

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF OLYMPIA

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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 Sept. 2019 Tentative Preaching Schedule

September 1st

Colossians 3:20-4:1

The Sunday – Monday Gap

Pastor Dave Roberts

September 8th

Matthew 6:19-24

A Matter of Service

Pastor Dave Roberts

September 15th

Mark 12:41-44

Give it Up

Pastor Dave Roberts

September 22nd

Luke 16:1-13

Street Smarts

Pastor Mark Rambo

September 29th

Rev. Mylinda Baits

International Missions



September
2019

WINDOWS

*I will open up the windows of heaven
and pour out a blessing upon you.*

First Baptist Church

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MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR LES DAWES

11:00 AM ON SEPTEMBER 7th

A reception will follow.

The church family is invited to attend.

LUKE'S GOSPEL

From Pastor Sam Hochstater: Christians claim that the story of Jesus is Good News! Is it good news for you? Maybe you should find out!

On September 22, we will begin studying Luke's good news story. The class meets at 8:30 a.m. in room 102. Yes, we have coffee and goodies to satisfy our morning appetite.

In the past, members have also received support by encouraging and praying for each other.



Women's Ministries Garage Sale

CHURCH FAMILY EARLY PRESALE Friday, September 20th from 6 - 8 pm
Stop by for a first look and to purchase any of the items available

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC Saturday, September 21st from 9am - 3pm

Sale will take place in the Fellowship Hall, where you'll find an assortment of treasures like...
Furniture, Antiques, China, DVDs, CDs, Vintage Records, Books, Bookcases,
Picture Frames, Puzzles, Games and much more!

We are still accepting Donations of any new/gently used and clean items, up until September 18th.
Unfortunately we cannot accept clothes, shoes or large furniture.
If you have questions, call Jean Heidal 360.754.4499



OFBC ALL CHURCH PICNIC SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND TUMWATER HISTORICAL PARK

See Page 6

Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico -Wendy Wilson

In response to the devastating one-two punch leveled at Puerto Rico by hurricanes Irma and Maria in fall 2017, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS), in partnership with American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA), launched the “Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico” multi-year initiative.

Galatians 6:9-10

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people.....

Puerto Rico – a beautiful tropical island, with a long history and culture of welcoming travelers from around the world was devastated by a category 5 hurricane in September of 2017. They named it Hurricane Maria. Most of the Island was destroyed, but, the spirit of the people remained.

Last September I had the privilege of joining a small team of Wonder Women; lead by the Reverend Mylinda Baits to Puerto Rico ~ Our mission ~ to lend a hand in whatever capacity we could, to be of service to the peoples need of Rebuilding, Restoring, and Renewing Puerto Rico, home to over 3 million people – with a spattering of 114 churches 9 mission including Corporacion Milagros del Amor (A Miracles of Love Corporation) or CORMA for short.

We spent the next week working directly with CORMA Cleaning painting – mural – with Mylinda’s talented vision – And cleaning and painting – by the end of our stay Espacio De Mujer’s (a space for women) was ready for the next step – the small room slowly becoming a Space for Women at Risk to rest, have a meal, be given counseling and skills to help them know they are not alone in their struggles.

This Mission was made possible by American Baptist Home Mission Societies. The team of ABHMS in Puerto Rico often working around the clock to ensure we volunteers had a safe place to stay, meals, water, snacks.

And time to spend with people of Puerto Rico, listening to their needs and stories, their fears and hopes, their joys as they saw each other gain one more wall and one more roof – one more working sink to wash in, one more stove to cook on.... The list goes on and it’s not finished yet.

This year, I am privileged to be taking another team of 8 volunteers back to Puerto Rico to continue tending to the needs of the people and their homes. Those traveling with me this year will be:

Carolyn Adams, Vernon and Emily Blair, Emily Wu Locke, Pat DeNeui with her brother Bob and his wife Kathy DeNeui, and Rev. Mylinda Baits IM Consultant.

We will be able to go back to the city of Caguas for the first 2 days and see Espacio de Mujer’s open for the first time to the public. It will be such an honor to see the finished product of what we started a year ago!

Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico cont...

By Wednesday, we will be helping restore the home of Gil Rondon, a former construction leader for ABHMS who had to have a leg amputated last month.

Thursday we will be helping the Church in Deseada with their feeding ministry of over 200 people.

Friday we will be in another elderly Church members home, helping restore and clean as needed.

One of the best parts about the work we will be doing is spending time with the people of Puerto Rico. Listening to their stories of survival and giving them a space to be heard.

2 Corinthians 8:5

And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us.

God Bless!

Wendy Wilson



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

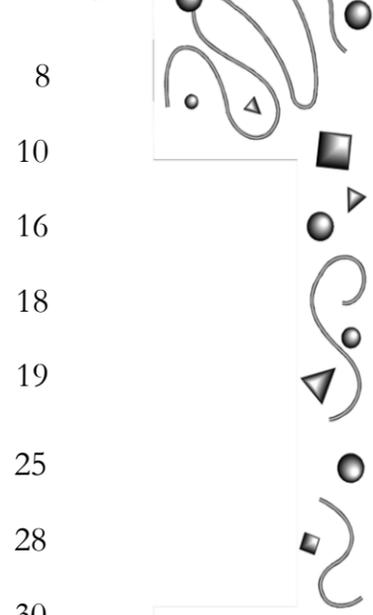




happy birthday
wishing
you a
super special
birthday



Roy Spaulding	8
Tom Mead	10
Sara Frederickson Nash	16
Jamie Chavez	18
Roger von Gohren	19
Will Stuivenga	25
Mylinda Baits	28
Amber Chavez Rutledge	30
Pat Malizo	30



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion Sunday Pastor Mark on vacation 1st - 14th	2 Labor Day	3 Labor Day Observed Office Closed	4	5 7:00 pm Choir	6 7:00 pm Choir	7 11:00 am Sanctuary Memorial Service For Les Dawes Luncheon will follow In the Fellowship Hall
8	9 Special Boards Budget Request Meeting Rm 102	10 6:30 pm Special Boards Budget Request Meeting Rm 102	11 12 Noon ABW Meeting	12 7:00 pm Choir	13 6:30 pm Emmaus At the Rambo's house	14 11:00 am Widows Group at Silvers
15 10:00 am Worship Service w/Baptism of Erica Ewert	16	17 6:00 pm Mission Board Fireside Room 6:30 pm Trustees Rm 102	18	19 9:00 am Bible Study begins Fireside Room 7:00 pm Choir	20 6:00-8:00 pm ABW Garage Sale For Church Family Fellowship Hall	21 8:00 am Men's Breakfast Fireside Room 9:00-3:00 ABW Garage Sale Fellowship Hall 10:00 am God's Little Blessings Library 6:00 pm Emmaus
22 8:30 am Sunday School Starts Children's Church Begins After Service: Church Picnic Tumwater Hist. Park	23	24	25 6:30 pm Executive Council Room 102	26 9:00 am Bible Study Fireside Room 7:00 pm Choir	27	28 6:00 pm Emmaus
29 8:30 am Sunday School 10:00 am Ministry & International Sunday Food & Display after worship	30	<p><i>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:</i></p> <p><i>The old has gone, the new is here!</i></p>				



Pastor Dave's Ponderings

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

I'm writing this the day following the trip many of us made to attend a Tacoma Rainier's baseball game. As part of the seventh inning stretch process a man sang the song *God Bless America*. And that got me thinking.

Presidents and presidential candidates have been using the phrase since 1973 when then President Nixon used it to conclude a speech from the Oval Office while he was embroiled in the Watergate scandal. It seems strange to me for a person who was known to be frequently profane when out of the public eye and who was engaged in a political cover-up to use that phrase. What was he thinking do you suppose?

It has become such a tradition for Presidents now, even for those who don't seem to give too much weight to the two Great Commandments, that to leave the phrase off the end of a speech would draw attention and questions.

What do we mean when we say "God bless America"?

What do we mean when we say "God bless America"? I'd like your take on that because I'm not sure.

I imagine that for some presidents it's served the purpose of a "period" at the end of the speech, indicating it's over. Something like saying "Amen" at the end of the prayer, forgetting that "amen" means "so be it".

I can imagine that it's something of a prayer, asking God to "bless" America with all kinds of good things—mostly peace and prosperity.

Because it is now expected, does it serve as a talisman, that if it is not said our luck may run out. For the superstitious, there might be fear that God will turn God's back on us like God did to the children of Israel when they forgot their God, or at least did not approach God with authenticity and integrity.

I'm going to assume that we have a pretty commonly shared understanding of "God" as the proper name we give to the Devine. And I assume we share an understanding of "America".

That leaves us with the word "bless", as in God bless America. I don't know if we have a commonly shared understanding of this word, so let's explore for a bit.

Perhaps the most widely known use of the word is found in Numbers 6:24-26:

"May the Lord **ble**ss you and keep (protect) you.

May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace."

This often is used as a prayer of benediction.

Another frequent memory is not directly from scripture, but it's been around a long time.

"Count your blessings, name them one by one, Count your blessings see what God has done." If that's not familiar to you, ask one of the old tim-

ers. "Blessing" in this song seems to mean good things that we attribute as coming from God. Some people would include good health and finding a parking place when you need one.

In biblical terms it frequently means being granted special favor, as with victory in battle, peace, or prosperity.

That's an example of being blessed with something. But I also think a blessing can be for something.

Perhaps the chief example of this is God's blessing of Abraham, that he will be the father of many nations. He becomes a conduit of God's blessing to others. Other nations will be blessed through Abraham.

If we work from this last suggestion of what "blessing" means, how does that carry over to "God bless America"? Are we asking God to bless our nation so that we can be a blessing to others? Or are we only thinking of ourselves?

How does it carry over to blessing us with the invitation to walk in the Way of Jesus?

See you in the meeting place where we share in the blessings of God to be the people of God.

Spiritual Formation is the life-long process and their practices by which you and I open and deepen our faith with God through Jesus Christ. All of us, regardless of our age and/or wherever we may be on this journey we call faith, is being spiritually formed in some manner. The small and simple practice of praying before a meal is spiritual formation. The ancient prayer practice of Lectio Divina, is a more time consuming and intricate praying exercise but it shows that spiritual formation comes in a wide-variety of shapes, forms and levels. At Olympia First Baptist, and at Emmaus House, spiritual formation is encouraged, promoted, practiced and highly valued.

But all of us, from time to time, need a refresher course of what spiritual formation looks like. Here are examples from a brainstorming session I recently had with members of the Emmaus House community:

Music, art, Small group studies like Renovare or Keeping Sabbath, Bible study, prayer, camp experiences, mission trips & excursions, service-centered ministries, Sunday school classes, worship gatherings, Men's breakfast, Retreats like Marriage Enrichment, Walk to Emmaus or our annual Lenten Prayer Retreat, Books, Mentors or spiritual directors, everyday routines like praying before a meal, reading scripture for 20 minutes, journaling, and Community times which include fellowship, laughter and food!

That's quite a list. Again, I think there is something there for everyone, regardless of age, level of spiritual maturity, etc. It should be one of our goals, as a congregation, to have every single person at Olympia First Baptist & Emmaus House, involved in some type of spiritual formation practice. Our practices and faith rhythms are an important part of who we are as a faith community. It gives visitors, seekers, guests, etc., insight into who we are and what God is doing in our midst. It offers them entry into the life of the community in order to see if we are a potential good fit for them as they look to call this spiritual community, home.

As we enter a new season of formation opportunities, I'd like for you to wrestle with the following question(s) during the month of September:

How can Olympia First Baptist and/or Emmaus House, as a community and spiritual resource, help you, or your children/families in the faith formation process?

If you know how you would answer those questions and/or have specific suggestions, ideas, spiritual practices, etc., write them down and submit to the church office by September 30th. Or, you can email me directly at obadiahdog@aol.com or to the church office at olyfbc@aol.com Just indicate "spiritual formation" in whatever form you use to communicate your thoughts, ideas, etc. I would like to create a comprehensive list of spiritual formation options so we can really be a spiritual community that strives to be spiritual practitioners of their faith. So, let's keep it 100 as we open and deepen our faith in God through Christ.

Pastor Mark

P.S. I'll be on vacation September 1st through September 14th! It will be more of a "stay-cation," but I'm looking forward to a time of relaxation, rest, prayer and Netflix! See you in worship on September 15th!

Emmaus House—Fall Back

"Fall Back" is the term we use to remind ourselves to set our clocks back an hour when the end of Daylight Savings rolls around. Most of us like that specific shift in time because it means an extra hour of sleep. "Fall Back" is also used as a military term used to shift, abandon and/or reorganize one's position in combat and/or reconnaissance. At Emmaus we're in the process of "falling back." For us, it means getting back to basics about what it means to be "church" in our 21st Century, North American context. In other words, church is the people of God. Wherever a handful of us are, the church is present. That means when 8 of us go watch Wylie Nash play football, the church is there, being a witness. When three of us meet up after work at a local establishment, the church is there. Part of our "Fall Back" shift this year will include how we think and talk about being "church."

Falling Back or getting back to the basics is also recommitting ourselves to the process of spiritual formation. You've read in my Meanderings this month about the importance spiritual formation has in the life of a faith community. Spiritual formation opens us up and allows God's Spirit to work in us and through us in order to deepen our relationship with God and others. Simply, spiritual formation opens us and deepens us, spiritually. Emmaus has already begun to brainstorm, dialogue and pray about how we can be supportive of one another as we recommit ourselves to being more intentional in our spiritual formation processes as individual followers of Christ as well as a faith community. The first two weeks of September that I'm on vacation will be a designated time of prayer and reflection for the Emmaus community on how we can encourage, support and be a resource for one another and others when it comes to spiritual formation practices and rhythms for themselves, and/or their children & families?

Fall Back is more than an extra hour of sleep! It's a rally cry to shift and regroup so that all of us can love God and others with all that we have been gifted and given. And that's the bottom line, isn't it? Regardless if its Olympia First Baptist, Emmaus House or the church you wish us to become, it's about how we love God with all that we are and with all that we are as well as loving others, who may or may not be like us!

Peace and Joy!

Pastor Mark

P.S. Our next Emmaus House gathering will be Friday, the 13th, 6:30 p.m. at the home of Pastor Mark and Kathleen Rambo. It will be outdoor movie night, weather permitting! Bring a side dish to share. Kathleen has a special hot dog recipe for the main course. Look for the Emmaus community email the first week of September!

Table Grace—Feeding Ministry—Year-to-Date Stats:



Table Grace—YTD—13,808 plates served, Jan.—Aug.—(406 plates/Sunday)

If those numbers don't impress you, try these on:

YTD—Total Weight from our Target Pickups: 12,009 lbs. (6 Tons)!

YTD—Total Weight from our Safeway Pickups: 10,692 lbs. (5-ish Tons)!

Olympia Police Department's Friendly Faces Program:

This new program sponsored by OPD, engages folks who have a high level of contact with the police department. Friendly Faces provides a Peer Mentor who can work with the individual and deescalate potential problems and issues without involving street officers. You would be surprised the amount of time police officers have to spend with folks who are not criminals but because of mental illness, addiction and/or other issues find themselves being nuisances to their fellow citizens. Friendly Faces attempts to deal with these issues relationally. Pastor Mark, and other local pastors connected to Table Grace, have met with the Director of Friendly Faces as well as Sergeant King of OPD and one of the mentors. Currently, Olympia First Baptist has committed \$100 a month through the end of the 2019 year (\$600 total), that can be used as a discretionary fund for the Director and Mentors. Three other local churches have made the same financial commitment. This is another community issue that needs your prayers for support, patience and strength. We will update you as the program progresses.

Join Us for the Mission and Ministry Faire



It's time to celebrate the mission and ministry of First Baptist Church of Olympia. Following the worship service on **Sunday, September 29th**, all are invited to the social hall downstairs for our Mission and Ministry Faire (you know when faire is spelled with an "e" you're in for something special.) Ministries connected with our FBC family will have informative table displays, finger foods, and invitations and opportunities for you to plug in to some of the ways the Spirit is at work among us. We are looking to have displays from our music ministry, Deacons, Camp Bethel, God's Little Blessings, Men's breakfast, Table Grace, International Ministries, American Baptist Women, and much more. If you plan to have a display, please reach out to Gary Baits, Wendy Wilson, or the church office so we can save you a spot. Call Gary with any questions at (360) 775-5810. And don't forget those fabulous finger foods!

Moderator's Report by Jean Heidal

As we continue our discussion regarding region affiliation the Council has invited Rev. Charles Revis, Executive Minister of Mission Northwest, to come and meet with the congregation. We have scheduled a breakfast meeting with him on Saturday, October 12th, at 10 am. He will share information about the organization of the region and missions in which they are involved. This will (probably) be the final meeting before we make a region determination at the upcoming annual meeting in November.

For those of you who have attended previous meetings, we hope that this will be helpful in assessing the benefits of Mission Northwest. If you have questions, please feel free to talk with me or any member of the pastoral staff or council. Mark your calendar for this important date!

Women's Ministries by Jean Heidal

Fall is here already and September and October are full of activities!

Thank you to all who have responded to help with the Les Dawes memorial luncheon. Naomi and the family are so appreciative to have this time to be greeted by the congregation and feel "loved on" by those who miss Les as well.

On September 11th, at 12 noon, our regular meeting day, we will be lead in a study of our national program theme, "Feel." Pastor Sam Hochstatter will lead the study. All women are invited to attend. The "rumor" is that dessert will be fresh baked apple pie and ice cream! Bring a sack lunch and join us!

It's almost GARAGE SALE time! We have lots of items to sell so be sure to tell your friends/neighbors about the sale on Saturday, September 21st, 9 am – 3 pm in Fellowship Hall. Now, the congregation is invited to come on Friday, September 20th, from 6 – 8 pm to have a first look and pick of all that is available. Cash only, please. Remember, we are taking donations of new and gently used items, clean and ready to sell, until September 18th. If you have questions, please call me.

On October 5th we will be going to First Baptist Church in Puyallup for our Fall Rally. By the time you receive this, registration forms and information will be available. Our speaker is Miriam Noyes, recently retired missionary from the Democratic Republic of Congo. She will have lots of news to share about the work she and her husband did during their assignment. We will leave from the church about 9 am and should return by 3 pm. It's a great time to visit with the women from our sister churches in the area and to hear what other groups are doing in their outreach ministries.

Also in October our meeting program will be presented by members of the Mission Team on their trip to Puerto Rico. I have asked Wendy Wilson to invite 2-3 members of the team to come and speak to us. As usually, we will meet on the second Wednesday of the month!

I am working on plans for November, and finalizing the program for the Christmas Brunch in December!

Stay tuned for more details!

Christian Formation & Community Ministries

The month of September signals the return of a new school year. Teachers, students, administrators, parents, and even churches, have been gearing up and preparing for a new year of learning and the opportunities that go along with those planned learnings. Schools and parent-teacher organizations use the Fall to communicate what to expect and look for regarding this new school year. The church is no different. So here is a quick glance of Christian Formation and/or Educational Opportunities here at Olympia First Baptist as well as some emerging community opportunities that we might be partnering with now & when 2020 rolls around.

Thursday Morning Bible Study Returns Thursday, September 19th. @ 9:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room. Join us for a time of Refreshments, Prayer, Song and Study. A good mix of study, conversation, learning and laughter, we will be studying the book of James. We hope you will take advantage of this morning formational study time.

Sunday School begins September 22nd, at 8:30 a.m. There will be classes for all ages. Adult Studies:

***The Gospel of Luke**, taught by Pastor Sam Hochstatter, downstairs in Room 102

***Galatians**, taught by Dan Bezanson, upstairs in the Library. Dan's class has been studying the Book of Acts but as they began Paul's first missionary journey, they are taking a detour to study this letter to the church of Galatia that Paul established during that first journey.

Intergenerational (Children, Youth & Adults):

***Telling God's Story: The Kingdom of Heaven**, taught by Pastor Mark, upstairs in Room 209. This is a lively, interactive classroom with music, tasty snacks, coffee/hot chocolate while using various learning styles, as we explore the stories Jesus told and/or taught from, to the miracles he performed as well as his early life, his disciples and the opposition he faced.

Church Picnic @ Tumwater Historical Park,

September 22nd after Worship!

We will eat approximately at 11:45 a.m.-ish, unless the natives are restless and really, really hungry. Bring your own table service, chicken to share with others and a salad or dessert, depending on your last name and the letter it starts with. 😊

A-L Salads M-Z Desserts

There'll be lots of conversations, potential for shenanigans and general tomfoolery. Bring a friend and pray for good weather!



Community Outreach & Involvement:

Roosevelt School Back-to-School Supply Night is Tuesday, September 3rd at 3:30 p.m., with an Ice cream social to follow at 4. This year, however, we are looking to work with the PTA to supplement supply needs that were not met by their normal supply gathering methods. In other words, we will provide supplies that are in short supply after the initial wave of school supplies have been distributed on the 3rd. This will help ensure that supply gaps/holes are filled adequately for the coming year. Stay tuned for supply-buying lists starting Sunday, September 15th.

Peace Day Festival, Saturday, September 21st, 1:30—4:30 p.m. @ Sylvester Park, sponsored by Concerned Clergy of Olympia & Interfaith Works! Emmaus House and the Missions/Christian Education Boards are exploring the possibility of providing a table/booth that will have interactive activities for children & families around the themes of peace/reconciliation, which were also very important to Jesus' ministry. Look for more details and information as our plans develop.

Providence Community Care Center, In Development:

On August 22nd, 8 folks from Olympia First Baptist walked down to the Community Care Center, to see first-hand the type of services they are providing for people within our larger community who are on the edges of society. We talked to mental health providers, free clinics for medical and dental, domestic violence advocates, Community Action Council who provides not only energy assistance but now housing and rapid re-housing options. And this is just a small sample size of the larger work going on at CCC. Everyone there is committed to strengthening individuals and families who are impacted by poverty.

During this Open House Mylinda Baits and myself made some connections and the possibility of providing some Art Therapy type classes at the Community Care Center came up. Mylinda is trained in Healing Arts work as well as Conflict Transformation, so it was exciting to see her gifts potentially being utilized in relationship with what they are doing at CCC. This is an area of prayer as we explore what next steps would look like and if indeed this is an area of service and ministry that we can become a part of.

Emmaus House—In Development:

We've been talking and praying about turning the basement at Emmaus House into an Art Studio that can be used for healing/therapy arts for folks and guests through Table Grace and the Community Care Center. We could start, maybe, two times a week, including a Sunday afternoon before Table Grace opens its doors., 2—4 p.m. Working with Mylinda Baits, myself and some community activists as well as the Trustees and Executive Council. Looking ahead to 2020. This too is an area of prayer as we continue to explore ways to connect with the wider Olympia community to show the transformative power of Christ's love.