with Dennis and I on being better about tracking people who have been absent so they don't get missed, but as we grow this becomes a bigger job and we will need more help watching out for each other.

Another reason is that I think we forget what a powerful ministry showing up is to ourselves and each other. Being a part of this community is a real gift from God that is full of blessings. I know it has its challenges and frustrations at times. Indeed, we are like every family in that regard. Sometimes people get burned out or people's feelings get hurt. Often we fail to appreciate each other's efforts, but on the whole we really do have something special here at First Baptist Church and I feel a little sad when our people leave God's gifts unopened. The experience of worshiping on Sunday morning is an elixir that rejuvenates me to my very core and it has everything to do with us being gathered together. And while I'm blessed no matter who shows up, God has made room for so many here for a reason and when all of us who call this church home are actually here together the spirit is alive and vibrant in a way that is different otherwise. In other words, we miss you when you are not here. It is not just what you get out of the service, but what your presence there gives to the rest of us as well. We are a family. And we are at our best when we worship, pray, sing and hear God's word together.

Of course, our life together is not just Sunday morning, but Sunday morning is like the Sunday night dinner of our Childhood. It was when the family was the family.

So I encourage you to set aside, September 11 to be at the family reunion and to remember what your First Baptist Church family is all about.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Curtis

Happening at FBC:

- Sept 4: Communion Sunday
- Sept 5: Church and Child Development Center closed for holiday
- Sept 6: Beers and Bros at 6:30 at Fiddler's Elbow
- Sept 8: Rummage Sale opens at 8 am
Salt Lake Men's Choir " We Remember" concert 7:30
- Sept 9: Rummage Sale opens at 8 am
Salt Lake Men's Choir " We Remember" concert 7:30
- Sept 10: Rummage Sale opens at 8 am
- Sept 11: CELEBRATION SUNDAY! worship at 11 am potluck following
- Sept 15: Rummage Sale opens at 8 am
- Sept 16: Rummage Sale opens at 8 am
Third Friday Bingo at 7 pm
- Sept 17: Rummage Sale opens at 8 am
- Sept 18: Breakfast at 9:15
Christian Ed at 9:30
Clean up the rummage sale following worship
- Sept 20: Beers and Bros at 6:30 at Fiddler's Elbow
- Sept 25: Pastor's Inquiry Class following worship
- Sept 27: Council of Ministries at 5:45 pm

Happy Birthday to: **Happy Birthday to:** : Sept 1: Doug Huntsman. 3: Gordon Remington, Nelson LeDuc. Sept 7: Bill Fisher. Sept 14: David Thompson, Sept 17: Catherine Coda. 19: Jerry Chaney, Melissa Franks, 20: Kevin Winn. 22: Steven Schimmelpfenning. 23: Jackie Nielsen. 24: Ashleigh Thompson. 25: Ray Carter, Katelyn Klassen, Virginia Grace Price. 26: Robyn Roth. 27: Maria Kinghorn, Robyn Rausher Fellows. 29: Maggie Chaney, Matt Winzenried

Pastor's Inquiry Class—September 25 following worship

Pastor Curtis will offer his Inquiry Class for all those interested in learning about our Baptist Faith and for anyone interested in becoming a member of FBC. Meet with him in the library following worship that Sunday.

Bible Study and Small Group Information:

Seekers - North will meet at the home of Peggy Keiffer, 2379 East St. Mary's Drive, SLC. every Thursday at 10.00. For information call Peggy at 801-582-9378. New members are always welcome. Begins Sept 15.

Seekers - South will meet at the home of Audrey Kenyon, 4422 South Doris Way, Holladay, every Monday from 1:00 - 2:30. Call Audrey at 801-948-4171 for more information, New members are always welcome. Begins Sept 12.

Pastor Curtis' bible study begins Wed Sept 14 at 10:30. They will begin a study of Isaiah.

Burnett's Bible Study begins a study of Hebrews, Wed evenings at 7:30 at Ken and Ann's home.



And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another Hebrews 10:25

Join us for a FBC Family Reunion
Sunday, September 11
Worship at 11 am
Potluck BBQ to follow at
Fairmont Park

It's our annual celebration Sunday and this year we are having a family reunion. We have been missing a lot of people and we hope they will join us for this celebration of who we are as a church family. Let's get the whole family together for this celebration Sunday. It's a good time to introduce some new family members too. *Pastor Curtis Price*

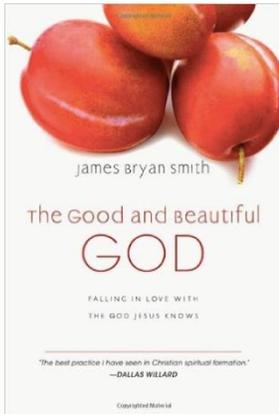
Invitations are available for you to take and invite someone you have been missing. Feel free to write them a little note, send an email, text, make a call or whatever.

Potluck Dinner information: We will be at the pavilion closest to the pool at Fairmont Park. Directions will be printed in the bulletin that Sunday. We will furnish the burgers, hot dogs please bring a side dish or desert. The pool will be open for swimming.

Sunday, September 11 we will celebrate our young people with bible presentations to our 3rd and 7th graders so be sure to have your young folks in worship that morning.

AB GIRLS are collecting items from the Dollar Tree stores to go into individual baggies (gallon size) for the homeless: Baggies, Gloves, Thermal Socks, Beef Sticks, crackers/cheese; candy bars, toothpaste, toothbrush, wipes, deodorant, snacks and any other items that would be useful to a person living on the streets in Salt Lake City. Donations can be left in the church office or you can hang them on the door knob of the AB GIRLS room (upstairs).

The girls also still collect Labels for Education, Box Tops for Education, and Hotel Toiletries. Thanks.



The Good and Beautiful God - Starting September 18, 9:30 am

"God wants me to try harder."

"God blesses me when I'm good and punishes me when I'm bad."

"God is angry with me."

We all have ideas that we tell ourselves about God and how God works in our lives. Some are true--but many are false. James Bryan Smith believes those thoughts determine not only who we are, but how we live. In fact, Smith declares, the most important thing about a person is what they think about God. The path to spiritual transformation begins here.

Turning to the Gospels, Smith invites you to put your ideas to the test to see if they match up with what Jesus himself reveals about God. We will explore these ideas in Smith's book called *The Good and Beautiful God*. Each chapter explores a different aspect of God as presented by Jesus. At the end of each chapter you'll find an opportunity for soul training, engaging in spiritual practices that reinforce the biblical messages on your mind and heart. Please join us for this engaging dialogue about the good and beautiful God we worship. The class is nine weeks starting on September 18th. The sign-up sheet will be on the spiritual formation table near Skaggs Chapel and the cost of the book is \$16.

Other Christian Education offerings:

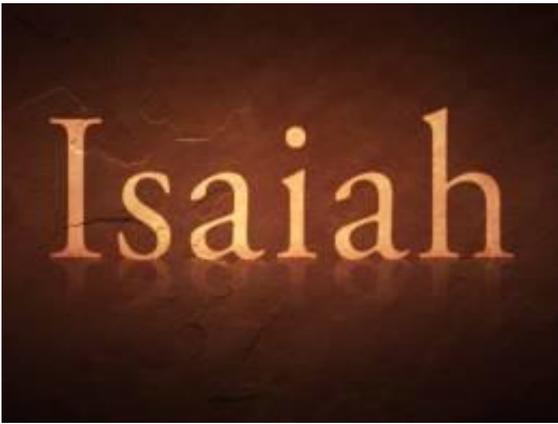
Ray Carter's Bible Study meets in the Parlor

Shirley Roger's Young Adult Class meets in their room.

There will be a class for kids in the Kid's Praise Club Room.

Help With Breakfasts: After years of service as our breakfast cooks, Joel and Susan Everts have asked that they get some help as they want to provide breakfast once a month. We are looking for 3 other couples or groups that would fix breakfast on a regular basis—each taking one week a month. Please talk to Dennis about details and to sign up to help us with this important ministry.

Salt Lake Men's Choir presents "We Remember..." a 9/11 tribute show on Sept 8 and 9 at 7:30 in the Sanctuary. The concert features Americana music and ends with a remembrance of 9/11 on the 15th anniversary. Tickets are \$15 and are available at the door.



The Pastor's Bible Study

Beginning September 14 and continuing every Wednesday, 10:30-11:30, in the Library

The Book of Isaiah is one of the most important books of the Old Testament. While little is known of the personal life of the prophet, he is considered to be one of the greatest of them all. The book is a collection of oracles, prophecies, and reports; but the common theme is the message of salvation. There was,

according to these writings, no hope in anything that was made by people. The northern kingdom of Israel had been carried into captivity (722 B.C.), and the kingdom of Judah was in the middle of idolatry and evil. The kingdom of Assyria had dominated the Fertile Crescent and posed a major threat to both kingdoms; and the kingdom of Babylon was gaining power and would replace Assyria as the dominant threat. In view of the fast-changing international scene, the people of Israel would be concerned about their lot in life—what would become of the promises of God? How could the chosen people survive, let alone be a theocracy again? And must the remnant of the righteous also suffer with the nation that for all purposes was pagan?

To these and many other questions the book addresses itself. Come Join us as we read this gripping book that reflects the deepest hopes and desires of God's people at a time when the Hebrews were mere pawns in global conflict. Yet we have the opportunity to reflect how the words of the prophet continue to ring true in our time centuries later.

All levels of knowledge and experience will be comfortable in this class. No homework is given.

Why I Belong to a Small Group

Worshipping on Sunday- one hour each week- doesn't begin to meet my need to learn about the Bible or teach me all that I need to know to follow Jesus in every day life. My small group Seekers, meets every week. There are 5 of us and we gather around the table and pray and share what we have learned in the readings for the week. Often a question is raised by one person and we share our experiences and our joys and sometimes our worries. It's a safe, comfortable place to try out new ideas and to examine things we've never questioned before. In the process, the members of this group have become friends who reach out and care for each other. In this tumultuous time, with so much violence and turmoil in the world and so much busyness that occupies so much of the time, it is good to reserve the small group time to relax and just "be" in the moment. Our group will be studying a book this fall by James Bryan Smith, entitled *The Good and Beautiful God*, which is a study of practices that help a person grow spiritually. Practicing being quiet and listening to what the Spirit has to say, leads to praying and reading the Bible and tuning in to the people that come into our lives. Jesus modelled these practices as he worked with his disciples. As I meet with the Seekers group, I'm learning to tune in to these friends, to be more aware of them and their needs, and to pray for each of them every day.

While my small group is important to me, Sunday morning is also a prime time for learning and worshipping. The gathered church is necessary to "equip the saints" for service as well as to worship

God. As a child and young person, I always went to Sunday School and Church. And I learned what it means to be a Christian. Those lessons carried on as an adult. Even now as I am older I still know those Bible stories and references I learned a long time ago. But, I still need to learn. And I still want to grow to be the person God wants me to be. Sunday School is not just for kids. It is for everyone who chooses to follow Jesus. It's hard to follow if you don't know the Leader or what he represents. So, I will be at church for breakfast and then for Sunday School and Church and I invite everyone who calls First Baptist their church to "come and see what a life changing experience Sunday School and small groups can be.

Audrey Kenyon



World Mission Offering –September!

**Celebrate New Life in Christ
“on Earth as in Heaven”**

(Matthew 6:10, NABRE)

A great and surprising spiritual awakening is happening in Baptist churches in Cuba right now!

Since 1990, the number of churches in Cuba has grown by 450%. The number of baptisms has risen by over 500%. And the number of prayer groups and total church memberships have climbed in equally high numbers.

After decades of harsh restrictions, “the church of God has risen from the ashes,” says a retired Cuban church leader who witnessed the remarkable change firsthand. “In God’s time, the hearts of so many people have been opened up to the goodness of the gospel.”

The good news is that our church’s support of the World Mission Offering (WMO) is helping to fuel the growth of the Eastern Cuba Baptist Convention through financial and global worker support and through International Ministries (IM)-sponsored pastor conferences.

The better news is that there is a lot that we can learn from Cuba’s spiritual revival. For example:

Youth ministry is thriving through camping and sports ministries, concerts and youth

rallies in the streets of Cuba's cities and towns.

Spirit-filled outreach is yielding abundant fruit through evangelistic campaigns, undergirded with fervent prayer and fasting.

Discipleship is spreading through numerous house churches and cell groups of prayer.

A new generation of leaders is growing through faithful teaching at seminaries and lay training centers.

Responding to God's Call Worldwide

And perhaps the best news of all is that Cuba's spiritual awakening is but one of many thriving ministries run by IM partners and more than 1,800 long- and short-term global workers in more than 70 countries around the world.

IM's vision is "on earth as in heaven," which reminds us of God's invitation to participate in his work in the world.

And that's just what IM is doing—through your support of the WMO—by *praying, equipping, serving, proclaiming, teaching, inviting, healing and encouraging* in the name of Jesus.

Your gifts to the WMO help to raise up, place and send new global servants and volunteers to reach and touch lives for Jesus around the world. They also help to fill gaps for those workers who haven't yet reached their support goals, enabling crucial ministries to continue.

Your gifts help support IM's more than 240 global partners who are actively sharing God's message of hope, love and healing with a lost and hurting world.

Your gifts help recruit and train new global workers, open up new global mission fields, respond to global disasters with relief and development funds through One Great Hour of Sharing and much more.

The 2016 World Mission Offering will be received during worship on September 25th

PLEASE HELP! Baptists in Cuba and the Dominican Republic have requested our help with scholarships and supplies for youth camps and gatherings. With an overall 10% increase in undesignated gifts to the World Mission Offering (WMO), we can respond to that call

Whether God is calling you to GO as a short- or long-term global servant or to GIVE

financial support, let us join together to touch as many lives as possible in more than 70 countries around the globe.

Give generously *and expectantly* to the WMO as, together, we help people everywhere come to Christ, grow in their relationships with God and change their worlds through the power of the Holy Spirit.



Is God is calling you to learn more about how you or your church can volunteer with Baptist partners in Cuba? Please contact mary.weaver@internationalministries.org for general information or angela.sudermann@internationalministries.org for volunteer information.

Rummage Sale News:

The Rummage Sale opens on Thursday September 8 at 8 am!

We will be open Thursday, Friday and Saturday—8,9,10,15,16,17

We need help each day to man the sale—come spend an hour or come spend the day!

We will be sorting on Sept 1,2 and 3 beginning at 8:30 each morning

And again on Sept 6 and 7 at 8:30.

Please spread the word about the sale!