



# *The Beacon*

The Newsletter of First Baptist Church of Salt Lake City

January-February 2019

website: [www.firstbaptist-slc.org](http://www.firstbaptist-slc.org) Hosted by Xmission

## **Happy New Year!**

As we say goodbye to 2018 it is a natural time to reflect on where one has been so far and to dream about where one might be going. For many, the prior year may have been filled with challenges and disappointments. Perhaps it was a year when you lost someone. Maybe it was a year of struggle either with work or family or just in general. For some perhaps it was a year of major changes and you have had to navigate the waters of transition. For others perhaps 2018 was a year of joy and fulfillment. Maybe the changes that came your way were for the better. Perhaps it was a year when things finally started to gel. Or perhaps it was the year when you finally started feeling like yourself again. Most likely, the reality of last year for most of us was a combination of good and bad; of struggle and peace; of joy and sorrow. That seems to be the way it goes. We rarely have just one emotion or one circumstance to cope with. Most of us at one time or another are feeling torn between elation over one thing and despair over another. When my son Jack was born it was only a few days prior to the loss of my wife's grandfather who was a very important part of our family. We were pulled in two directions in those moments.

I have to wonder if this paradox is not by design. I have to wonder if hope is born out of experiencing joy and sorrow at the same time. Certainly, if all our life was just agony and disappointment it would be difficult to get up in the morning (of course, some find themselves exactly in that place of not being able to get up). But also, unfettered happiness would not be the bliss we imagine either. It would not take long to take for granted life without adversity and to find it dull and mundane. Struggle and challenges are what make the moments of joy so special. We really need both.

We see this paradox in Jesus as well. At the communion table we celebrate and mourn. We recognize the joy of salvation and acknowledge the cost of Christ on the cross. We mourn the death and celebrate the resurrection. There is something profoundly sublime in this. On the night Robbin's Grandfather died it was the first time I heard Jack, only a couple of weeks old,

laugh and it reminded me that death and life go hand in hand. Joy and sorrow are partners in making a full life. Pain and pleasure both shape us and help us to become who we are meant to be.

So I invite each of us as we experience both joy and sorrow in the coming year to find the hope in the fulness of living and to put our trust in God, the author and perfecter of our faith, to give us all we need to make it through another year.

Happy New Year,

Pastor Curtis

### **January at FBC:**

- Jan 8: Beers and Bros at Fiddler's Elbow at 6 pm
- Jan 10: AB Women's Luncheon at noon
- Jan 11: Leadership Retreat at 6 pm
- Jan 12: Leadership Retreat at 8:30 am
- Jan 18: Third Friday Bingo
- Jan 22: Beers and Bros at Fiddler's Elbow at 6 pm
- Jan 25-27: Church Ladies go to Lava
- Jan 27: Annual Meeting follows Worship

**Happy Birthday To:** Jan 4; Shannon Ellis, Jan 6: Robert Cook, Jan 10: Esther Chelsea McCarty, Damon Median, Eric Canfield, Jan 11: Rachel Winzenried, Haven Canfield, Jan 12: Debra McBride, Jan 13; Ann Burnett, Beth Bruce, Jeffrey Andrews, Jan 19: Nick Chaney, Jan 22: Katie Carter, Rev Curtis Price, Jan 24: Eva Cardrino, Jan 30: Karen Keck

### **February at FBC:**

- Feb 3: Souperbowl Sunday
- Feb 5: Beers and Bros at Fiddler's Elbow at 6 pm
- Feb 10: Pastor's Book Study begins at 6 pm
- Feb 11: Talent Show and Pie
- Feb 18: Church and Child Development Center closed for holiday
- Feb 19: Beers and Bros at Fiddler's Elbow at 6 pm

**Happy Birthday To:** Feb 1: Marion Deware Feb 4: Sharon Cooper. Feb 9: Joni Wilson. Feb 10: Julie Elston. Feb 15: Kathy Felker. Feb 18: Kavan Cannon, Kaitlyn Ellis. Feb 23: Katy Davies. Feb 24 Lisa Rausher Hekking, Feb 25: Dexter Church. Feb 26: Rea Petersen. Feb 27: Cati Snarr

**Annual Meeting will be on January 27<sup>th</sup> following worship.** Please bring your favorite casserole to share, We will provide the salad and desserts. Election of officers for 2019 will be held and we will approve the budget for this year.

**Election of Officers:** At the Annual Meeting we will vote on the officers for 2019. Here is the slate of officers as nominated by the nominating committee:

Moderator: Shirley Rogers  
Moderator Elect: Raymond Carter  
Church Administration: Kathy Felker  
CDC Representative: Jane Nelson

Other officers not up for election this year:

Fellowship: Julia Watson  
Discipleship: Kelly Byrnes  
ABW: Jackie Nielsen  
Youth: Tommy Burnett

**Join us for some interesting conversation in the adult Christian education class.** 9:30 am on Sundays. We'll be looking at some of the female characters in the Bible. We'll have another book study starting in February. There's 3 to 12 of us usually. Fun and interesting at the same time. Give us a whirl.

**Third Friday Bingo—January 18 at 7 pm** will benefit the Volunteers of America Homeless Youth Resource Center and will include a food drive for Lunches of Love, bring individually wrapped cookies, fruit and pudding cups, chips, peanut butter, jelly, granola bars, spoons and lunch bags and your dollar bills. ***Did you know that the Matrons raised over \$25,000.00 last year that was used to support the charities such as Lunches of Love, Ken Burnett's Cancer Society Project, the Anti Bullying Group at East High, the Great Dane Rescue, The Salt Lake Men's Choir and various other worthwhile charities?***

**Would you like to join our prayer ministry?** We have a powerful prayer team that actively prays for all those on our prayer list and for the prayer requests that are sent out. We are always looking for folks to join us in prayer. Send an email to Maggie Chaney at [margaret.chaney@comcast.net](mailto:margaret.chaney@comcast.net) and she will add you to our team. We also pray the prayer list on the first Sunday of the month in Skaggs Chapel at 10:30.

**Book Study for Black History Month: *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Era of Colorblindness* Sunday Nights in February beginning February 10th at 6:00 pm in the Library**

Recently we had a conversation about how, as a church, do we start talking about race issues in America today? In an effort to keep that conversation going we will be reading and discussing Michelle Alexander's book, *The New Jim Crow*. Michelle Alexander argues that "we have not ended racial caste in America; we have merely redesigned it." She critiques the U. S. Criminal Justice System as it functions as a contemporary system of racial control—relegating millions to a permanent second-class—even as it formally adheres to the principle of colorblindness. This book is challenging to dominant culture but serves as a call to action for those who desire justice in the world. Please Join us for this four-week series beginning at 6 pm on Sunday, February 3. We will share a meal of

soup and then enjoy a frank and respectful conversation about the book. Please sign up at the entrance of the Sanctuary.

### **Church Ladies Go to Lava Hot Springs Inn—Jan 25-27**

Come relax, laugh, soak and share together. We have reserved all 12 Queen and 4 King rooms. We will have the upper lounge for gatherings. Rates for double occupancy for 2 nights: \$89 per person—Queen beds, \$129/149 per person—King beds w/jacuzzi and private bath. Massages are available for an for an additional fee. We will plan on bringing food for lunch on Saturday and Sunday and will dine out on Saturday evening. Reserve your room now with your payment.

Contact Marion Deware H:435-882-0708

[mdeware@centurylink.net](mailto:mdeware@centurylink.net) Cell: 706-718-5298

mailing info: 3822 N 570 West, Erda, UT 84074

### **Talent Show and Pie Night: Feb 9 at 7 pm**

Have a talent to share? We would love to see it! Talk to Pastor Curtis. We will gather in Keck Hall and share our talents the share pie and ice cream! Please bring your favorite pie to share and we will furnish the ice cream!

**What is Beer and Bro's?** Twice a month, men from the church gather at Fiddler's Elbow and visit while enjoying a meal together along with a glass or two. They start at 6 pm and would love to have any of the men from the church join them. Talk to Gene Miner or Ray Carter for more information.

**Thank you to all of those** who helped make Advent and Christmas a beautiful season: To the Youth and their helpers for decorating the Sanctuary, to the Praise Band, Beth, Aaron and the Choir for the wonderful music, to the Candle bearers and readers and to those who donated poinsettias and to anyone who in some small or big way contributed to our celebrations.

**We need "clean" plastic grocery** bags for our crocheted mats for homeless vets and other homeless individuals. Give the bags to Karen Carter. Thanks.

**We are looking** for individuals who know to crochet. Talk to Paula Walker.

**Happy New Year from First Baptist Child Development Center!** We hope everyone had a great holiday and we are excited to discover all that 2019 has to offer us. We ended 2018 on a great note. We had our yearly licensing inspection where the state of Utah comes into the childcare and goes through our center with a fine-tooth comb, checking every nook and cranny. Our amazing staff and administration passed with flying colors with praises from the licenser on how lovely our center is. For January and February, the childcare will be laying pretty lowkey outside of the everyday hustle and bustle of caring for the wonderful children in our care. We renew our license in February and will be making sure every staff member in the center has the necessary amount of training required by the state of Utah. Fun story from the childcare: One of the children in the our 3's class loves to trick people when he gives high fives. When you go to give him a high five, he says 'sike!' and pulls his hand away. Ms. Jade has been waiting for the perfect opportunity to sike him back, but every time she tries, he is on his game and sikes her first. Yesterday he came in the office and Ms. Jade said,

“Johnny, do you have a high five for me?” Johnny came over and happily went to give Ms. Jade a high five. Ms. Jade pulled her hand away and exclaimed, “sike!” A look of disbelief came over Johnny’s face, mouth wide open. He promptly grabbed Ms. Jade’s hand and said, “I need to do it again, and this time no sike.” Ms. Jade laughing said, “Okay, but I need my hand back.” Johnny with a serious look and still holding Ms. Jade’s one hand replied, “No, I hold it and high five again.” He then gave Ms. Jade another high five while holding her hand so she couldn’t move it. Laughs were had after by everyone in the office.

## **COUNCIL CORNER**

Happy New Year from your Council of Ministries! Thank you for your support in 2018 and we’re looking forward to what the Lord has planned for First Baptist Church in 2019! We hope you’re all planning to attend the Annual Meeting where we’ll highlight the 2018 results and talk about the plans and mission for 2109. As you read the Annual Report we believe you’ll be amazed at how the hand of the Lord continues to bless and guide First Baptist Church! We also hope your take away is to get in engaged and be part of the amazing things happening in the church and community! We all hope to see you at the meeting!

## **SPEAK UP WE’RE LISTENING!!**

As the Council of Ministries Members we’re honored to serve you and remind you that all members are open and available to listen. If you have questions, suggestions, feedback or praise, we encourage you to reach out to any of us either face to face, calling or email. Our contact information is located in the church directory. We want to hear from you, so please ‘Speak Up, We’re Listening’!

## **2019 PLEDGES**

With your prayers, grace, dedication and commitment to the ministry of First Baptist Church the 2019 pledge goal of \$190k was met! Thank you for your faithfulness to the Lord’s mission at First Baptist. The Council extends their appreciation and request for continued prayers for the finances of church and as we go about the Lord’s work.

## **PARKING LOT UPDATE**

January 2018 the beautiful new First Baptist Church parking lot was blessed and has been a blessing to the church ever since that day. For example, our elderly are no longer navigating pot holes, with the addition of the cameras, car break-in have ceased and with the increased lightening all users feel safe after sundown. Thanks to all who prayed and donated to the parking lot! Thanks to all who have completed their pledge commitment! For gifts over \$500.00 donor names are embossed on the capstones along the sidewalk. As a gentle reminder, May 2019 is when all three year parking pledges are due. As you complete your

pledge commitment this May we thank you for your faithfulness these past three years. If you're not sure where you are on your pledge OR if you never pledged but would like to designate a gift to the parking lot, please contact Dennis McCracken the FBC Office Administrator at [office@firstbaptist-slc.org](mailto:office@firstbaptist-slc.org) or call 801-582-4921.

## **Welcome our New Associate Director of Communication, Haley McLennan.**

The Council has long recognized the need for we as a church to better tell our story; to each other and to the broader community of Salt lake City. Recognizing the importance of this aspect of our ministry and acknowledging the challenges of keeping up with how communication has changed dramatically in recent years, we elected to hire a consultant. Happily the money for this project has been donated by a member of the church.

Haley McLennan has an exceptional background with a BA from the University of Toronto, Canada in gender studies and a minor in political science. She also has a Masters of Professional Communication with emphasis in strategic communication and professional writing from Westminster University.

Haley has worked in in the communications field in Toronto Canada, Chicago IL and more recently SLC. She has worked for large companies such as Spillman Technologies, Ogilvy and Mather, LinkedIn and Intrepid to name a few. She has had an illustrious career and has taken a leap of faith by becoming a consultant last year. She has several clients but also wanted to give back to the community and is willing to work with us for what we are able to pay.

Haley is tasked with helping First Baptist tell her story both internally and externally. Internally, we want everyone to know what the church is doing and where we as a church are going. We are always striving to share the vision God has for us as a church and seeking collective discernment and Haley is going to help us do this better. We also have an obligation to be transparent in our processes and decision making so we will be looking at that too.

We also have a story to tell the rest of the world. We want everyone to know who we are and what we are about. Haley is going to help us hone our messaging and find the best avenues for helping Salt Lake City get to know First Baptist Church.

So join in making her feel welcome. We are fortunate to have someone with her experience and knowledge and the council looks forward to seeing where this goes.