

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF OLYMPIA

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## Church Staff

Paul Aita, Interim Pastor  
Mark Rambo, Associate Pastor  
Caroline Lehman, Visitation Pastor  
Jordan Nylander, Organist  
Glory Nylander, Secretary  
Gary Rogers, Caretaker

Non-Profit Organization  
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Olympia WA  
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*Act Humbly, Love Completely, Live Differently*

## Worship Schedule July 2018 at First Baptist Church Olympia

**July 1<sup>st</sup>: Rev. Paul Aita**

**“The Grace of Giving” 2 Corinthians 8:1-7**

**July 8<sup>th</sup>: Rev. Paul Aita**

**“God’s Grace is Sufficient for Us”  
2 Corinthians 12:2-9**

**July 15<sup>th</sup>: Rev. Mark Rambo**

**“Dancing in the Dark”  
2 Samuel 6:1 - 5, 12 - 19**

**Main Idea: Our worship and praise can sometimes feel like dancing in the dark. In the dog days of summer, let us be intentional and thoughtful in our worship as we gather together in community.**

**July 22<sup>nd</sup>: - Rev. Mark Rambo**

**“Shepherds, Sheep & Royalty”  
Jeremiah 23:1—6**

**Main Idea: Restoration, maintenance and/or expansion of God’s Community depends on all who make up the community regardless how and/or if, you think of yourself as a shepherd, sheep or royalty.**

**July 29<sup>th</sup> - Rev. Mark Rambo**

**“Abundance” 2 Kings 4:42-44/John 6:1-15  
Main Idea: Do we/I live in an attitude/space of abundance or scarcity? God’s Reign leans toward \_\_\_\_\_?**

JULY  
2018

IN THIS  
ISSUE

WINDOWS

## Pastor Paul’s Ponderings

Mark’s Meanderings 2 Dear Members and Friends of First Baptist Church,  
Picnic & Missions 3 As my first two months as your Interim Pastor are coming to an end, I can  
July Staff Schedule 4 honestly say that I have greatly enjoyed serving in this capacity, and that I look  
Camp Bethel 5 forward to our months ahead together. Because of plans that had been put in place  
Notes/Reports 6 some time ago, however, I will be out of the country for a month starting on July  
Emmaus House 7 9<sup>th</sup>. Gail and I will be spending three weeks in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and then  
Church News 8 one week in Yangon, Myanmar (also known as Rangoon, Burma).  
Church Calendar 9 For many years now, the two of us have served under contract with American Baptist International Ministries as Special Assistants for Southeast Asia on a  
in 2008, we learned that many refugees from that country were resettling in the US - including Washington State - and we soon established relationships with many of them and with the churches that they established, including the Karen Community Church of Greater Seattle. On June 17<sup>th</sup>, we were pleased to have a group from that congregation worship with us here in Olympia and share special music after the sermon. Then from the 22<sup>nd</sup> through the 24<sup>th</sup>, Gail and I participated in their annual youth retreat.

Last year, because of our interest in refugees and our experiences in Myanmar, International Ministries asked Gail to consider putting a group of volunteer educators together to provide training for teachers at community learning centers in Kuala Lumpur, where many people from Myanmar have fled from the violence in their homeland. The refugee children are not permitted to attend public schools in Malaysia, and those who teach in the learning centers often have little training. While Gail and four other US educators are training teachers, another pastor and I will be providing training and support for local pastors, who are refugees themselves.

People who have fled from Myanmar to Kuala Lumpur are given the status of “asylum seekers” by the local office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. It is a very tenuous status. They have few if any rights and they are uncertain as to whether they will be certified by UNHCR as refugees eligible for relocation in a host country. Within the past few weeks, UNHCR has determined that those from Myanmar’s Chin State will be phased out of refugee status, causing them even greater anxiety. As we go to Malaysia, we hope that we will be able to provide encouragement and assistance to a population that has suffered so much in their own country as well as in another country that has demonstrated by its policies that it does not want them.

As Gail and I prepare to leave to be with asylum seekers on the other side of the world, we are very much aware of the stresses experienced by asylum seekers in our own country. We are distressed by the detention of people who are fleeing from violence in their home countries and by the separation of children from their parents. We can accept the fact that there are different views concerning the kind of immigration policies that our country should have, but we are deeply troubled by the deep polarization that prevents people from seeking common ground and working together constructively where we can agree. And we affirm what our American Baptist General Secretary Lee Spitzer recently wrote, that “both the Old and New Testaments call those who believe in God to welcome refugees and immigrants with open arms and friendship, with loving care and concern, and with the willingness to assist others in enjoying the prospects of a future based on hope and opportunity.” Let us find ways to be supportive of immigrants, refugees, and asylum seeker—whether they are half-way around the world or in our own backyard.

Sincerely, Pastor Paul



# Mark's Meanderings

The last two Meanderings, I've written about us moving forward as a community of faith during this time of transition. It has been encouraging to see us working together, with a sense of God's Spirit leading us, even though the path toward the future remains unclear. Faithful prayer lays down a solid foundation that brings us purpose and hopefulness as we seek clarity and direction from God. Keep up the good work. Keep on laying down that foundation of prayer. Keep on looking after one another, taking on each other's burdens and celebrating the good stuff of life as well.

Additionally, I also talked about the need for us to start having some hard and honest conversations, around a shared meal, about our future and what that future might need to look like. This thought, idea/suggestion, came from some of our younger adult members during the annual Prayer Retreat we had in March, out at Camp Bethel. The Board of Christian Education and the church staff have been pondering, talking and praying. It might be helpful for the Search Committee to get additional input/thoughts as they begin to discern pastoral leadership skill sets, gifts, direction, etc. The following highlighted section, is an article that we have used at Emmaus House, that asks four important questions we as a faith community here at Olympia First should wrestle with during this time of transition. The article comes out of videographer ministry in Texas, that we use a lot at Emmaus called, "The Work of the People."

## "Called to Community"

**"We are truly at a unique juncture of human history. Never before has so much about our lives and the world changed so quickly. From the beginning of human civilization until just a couple of hundred years ago, people lived largely agrarian lives in close-knit communities, living in one form or fashion off the land. The industrial revolution led to a population shift towards cities and factories. Now with the dawn of the "Information Age" many people in economically developed countries work by sitting in front of computer screens that connect them to a loose-knit global network. While these developments certainly have their advantages, many fear the consequences of becoming disconnected from the land and from other people.**

People are also choosing to disconnect from the Church. The 2015 Pew Research Study "America's Changing Religious Landscape" notes that in the last decade the percentage of American adults who identify themselves as Christian has dropped 8% while the percentage identifying as "Unaffiliated" grew by 7%.

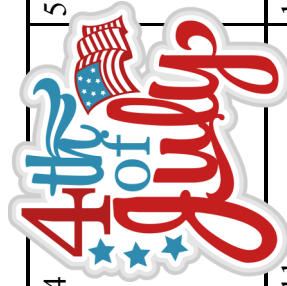
In the midst of these radical shifts in our society and within Christianity itself, it is clearly time to revisit the question:

### "What is the role of the Church?"

1. What is the Church's role in the lives of individuals and families who no longer turn to it as the center of its social and family structure?
2. What is the Church's role in a world that increasingly sees it as irrelevant or even antithetical to human progress?
3. What is the Church's role in the lives of people who continue to return to it as a source of strength, inspiration, solace and connection with God?
4. What is the Church's role in the lives of the people who have never walked through one of its doors and those who have sworn they never will again?

## July 2018 Calendar

	<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
1	Picnic After Church at Tumwater Historical Park						
2		7:00 p.m. Pastoral Search Committee Meeting in the Library					
3							
4							
5							
6						6 p.m. Softball Game at the RAC	
7							Emmaus Camp Bethel Service Day
8							
9							
10							
11							
12							
13						6 p.m. Softball Game at the RAC	
14							11 a.m. Widows Group at Silvers Saloon Emmaus Camp Bethel Service Day
15							
16		7:00 p.m. Pastoral Search Committee Meeting in the Library					
17			6:30 p.m. Trustees Meeting Room 102				
18							
19							
20						6 p.m. Softball Game at the RAC	
21							8 a.m. Men's Breakfast 10 a.m. God's Little Blessings In Library
22							
23							
24							
25							
26							
27						6 p.m. Softball Game at the RAC	
28							Emmaus Camp Bethel Service Day
29							
30							
31							



**SUNDAY SCHEDULE:**  
 10 a.m. Worship, Child Care & Nursery;  
 4 p.m. Table Grace



## Church News

### End-Of-The-School-Year Picnic

The Board of Christian Education is hosting *a picnic, after worship, on Sunday, July 1<sup>st</sup>* at Tumwater Historical Park. Originally this was to be an End-of-the-School-Year celebration for children and their families but we'd really like to open it up for the entire church family. **WARNING!!** First: Water balloons will be involved! Second: We have not reserved the park's shelter space like we do for the All Church Picnic in September. This is a bring your own chair/blanket as well as your own sack lunch/meal and drinks. Hopefully, the weather will be fantastic and we'll have a time full of laughter and joy. Hope you can come! If you have any questions, talk to Pastor Mark and/or Sandy Grebbs, Chair of Christian Education.



### Summer Concert Series 2018

The dates are announced for this years Summer Concert Series with two concerts! Jordan Nylander will play a piano recital on Sunday August 12th at 1:00 p.m. and Julie Funchion-Sandvig String Quartet recital on Sunday September 9th at 1:00 p.m. Recitals are free admission, accepting donations for local causes. **Invite your friends, family and music lovers to these free concerts!**

### American Baptist Internet Resources

<http://www.abc-usa.org/2018/06/19/american-baptist-home-mission-societies-decries-migrant-family-separation/>

<http://www.abc-usa.org/2018/06/16/abcusa-general-secretary-sends-letter-to-attorney-general-jeff-sessions/>

### July Birthdays!



Dameon Ballard	6
Janice Chapman	6
Wylie Nash	6
Amanda Williams	8
Marilyn Stormans	13
Shirley Frost	13
Jordan Nylander	17
Bob Holcomb	18
Sandy Grebbs	22
Janice Holcomb	23
Rob Johnson	24



### Church Softball

Softball schedules are available on the long table in the fellowship area. All games are at the Regional Athletic Center in Lacey on Friday Nights.



## Mark's Meanderings Continued...

**Our generation's answer to these questions will have a reverberating impact on the course of human history. Will the Church "die"? What about resurrection? Is there a clear line between the two or are they both happening simultaneously before our eyes?"**

If you find this article fascinating, disturbing, intriguing and/or confusing.....good! These are important questions for us to struggle with and dialogue about. For the month of July, we would ask you to pray and ponder. How would you respond to the questions highlighted above? Not necessarily your initial, gut reactions, but after some time spent in prayer and contemplation about them and the implications for our future?

In August you will have two opportunities to share a meal and have table conversations about the questions posed above. **The first will be Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 a.m.** We will serve **breakfast** and then begin our time of conversation and sharing. **The second opportunity will be Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 a.m.**, where again we will share a **breakfast** meal along with a time for conversation and sharing. Both breakfast gatherings will be here at Olympia First Baptist. Signups will begin on July 22<sup>nd</sup> out on the long table in the coffee/fellowship space outside the sanctuary. Hope you will come and join us!

Joyful Hopefulness, Pastor Mark

### Mission Moment



Thanks for your giving to all the mission and ministry of Oly FBC that is funded by our general fund spending plan. Thanks also for your giving to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. Please pray for the upcoming summer camps at Camp Bethel; camp changes lives!



### SAVE-THE-DATE

Fall Kickoff '18 - Spirit-palooza Tour  
Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
Sunday School at 8:30 a.m.  
Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Annual All - Church Picnic at 11:30 a.m. - ish!  
[Tumwater Historical Park's Covered Shelter]  
Food! Games! Fun! Joy! Laughter! Surprises!

**Save—the—Date! Save—the—Date! Save—the—Date!**





## Summer Staff Schedule

Please be aware that summer will bring much coming and going for our church staff, especially during the month of July. As noted in his article, Pastor Paul will be on a mission trip to Malaysia and Myanmar from July 9<sup>th</sup> through August 8<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Mark will be involved at Camp Bethel during the weeks of July 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, though he will be at church on those two Sundays. Our church secretary Glory Nylander will be out of the office from July 10<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> at a family reunion and a California wedding celebration.

If you have a need for pastoral care when both Pastors Paul and Mark are away, you are welcome to contact Pastor Carolyn at (360) 459-8126. Others who can provide personal assistance are Pastor Sam Hochstatter at (360) 456-5504 or samfh@comcast.net or Pat DeNeui at (360) 701-9448 or sportcinco@comcast.net. For matters involving the church, you are encouraged to call the church office (360) 357-3881 during business hours (Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.), and Glory will help route your concerns appropriately. If you wish to talk to Glory in person while the pastors are away, please call first so she can unlock the door for you. For church matters outside of office hours when the pastors are away, please contact the chair of the appropriate church board: Deacon Chair Dan Bezanson (360) 264-4288, Trustee Chair Rex Comstock (360) 491-3762, Christian Education Chair Sandy Grebbs (360) 528-0633, or Missions Chair Gary Baits (360) 775-5810.

## August Ice Cream Social & Movie Night!

Put it on your calendars now and plan to bring friends, family, neighbors, etc., to a night of ice cream, and laughter as we watch the movie, "Inside Out."

**When:** Friday, August 17<sup>th</sup>

**Where:** Fellowship Hall, Olympia First Baptist Church

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

**What to Bring:** Lawn chairs, bean bag chairs, anything comfy to sit or lay on.

**Oh, and bring your JOY!**

We'll start off with an old-fashion Ice Cream social of hand-made and store-bought ice creams, with all of the toppings. Once we're all hopped up on sugar, we'll settle in to watch the family friendly but adult relevant movie, "Inside Out," from Pixar Studios. Here's the basic premise for those who haven't seen the movie...

*"Growing up can be a bumpy road, and it's no exception for Riley, who is uprooted from her Midwest life when her father starts a new job in San Francisco. Like all of us, Riley is guided by her emotions—Joy, Fear, Anger, Disgust and Sadness. The emotions live in Headquarters, the control center inside Riley's mind, where they help advise her through everyday life. As Riley and her emotions struggle to adjust to a new life in San Francisco, turmoil ensues in Headquarters. Although Joy, Riley's main and most important emotion, tries to keep things positive, the emotions conflict on how best to navigate a new city, house and school."*

**Save the date...put it on your calendar NOW and we hope you'll come out for some ice cream, fellowship and the movies!**

## Emmaus July Camp Bethel Service Days

At Emmaus House we are in the midst of a shift as we redesign and reconstruct some of our spiritual practices as a community of faith. Ours is a fluid community of participants who flow in and out of community life for a variety of work, family and other life challenges and circumstances. In order to meet folks where they are in their spiritual journeys and still provide a solid spiritual foundation from which to be grounded to, we will begin to center our worship and community life around spiritual formation themes such as prayer, service, simplicity, obedience, etc. By emphasizing a specific spiritual formation practice for a month or two, we can provide a focus as well as thematic worship experiences and/or daily/weekly spiritual practices that participants can do, whether they are able to attend specific worship gatherings or not. July will be a "soft" launch of this community spiritual thematic approach starting with the spiritual formation theme and practice of:

### Service

After talking with Roy Spaulding, a handful of our young adults began to brainstorm about service opportunities. What if we could come along side what Mr. Roy is trying to finish up at Camp Bethel by providing some "deep cleaning" help over a number of weekends in July? This would help Bethel get cabins ready for the three youth and children's camps as well as setting a positive tone and good first impression for newcomers to Bethel, especially with the new lodge being finished.

So instead of meeting for regular worship gatherings on Saturdays in July, we will try to make commitments of service to Camp Bethel instead. For those who can, a Friday night through Sunday morning commitment. For others, just Saturday. We would still have a time of worship but it would be out at the camp and those who need to go home afterwards, can. We realize that this will not be possible for everyone but we will list suggestions and alternatives on the Emmaus Facebook page as well as in a group email, for what the spiritual practice of "service" entails and looks like in our different settings. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Mark!

Emmaus House Gatherings—July '18 | Below is a schedule overview:

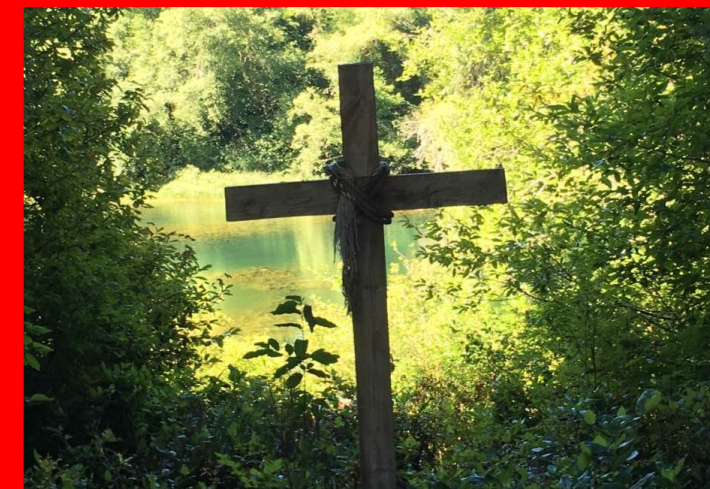
**Weekend of July 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>** - Camp Bethel | Worship will be Saturday, July 7<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.

**Weekend of July 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>** - Camp Bethel | Sr. High Camp begins on the 15<sup>th</sup>, so the emphasis will be on making sure the cabins are in excellent shape and clean!

Worship will be Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, at 6 p.m.

**Weekend of July 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>** - Camp Bethel | Junior High Camp begins on the 22<sup>nd</sup> but this is the weekend of the **Refuse to Abuse Walk/Run at Safeco Field in Seattle**. We would prefer those who are able to participate in this event on the 21<sup>st</sup>, however, if that is not possible there will be opportunity to do some work in & around Emmaus House, itself. This will be a flex weekend, so we will try to update if there is a specific cleaning/service need at Bethel or not.

**Weekend of July 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, & 29<sup>th</sup>** - Camp Bethel | Elementary Camp begins on the 29<sup>th</sup>, so the emphasis is back on the cabins and anything else around the camp that needs cleaning and/or help with after two weeks of high school and Junior High campers! Worship will be Saturday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, at 6 p.m.



# Summer Camping Ministry Camp Bethel

The summer camping season is fast approaching but it is not too late to sign-up your child, grandchildren, and/or others, for a week of fun and Jesus! Every year Camp Bethel offers three weeks of age-appropriate opportunities for children and youth to discover and experience the love of God. It's also easy to register. Just go to: [www.campbethel.net](http://www.campbethel.net).

Or if you are intimidated by technology, talk to Pastor Mark Rambo as soon as possible and he will register your child for you.

As always there will be members of Olympia First Baptist Church who will be serving as counselors, pastors, support staff, etc. The following is a quick overview of each of the camps. The theme this year is:

**“The Mysteries of God”**

Senior High/High School—Sunday, July 15<sup>th</sup>—Saturday, July 21<sup>st</sup>. This camp is for students entering the ninth grade through graduating seniors. Tim Clemenson is the Director for this week of camp. Pastor Mark will be serving as pastor and support to the camp staff and campers. Camp begins Sunday afternoon and concludes Saturday morning. Cost for the week: \$300. Scholarships are based upon need and availability. Contact Pastor Mark if you have a need and/or question(s).

Junior High/Middle School—Sunday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>—Saturday, July 28<sup>th</sup>. This camp is for students entering grade 6 through grade 8. Jeff Scott is the Director for this week of camp. Pastor Mark will be the primary teacher and speaker this week. Camp begins Sunday afternoon and concludes Saturday morning. Cost for the week: \$300. Scholarships are based upon need and availability. Contact Pastor Mark if you have a need and/or question(s).

Elementary School—Sunday, July 29<sup>th</sup>—Thursday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>. This camp is for students entering the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade through grade 5. Lashelle Trejo and LeAnne Prince are Co-Directors for this shortened week of camp. Camp begins on Sunday afternoon and concludes Thursday morning. Cost for the week is \$225. Scholarships are based upon need and availability. Contact Pastor Mark if you have a need and/or question(s). As of this writing, Pastor Mark is “on call” for this camp. His potential role is still being determined. Sandy Grebbs will be working in the kitchen this week. Rob Johnson is cooking for all three camps!

## From the Pastoral Search Committee

We are progressing on the search. Thanks so much for your responses on the Survey. We have tallied the responses and will be including them in the Church Profile. We are hoping to wrap up the profile in July (probably early August).

**Your prayers are appreciated and we know that God is leading us.**





# THANK YOU!



Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the wonderful celebration of my retirement as Minister of Music with First Baptist Church! Thank you for the cards, gifts, and beautiful roses. Cindy and I were very touched by all of the special thought that was put into making it an occasion to treasure (even down to the Wisconsin Badger colors and balloons!) Special thanks to Karen Wilson, the Music Committee, all the party planners and helpers, and to Roger Von Gohren for the pictures.

As I've said many times, we've all been blessed by the dedication and commitment over the years of so many choir members who gave of their time to bring us beautiful music each Sunday. If you weren't able to attend the celebration, I read the names of almost 90 dear choir members who shared their musical talents with us over the last 21 years. And that list didn't even include members of the church orchestra and bell ringers during past years! I am deeply grateful to all our church musicians for their years of faithful service.

Love, Dan



## Women's Ministries



Our program year has come to an end, but on a high note! 21 women gathered at Carolyn Adams' home on Boston Harbor in June for our annual spring salad luncheon. It was a time to visit, walk on the beach and get better acquainted. All reports were it was a fine time. We will begin our fall season in September. Look for news of upcoming programs toward the end of August.

This summer, the bulletin board in the entry way of the Education Building will feature "A Season of Prayer." A list of people, missions and ministries will be listed with the hope that these will become a part of your prayer life during the summer months.

Thank you to all who have helped make this a great year for Women's Ministries. We have given over \$4500 since last September to various missions/ministries. We have served the congregation in a number of different ways. I am so grateful for all who participate.

-Jean Heidal



## From the Moderator



From where I sit, it appears that things are going well. The Pastoral Search Committee is working hard to develop our profile which they will share with the congregation. The other boards and committees are also working hard to keep moving the congregation forward.

And, the church staff has been exceptional in their dedication to being in tune to the needs of the congregation.

We will miss Dan Alexanian and his part in the music ministry of this church, but we also know that there is probably just the right person looking for the opportunity to lead this faithful church choir. As the search has begun, pray for the Music Committee in their task.

And remember: "God is good, all the time. All the time, God is good!" -Jean Heidal