

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF OLYMPIA

PO BOX 533
OLYMPIA, WA 98507

Contact Information

360-357-3881
Fax: 360-357-8345
Email: olyfbc@aol.com
Web: fbcolympia.org

Church Staff

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

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Olympia WA
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March 2019 Tentative Preaching Schedule First Baptist Church

March 3rd

Pastor Dave Roberts
Luke 6:39-49
With Eyes Wide Open

March 10th

Pastor Mark Rambo
Luke 4:1-13
The Temptations

March 17th

Pastor Dave Roberts
Phillipians 3:17:4-1
The Way of Jesus

March 24th

Pastor Mark Rambo
Luke 13:1-9
A Green Thumb

March 31st

Pastor Dave Roberts
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Something New



WINDOWS



March

2019

First Baptist Church Olympia

Inside this
issue:

Front Page
LENTEN
PREPARATION

PASTOR DAVE'S
PONDERINGS 2

MARK'S
MEANDERINGS 3

CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION 4

INSERT
BIRTHDAYS,
MYLINDA BAITS
TRAVEL UPDATE,
SPRING CLEAN
WORK DAY 5

CALENDAR 6

CAMP BETHEL
MINISTRY
UPDATE 7

ABW &
MODERATOR
REPORT 8

MISSION
BOARD:
AMERICA
FOR CHRIST
OFFERING
2019 9

Ash Wednesday, March 6th

Join us for an Ash Wednesday worship experience on Wednesday, March 6th! We will start with a simple soup and bread dinner at 6:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. At 6:30 p.m. we will move into the Fellowship Hall for a worship service that will include familiar elements as well as some experiential interactions around some of the Lenten themes. This will be interactive, intergenerational and experiential.

Lenten Prayer Retreat, March 8th & 9th, Camp Bethel "Awakening!"

Lenten Prayer Retreat at Camp Bethel,
Friday night, March 8th and all-day Satur-
day, March 9th.

We are hoping that the new Lodge will be open for us to use but if not, the Retreat Center will continue to serve our needs. Your cost will include one night's lodging, food, and miscellaneous retreat supplies. Here is the price breakdown if we are in the Retreat Center:

Cost for the weekend will be as follows:

Friday night & Saturday—\$60/person
(Retreat Center)

Friday night & Saturday—\$42/person
(RV's or Cabins)

Saturday, only—\$30/person

Rooms in the Retreat Center are available at a first come, first served basis! *There will be a price increase adjustment if the new Lodge is available to us.* If you have any questions and/or need a partial scholarship, please talk to Pastor Mark!

Signup before March 5th!

Getting Ready for Lent 2019

The season of Lent, Holy Week and Easter come late in 2019. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 6th and the season culminates with the empty tomb on Easter morning, April 21st. Historically, Lent focuses on the traditional practices of:

Prayer (Justice towards God)
Fasting (Justice towards Self)
Almsgiving (Justice towards neighbor)
Other faith traditions/faith practitioners, add a regular spiritual discipline, such as a reading/daily devotional during this spiritual season.

For those of you associated with Olympia First Baptist Church and Emmaus House, we would encourage you to ponder how you want to engage God through the season of Lent. Will you pray for a specific person/need/event/system? Will you incorporate/add, a specific spiritual discipline for your spiritual development? What will you fast from? A specific food? Screen time? An attitude that's negative and harmful? Are you open to be involved in a small group that centers around issues and/or subjects that concern our church body?

These are just a few of the things you can ponder, pray about and grapple with as we get closer to Lent

2019! Make sure to check your worship bulletin with updates and potential opportunities.

"What will you fast from?"

Pastor Dave's Ponderings

The Interim Pastor's Thoughts Along The WAY ...

One of the Baptist liberties I wrote about last month is traditionally called the "priesthood of believers". The implication is that every believer is a priest. Do you think of yourself that way?

I suppose when we think of a priest our minds might first go to the Roman Catholic version, a male who takes vows of poverty, celibacy and obedience.

Those characteristics don't quite fit our Baptist traditions in which our clergy are often married, and an increasing number are female, and obedience—well, the question would be to who or what?

So if those images of a priest don't fit, what does?

A priest frequently preaches. A priest officiates at the offering of the sacraments. Roman Catholics point to seven sacraments. Baptists talk about two, baptism and communion, and we don't call them sacraments. We've struggled with what to call these two practices that Jesus called for us to follow. "Ordinances" is one word used.

Sacraments are visible symbols of the reality of God (I can agree with that), as well as a means by which God enacts God's grace (that I have trouble with). We can talk about this if you want.

Back on topic — In our American Baptist churches it is not required that a clergyperson be the one who preaches or offers communion or baptizes people. It usually is the case, but a person who is not ordained can do these things.

Another thing a priest does is care for others. This is the core of the meaning of the "priesthood of believers" for us.

Can you remember the last time you cared for someone you are not related to? What did you do? Visit them, either in person or by phone or text? Provide something, like transportation, food, or a listening ear?

You were serving as a priest to them.

And I want to say that you were the church to them. You were bringing the church to them. Did you recognize that when someone cared for you?

Here at the First Baptist Church of Olympia we recognize that the pastors can't, and shouldn't, do everything—including doing all the caring. If the pastors were indeed able to do all the caring we would be depriving you of the opportunity to be God's hands and feet.

I view it as a gift to be able to care for someone and I don't want to deprive you of experiencing that gift. All of us, in our role as priests, get to, —have a responsibility to, — care for one another.

Here at FBC our Deacons have a responsibility to care for the members and friends of our congregation. It's part of their job description. Do you recognize that it's the church coming to visit when a Deacon asks "how are you doing?" Or some such thing?

Our congregation has three pastors. Carolyn Lehman's chief responsibility is visiting with people: those who can't get out to worship very often, those who are in the hospital, those new to our community of faith, and others.

Pastor Mark's up to his ears in leading many different things within the congregation: Bible study, a Sunday School class, Emmaus House, preaching, oversight of all our educational endeavors and oversight of Table Grace. I've probably forgotten something. And he visits people as the need arises.

I'm available to visit people as my part-time status allows.

If you would like one of the pastors to "come a-calling" please let one of us know. We will be happy to respond. We appreciate receiving word if you know of a person who might appreciate a call. We're not all-knowing mind readers so a hint is appreciated.

See you in the meeting place where we may give the gift of caring for one another.

Dave

In our role as priests, we have a responsibility to care for one another.

Mission Board Gary Baits

CULTIVATING LEADERS | EQUIPPING DISCIPLES | HEALING COMMUNITIES

Galatians 6:9-10

Dear Mission Partner,

We live in a time when polarization and alienation are common. Diverse persons in our society often feel shunned, and differing voices are at times muted. American Baptist Home Mission Societies' (ABHMS) America for Christ (AFC) Offering 2019, "Healing Communities"—based on Galatians 6:9-10 ("Let us not become weary in doing good")—reminds American Baptists that mission and ministry are rooted in service and that God's grace extends to all, regardless of location.

Through generosity, American Baptists minister as God's heart and hands, healing the broken and the downtrodden. Congregations and individuals serve on the front lines of local communities, opening wide our doors, intervening amid the messiness, healing the broken-hearted, and caring for others amid disaster and devastation. Through our caring actions, Jesus touches those who are hurting and dying.

Your gifts to the AFC Offering impact thousands—through ministries with marginalized children, disaster response, prisoner re-entry and aftercare, immigration and refugee resettlement, public witness and advocacy, resources that equip Christian leaders, chaplains who bring comfort to those in hospitals and nursing homes, and so much more.

While our AFC giving window is January through March 2019, you can give as often as you like by visiting ABHMS' website at abhms.org, clicking "Give Now" and then choosing "ABHMS America for Christ Offering" in the drop-down menu. Please join ABHMS in reaching our goal of \$1,200,000.

Thanks for partnering with us and for being involved in a "Healing Community" that reflects God's redemptive love, transforming lives and communities. Thank you for your generous gifts to the AFC Offering 2019.



With Hope and Grace,

Dr. Jeffrey Haggray
Executive Director, ABHMS



Our goal for March is \$2,000.00

Women's Ministries by Jean Heidal

Women's Ministries Meeting: Because of the snow and icy roads we cancelled our February meeting. Everything is pushed out one month to **March 13th, 12 noon** in the Fireside Room. Merletta Roberts is available that day so can present her program on "Transformed: with humor and clowning ." All women are invited to attend. Bring a sack lunch, we will provide the dessert and beverages.

April will be our **White Cross work day**. We will roll bandages and work on a number of other projects. Julie Comstock is coordinating the day so let her know if you have sheets to bring. You might also see what other projects she has in mind and how you can help. In the past we have done hygiene kits, baby layettes, and slings. If you are a person who sews and would like to make some surgical hats and masks those are always in need at our missionary hospitals.

Women's Conference is May 3-5 in Yakima. The registration info will be out by March 1st. Plan to attend. There is only a slight increase in prices from last year. Some scholarship money is available. Speak to Janice Holcomb, Registrar/Region Treasurer, if you need a scholarship.

Moderator's Report by Jean Heidal

Each month, at the beginning of the council meeting, one of the members shares a devotional thought. Sometimes it is from something they have read, sometimes it is a Bible verse that has had an impact on their life, or just thoughts that they want to share.

In January I asked the members to come prepared to share what their board/committee would have as a goal/focus for the year. Some committees had not yet met but I was encouraged that every person there had given thought to what would be a focus for the year. Some things will be expanded as the groups meet together and others will become more clearly defined, but the point is I was grateful for this group of dedicated leaders who are thinking about the church body and where we will go this year... and how to get there. I hope that you, too, are encouraged to hear of the council at work.

"The Trustees have dealt with several issues in February & have made some real progress."

The Trustees have dealt with several issues in February and have made some real progress. The two old refrigerators, that were no longer functioning, have been removed from the building. A new refrigerator has been added for the use of Table Grace. The slated blinds in the Fellowship Hall have been removed and the stage curtain rod repaired. Ideas are being

generated for some redecorating in the Fireside Room. The water damage to the walls is being repaired, then there will be painting and some other upgrades. All of these things are being accomplished with the cooperation of a group working with the Trustees.

I still refer to the Education Building as the "new building" and the kitchen as the "new kitchen" but that is just a carryover from my youth. However you think of the church facility it is our gathering place for worship, celebrations, remembrances, and learning. Our tithes and offerings support the missions/ministries of the Body and take care of the building as well. As you are able, give to support all areas of our church life together.

The new date for The ABW meeting is March 13th at 12:00 Noon



Mark's Meanderings

The season of Lent is upon us as we gather together for a shared meal and an interactive worship experience on Ash Wednesday. Throughout this edition of the Windows there are reminders of opportunities and invitations for you to consider, prayerfully. What do you feel God is calling you to hear, to embrace, to be and/or do in this particular season of life with Jesus Christ? Traditionally, Lent is a time of fasting, penance/reflection, and preparation as we walk with Jesus on his journey toward Jerusalem and the Cross. Fasting was often done as a reflection of Jesus' 40 Days of Temptation in the Wilderness after his Baptism that is found in the synoptic gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke.

We are not asking anyone to abstain or "give up" anything, unless you really feel the Spirit convicting you to do so. If you are looking for ways to abstain during Lent, may I suggest it evolves around your cell phone. I realize that this might be more of a "generational" issue, but as our phones have the capability to do more "stuff," the more we rely upon them in our everyday lives. At Emmaus House, we talked about "how can we be more present with others?" Putting away our phones was the number one response. So, if you want to give something up this season of Lent, start slow and choose one day to put your phone away when you get home from work, school, etc., in the evening and try not to use it unless you absolutely need to. Take that time to slow down and really listen to your family, roommates or if you live alone, call a friend and enjoy a distraction free conversation. If you're not attached to your phone, consider freeing yourself, one day a week from any screen-time, whether that be phone, computer, TV, movies, etc.

Or, you can prayerfully consider what God is asking you to take on this Lenten season.

"How can we be more present with others?"

I think I heard in a recent sermon that people could:

1. Pray the Lord's Prayer every day,
2. Take intentional time to listen to someone else's stories and/or experiences
3. Look for ways to love others with generous acts of kindness and compassion.

What do you think God is calling you to do and be this season of Lent? Ash Wednesday and the Prayer Retreat at Bethel are just two opportunities to help jump start you in the right direction. The rest is up to you and the Holy Spirit. Keep your eyes open for other avenues this season of Lent as well. You never know when God will open up a door and ask you to step through it.

With Hope, Peace, Love and Joy!

Pastor Mark

Christian Education News & Notes

Here are just a few of the things the Board of Christian Education is working on behind-the-scenes:



Children's Ministry!

Specifically, we are in the midst of updating, clarifying and putting into place comprehensive procedures, forms, contact info, etc., in checking our children and guests into the Nursery and Pre-School room(s).

Children's Church is also in the midst of a process review of making sure that there is a buddy system in place for children going from the Sanctuary to the Children's Church classroom as well as bathroom breaks, etc.

This is also a good time to remind all of us that it takes a Village to raise children, so there is a shared responsibility between parents, ushers, congregants and children when one of them has to leave the worship space. Many sets of eyes ensure the safety of all but especially our most vulnerable participants.



Lastly, Christian Education will be creating a Children's Ministry Brochure that summarizes all the updated procedures, responsibilities, etc., that are being made. When completed, we will make a series of announcements and highlight the new brochure.

MINISTRY UPDATE: Camp Bethel

Here is the latest update on Camp Bethel

For those who may not know, Bethel is a camp and conference center 70 miles west of Olympia. It has been a meaningful place, holy ground, for many in the FBC and Emmaus communities, as well as for people from around the state. It has provided a beautiful and welcoming place for summer camps, conferences, prayer retreats, and fishing getaways.

Our church spending plan gives \$750 per month to the ministry of Camp Bethel, so your giving helps this ministry fulfill its mission, which the website www.campbethel.net describes thusly:

Camp Bethel is dedicated to providing a unique, natural environment for personal, professional and spiritual growth, development and renewal.

We also have several church members who have provided hundreds, maybe thousands of hours of labor and leadership at the camp and its events.

Here are some the latest developments and prayer concerns:

Leadership:

*We have completed the job description for the new director. It has been posted and we are waiting for applicants.

The New Building

*The flow test on the sprinkler system has been completed and approved. We are waiting on the fire alarm test to be completed. We have made arrangements with professional cleaners to do a thorough cleaning of the new building prior to health department inspection.

*We need to acquire contents for building. (mattresses for bunks, bedding, window coverings, etc.)

*If everything goes according to schedule, we should have occupancy by the end of February! In the meantime, there are groups using the retreat center for events, including the Oly FBC Prayer Retreat (March 8-9). *The Beloved Dudes Men's Retreat* (April 26-28) may get to use both buildings.

*The camp recently received a significant donation from an estate!

*The maintenance committee is working on a list of items that we would like accomplished at the Memorial Day work weekend (May 24-27) We anticipate sending the list out to the churches in late March so they can post it. We would like a large turnout to get a lot done. Contact Bob Holcomb at church for more information. Please continue to pray for the camp and its leadership as we move forward.

Thank you.

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY SCRIPTURE EMPHASIS

March 7 th	Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16/Luke 4:1-13
March 14 th	Psalm 27 th /Luke 13:31-35
March 21 st	Psalm 63:1-8/Luke 13:1-9
March 28 th	Psalm 32/Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

