

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF OLYMPIA

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## Church Staff

Pastor Dave Roberts, Interim Pastor  
Mark Rambo, Associate Pastor  
Caroline Lehman, Visitation Pastor  
Jordan Nylander, Organist  
Darrell Born, Choir Director  
Lela DePaolo, Secretary  
Gary Rogers, Caretaker

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Organization  
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Olympia WA  
Permit No. 198

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## January 2019 Tentative Preaching Schedule First Baptist Church

### January 6th

Pastor Mark- Isaiah 60:1- 6  
"Wake Up...Get Out of Bed"

### January 13th

Pastor Dave Roberts

### January 20th

Pastor Dave Roberts

### January 27th

Pastor Mark - Luke 4:14-21  
"Kingdom vs. Empire, Part II"



## First Baptist Church Olympia

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Every  
next level  
of your life  
will demand  
a different  
you.

don't  
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will grow up  
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next level

## Pastor Dave's Ponderings

### An interim pastor's Thoughts Along The WAY ...

I've been wondering ...

Now that I've accepted the invitation to take up the mantle of interim pastor that Paul Aita has been carrying so ably — how is my life going to change?

There is the obvious: the 45 minutes to 90 minute drive between Olympia and my home in Federal Way, depending on traffic; developing sermons; going "to work" generally.

But it's the not-so-obvious things that are more important and more interesting. How will my time spent with you as individuals and as a congregation change me as a person? How will our relationship change the way I preach and work and share in ministry? How will my connections with the other members of the staff change my understanding of collegiality and patterns of work?

You see, one of the operating principles I try to keep in view is that "one change changes everything." Have you recognized that?

I'm making a couple of "apothecary cases" with nine drawers each for my granddaughters for Christmas. All the drawers are supposed to be the same size. However, when I was setting up

to make the first dadoes (that's the name for a groove that goes across the grain of the wood) I miscalculated. Now I have narrower drawers on each side of wider drawers down the middle. Frustration.

Not only does that one change change the size of the drawers but it means that I have to recalculate the sizes of many of the pieces! My wife assures me they will still look nice. (Thanks, dear.)

One change changes everything. The Seahawks have experienced that in their defensive secondary this season. They're finding out that things work differently with different personnel. I imagine you've experienced that at work, whether you have worked in or outside the home.

Have you ever come to worship to find someone is already sitting in "your" seat? Did you have to adjust your perspective caused by sitting in another place? How did that change your experience of worship?

My understanding is that the First Baptist Church of Olympia has been dealing with several changes this past year. Pastoral retirement, new interim pastor, staff changes, decisions about staffing arrangements — and now me about to

Pastor Dave cont...

are obvious changes that bring change, both public and private.

Those who had a close relationship with Pastor Bob grieve his leaving. There are others who probably feel like it was "time", and are ready to move on rather quickly.

There may be grief over the felt necessity to make the change from two full time pastoral positions to less than that and what that implies about the congregation.

Those who sing in the choir have had to adapt to a different person choosing the music and leading. I find it interesting to see how different conductors use their arms and hands. A choir has to pick up on the nuanced changes between the people on the podium.

Those are public changes. Each of us has had our own private changes coming from the death or disability of a loved one; employment changes; changes in housing; the list goes on. All of these changes are brought into the congregation in subtle and not so subtle ways, because we are, after all, the family of God.

So now I'd like you to pause in your reading and respond to this question: what have you learned about me in the couple minutes it's taken you to read this?

I haven't told you that I served three churches, all in the state of Washington, before I retired. My wife says that joining in ministry with you will mean I've failed retirement three times.

I haven't told you many of the things on my resumé that I shared with the Council in our interview. However, I hope what I've written here will help you get a feel for who I am.

I look forward to joining with you in ministry the first week of January. I'm curious to see what changes come for all of us.

See you in the meeting place where we discover something new.

Pastor Dave



**“APPROACH THE  
NEW YEAR  
WITH  
RESOLVE  
TO FIND THE  
OPPORTUNITIES  
HIDDEN IN  
EACH  
NEW DAY.”**

- MICHAEL JOSEPHSON  
ITSALLYOUBOO.COM

**Prayer Retreat, March 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>!**

**Camp Bethel Retreat Center!**

**Let's get ready for Lent, together!**

**New Life! New Year! Endless Possibilities!**

**Head! Heart! Hands!**

**Hope, Peace, Love and Joy Still Apply!**

**Sign-ups begin Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>!**

**Women's Ministries**

**Jean Heidal**

The Christmas Brunch on December 8<sup>th</sup> was a great success because so many people helped all along the way! Thank you to all who hosted tables, did kitchen prep work, cleaned up, and organized the Treasure Room and the Cookie Room. What an extraordinary effort!

Our program of Christmas music was enjoyed by all, and word has it the Quintessentials enjoyed being with us as much as we enjoyed having them! It just speaks to the friendly, warm, and inviting nature of our group! Thank you to the hostesses and attendees who made their performance time with us a good experience.

Gail Aita's presentation as Mary's mother was indeed moving and gave us a perspective that might have been new to some. What do you say to your teenage daughter who says that this amazing revelation has been made to her? It gave us all something to ponder as we approached the Christmas season. We will certainly miss Gail and her creative and talented nature.

January is here (almost) and time for our annual Ladies' Night Out. We will gather in the Fireside Room on Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 PM for pizza and beverages, supplied by Women's Ministries. You are asked to bring a salad, appetizer, or dessert to share. Also, bring a table or card game to play.

The ukulele trio is coming back to entertain us and the hula dancer will be teaching those who want to participate a new dance! Grass skirts and leis provided. We had so much fun with them last year they are back for an encore performance!

Plans for the rest of the year are underway now, including a special spring event! Thank you for your support of Women's Ministries - if you have not attended a meeting, come and check us out. We're all about mission opportunities locally and internationally. We also strive to build relationships within our group, so come and join us. 2019 could be a year a great opportunities for you!

As you read this the New Year has just begun. What will it be for First Baptist Church of Olympia? The staff, boards and committees make plans, but God will guide what happens in this New Year. That, however, does not excuse us from being faithful to our calling as Christians and as members (friends) of this body.

To those who have said “yes” to serving in some capacity this year, bless you! We need your presence, your commitment and support. We have lost some members this past year which always happens when there is a pastoral change. However, new people are also coming and we need to make a place for them in our fellowship.

The choir is a prime example of this growth. Darrell Born, choir director, has been working to build the choir ranks and it is very encouraging to see a full, or nearly full, choir loft week after week. This does not happen by accident. It is people inviting others to come and share in this ministry. Think what could happen if each group/person in the church invited someone to come to worship, Bible study or Sunday school with them. The church membership emphasis by Pastor Paul and Pastor Mark has given the opportunity to several who want to make a public profession of their church membership. We will celebrate with these folks on January 6<sup>th</sup>.

We have said our “good-byes” to Paul and Gail Aita and thank them for their time with us. Pastor Paul helped in so many ways to clarify policies that have needed attention for a long time. He gave direction to the boards and committees in helping us to prepare for a new senior pastor. Gail has become a part of the choir, women’s ministries and helped welcome visitors on Sunday mornings. They have been a wonderful addition to our church and we will miss them.

At the same time, we will be welcoming Rev. Dave Roberts and his wife, Merletta, as our new interim. Pastor Dave has written an article for this publication so you can get to know him. Merletta is known to many of our women as she serves as the president of the region women’s group. She also sings and plays the piano. She and Pastor Dave have also been part of a “clown ministry” that we will be hearing more about during their time with us.

In the meantime, the Pastoral Search Committee continues their work to find just the right person for our pastoral position. Please continue to pray for them.

## Mark’s Meanderings

### *“New Life, New Year, Endless Possibilities”*

*As we enter 2019, we come off the heels of the Advent/Christmas seasons. Advent, a time of waiting, preparing, even expecting the miraculous, to come to us in the form of a baby! God—with-us—Emmanuel! Christmas is the culmination of that waiting and expectation. Recognizing and giving thanks to the gift that has finally arrived. A gift where we find our hope, peace, love and joy wrapped up in. How mysterious! How wonderful! Plus, there is the added bonus that we have two babies in our midst already. Lizzie Rutledge and Emerald Nylander personify, the joy, excitement and hope that new life, through a baby, brings to so many!*

*We also have to admit, however, that the Christmas season also comes with some disappointment, letdowns and feelings of “is that all there is?” We build up and build up and join in the consumerism of the culture. We build up and build up to decorate, to cook, to host, to buy the perfect gift for those who are important to us, that the end result can feel lackluster and yes, empty. Then there are those of us, who never caught the “spirit” of the season. Our memories, our experiences, our grief, are triggered by this time of year and we feel like outsiders, not wanting to play Eeyore to our family and friends’ Winnie-the-Pooh outlooks.*

*Depending on your perspective, the Christmas season also brings with it a New Year with the changing of the calendar. January gives us opportunities to change our settings; to reflect and refocus on what the coming year may have in store for us as well as the challenges and adventures that await us. Some of us embrace the tradition of New Year’s Resolutions while others grudgingly play along, knowing that for them it is an exercise in futility. For those of us who are followers of the Incarnate One, God-with-us, Jesus the New Year gives us the starting point to recalibrate our level of Hope, Peace, Love and Joy and how we share those Advent themes and more importantly, live them, with some consistency and intentionality. So, a New Year brings much to ponder, pray as well as put into action... potentially!*

*Continued on page 7...*

## Pastor Paul Aita's message to First Baptist Church:

Dear Friends,

It has been a real honor for me to serve as your Interim Senior Pastor since May 1<sup>st</sup>. Throughout our time with you, you have extended a very warm welcome to Gail and to me. We have been impressed by the scope of your ministry, even during this time of transition. You have been very responsive to my ministry, and I am very grateful for all your kindnesses. I know that you will give a similar welcome to Pastor Dave Roberts as he becomes Interim Senior Pastor starting January 1<sup>st</sup>, and to his wife Merletta, whom many of you already know through American Baptist Women's Ministries. We trust that God will lead you in the selection of a permanent pastor to guide the congregation in the future. May God bless you all throughout 2019 and always,

Sincerely,

Paul D. Aita

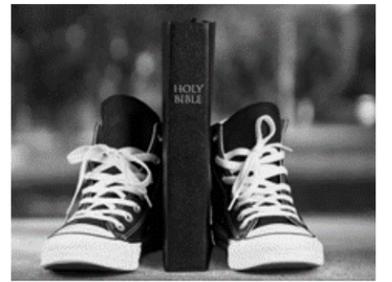
## Being the People of God—Right Hand of Fellowship

Join us for worship on Epiphany Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, at 10 a.m. as we gather in God's presence to celebrate life in Christ and to affirm our membership and bond with God and one another here at Olympia First Baptist.

We will focus on God calling us into community, membership, of being the people of God. We will extend the Right Hand of Fellowship to new members as well as having established members re-committing themselves to being the church of Jesus Christ here on the corner of 9<sup>th</sup> and Washington. We will gather around Table, with Bread and Cup, in order to lay down the stuff of our lives before God; confident that God will forgive, heal, receive, and/or embrace the wide range of emotions and experiences that we bring to the Table.

You will also have the opportunity to meet and greet our new Interim Pastor, Rev. David Roberts and his wife Merletta! There will be a reception for them after the worship service, downstairs in the Fellowship Hall.

## THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY



With a new year often means we have opportunity to make a New Year's Resolution. May we suggest that one of your resolutions be joining us on Thursday mornings beginning January 10<sup>th</sup> for Bible Study. Starting at 9:00 a.m. in the downstairs Fireside Room, Thursday morning bible study is filled with food, song, prayer and study, sometimes interactive and fun study! 9:00 a.m. is early for some of you but we have coffee to get your day jump started and then we follow that up with a healthy dose of Jesus. How can you say no to that? Below is a schedule for January, and February of the texts/scriptures we will be looking at. We are using the Revised Common Lectionary as our guide, focusing on the Psalm and Gospel text for that particular week. We hope you will come and join us!

Jan. 10 <sup>th</sup>	Psalm 29/Luke 3:15—17, 21—22
Jan. 17 <sup>th</sup>	Psalm 36:5—10/John 2:1—11
Jan. 24 <sup>th</sup>	Psalm 19/Luke 4:14—21
Jan. 31 <sup>st</sup>	Psalm 71:1—6/Luke 4:21—30
Feb. 7 <sup>th</sup>	Psalm 138/Luke 5:1—11
Feb. 14 <sup>th</sup>	Jeremiah 17:5—10/Luke 6:17—26
Feb. 21 <sup>st</sup>	Psalm 37:1—11, 39—40/Luke 6:27—38
Feb. 28 <sup>th</sup>	Psalm 99/Luke 9:28—36, (37—43a)

### Pastor Mark Continued...

*Finally, there's endless possibilities. Because of the gift of Christmas, Emmanuel, God—with—us, Jesus the Christ, the possibilities for mission and ministry, for personal growth, spiritually and holistically, is always present. New Life, represented in the Christ Child takes us into a New Year that calls us to Endless Possibilities. Yes, even in times of transition, this pattern, this flow, this spiritual rhythm of **New Life, New Year, Endless Possibilities** is present and real and calling our names, individually and as a community if faith. This year will see a change in pastoral leadership. It has the potential to see changes within the staff, in how we do mission and ministry as well as who we become more intentional in engaging with, the good news of Jesus Christ. What does God have in store for us? Do we have the ears to hear? The hearts to receive? The open minds to balance the traditional, melding with innovative approaches? What is God calling you, and us, to? Head! Heart! Hands! New life! New Year! Endless Possibilities! Dig it!*

*Hope, Peace, Love and Joy!*

*Pastor Mark*