



The Beacon

The Newsletter of First Baptist Church of Salt Lake City—

November 2017 Vol 11 Issue 10

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The awkward conversation about giving to the church.

Giving to the church is a difficult discipline. It is particularly hard if it has not been something you learned to do at a young age. For many in our church things are already tight and to make space for a deliberate contribution to the church can feel daunting. Yet, and I am stating the obvious here, without the contributions of those active in our church we would not have a church. The building and staff of course, but really the ministries we do together would not get accomplished without the organization that becomes the foundation of those ministries. The lives touched, the inspiration, the prayers for and from each other, while there is nothing inherent in them that would necessitate all this structure, yet they happen because we are formed into a community of faith. It is pretty popular to be against organized religion these days (many days I feel the same way) yet the organization facilitates the ministry we do in a way that no other structure can. Giving to the church is not a requirement here. You are never going to be assessed or denied voice or participation because of your giving habits. What will happen is that you miss out on the natural benefits that come from giving. Here are a few.

We can do more together than separately. Your contribution to the ministry of the church, whether money or time or talent, becomes more when it is pooled with others and seems to be exponentially more effective. Giving to the church is one way we do collective ministry. One person alone cannot do all the things the church does. By the same logic, no one person can underwrite the ministry of the church (nor 5 people, nor 10 people). It really takes all of us, giving what we can to make it function.

It ultimately is a gift that comes back to you. Giving to the church you are a part of is different than charity. Charity is giving to something that has no benefit for yourself. Giving to this church is more like taking care of your household. This is your church. You worship here, learn and grow here, make lifelong connections here and answer God's call here. This is your home. The more we put into the, the more we will get out of it.

Giving to the church helps you stay in right relationship with your money. Jesus talked a lot about money. Much of what Jesus had to say was that in order to have a right relationship with God you must have a right relationship with your money. “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” – Matt. 6:21. By prayerfully giving to the church, you are acknowledging to God that your love for God and all the things you see God doing through the church is greater than your love of money and all that it brings.

Let me say again, giving to the church is a difficult discipline. It is for me, I know it is for you. We know and understand that not all of you can give large amounts of money. We know many of you are living paycheck to paycheck. I would not want people to go without essentials such as food, or medication because they are giving to the church. I would not even expect you to go without non-essentials like coffee (which in my book is pretty essential). However, what I hope for is a desire to participate in the ministry of the church in meaningful ways. Out of this desire to see the church answer the call of Christ, you will want to give, even if just a little, to be a part of all that God is doing in our midst. Here are a couple of suggestions as you approach your giving.

If you have never been a regular giver, start there. Begin giving by thinking deliberately about what would be an appropriate giving level for your situation. I recognize that giving a full tithe is perhaps unrealistic to weave into your budget right off the bat (tithe is literally 10% and what is suggested in the Bible). So maybe you pick a starting point and plan on growing from there. Whatever the case, I encourage you to deliberately choose an amount. Either a dollar amount or a percentage. Picking a number helps you be more thoughtful and deliberate about it rather than just looking at what you happen to have with you on Sunday.

If you give some, look at kicking it up a notch. I can tell you that few people are tither’s in our church. If you are not at this very worthy and ambitious goal, start moving in that direction by looking at the level you are giving now and maybe increasing that level by one or two percentages.

Make giving a joy not a chore. “God loves a cheerful giver”. Look at the opportunity to participate in the life of the church through giving as a blessing. List all the things about the church that you think are important and effective. Feel a sense of ownership for all the things that happen here and enjoy what it is to be invested in the life of the church.

Talking about giving to the church can be a bit awkward, but it is a crucial conversation. At the end of the day, one need only look at the many lives that are touched or even transformed by the ministry we do to know that this is money well spent.

Throughout the month of November, we will be talking about stewardship and then on November 19th we will bring our pledges for the year to the altar. As we prepare for this I am

asking people to reflect on this question, “What difference does First Baptist Church make?” I ask us all to reflect on this and to prayerfully pledge your support on November 19th.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Curtis

November at First Baptist Church:

- Nov 5: Community Prayer in the Chapel at 10:30
Celebration of All Saints Day at 11 am
- Nov 7: Beers and Bros at Fiddler’s Elbow at 6 pm
- Nov 8: Pastor Curtis’ Bible Study at 10:30 begins a study of Daniel
- Nov 19: Thanksgiving Service
Thanksgiving Dinner follows Worship
- Nov 21: Beers and Bros at Fiddler’s Elbow at 6 pm
- Nov 23: Happy Thanksgiving
- Nov 24: Church and Child Care closed
- Nov 26: Mission Summit following Worship
Decorate the Church for Christmas following Worship
- Nov 28: Council of Ministries at 5:45

Happy Birthday To: Nov 4: Michael Davies; Nov 15: Richard Brown Nov 17: Drew Nobles, Nov 19: Christine Crepeau; Nov 25: Ashley Roth. Elijah Nelson: Nov 28: Mike Cannon. Nov 30: Jace Wolters.

Community Prayer in the Chapel—Nov 5th

There will be Community Prayer in the Chapel at 10:30 a.m. on November 5th
Beginning with November I will start reading at 10:35.

Gordon Remington

A HUGE Thank You Kathy Felker, Pat Ditton and Julia Watson who chaired this year’s Rummage Sale. A HUGE Thank You to all who hauled everything down to the gym, sorted, stacked and displayed our items and to those who came and worked the sale. Thanks to Tommy Burnett and his friends who cleaned up and loaded trucks. It was a great success. The sale netted \$5554.00 which was divided between ABWomen and the Special Project Fund.

Interested in helping out at Church? Here are a couple of volunteer opportunities:

Communion Preparation: We need someone to help out with preparing and setting up for communion on the first Sunday of each month. Talk to Glenda McNulty about what is involved.

Sound Technician: We need several people to be a part of the sound ministry. You would deal with the microphones and help adjust the levels during rehearsals and the service and generally deal with all things sound. We would get you training on the equipment. We are looking for several people to be involved so that no one person has to do it every week.

Mission Summit

If you are interested in Mission; local mission; global mission; social justice, come join the conversation on Sunday, November 26 at 12:30 (after church) in the Library. We will be talking about the mission efforts we do and what possible mission ideas we want to look at doing in the future. We will also talk about how to manage missions in a way that empowers all of us to follow our passions and answer the call of God to “love beyond our walls and into the world” as we seek to be a force for good. See Pastor Curtis if you have any questions.

Rev. Curtis Price, Pastor,
First Baptist Church of Salt Lake City

Thanksgiving Service and Dinner

Nov 19th. 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.

Decorate the Church Nov 26—stick around and help our Youth decorate the church for Christmas. Many hands are needed to fluff bows and greenery and hand ornaments on the tree.

Thanksgiving Dinner at Camp Utaba: We will be hosting a Thanksgiving dinner again this year. Dinner will be served at 2 pm on November 23, 2017. Please bring your favorite side dish, dessert, or drink to share. Camp will provide the meat, stuffing, potatoes and rolls. Please RSVP by November 20 if at all possible.

Camp UTABA Managers
Scott & Tracye Blank
801-745-3570

Family Promise 2018

These are the dates that FBC will be assisting St. Catherine's of Siena at the Newman Center in 2018:

January 21st to January 28th

April 29th to May 6th

September 23rd to September 30th

During our Family Promise Week, we assist St. Catherine's as follows:

Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday

Dinner and Evening Hosts, 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Saturday

Daytime Hosts, 3 two-hour shifts, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., 1 pm to 3 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

1 three-hour shift 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

We are no longer providing breakfast.

If you have helped with Family Promise in the past and would like to help in 2018 or if you are new to helping and want to know more, please email me at glrpersonal@gmail.com or call or text me at 801 918-3597. I will be organizing a planning meeting for 2018 before Thanksgiving. I'd like to get the year planned out as much as possible.

Thanks,
Gordon Remington

