



# The Beacon

The Newsletter of First Baptist Church of Salt Lake City—

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## One Connection at a Time

*“Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field’” – Matthew 9:37-38*

Lives are being transformed by the love of Christ manifest in the ministry of First Baptist Church. I pray that each of you have seen this in our midst. People have come to us from a lot of different places and what they experience is acceptance and affirmation; support and love; appreciation and joy. What they experience is connection. More than our wonderful worship, our stellar programming or our good times, what keeps people at First Baptist Church is a sense of belonging and a connection to the people, the ministry and the God they experience here. Furthermore, we live in a time where people are craving just that very thing. People are looking for something real that is not passive, but puts into action the words we proclaim. People are looking for community that really does bridge the divide between people. People are looking for someplace where they can be their genuine self. First Baptist Church strives to be such a place and we are pretty good at it most the time. So, if the world is hungry for what we have, why are there so many empty places at the table?

One reason is that not everyone agrees that this is a vision for the future of the church. Not everyone likes our particular values or style. Not everyone is called to be here, but for those who are, this is a vital community. Another reason people are not flocking to FBC is that some people are rejecting church-in-general based on the kinds of churches that are nothing like what I just described. It’s a “baby with the bath water” kind of thing. Another is that some people have been hurt by previous churches. And while we are a place of healing from that kind of hurt, it is difficult to trust any church once you have been hurt by one. Yet another issue is that coming to church is a difficult habit to get into and easy to get out of. However, I believe one of the biggest reasons is simply that not many people know who we are. They just haven’t heard about what God is doing in our midst.

So, how do we get more people around the table? How do we heal brokenness? How do we grow our ministry? How do we share the love of Christ? How do we transform the world? One connection at a time. It is really time for us to share who we are with the world around us. People need to get to know who we are and what we do. Not knocking on doors and handing out tracts, but by experiencing us through our people. When we share the good things that are going on at FBC it helps people get to know us. We must explore new ways to be outside of the church and in the community but ultimately it comes down to people connecting to people. We will be talking about this a lot this year. Each group in the church will be asked to be deliberate about reaching out to families within our circle of influence. Not just to get "butts in the pew," but to help people get to know who we are and to see what God is doing.

We will begin exploring this at Celebration Sunday, September 10, 2017. It will be a wonderful time of worship and fellowship as we gather after the service at Fairmont Park for a Picnic dinner

Grace and Peace

Pastor Curtis

### **September at First Baptist**

- Sept 5: Beers and Bros at Fiddler's Elbow at 6 pm
- Sept 10: Celebration Sunday 11 am  
Picnic to follow at Fairmont Park
- Sept 17: Breakfast at 9:15  
Christian Ed begins at 9:30  
Programming for Children at 9:30
- Sept 19: Beers and Bros at Fiddler's Elbow at 6 pm
- Sept 26: Council of Ministries at 5:45 pm
- Sept 30: Tarps down for Rummage Sale 9 am

Happy Birthday to: Sept 1: Doug Huntsman. 3: Gordon Remington. 7: Bill Fisher. 14: David Thompson. 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, Andre David. 26: Robyn Roth. 27: Maria Kinghorn, Robyn Rausher Fellows. 29: Maggie Chaney, Matt Winzenried

## Celebration Sunday: One Connection at a Time

*Our theme this year is One Connection at a time.* How do we accomplish God's mission? How do we grow our ministry? How do we heal our brokenness? How do we share the love of Christ? How do we transform the world? One connection at a time! Come catch God's vision for the church and enjoy a time of celebrating the new program year!

### **Worship at 11 am**

**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 dessert. The pool will be open for swimming.

**Christian Education Begins on Sept 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:30.** Come have breakfast and join us as we start **The Good and Beautiful Community** by James Bryan Smith, the third in the series we have been using. Order your copy from Amazon and join us.

**There will be programming for Children** in the Kid's Praise Club room at 9:30.

**Jerry & Maggie Chaney would like** to announce the upcoming marriage of Matt Chaney and Haddie Williams. They will be married on September 9 in Schroon Lake, New York. To celebrate the union, Jerry & Maggie will host an informal open house on Saturday, October 14, from 6-9 pm. The open house will be at the home of Jerry & Maggie - 2444 E 2100 S in SLC. Everyone is invited - so save that date!

Hi There :

It's that time of year when Sunday School starts, and part of that is a great breakfast. The fun part is that the breakfast casseroles, bagels and fruit, doughnuts/pastries, or something totally different are all great.

If you want to participate and need ideas or recipes, please call, text or email Ken Burnett @: ken.burnett@bankaf.com, (801)592-4937. If you haven't done a breakfast before, just bring the food and Ken will help you with the process at the church to get you started. It's quite easy and fun. You DO NOT have to do breakfast by yourself. Gather some friends, from wherever, and go for it!!

When you are ready to commit, email me @: vfirestack@msn.com or contact me by texting or calling @ 801-699-3307 to pick a date. You can do one Sunday a month, a Sunday every other month, or only one at a time. Send me dates you are interested in and let's get started.

Your Breakfast Schedule Guru, Vicki Firestack

## American Baptist Response to Hurricane Harvey

American Baptists are urged to lift up those affected in both Texas and Louisiana by Hurricane Harvey, a Category 4 storm that made landfall late last month on the Texas coast. Bringing 130 mph winds and an unprecedented amount of torrential rainfall in some areas, the hurricane has resulted in flooding, power outages, downed trees and signs, major property damage, displaced residents, injuries and fatalities.

“American Baptist Home Mission Societies [ABHMS] grieves with the rest of the nation at the relentless weather pounding the Houston region right now,” says ABHMS Executive Director Dr. Jeffrey Haggray. “Our disaster-recovery office has been in communication with American Baptist Churches of the South since Friday, before the weather hit.

“As soon as we receive damage assessments, we will consider how we can best assist on the long road to rebuilding homes, churches and lives, and then begin distributing relief grants,” Haggray continues. “In the meantime, let us all seek comfort in the words of the age-old hymn penned by Martin Luther: ‘A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing; our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.’”

American Baptist Churches USA General Secretary the Rev. Dr. Lee B. Spitzer invites all congregations to donate generously to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) in response to the destruction caused by Hurricane Harvey in Texas and Louisiana.

“American Baptists across the country are a generous people, and our hearts are grieved by the human suffering we have seen since the storm made landfall,” Spitzer says. “I ask that every church dedicate time this week to pray for the safety and well-being of all affected by the storm, and to express our love for them by giving sacrificially to One Great Hour of Sharing.”

Donations designated to “OGHS-Hurricane Harvey” can be made through your church; by visiting [www.abc-usa.org](http://www.abc-usa.org) and clicking “Give Online” at the top right of the page. In the “Comments” section, type “OGHS-Hurricane Harvey.” Or, mailed to the attention of Kim Wilkins at American Baptist Home Mission Societies, P.O. Box 851, Valley Forge, PA, 19482-0851. One hundred percent of donations go to relief efforts; no dollars are retained for administrative costs. For more information, contact Wilkins at 1-800-222-3872, x2413, or [kim.wilkins@abhms.org](mailto:kim.wilkins@abhms.org)

Watch for a similar ABC USA response to Hurricane Irma & ways we can help with that expected devastation.

### **More Highlights from the Partner Network Meeting sponsored by the American Baptist Home Mission Societies:**

Going forward, ABHMS will serve as the network’s coordinator-providing the venue for gathering; the platform for virtual connection; facilitating conversations among the network participants and working with network partners to **sustain connection, maintain**

**momentum of initiatives, and develop, support and complete next steps** to strengthen individuals, congregations and communities.

ABHMS will be inviting leaders throughout the United States and Puerto Rico to participate in these network gatherings---most of which will be virtual, with a few face to face gatherings like the one in McMinnville, Oregon in May. Participants in each network will prayerfully, strategically, thoughtfully decide which initiatives to develop, resources needed and available, and who needs to be at the table to deepen an initiatives impact.

Watch for the next steps in the October Beacon.

Karen Carter

**Rummage Sale:**

***In order to be sure the parking lot is completed and we will have full access to the gym we have found it prudent to move the rummage sale to the following dates:***

- Sept 30: Tarps down work party
- Oct 1: Move to the gym
- Oct 2-11: Set up, sort and organize
- Oct12: Soft opening for CDC and church folks noon to 7
- Oct 13: Sale opens 8 am to 7 pm
- Oct 14: Sale opens 8 am to 4 pm
- Oct 19: Sale opens noon to 7
- Oct 20: Sale opens 8 to 7
- Oct 21: Sale opens 8 to 4
- Oct 22: Clean up after church