



# The Beacon

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***Make a joyful noise unto the Lord.*** Psalm 98:4

Let's Talk About Music

As I stated in last month's article, I am going to take a few months to talk about worship. This month I want to dive right into what, for most people, is at the heart of worship-- music. Music is difficult to talk about objectively because it is so personal and there are so many varieties of music out there. We all have our favorite kinds of music (even church music) and we have our own reasons for why that music speaks to us. Before any fruitful discussion about music can happen, one truth needs to be acknowledged: one type of music is not any better than another type of music. I read a lot about this and repeatedly people try to make a case for why their particular preference is better, more sacred, more appropriate, more uplifting and spiritual than the other. I just don't buy it. The most appropriate music for worship is music that accomplishes the goal of worship: a meaningful encounter with God. When it comes to music, it really depends on your own tastes and experiences. For some of us, loud, poppy sounding songs played by a band is anything but uplifting and feels more like a concert. For others, the drone of an organ brings us closer to a coma than to God. Some like to sit back and listen to the beautiful presentation by the choir, others like to be singing along. Some enjoy it most when the music feels like prayer; others like it when it feels like a celebration. Whatever your preferences, they are just that, preferences. One can discuss how well the music is played or the particular musical qualities but at the end of the day, how effective a particular piece of music is in worship has a lot to do with an individual's taste.

This reality may seem like a challenge, but in truth, I believe it represents a unique opportunity to create vital worship in a way that is broad in its reach and truly invites all of us to be in the presence of God's Holy Spirit together. Thomas Long, in his book, *Beyond the Worship Wars* offers some insight into how vital congregations accomplish the goals of music in worship. Long talks about what he calls "vital congregations" that employ music to move the service along. The music sets the mood or provides a response to prayer and connects one element to the next. If you ever wonder why we have so much music, this is why. According to Long, "Vital and faithful congregations emphasize congregational music that is both excellent and eclectic in style and genre." The first thing here is that vital congregations participate in the music more often than just listening. People are engaged

in the music. Long also emphasizes excellence. Whatever music you are doing, always strive to do it well. This can be a bit challenging at FBC given that we have many professional musicians in our midst and many non-professionals all working at making the music happen together. However, I will say, the people providing the music for the church work hard to make it excellent. Finally, Long adds eclectic to the list. Vital congregations do a variety of music in a variety of styles. It has been my experience that most congregations really appreciate mixing it up and having a lot of different kinds of music.

These principles are a good starting point when thinking about the music ministry here at First Baptist. Rather than evaluating the music based on your own preferences look around and ask “Are people engaged with this music? Are people participating and singing when we sing?” Also, “is the music done well?” I know that as more instruments have been added there have been some technical issues and some attention to how instruments work together is often needed. However, I invite you to continually look for excellence in our music. My commitment is that we will continue to strive for excellence and address issues that come up. Finally, “Is there variety in what we do musically?” Look for and enjoy the mix of styles and genres we try to engage here at church.

Music can be a contentious topic; however, it is also one of the most important elements of worship. At the end of the day what I hope for most when it comes to the music at First Baptist Church is that it is authentic to who we are and draws us closer to God. Quite frankly, I am willing to try any kind of music to accomplish that.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Curtis

### **July at FBC:**

July 3: Office Closed

July 4: Happy 4th of July Office and Child Development Center closed

July 7: Junior Camp until Sunday

July 9: Camp Utaba begins

July 18: Beers and Bros at Fiddler’s Elbow at 6 pm

July 24: Office and Child Development Center closed

**Happy Birthday to:** July 3: Paula Walker. July 4: Phyllis Hollen. July 6: Matt Chaney. July 13: Chuck McCarty, Gene Miner. July 16: Zack Petersen. July 18: Verna Cook, Melissa Lepore. July 22: Lee Fry. July 28: Marquita Halvorsen.

**Summer is here** and with it comes vacations and family events and lazy weekend mornings. If any of these events keep you away from worship, please keep your pledges and offerings current. You can always mail them in, drop them by or electronically send them. The work of the church goes on all summer long and your pledges and offerings are vital in helping us keep the bills paid. Thanks for your assistance.

**Just a reminder that a couple of years ago,** John and Fran hosted a 'primary camp' at UTABA: a weekend experience for a young camper and a parent. Last year it didn't happen, but this year Robyn Arguello, the Association/UTABA rep from Ogden is going to be the camp director.

Primary Camp starts Friday evening, July 7, and finishes after a time of worship on Sunday July 9th. (and on that same Sunday afternoon, the kids/teen camp will be convening) This is an association sponsored camp, and UTABA belongs to the association. Junior campers from your churches (and their friends) can get a head start on loving Camp UTABA Learn more and DOWNLOAD THE REGISTRATION FORMS AT <http://camputaba.org/files/Primary%20Camp%202017.pdf>

### **More about “Connect, Cultivate, Change.”**

A gathering of 58 lay and clergy leaders at Linfield College in McMinnville, Oregon was the beginning of an on-going process of sharing vision, deepening knowledge and identifying opportunities for collaboration. Participants represented American Baptist congregations, campuses and community ministries from Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Utah, Montana, northern California and Arizona. Also participating in the conversations were individuals from national partners including American Baptist Women’s Ministries, American Baptist Girls, International Ministries, M.M.B.B. (Ministers and Missionaries Benefits Board), AB (American Baptist) Foundation and ABHMS (American Baptist Home Mission Societies). The one-day gathering was facilitated by Zach Anderson and Matthew Spence of Converge for Impact. (reported by Karen Carter)

### **Names on the Giving Tree:**

If you look at the Giving Tree you will find the new additions of:

A leaf was given in memory of Neva Ridley

A leaf was given in memory of Les Ridley

An acorn was given in memory of Lori Ellen Nelson

A rock acknowledges the gift from the estate of Neva and Les Ridley

Remember that dedications can be made in honor of birthdays, anniversaries or other life events and in memory of loved ones or friends. Talk to Shirley Rogers, Ken Burnett or Dennis McCracken for more information.

### **Rummage Sale News:**

**BIG NEWS:** Yes we are having the Rummage Sale this year. Yes it is now an entire church project! Yes the dates have changed—here they are: Rummage Sale 2017 Schedule

Aug 12: Tarps and tables down in the gym

Aug 13: Move to gym after worship

Aug 14: Sort and set up begins at 8 am

Aug 15 : Sort and set up

Aug 16: Sort and set up

Aug 17: Finishing touches to set up Sale opens 2 – 7 pm

Aug 18: Sale opens 8 am – 7 pm Aug 19: Sale opens 8 am – 4 pm  
Aug 21: Straighten and Clean Up  
Aug 24: Sale opens 12 – 7 pm  
Aug 25: Sale opens 8 am to 7 pm  
Aug 26: Sale opens 8 am –4 pm clean up begins  
Aug 27: Move tables upstairs and clean up following worship  
Aug 28: Pick up of unsold items—tarps up

We will have signup sheets available soon. We need everyone's help this year. If you have items to donate remember: We do not accept TV's or monitors. We cannot sell used mattresses. We would ask that you wait to bring items for the sale until after the parking lot is completed as getting things into the building is a bit tricky right now. Thanks!

Come join the fun as we raise money for missions and projects here at FBC!

**These are the notes from the last quarterly business meeting's Ideas and Issues roundtable discussions. The Council of Ministries is forming task groups to start working on several of these ideas. More information will follow in later Beacons.**

#### CHURCH MAINTENANCE CURRENT AND FUTURE FUNDING

Fundraising raffle

Craft fair

Events: concerts/ speakers

Charitable organizations donate services for building

Grant - including expanding the childcare grants to include the church

Major gifts - individuals and businesses

Foundations

Volunteer labor/ church supplies/ materials - ask groups such as Intermountain Contractors

Association 90s. 13w

Historic register

Go fund me page

Government assistance

LDS Donation

Ask potential givers of materials/supply what else they can do

Evergreen or ABC

Sell church brick from original building

#### HOW DO WE REACH FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN?

9:30 only for kids whose parents go to Sunday school

Praise club is Sunday School

Website revamped to include more family friendly posts

Split families

Our image is that of an 'older church'

Keep contemporary music

## REFUGEES

Connect with SLC services already in existence (Catholic Community Services, Asian association Utah etc). Use for speakers and volunteers

Banner welcoming all ( on lawn near FBC sign)

Culture competency training (preparing ourselves)