

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF OLYMPIA

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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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First Baptist Church April 2019 Tentative Preaching Schedule

April 7th

John 12:1-8
Can't See the Forest for the Trees
Pastor Mark Rambo

April 14th

Luke 19:28-40
Joining Which Crowd
Pastor Dave Roberts

April 21st

Luke 24:1-12
*It's a Man's World, but it Ain't
nothing w/out a Woman or a
Girl...*
Pastor Mark Rambo

April 28th

John 20:19-31
Witnesses
Pastor Dave Roberts

*He was delivered up for
our trespasses and raised
for our justification.*

Romans 4:25

April
2019

WINDOWS

First Baptist Church Olympia

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JOIN THE PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION

You're invited to join in processing into the sanctuary on Palm Sunday, April 14th. It's your chance to wave an actual palm frond. People of all ages are invited.

This is a celebration of Jesus moving into the city of Jerusalem with a crowd of people marking his progress. Traditionally we've called it a procession.

We will gather at the top of the stairs leading up from the glass doors from the parking lot about 9:45 a.m. to get ourselves organized and pass out song sheets.



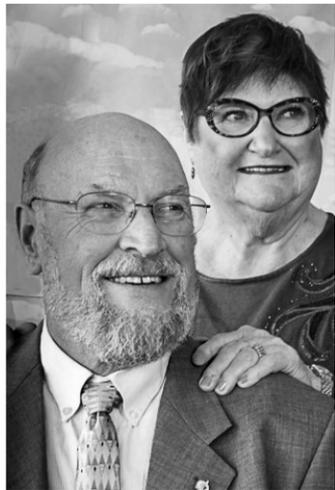
We hope that you will join us in being more attentive and intentional this Holy Week season.

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday and ends on Holy Saturday, the night before Easter morning. This year, 2019, that will be April 14th through April 20th! Below are the Old Testament Lessons from the Lectionary that you can read and pray over for each day of this special week:

Holy Monday—Isaiah 42:1—9
Holy Tuesday—Isaiah 49:1—7
Holy Wednesday—Isaiah 50:4—9a
Maundy Thursday—Exodus 12:1—4, (5-10), 11—14
Good Friday—Isaiah 52:13—53:12

We also hope you will join us for a Maundy Thursday Worship Experience, on Thursday, April 18th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This will be a traditional worship service, with a slightly creative twist, that includes communion.

As always, we attempt to be a Cross-generational, intergenerational, faith community, so our worship will have something for everyone. May you discover the Living God this week as we follow Jesus to Jerusalem and the Cross!



We at Olympia First Baptist Church are most fortunate to have Reverend David (Dave) Roberts as our Interim Pastor. He and Merletta joined us on January 1.

He was born in Colorado and then lived in Lompoc, California, where his father had been called as a pastor. The oldest of five children, he attended high schools in Portland; Albany, California; and in the Ballard area of Seattle.

Pastor Dave earned a Bachelor's degree from the University of Washington in 1967, receiving a track and cross country athletic scholarship from the university. (For several years, he held the school's record for the mile run.) He also has a Master of Divinity degree from the American Baptist Seminary of the West (Covina, California branch), granted in 1973. He and Merletta met at the seminary and were married in 1970. They have two daughters and three grandchildren.

Pastor Dave served as minister at three churches, all in the State of Washington. They were Palouse Federated Church, Palouse, for five-and-a-half years; First Baptist Church of Mountlake Terrace, for eighteen years; and First Baptist Church of Yakima for 15 years. He retired in April of 2012.

After retirement, Pastor Dave received training to become certified as a volunteer mediator with the Dispute Resolution Center of Yakima and Kittitas Counties. His work involved marriage dissolution and parenting plan disputes. Volunteering with the Center for two years, he worked on two or three cases per month. In 2014, he and Merletta moved to Federal Way. It was then that they responded to the invitation of the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board to visit the one hundred retired ministers and missionaries and/or spouses in Washington State. Also in 2014, he became the interim pastor of University Baptist Church in Seattle, serving for two-and-a-half years. After Labor Day in 2017, he served as interim pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Tacoma for just over a year.

He is a past president of the Washington Baptist Convention and served for nine years on the Board of Trustees of the American Baptist Seminary of the West, the last three as secretary of the board and corporation, ending in 2018. From 2000 to 2002, Pastor Dave was President of the American Baptist Churches of the Northwest. With a Masters degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from Gonzaga University (Seattle branch), Merletta worked with elderly people in Snohomish and King Counties. While they lived in Yakima, she was the Program Manager for the north Yakima County Office of Aging and Long-Term Care (Area Agency on Aging). She retired from the position in 2010.

Merletta established "Laffing (sic) Matters", a clown troupe, at the First Baptist Church of Yakima in 2003. The troupe included people aged four to eighty. She made connections with the office of the Yakima County Fire Marshall, and the troupe became the office's major outreach. There were many presentations throughout the county about smoke alarms and other fire prevention methods. During the troupe's final year, it was the first in the county's history that no fire deaths were reported. Someone in the Fire Marshall's office gave the troupe a 1967 red Cadillac convertible, which was used extensively in Yakima County parades. Initially, Pastor Dave was part of the troupe as a "roadie" and then became a costumed member for the final two or three years. His main hobby is woodworking, and among his creations have been furniture, boxes, and necklaces. When inspiration strikes, he also enjoys making cut paper banners.

our church staff. Many people who came to the Saturday meeting wrote that the reason they are members of FBC is because it feels like "family." Let's support our family church - we are doing together what we cannot do alone.

Congregational Conversation is ongoing... by Pastor Dave

Thirty five members and friends of First Baptist met on Saturday, March 23rd. The topic of conversation was our American Baptist region affiliation. It was recognized that this is not a frequent topic of conversation around the dinner table, in homes or at the church.

Some time was spent talking about the background of the regions, how they came to be, the different perspectives they have on ministry emphases, and so forth.

We had discussion in small groups and then in the larger group. It was recognized that there are still questions that need to be answered and some points clarified.

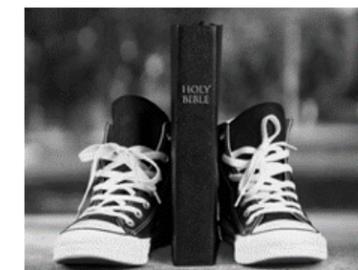
IN ORDER TO INCLUDE AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE in the conversation — and to help as many people as possible who feel like they're in the dark on this topic — a congregational meeting as been scheduled following worship on **Sunday, April 28th**. This meeting will last around 30 minutes.

In the meantime, feel free to talk with any member of the Executive Council or one of the pastors as to what this all about.

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY SCRIPTURE EMPHASIS

Bible Study Scripture:

- April 4th Psalm 126/John 12:1–8
- April 11th Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29/Luke 19:28–40
- April 18th [Holy Week—~~No Class~~—Holy Week]
- April 25th Psalm 150/John 20:19–31
- May 2nd Psalm 30/John 21:1–19
- May 9th Psalm 23/John 10:22–30
- May 16th Psalm 148/John 13:31–35



Women's Ministries by Jean Heidal

The women had a great meeting in March with Merletta Roberts as our speaker. She talked about the transforming power of laughter and humor in one's life. It was a good listen for all of us – humor and laughter lighten the load of our daily lives and give us a reason to celebrate all that we have, even in dark days.

We also spent money in March! Proceeds from the Christmas Brunch were over \$2600. We donated: \$1000 to Camp Bethel; \$250 to the Mylinda Baits dinner in May; \$150 to the Food Bank in Riya Waterhouse's name for her food drive; \$500 to the Conference offering in May to help build a classroom in Thailand where Kyle and Katrina Williams' children will attend school. \$300 to White Cross support for overseas and overland missions. We still have some funds available for other needs will may have during the year.

In April we will be having a White Cross work day. We'll roll bandages and make hygiene kits. We have women who are tearing sheets and getting them ready to roll and others who are making slings out of cotton material that was donated several years ago. These items are all needed by our missionaries and Church World Service. Join us on the 2nd Wednesday of April at 12 noon – bring a sack lunch and we will provide the coffee and dessert.

Conference is coming ! Registration forms are available from Jan Holcomb. The conference will be held May 3-5 at the Howard Johnson Hotel in Yakima. Scholarships are available! We will carpool so if you are interested in going please let me know.

Moderator's Report by Jean Heidal

35 people were present for the breakfast meeting on March 23rd to discuss our region affiliation. It was, by all reports, a good meeting and time of understanding. For some it was "I never knew that" or "What's a region anyway?" We will have further discussions around this topic before a proposal is made to the congregation. In the meantime, if you have questions pick up a copy of the summary of the two regions that is on the table in the fellowship area. Or, talk with Pastor Dave, Pastor Mark or a council member. Be in prayer about this important decision in the life of the church.

As we continue through this time of transition many things are happening, and have happened. There was a very meaningful time at Camp Bethel for the Prayer Retreat, improvements continue to be made to the building, and several of the boards are planning events for the coming months. This month we will also celebrate Easter. Make it a time of renewal, new life and a rededication to the missions and ministries of First Baptist. Your attendance and financial support are always needed. We miss you when you are not here, so come as often as you are able. Financial support guarantees that our mission giving can continue, the light bill will be paid and salaries provided for

Pastor Dave's Ponderings

The interim pastor's Thoughts Along the WAY ...

It was entertaining for me to watch Onyx move around the room at the Lenten Prayer Retreat at Camp Bethel early in March. Onyx is the son of Anna Root. At the time of the retreat he was at the stage of being able to walk, sort of. If he wanted to get some place in a hurry, he went down to the more familiar, comfortable and safe position of crawling on all fours.

Using two hands and two feet all together is a much more stable design for locomotion. We recognize that with the "walker brigade" here at the church. In the use of a walker, it's actually five or six contact points with the floor. The idea is to provide a stable platform for safety's sake.

With young children like Onyx, when they drop to the floor it's not very far. When an adult drops, well ...

Like all little kids who don't know any better, Onyx would pull himself up, using a couch or someone's leg, and set off exploring his new world. Sooner or later he would get over-balanced and sit down on his rump. Then he'd crawl over to another leg, pull himself up, and set off again.

Learning to walk is like learning to ride a bicycle—it's all in the balance. A person has to learn to balance their body and have the muscle strength in order to stand. Standing can provide a stable platform and it is safe as long as one can hold the position.

Unlike riding a bike, we can't move as long as we keep our balance and provide a stable platform. In order to move, whether walking, running, skipping, etc., we have to deliberately put ourselves out-of-balance.

Have you seen pictures or sculptures of a person sprinting? The person is usually leaning forward with one foot on the ground and the other leg pulled up ready to stretch out to complete the next stride. I always think that's such a graceful and powerful pose.

But how long could a person hold that pose without moving? Not very long. In fact, perhaps not at all. The pose has the person leaning forward. It's one of motion, of movement, and cannot be sustained as a stable,

safe platform. In fact the only way that it is safe in real life is if the motion continues. If it doesn't, the person falls on their face.

What this analogy says to me is that if we want to move we need to be a little out-of-balance. Another way of putting it would be to say we need to be at the edge of our comfort zone if we care to keep moving.

One of the words I've heard used by several people to describe First Baptist is "traditional". I haven't pushed people to describe what that means. I'm thinking that the word traditional, like the word conservative has many and varied connotations, some of which are good and beneficial.

I'm also guessing that a younger person visiting our website and seeing that word probably thinks "old fashioned"; "they do things the old way", whatever that means.

At the recent Saturday morning conversation we had twenty seven people signed in. More than that were in attendance. The average tenure at First Baptist of those who signed in was 30.7 years. And that's with a couple of people saying they'd been here only one year.

The majority of the people said they originally came to this church because they 1) grew up here; 2) came with family; 3) were Baptist already.

What do these last two paragraphs say to you about our congregation?

Going back to my walking analogy, it's certainly possible to be out-of-balance in a way that's not helpful. We've all experienced that when we've fallen or crashed into a wall. All the same, if there is to be progress, we have to be a little out of balance in order to have movement.

Where in your life are you finding challenge in new ideas that put you a little out-of-balance with what you've "always" thought? Where are you learning a new skill or trying something new with the skills you have? Where and how are you seeking God in new ways?

As a congregation, do you see us as out-of-balance in a way that leads to a fall or in a way that leads to movement toward a vision? Or do you see us being a stable, safe platform standing still?

These are tough questions. Much easier to ask than to answer perhaps, but ones to which we need to respond as we come to grips with God's call upon our lives, both individually and as a congregation.

Mission Board (She's Almost on her Way!)

Sarah Jean Nash



Group picture left to right: Sharon Koh, Claudia Wong, myself, Lynette Smith, Brian Smith, Adalia Gutierrez Lee, Rodney Ragwan

Thank you all for your prayers during my assignment orientation at International Ministries office in King of Prussia. It was a week of learning and encouragement. What I learned during the three days will help me wrap up loose ends before moving and I met with all the different teams within IM staff who will help my ministry be successful and sustainable.

As of February 11th, **my personal support goal pledged amount reached 100%!!** Thank you to the church and those who have pledged and are giving to International Ministries to help me meet my goal! Also, thank you for your prayers for my visa process! **I have my visa!!** This

visa will allow me to enter Bolivia. **My departure flight is on April 23rd!** I will be traveling all day and will arrive to Santa Cruz on April 24th. My colleagues J.D. and Rhonda Reed will pick me up at the airport. I'm very thankful to have amazing friends who are also my colleagues to help me get settled in Santa Cruz! They will take me to my immigration lawyer the very next day to begin applying for my residency visa. God has provided a house not too far from the Reed's house with two other female single missionaries from different organizations who are teachers at the international missionary school that the Reed's kids attend. I appreciate your continued prayers during this resettling stage. I'm thankful that even before I leave, I have a sense of a community waiting for me in my new home. God is indeed faithful and hears our prayers!

Mission Board: A Volunteer Team to go to Puerto Rico

#PRSTRONG

At the mission board meeting on Tuesday, I affirmed that I will be putting a team of volunteers together to go to Puerto Rico in the Fall. The dates have been set for the trip to be September 1st through the 8th. This Mission will need some handy people that are ready to get things done! We won't know for sure what we will be doing until we know the skill set of the volunteers that are going! I am excited to be going back to this beautiful Caribbean Island to be the hands and feet of our Loving God. Rebuilding, Restoring, and Renewing one church and one building at a time.

Please let me know if you are interested in being a part of the team #PRStrong First Baptist Church of Olympia. You can check out the web page and registration in the following links! Please let me know prior to filling out a registration online as we will most likely send them all in at the same time. This will give you an idea of what is on the form.

Home Web Page: <http://abhms.org/mission/themes/puerto-rico-relief/>

Registration Link: <http://abhms.org/ministries/healing-communities/volunteer-ministries/vim-work-week-online-registration-rrr-pr/>

Galatians 6:9-10: Do not grow weary in doing good work! God Bless! **Wendy Wilson**

Mark's Meanderings

Part of our family are two dogs, Bess and Shelby. Bess is seven years old, part black lab/part ridge-back something or other and a rescue dog from Texas. Bess was abused most of her life and was part of a puppy mill before she was rescued. She has trust issues, loving, soulful eyes and can be a tad neurotic. She is not overly fond of men. She is a one-person dog and I am her person. She tolerates the rest of the family as well as the world around her. She came to us without the ability to playfully interact with us and/or by herself. She loves the outdoors and Camp Bethel is one of her favorite places on earth. She loves to run and go on walks down to the river from the ranch house. Hers is a good life, but there was something missing...

That's where Shelby comes in. Shelby is a 25-pound bundle of sass and energy. Part Scottish terrier and something else, Shelby is also a rescue dog from Texas who was separated from her family of origin by a hurricane. She came to us almost exactly a year ago mid-March. The biggest gift is that Shelby has become, in essence, Bess' therapy dog. Shelby struggles with manners, comes when called about 60% of the time and firmly believes that her cuteness trumps whatever mischief she may cause or get into. With Shelby around, Bess has become freer, happier, and has been learning to play, etc. It is as if Bess has found new life, a new beginning...My/our rescue dogs are perfect, sort of...

Many of you remember Obadiah, our Newfoundland, who is now roaming the open spaces and fields of heaven. Obadiah was perfect. Big, lumbering, friendly, obedient, etc. He came when called, followed instructions even from Kathleen and could even go to the bathroom on command. He played well with others and was content with the chaos of youth groups and Emmaus young adults or laying at my feet in solitude. Oba loved everybody and rarely barked, except when Becky Burgess was around. 😊

The rescue pups are not perfect. Not even close. They dig holes in the backyard until it looks like a World War I trench warfare scene from the movies. They have chewed off pieces of the old deck and Shelby, the scrapper, has even been caught chewing a piece of the concrete hardy-plank siding off the house. They may or may not be responsible for nibbles on the furniture, not to mention stealing socks, trash and miscellaneous belongings. Despite their challenges, their annoying habits and lack of discipline, they bring joy, humor and life into our house, into our lives as a family. They make each other better and complement each other.

By now you get it! I am using my rescue pups as a metaphor for what we are to be as a community of faith. On April 21st we will celebrate, joyfully and thankfully, an empty grave, as a sign of good news, hope and community. Resurrection Sunday, the season of Easter, is the reason we are tied together as community and gather regularly as well as extend hospitality to each other and the wider community of Thurston County. This season of resurrection brings us together as broken, imperfect, individuals and family units, who lift one another up in prayer, support, hardship, tragedy as well as when we celebrate, rejoice and/or find moments to woo-hoo in one another's achievements and accomplishments! We make one another better...we love one another imperfectly but we love because God first loved us! We are not a house of purebreds. We are a pound of rescue pups. Adopted and taken in by a loving God to bear one another's burdens, to make one another better and stronger. To know we are not invisible. To know we are enough in this world. To know that we are loved. To know God is not done with us yet, despite our challenges, rough edges and blind spots. We are rescue pups of the Resurrected One, who brings new life and new opportunities to be family, in wide and creative ways.