

# 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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## September 2018 Tentative Preaching Schedule

### First Baptist Church

#### September 2nd

Rev. Paul Aita  
Acts 4:32-37  
Believers Share Their Possessions

#### September 9th

Rev. Mark Rambo  
Acts 5:1-11  
Ananias & Sapphira.  
Sharing Possessions Pt. 2

#### September 16th

Rev. Paul Aita  
Acts 6:1-7  
Seven Chosen to Serve

#### September 23rd

Rev. Mark Rambo  
Acts 8:26-40  
Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

#### September 30th

Rev. Mylinda Baits  
International Sunday  
**Remember to wear any international  
clothing you have that day!**

# WINDOWS

September 2018

## First Baptist Church Olympia

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### SNAPSHOT of this Issue:

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## Pastor Paul's Ponderings

A recent article in the *Seattle Times* reported on how the current political climate in our country is affecting relationships between friends, family members, and co-workers. In some cases, differences have led to the break-up of some precious and longstanding relationships. In others, the only way the individuals involved were able to maintain the relationships was by finding ways to avoid potentially controversial conversations of any kind. I consider this a very sad state of affairs, but I do not believe that the problem began only with the last election cycle, though it has certainly intensified since then. It seems to me that our society has become increasingly polarized throughout the last two decades, at least. As issues have come into the public view, people have lined up strongly in favor or strongly against, often with deep antipathy towards those on the other side.

Truth be told, many situations that we face involve a number of different underlying issues, and embracing a principle on one side of one issue may violate a principle on another issue that an individual might otherwise espouse. When strong emotions are involved, it becomes easy to "tune out" those who take a different view from one's own, and the result may be a failure to see what is genuine in the other's point of view. Extremism, even in defense of honestly held beliefs, has the potential for doing great harm.

It would be a wonderful thing if followers of Jesus consistently modeled the virtue of civility for the world. Unfortunately, it is easy for people of faith to contribute to polarization—on both sides of many issues! Claiming to have right (and God) on one's side can definitely shut down good communication and breed ill-will. I believe we Christians are called to be peacemakers, which means, among other things, being willing to listen to and respect even those with whom we disagree.

Our study of the book of Acts in the coming months will show us that the early church faced many disagreements among its members. Often, it handled them civilly and creatively—but not always. As we read, we should ask ourselves how well they addressed the differences that they encountered and what we can learn from them. Since Acts does not portray the early church as perfect by any means, we should feel free to identify ways they could have done better. Through it all, we should ask ourselves how well we handle differences and how we can do better. There will always be disagreements and conflicts. May we therefore commit ourselves to handling them civilly and respectfully, and even to seeking creative ways to transform them into opportunities for the common good.

Sincerely, Paul D. Aita

# Mark's Meanderings

At the August 4<sup>th</sup> Breakfast and Conversation gathering, a question was raised again about Emmaus House and its relationship with Olympia First Baptist Church. I've decided to address this seemingly rotating question, simply and directly. If you or anyone you know has further questions, I hope that you will ask me personally and directly. Here it goes:

Emmaus House is an extension of the mission and ministry of Olympia First Baptist Church. Emmaus House meets for worship at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday nights in the old parsonage on the back of the church property, facing 10<sup>th</sup> St. The address is 216 10<sup>th</sup> St. SE, Olympia, 98501. Emmaus House has a Facebook page, where people can see weekly updates of our planned gatherings, special events and other information and pictures. **Worship and All Emmaus House gatherings are open to anyone at Olympia First Baptist Church as well as the general public.** The core group of Emmaus House is made up of members from Olympia First Baptist Church as well as other individuals and families who are not affiliated with Olympia First Baptist. What brings us together is our relationship and exploration of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ in today's world and how you live that relationship out. We are not a closed community! We are an open community!

Emmaus House's worship is not traditional. We are more conversational than what you would experience on a Sunday morning at Olympia First Baptist. The music is more contemporary but it does include traditional songs you would find in a church hymnal, just played on a guitar. We have a time of prayer, reading of a psalm as well as other scriptures and we incorporate video clips to generate conversation and/or to give a different voice and/or perspective to whatever the subject matter we are focusing on that particular day. In many ways, it is exactly the same sort of format you would experience at any church, it's just done more informally, more relationally and more conversationally. We take communion every Saturday and children are always included. We feel it's one of the ways that they can learn about the rhythms and practices of being a part of the "Church."

In many ways, **Emmaus House is an Oasis.** By that I mean, that over the last 12 years we have been a place of spiritual rest, community, hospitality and safety from the "wilderness" of life. We have provided a community for people to reconnect with their faith after being away from it for a long period of time. We have provided a safe place to heal from being wounded by bad church experiences. We have been a way station for those in military service to land and put down some community roots between assignments. We have been a spiritual and relational presence and resource for many of our friends, family members and co-workers who do not consider themselves people of faith and/or "church-going" folk. We are an extension of you, members of Olympia First Baptist Church, even though you may not know our names or faces because we are joined by our common relationship with Jesus Christ. That makes us sisters and brothers!

Finally, if you have ever thought about wandering over and joining us on a Saturday night, please do so! **YOU ARE WELCOMED TO COME AND PARTICIPATE IN the WORSHIP EXPERIENCE AT EMMAUS HOUSE! ANY TIME!** Presently we are spending 4–6 weeks focusing on a specific spiritual discipline and/or practice. For example, in the month of July, into early August, we focused on the spiritual discipline of **SERVICE!** On July 7<sup>th</sup>, a group of 12 from Emmaus spent that Saturday out at Camp Bethel, cleaning cabins to get the camp ready for the upcoming youth/children's camps. July 14<sup>th</sup>, a group of 16 were back out at Bethel for more cleaning of the shower house, cabins and landscaping/mowing trails, walking paths, etc. July 21<sup>st</sup>, 5 Emmaus House community members were at Safeco Field for the 5K Refuse to Abuse Walk/Run to raise money and awareness to the issue of Domestic Violence, while 2 other members were in Olympia starting the process of making dump runs and cleaning up Emmaus House for the Williams family, IM Missionaries coming for a year-long home assignment. And three of the Emmaus community was at Camp Bethel painting trim for the new lodge. There were other opportunities and experiences but you get the idea. Part of the worship service we had on August 11<sup>th</sup> was debriefing our emphasis and experiences of service and what impact that had on us as a community, spiritually, as well as how it could make a difference in our community life going forward. One of the more moving shared experiences came from one of the children, who is in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, who found the service experience uplifting and meaningful. Yeah, God! We are currently exploring the spiritual discipline/practice of SIMPLICITY!

## September Calendar 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10 a.m. Worship, Child Care & Nursery 4 p.m. Table Grace	10 a.m. Worship, Child Care & Nursery 4 p.m. Table Grace	10 a.m. Worship, Child Care & Nursery 4 p.m. Table Grace	10 a.m. Worship, Child Care & Nursery 4 p.m. Table Grace	10 a.m. Worship, Child Care & Nursery 4 p.m. Table Grace	10 a.m. Worship, Child Care & Nursery 4 p.m. Table Grace	10 a.m. Worship, Child Care & Nursery 4 p.m. Table Grace
	Labor Day	Labor Day Observed - Church Office Closed				
8:30 a.m. Aita Mission Presentation & Breakfast Congregational Meeting After Church 1 p.m. Sorelle Quartet Concert	7 p.m. Pastoral Search Committee Meeting in the Library	6:30 p.m. Trustees Budget Meeting in the Library	5 p.m. Table Grace Meeting in the Fireside Room			8 a.m. Jail Ministry 102 11 a.m. Widows Group @ Silvers 6 p.m. Emmaus House
8:30 a.m. Sunday School Starts** After Church Picnic at Tumwater Historical Park	7 p.m. Pastoral Search Committee Meeting in the Library	6:30 p.m. Trustees Meeting Room 102				15 8 a.m. Men's Breakfast 10 a.m. God's Little Blessings In Library 6 p.m. Emmaus
	7 p.m. Pastoral Search Committee Meeting in the Library		6:30 p.m. Executive Council Room 102	9 a.m. Bible Study Starts in the Fireside Room		6 p.m. Emmaus House
				9 a.m. Bible Study in the Fireside Room		6 p.m. Emmaus House

## From the Pastoral Search Committee

Now that the Profile has been turned in, we are awaiting the resumes from our contact, who is an ABC Associate Executive Minister. We are expecting initial batch of resumes in September.

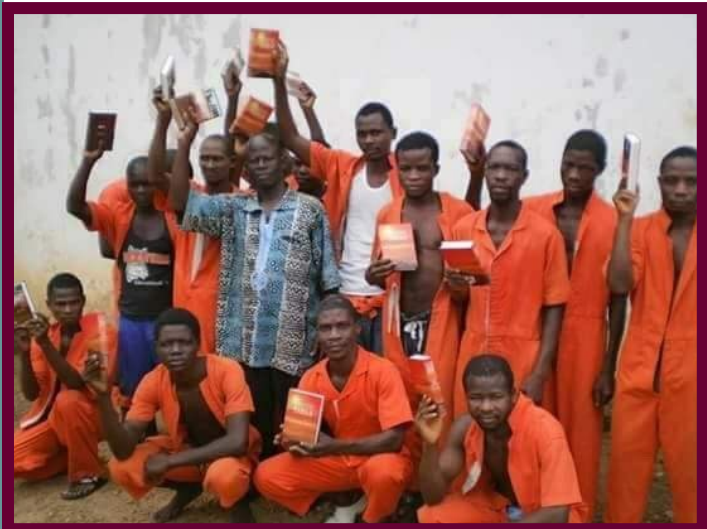
Now that the job description is out there, we may get some applicants come directly to the church. If you are contacted by anyone, please refer them to one of the members of the Pastoral Search Committee. Thank you for your prayers!



## Prayer Request:

Please pray for Monrovia Prison Ministry in Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa. Here are a few photos from the ministry.

Thank You, John Nunneh



## Sorelle Quartet

### String Quartet Concert

#### Featuring

Julie Funchion Sandvig ~ Violin  
Pat Krafcik ~ Violin  
Lisa Dyvig ~ Viola  
Elizabeth Gross ~ Cello

### THE MAYDAY FOUNDATION

RESCUE SUPPORT FOR CANCER PATIENTS

#### Program to Include

Borodin  
Mozart  
Contemporary Pop Covers

*Sunday, September 9th at 1:00 pm*

First Baptist Church  
904 Washington St. Olympia, WA

*Free Admission*

Donations accepted - All proceeds will go to Mayday Foundation

## September Birthdays!

Roy Spaulding	8
Teresa Trimble	9
Tom Mead	10
Joan Rogers	12
Tom Funderburk	15
Sara Frederickson Nash	16
Jamie Chavez	18
Roger von Gohren	19
Will Stuivenga	25
Joe Alexanian	27
Mylynda Baits	28
Amber Chavez Rutledge	30
Pat Malizio	30



## Mark's Meanderings Continued...

I hope that clears up any questions you have had about Emmaus House and/or that it gives you a better understanding of what we are about as an extension of the mission and ministry of Olympia First Baptist! Remember...we gather on Saturday nights at 6 p.m. Check our Facebook page to double check the time or to see if there's a change in the schedule! If you're still curious and want to check us out, please do so!

Blessings! Pastor Mark and the Emmaus House Community

P.S. On a more personal note, Kathleen and I will be traveling back East to Boston on September 26<sup>th</sup> where I will meet with the Center for Career Development and Ministry for a two-day comprehensive assessment of my ministry skills, strengths, weaknesses, etc. This ministry assessment should provide helpful insight for myself, Kathleen and Olympia First Baptist, especially during this time of transition, as all of us are trying to discern God's will for us as a faith community as well as for me personally and professionally. The two days, September 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>, provide opportunity for assessment, strategic planning and goal-setting with an experience vocational counselor who is also a trained therapist. We hope that this time of reflection, assessment and development will be a great help for all of us, personally, professionally, and spiritually. After the two days, Kathleen will take about three days to celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary (which was the end of July, but I was at Camp Bethel) and go explore New England before we return home on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## 2018 Fall Preview

September is the start of a new school year for our children and grandchildren, and yes, for some, even their great-grandchildren. The local church year often follows and reflects the school calendar, so what follows is Olympia First Baptist's spiritual formation classes and opportunities for the Fall, 2018.

Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>

Kick-off Continental Breakfast @ 8:30 a.m.

A Preview of Sunday School offerings & the Thursday Morning Bible Study Class!

Malaysia Mission Trip—Pastor Paul & Gail Aita

Pastor Paul and Gail will share with us highlights of their trip to Malaysia this past July/August.

Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>

**8:30 a.m. Sunday School**

Adult Offerings:

"Alive in the Spirit"—Pastor Sam, Room 102

"The Book of Acts"—Dan Bezanson, Library

Children/Youth/Adult's—Intergenerational Offering:

"Telling God's Story...Meeting Jesus" Pastor Mark, Room 207

**10 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary**

**11:30 a.m. All Church Picnic—Tumwater Historical Park**

Last Names—A—M—chicken and Salad(s)

Last Names—N—Z—Chicken and dessert(s)

Church will provide baked beans & drinks

Thursday, September 20<sup>th</sup>

Thursday Morning Bible Study—9 a.m.—Fireside Room

"Meeting Jesus"—Pastor Mark Rambo with Guest appearances by Pastor Paul Aita and others... Let's rediscover, together, why we follow and love Jesus! We'll do this by looking at narratives, stories from the gospels, about the life, teaching, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth into Jesus the Christ!



# An Interview With Our Global Servants

We are blessed to have two International Ministries missionaries, also known as **Global Servants**, as part of our church family. I, Gary Baits, was fortunate to catch both Sarah Jean Nash and Rev. Mylinda Baits while they were in town, so I thought I would ask them about their ministries. You will also be hearing from both of them on our International Day worship service, Sunday, September 30.

**Please remember to wear any international clothing you have that day.**

## Sarah Jean Nash

Sarah, your profile on the website tells us that you are “passionate about serving women and children through ministries of discipleship, education, and health” How eager are you to get to Bolivia to serve with House of Hope? Do you have a moving date in mind?

***I’m very excited! My IM colleagues J.D. and Rhonda and my ministry partners Carmen and Richard met this month to work on our new Foundation, so there was talking, planning, praying, and dreaming together. I look forward to join them and being a part of this process as we look towards the future of House of Hope Foundation! I keep seeing pictures being posted on Facebook of the dental clinics, and they make me very eager to be there! I am currently at 75% of my PSG (personal support goal). Once I get to 100% I’ll be able to start moving to Bolivia. My prayer is that it will be in January!***

How has God used your experiences as a dental assistant, and as a bilingual educator in Shelton to prepare you for this ministry?

***God has opened doors for me to use my dental assisting skills and teaching experience in Bolivia! I don’t know exactly what it will look like, but I will try to use my dental skills at our mobile dental clinics in Cochabamba when needed. When I arrive, my main focus will be getting settled and building relationships with local pastors and church members in Santa Cruz de la Sierra who want to create a safe place for children to come before or after school to receive meals, tutoring, and Bible studies. Once House of Hope has a ministry partner in Santa Cruz, then we will implement the healthcare mobile clinics just like in Cochabamba.***

What is it about Bolivia and the ministry there that is drawing you?

***I love that they empower local leaders to share the gospel holistically in their context. House of Hope ministries focus on promoting healthcare and education to at-risk children and women. I love working with children and God has called me to serve among the poor and marginalized.***

What will you miss about living in Olympia?

***I will miss my family, friends, my church community, cold weather, and being surrounded by water! Bolivia is landlocked and the average temperature of Santa Cruz is 80°F.***

How can we pray for you this month?

Sarah Jean: ***Pray for me to set healthy boundaries between building my network of financial partners and spending time with family.***

If people want to get your journal updates sent automatically to their e-mail, how do they do that?

***I have had some technical problems! Don’t worry, I have resolved the problem and you will be getting a newsletter very soon if you have signed up for them! If you haven’t signed up you can do so by visiting [www.internationalministries.org/author/s-nash](http://www.internationalministries.org/author/s-nash) and click on SIGN UP FOR MY NEWSLETTER***

## Magical Musical Moments

*In memory of Dorothy Mead, who was the administrative secretary and organist and pianist for many years at Olympia First Baptist Church, I want to share this essay that I wrote about her several years ago.— Carolyn von Gohren*

What could have been an uneventful visit with my friend Dorothy Mead instead provided some “magical moments”.

Although she was expecting me at Olympics West, an assisted living facility, Dorothy was lying down upon my arrival. She was resting due to experiencing discomfort while recovering from surgery. There was an electronic keyboard in the middle of her studio apartment; and after we’d talked for awhile, I asked Dorothy, who was an accomplished musician, if she might play something for me. However, she said that she didn’t feel well enough.

So we continued to converse. Then when it was appropriate for me to leave, Dorothy wanted to walk me to the main door of the building. The nearby residents’ parlor had a grand piano in one corner; so I gently asked again if she might play for me. Without verbally replying, Dorothy went over to the instrument and sat down on the bench. She began by playing, “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”, followed by, “I Come to the Garden Alone”, and “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot”. Dorothy played beautifully, without using music.

Also in the parlor was an elderly gentleman sitting on a couch, with his head tilted back. He had appeared to be sleeping, until Dorothy began playing. The man, still in the same posture, with eyes shut, then sang all three hymns softly.

That both of them remembered the songs of their faith was most inspiring. Indeed, this was such a heartwarming experience that I felt that I was much more blessed than dear Dorothy had been by my time with her.



## Camp Bethel—Summer Review

The summer camping season is in the books this year for Camp Bethel. Though our overall numbers were down some this year, from last, we still had enough campers at our three primary camps to break even financially. The better news is that the camp hosted, for the first time, a group of 80 Ukrainian youth from churches in the Vancouver, Washington area. Hopefully this is a relationship that the camp can build upon. Camp Bethel, is also in a time of transition as the new lodge gets closer to completion as well as acquiring its occupancy license. Additionally, they too have a Search Committee that has started their work in finding a new Executive Director for the camp. Your prayers for that search process is also coveted!

The theme this summer was “The Mysteries of God” and all three camps took different approaches in presenting the theme. Senior High Camp took a broad overview of how God works in the world by looking at the promises God made in the Old Testament and how they were fulfilled in the New Testament writings, especially concerning Jesus Christ. Specific attention was paid to the fulfillment of the Messiah in the person of Jesus and how that relationship is still available to all people today. Additionally, afternoon vespers focused on actor Chris Pratt’s 9 Keys to Life, which he shared publicly, on MTV’s Movie Awards Show. Many of those keys focused on living a life of faith and integrity!

Junior High Camp focused on the mystery that is Jesus. That Jesus is 100% God ALL the time and 100% Human ALL the time AT the SAME time! To flesh this “mystery” out, Pastor Mark spent time looking at the stories that Jesus told, parables, that used every day, ordinary, human things, like yeast, to use as metaphors, symbols and/or examples of God’s kingdom being in the world now, today. We also looked at miracle stories, involving Jesus, because those stories give witness to Jesus’ identity as the Son of God. Small Groups used the forces of nature, science and story to talk about God in a more hands-on approach.

Elementary Camp focused on the extraordinary, mysterious love that God has for us! 2–3 different local pastors, including Pastor Mark, shared Bible stories with the children that illustrates God’s constant love for us. From the parable of the prodigal son to Jesus welcoming and gathering the children others tried to keep away from him, the campers heard, sang and looked at ways to love God and to love each other and others too!

Hopefully this glimpse of the ministry that is taking place at Camp Bethel gives you hope and confidence that God is at work there. That the good news of Jesus Christ is being shared and lived out by the adults and young people who make up the volunteer staff! It was a very good three weeks. Continue to hold up the camp, its staff, including our own Rob Johnson as well as Interim Director Tim Clemensen and the entire Camp Bethel Board as they move the camp in a forward, positive direction. If you have questions, inquiries or just want an update on the progress of the new lodge, talk to Roy Spaulding, board members David Nash, Bob Holcomb, Taylor Wolden, Carrie Dubuque, or Pastor Mark Rambo.

## Rev. Mylinda Baits

Mylinda, you will be in Puerto Rico this month with Emily Blair, Betty Utter, and Wendy Wilson to help with the ongoing work of hurricane recovery. What moved you to make this trip?

*When back to back hurricanes hit Puerto Rico a year ago this September, I felt compelled to help right away, but was unable to because of my already full travel schedule. Many of my fellow IM colleagues, their families and faithful American Baptist Churches in Puerto Rico were directly affected by the hurricanes. The Baptist churches in Puerto Rico have historically been the most generous contributors to International Ministries and global mission. I felt moved to give back to those who have given so much and were now in need of our solidarity. The Restoring, Rebuilding, Renewing Puerto Rico campaign organized by American Baptist Home Mission Society offered us an opportunity to serve. I was initially going to go by myself to celebrate my birthday, but when I mentioned the idea to others, Emily, Betty and Wendy wanted to join me as well.*

Your profile describes you as a “**pastoral artist and trainer**” who “seeks justice, healing and transformation through restorative art and creative expression.” How have you seen your pastoral and artistic gifts working together for justice and healing?

*I have been blessed to create ‘brave spaces’ in creative workshops around the world designed to give voice and expression to those often overlooked, overworked, and under recognized for their contributions and ideas. Justice for me is about honor and dignity for all so in my trainings I try to invite everyone to bring their unique voice and perspective to the group. Healing for me is about living into wholeness and well-being, reconnecting with God, oneself and others after hurt, heartbreak or trauma. I use my pastoral and artistic gifts to proclaim and express in tangible ways the Gospel message of beauty in brokenness, light and life in the midst of loss, and hope and healing in spite of harm and hatred.*

International Ministries has a missiology of **partnership**. What does “**missiology**” mean and what does “partnership” look like?

*Missiology is the “way” we go about doing missions, it is our ethical commitment of how we treat others and how we approach our work. Partnership looks like listening. Deep, patient, non-judgmental listening. Partnership is seeking God’s best together with those who have invited us to serve alongside of them, not imposing our perspective or culture on others, but contributing what we each can. Partnership is acting together, not doing for, or instead of. Partnership is mutual honor, respect and care for one another as equals created by God.*

We are using the term “**Global Servants**” more, rather than talking about “missionaries.” What does this change mean to you?

*Global Servants gives the idea that, we, as all of God’s children are called to serve, and in our case it just means serving outside of our home culture. The word “missionary” has evolved into one with the connotation of imposition and power over, like someone with a mission. Even though we may think our mission is correct, it can be seen as disrespectful and manipulative. The change of term is intended to clarify that we are called to serve with and not impose.*

How can we pray for you this month?

*Pray for a safe and significant work trip to Puerto Rico for our team. Pray for my ministry trips for the coming year, and for my doctoral studies in expressive arts therapy and social change. Thanks for your prayers and financial support.*

If people want to get your journal updates sent automatically to their e-mail, how do they do that?  
Go to [//www.internationalministries.org/author/m-baits/](http://www.internationalministries.org/author/m-baits/) and click on SIGN UP FOR MY NEWSLETTER.

## From the Moderator: Special Congregation Meeting

The Council was asked by the Pastoral Search Committee to give clarification on what the pastoral staffing would be as they begin the process of reaching out to possible candidates for Senior Pastor. The Council met three times to talk about this issue and struggled with what our needs are as a congregation and the resources we have to staff and meet those needs.

After much prayer and discussion the Council voted unanimously to present to the congregation a new pastoral staffing plan. Our decision is to have a full time Senior Pastor and a second part-time staff person. As we looked at the financial picture we have come to the difficult decision that 2- full time pastoral positions are not sustainable with our current congregation.

Because this is a change in our staffing level, the congregation must vote to accept this change. Therefore, we will have a **congregation meeting on Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, after worship**, to ask the congregation to affirm this new staffing plan. We will have a brief time for comments and then the vote.

All of the Council expressed their deep appreciation and respect for Pastor Mark Rambo and for his continued ministry during this transition.

Please continue to be in prayer for the Search Committee, your church staff and the Council as they look to the future of our church.

Jean Heidal

## Women's Ministries

**September Meeting** – We will gather after our summer break on Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon in the Fireside Room for a sack lunch and meeting. Dessert and beverages will be provided. Gail Aita will be speaking about her recent trip to Malaysia with Pastor Paul. Gail's mission this time was teaching teachers how to teach and took some of her school teacher friends with them. Come, and hear her adventures and accomplishments. We will have a short business meeting as well. The memorial fund which we established for Rev. Dr. Evelyn Breese is just over \$1200. Come with your ideas of how we might use this fund.

**Clean out – Clean Up Time** – We are now starting to collect items for the Christmas Treasure Room. If you have items you would like to donate please contact me and we can make arrangements for storage. The Christmas Brunch will be held on Sat., December 8<sup>th</sup> this year so mark your calendar.

**FarWest Area Rally** – The Olympia women will be hosting the Rally on Sat., October 6<sup>th</sup> this year. Katrina Williams, on home assignment from The Congo and living in Emmaus House with her family, will be our speaker. If you did not receive information in the mail, please pick up a registration form on the long table in the fellowship area. Registrations need to be returned by Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> to Helen Pothier.

**On A Personal Note...** I want to express my deep appreciation to all those who have rallied around me after the passing of my husband, Dale. The luncheon following his Celebration of Life Service was a caring expression of the way our women reach out in times of need. Family and friends wanted to "help" – do dishes, move tables and chairs, pick up plates, etc but I was able to say, "You are our guest. Please sit and enjoy."

Thank you also for the cards and remembrances in Dale's name. These notes have brought me great comfort in these past weeks, and in the future as well. There will be time to reread the notes and reflect on the impact he had on so many lives. I continue to covet your prayers.

Jean Heidal

## Table Grace

Table Grace, our long-standing feeding ministry which is now a much wider supported community ministry, continues to provide a safe and welcoming space for the least-of-these within Thurston County. Through July we have provided **11,425 plates** of food, **an average of 369 plates served every Sunday afternoon**. Because of our crack team of shoppers and the leadership of Freda Spaulding and Terry Whitehouse, we have kept our expenses below our income, so financially we are in a good place as well. There are, however, some areas where we need other people to step forward and give relief and help to our dedicated team(s) of volunteers.

Specifically, Table Grace needs help in the kitchen. We have crews that are starting to wear out and really need a break. We need helpers that can lift the pans, learn how the kitchen runs, and help the cooking team. Pastor Mark will be sending letters to the other churches also requesting assistance. Each team works one Sunday per month. We especially need help the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays. If you have a desire to help with the meal preparations on a particular Sunday afternoon, please see Freda Spaulding, Terry Whitehouse or Pastor Mark with your questions. We praise God every week for the help he supplies to us.

Secondly, we also need a person or two who can provide relief in our Safeway pickups on Saturdays and Sunday morning. Presently, Hans Stoker and Steve Garver are carrying the load. The Table Grace leadership team and the wider Table Grace support community want to thank Cal Lampers for his years of faithful service in picking up needed items from Safeway as well as the other ways he has supported this ministry. However, it is time for others to step up as Cal no longer can do so. The Safeway pickups do require a pickup truck or other large vehicle. If you have questions or want to be of help and service, please see Pastor Mark ASAP! The good news is that we already have one young adult who just volunteered to help but we need a few more! **We thank you for your prayers, your volunteerism and support!**

**The Table Grace Committee**

## Staff Positions Open

Following the retirement of Dan Alexanian as Minister of Music at the end of June, it has decided that the church will seek a temporary choir director. This will allow the new senior pastor to take part in selecting a person for the permanent position. It will also give an added measure of flexibility to the music program during the interim period. The temporary choir director will lead the adult choir for our traditional worship service on Sunday mornings and lead one rehearsal during the week. A complete job description is available on the church's website. Printed copies are available on the long table near the church office.

Last week, we received a letter of resignation from Glory Nylander, our church secretary, effective August 29, as she and her husband Jordan will be moving to Union, Washington, for Jordan's new job there as a music paraeducator. Jordan will continue to serve as our organist, and the couple will continue to worship at First Baptist Church, but Glory feels that distance is too long for a commute four days a week. In light of other transitions with respect to church staffing, the Trustees have determined that we will also fill this position on a temporary basis, and we have begun the process by making interview arrangements.

The application process for each of these positions will continue until it is filled. If you or someone you know is interested in either of them, please therefore submit a résumé to Pastor Paul at church as soon as possible. As per church bylaws and policies, he will work with the appropriate church committees to fill the positions.