

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF OLYMPIA

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## 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

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Olympia WA  
Permit No. 198

Return Service Requested

## First Baptist Church August 2019 Tentative Preaching Schedule:

**August 4th**

Pastor Dave Roberts

**August 11th**

Pastor Mark Rambo

**August 18th**

Pastor Dave Roberts

**August 25th**

Pastor Mark Rambo

★ **SAVE THE DATES!** ★

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**MOVIE & ICE CREAM SOCIAL NIGHT  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 10TH**

★  
**DEACON'S FUND RAISER  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 17TH**

★  
**BASEBALL NIGHT,  
TACOMA RAINIERS  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 20TH**

★  
**ALL CHURCH PICNIC  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND  
TUMWATER HISTORICAL PARK**

AUGUST

2019

# WINDOWS

*grow in  
grace*

## First Baptist Church Olympia

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## Pastor Dave's Ponderings

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

It's been a month already since Merletta and I attended the ABCUSA biennial gathering. It was a good time, with helpful learning opportunities, catching up with friends, and challenging, inspiring worship experiences.

I periodically reflect on a phenomenon that I suspect you've also experienced. In this case we were in a group of American Baptists, all members of the same "club" so to speak, and yet it was much easier to talk to, sit with, travel with people from Washington that we already knew.

Do you find it easier to sit with people you already know rather than with "new" people?

A couple of times we deliberately sat at a table for a meal with people we didn't know. We made some new acquaintances. However, if the people new to us knew other people at the table, our conversation with them was sporadic. They more frequently turned to their prior friends.

We generally take the easier way. It's easier to pick up the relational threads we already have with another person than it is to find what threads we may have in common with a person new to us.

Excluding or ignoring someone is easy. You just turn your back on them, literally or figuratively. Then you don't have to think about them any more.

Including someone is more complicated. It takes a great deal of thinking and listening when we take into consideration their experience, history, feelings, and so forth.

If I'm to include someone new into my system of relational connections it means that I will have to adjust, change and rearrange some things. At the very least I'll have to add to my (pick one) card file, directory, Rol-a-Dex, contact list.

If we agree that welcoming someone new into the group/family/church means change—who does the changing?

Since we're the established group/church, do we expect the new person to do all the changing?

I've heard people say in various ways, "It sure would be good if we could get some younger people to join the church."

So we'd like to attract younger people. Diving deeper into that question, does it mean:

What can we do to the young people to make them more like us?

How can we do what we do better so they will come?

Cont... page 2

*Pastor Dave continued...*

Do we expect them to change in order to fit in with us? What changes are we willing to make?

It's one thing to welcome someone to worship. To really include them is to allow them to express themselves in a manner comfortable for them.

In order to understand and live into this unsettling idea of inclusion, we need to understand grace. Only by the grace of God can we have the openness required to extend ourselves to listen and understand another's point of view with which we might disagree.

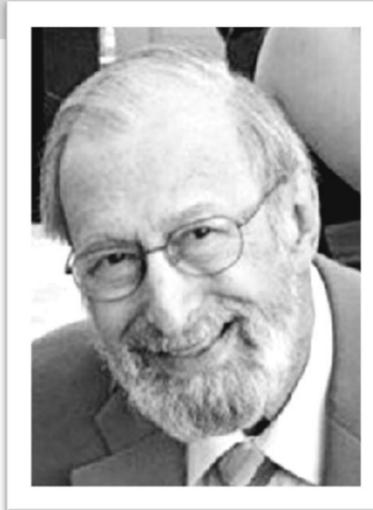
Only by the grace of God can we have the patience to work through our differences.

See you in the meeting place where we practice living gracefully with one another.

## IN LOVING MEMORY

of  
DR. JOE

Carolyn von Gohren



Dr. Joseph Alexanian was a gentleman of great faith and faithfulness to his family and to his friends.

Until last year, he sang in our church choir every Sunday, even when it became difficult for him to use the stairs to and from the choir loft.

Although Dr. Joe was short in stature and small in build, he was a giant in terms of intelligence and intellect. He was a renowned Biblical scholar and translator and highly acclaimed as a minister and professor; and yet Dr. Joe was a very humble and quiet man.

He was also so kind, gentle, friendly, and genuine, and a man of great dignity, poise, and grace.

What's more, Dr. Joe was down-to-earth, discussing with Roger the best way in which to grow sweet peas, which he loved.

Indeed, Dr. Joe was a remarkable man who was greatly loved and who is already greatly missed.

## **Women's Ministries by Jean Heidal**

A couple months ago I announced that we will be having a sale in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, September 21th. The sale will be open to the public that day. However, church members are invited to come to a "premiere opening" on Friday evening to have first choice of all the treasures that will be available. We already have a number of items to sell, but we are hoping for a lot more! Start going through closets and cupboards now! Box things up and I will come and pick them up if you are unable to get them to church! We want to have everything here from arranging and pricing by **Wednesday, Sept. 18th**. Workers are being recruited now, so be prepared for a call to come and help.

Thank you to all who helped with the Dr. Joe Alexanian memorial luncheon. We got compliments on everything from the tablecloths to the rolls on the table! Thank you for the salads and cookies and helpers! The family and friends of the Alexanians were very appreciative of this time to sit, share a meal, and visit with the family.

Enjoy your summer days and know that you are appreciated for your support of Women's Ministries!

## **From the Moderator by Jean Heidal**

Last month I wrote about the "Table Grace Cake Ministry" asking for a volunteer to take the place that my husband and I had for a number of years. I was praying that one person would step forward to take the cake pans and mixes/frostings I planned to provide. Imagine MY SURPRISE when Madge Ellis told me FIVE PEOPLE (!) had volunteered to make cakes for Table Grace! Thank you so much! Wow! That will make the baking a lot less stressful for the 4-5 who are already providing cakes. I am so grateful to all who stepped forward. Madge Ellis is still interested in having someone take over the calling for the cakes so if this is something you would be willing to do, please give Madge a call.

On Sunday morning I see new faces in the congregation and I am grateful for those who have come to join us in worship. The "3 minutes 2 seconds" greeting time at the beginning of the service is a great way to meet and greet people. Things are happening in the background as the search committee continues to interview and prepare to present a pastoral candidate. The Trustees have a plate-full of projects that are ongoing to keep the building and grounds a warm inviting place. Deacons, Christian Ed., the Pastoral Relations Committee, Nominating Committee and Missions are all working on plans for later this summer and the fall – along with their budget requests for the coming year. Much is happening and we have much to be grateful for. Check out the current budget figures that are on the monthly report posted in the hallway along with minutes of boards and committees. Thank you for your faithful giving to the support of all that we do here in mission and ministry. As we head into August, please remember that expenses continue for the church and your support is appreciated and needed!