

# 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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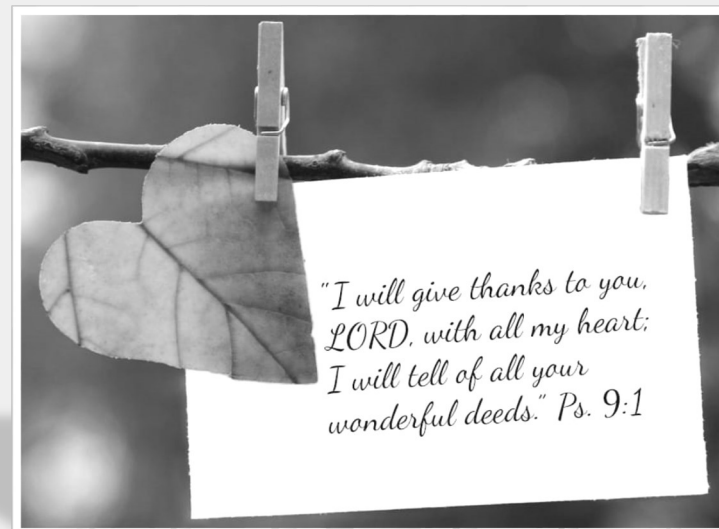
Return Service Requested

## First Baptist Church Nov. 2019 Tentative Preaching Schedule

**November 3rd**  
*Leaving Home*  
John 4:1-25  
Pastor Dave Roberts

**November 24th**  
*Indiana Jones & the Last Crusade*  
Colossians 1:11-20  
Pastor Mark Rambo

**November 10th**  
*Joy to the World*  
Psalm 98  
Pastor Mark Rambo



*"I will give thanks to you,  
LORD, with all my heart;  
I will tell of all your  
wonderful deeds." Ps. 9:1*

**November 17th**  
*Hope and the Unknown*  
Exodus 2:1-10  
Pastor Dave Roberts

November  
2019

# WINDOWS

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

## First Baptist Church Olympia

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**SPIRITUAL  
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**IMPORTANT DATE TO REMEMBER!**  
The Annual Meeting / Dessert Potluck  
is in the Fellowship Hall  
**November 6th at 6:30 pm**

## Deacon's FunFund Raiser

& Dessert Auction 5 pm ★ November 16th (see page 8)



**NOVEMBER 30TH - SATURDAY - 9:00 AM**  
**Church Christmas Decorating for all ages**

"It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year," to come together and spread the Holiday cheer. There will be coffee and breakfast goodies and also lunch will be provided as well. There will be a sign-up sheet soon.

*If you have any questions?  
Seek out Patti Lehman or Sarah Waterhouse.*



### Westminster Presbyterian: Tiny Home Project

There will be ten tiny homes put on their church lot in November. Please see the list of items to donate (on the table in the foyer) if you would like to contribute to this great cause of helping those in need.

8 Twin Mattress pads

8 pillows

8 washcloths

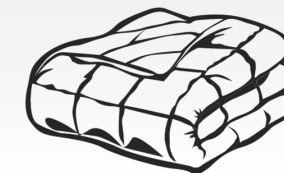
16 bins to fit 20" space under bed

16 bins no more than 12" tall for food in a kitchen

8 curtain rods for 18" windows

10 folding chairs

8 ten dollar gift cards to dollar tree



8 brooms and dust pans

3 alarm clocks

8 towels

5 twin sheet sets

3 mirrors

4 waste baskets

4 flash lights

16 coat hangers

16 blankets

## Mark's Meanderings

I'm just back from a week's vacation, spending time in the sunshine and warmth of Arizona and spending time with Kathleen, some treasured friends, and my Mom. Even though Mom is 88, my visits with her refill my soul and refresh my spirit. But it's good to be home and I brought the sunshine back with me. Leading my to do list when I was back in the office was this edition of the Windows. I started with something traditional, you know, something about Thanksgiving and being thankful and not to get caught up in the crass commercialism of Black Friday, etc. But that's not addressing what many folks are focusing on, what's really going on right now, here at Olympia First, is it? We are facing more immediate, important issues than Black Friday. I think our issues center on our church identity and what we are going to be about.

The recent decision by the Search Committee caught all of us by surprise and we wonder, where do we go from here? What does the Search Committee's decision mean for Kathleen and me? While I'm certainly an imperfect human (and pastor), I have always tried to do what is in the best interest of Christ's church here on the corner of 9th & Washington. In my 23 years here as Associate Pastor we have gone through 3 seasons of division and woundedness. I am not interested in a fourth! In my opinion the Search Committee was made up of a good cross-section of the congregation. Each of them worked hard, prayed and came to their decisions. If they could not come to consensus on me as a viable candidate for the Senior Pastor position, that means that there is a segment of the congregation that feels the same way, whether they would verbalize it or not. I respect both the individuals and the process set in place.

I never imagined I would serve First Baptist for as long as I have. I always felt like God's call here was strong, however it is time to say thank you and move on. That's as hard for me to say as it might be for some of you to hear. But there we are. We can move forward knowing we have loved God and worked together for the kingdom, albeit in our own imperfect way. I encourage you to continue to do the hard work ahead. Our first opportunity will be the vote on region affiliation November 6<sup>th</sup>. I encourage you to come, listen, ask questions and participate in one of the necessary steps to move forward.

Thank you for allowing God to use me here in Olympia. Thank you for those who have loved my family, despite all of our broken bits and pieces and blemishes. For those of you who made us a part of your own family, thank you! Thank you! It has been a privilege to walk with you these past years. As I prayed through this process I was reminded God's promise to all of us stands at the door - ***Behold, I do a new thing; now it spring forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Isaiah 43:19.*** It is time to open that door and step out in faith.

Where do we go from here? I'll have to seek guidance from the Executive Council. My goal from the onset of this pastoral search process was that I would stay until you found your next pastoral leader, regardless of who it might be. However, obviously, I need to look for other ministry opportunities and that may not coincide with the call of the next Senior Pastor of FBC. Given the pace of a pastoral search process, your guess is as good as mine of how long that might be. In addition, Kathleen and I will be getting the house ready to sell. So perhaps some time to step back, take a breath and know that we hold our plans lightly in times like these, waiting for the spirit to lead. I trust the spirit of God to blow through each of us and bring us to our completion in due time.

*Continued on page 8...*

## Spiritual Formation through the Enneagram

Spiritual formation is the process and practices by which we grow and mature in our journey with God through Jesus the Christ. I love the late Dallas Willard's definition, when he said,

*"In the tradition of Jesus Christ (spiritual formation) is the process of transformation of the inmost dimension of the human being, the heart, which is the same as the spirit or will. It is being formed (really, transformed) in such a way that its natural expression comes to be the deeds of Christ done in the power of Christ."*

Spiritual formation, then, is an integral and important part of what makes us followers of Christ. It is a lifetime process, not something that stops when we turn 30, 40, 50, etc. The Emmaus House community, as part of our emphasis upon "Rootedness," is having a **spiritual formation retreat using the Enneagram, November 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.** Anyone from Olympia First Baptist is welcome to be a part of this spiritual formation mini-retreat. So, what is the Enneagram?

The Enneagram is a personality inventory that helps us understand ourselves, our gifts and our shadow sides. The goal of this self-understanding is to mature into what God has created us to be. The Rev. David Reed will be our guide for this spiritual formation weekend. David is an IM Global Coordinator who has transitioned from the mission field in La Paz, Mexico, to now doing Spiritual Care work, alongside his wife Joyce, with IM global servants across the world. David's style is accessible, interactive, and relational.

This Enneagram Spiritual Formation Retreat is Friday night, November 8<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. The schedule looks like this:

Friday, Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:00—9:00 p.m.—Dinner, overview, assessment(s)

Saturday, Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.—Exploration, Lunch, conversation & discovery.

Cost: \$10.99, plus tax, for the book, The Wisdom of the Enneagram by Riso & Hudson (Amazon)

\$12.00 for the online assessment test, [www.enneagraminstitute.org](http://www.enneagraminstitute.org) the RHETI.

We will meet at Emmaus House, unless, we need more space, then we'll transition over to the Fireside Room at Olympia First Baptist. If you are interested in this spiritual formation mini-retreat or have any questions, contact Pastor Mark ASAP. Sign up today!

This Meanderings is a thank you, an explanation, not a good-bye. There will be plenty of time for good-byes, but that time is not now. There is plenty of ministry still to do together. There are important decisions to pray on and seek God's guidance and wisdom on.

We are fast approaching the Advent season, when churches are often at their busiest. That means us too, it is my hope and prayer as we move through Thanksgiving into Advent, that we do it celebrating the joy and love of the Christ Child, **together**, knowing we are each treasured. God is not afraid of our brokenness, our sin. We are redeemed and forgiven, to love and serve as best we can, together. I believe in you.

With Joy and Hope,

Mark



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— **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Deacon All-You Can Eat Spaghetti  
& Dessert Auction Fun-Raiser** —

Join us Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

All you can eat spaghetti, with salad, and garlic bread.

For those of you who are gluten free or afraid of carbs,  
we will also be serving spaghetti squash instead of pasta!

Musical entertainment by Wayne Hallmeyer, David Nash and Pastor Mark

The Dessert Auction piece, MC'd by Dan Bezanson, is always entertaining and full of laughter and outrageous competitive bidding. Please see a Deacon about contributing a dessert!



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**The South Puget Sound New Horizons Band**

Invites you to a free **Veteran's Day Concert** on Wednesday,  
November 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am - held at the Land Yacht Harbor Club-  
house (Airstream Park), 9101 Steilacoom Rd. SE, Lacey.

***Come to enjoy and support our own members,  
Ken Lewis and Tia Pennell, who are in the band!***

## Pastor Dave's Ponderings

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

How are you at taking tests?

If you remember from school days or maybe the Driver's License exam, some people get real panicky just at the thought of a test and their minds almost stop working. On the other extreme are people who say "bring it on". They're not fazed at all.

We, as a congregation, are entering a time of testing. The test is whether the issues that confront us have more power for division than the love and the life we have together as a congregation.

I assume you are aware of the doubly whammy we face. The Pastoral Search Committee has reported that they are at an impasse and therefore have no candidate to present to the congregation. Further, they are saying that they've worked at this long enough and it's time for someone(s) else to take up the task on behalf of us all.

The second issue is deciding which American Baptist region we want to affiliate with. This is an issue that has smoldered under the surface for a number of years and has now been brought to light.

Both of these issues are susceptible to "camping out." By that I mean it's easy to take a quick look at the issue, make the "obvious" choice between right and wrong, better or worse (from one's own perspective) and "camp out" there, joining others in taking a position. In our current national politics we call it partisanship.

Camping out and partisanship may not be bad if the positions aren't staked to the ground and everyone is grabbing on to the tent pole, promising never to let go. We all have positions, maybe more comfortably called preferences. The positions inform our decisions.

I heard once that if you didn't have a preference between two things you should assign one thing to one side of a coin and the other thing to the other side and then flip the coin. Chances are, by the time the coin comes down you will know which side you're rooting for.

In the case of the impasse that caused the Pastoral Search Committee to flounder, strong views were expressed and could not be reconciled. People were "camping out" for what they thought was best for the church. The decision was pleasing to some and torment for others.

How do we continue to live together?

Are we willing to believe everyone was doing their best?

You can read about next steps in the pastoral search process elsewhere in this issue.

Next up is the decision as to which region it would be most beneficial for us to belong. This is a discussion in which we may all be involved. It is a discussion that will challenge our love for one another and for our community. I have heard strong statements made regarding both of the choices.

It important that we all throw back the tent flaps of which ever camp we might be in to listen carefully to one another. It is important that we speak just as carefully.

We will talk about the process we will follow for the discussion. The option to use a consensus model of decision making will be explained. We will do our best.

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susceptible to "camping out."

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In the meantime, would you join me in a discipline between now and the annual meeting? Will you read Ephesians 2:15-23; 4:1-6 every day? The challenge is in coming to the scripture every day with an open mind and heart, allowing the Spirit to speak.

To get you started here is Ephesians 4:1-6 (NRSV)

"I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all."

See you in the meeting place where we listen for the voice of the Spirit together.



## Moderator's Report by Jean Heidal

First, I want to thank all those who have attended meetings this month to discern more about our current region with Rev. Revus, and to the budget hearing. I was pleased with the turn out and the level of questions that were asked. I hope that both of these hearings were helpful as we come to the Annual Meeting on Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm. We have important decisions to make and all members and friends of the congregation are invited to attend. If you are new to First Baptist this will be a good way for you to see how we “do business”. It’s a dessert potluck, so bring your favorite dessert to share.

There is information on the long table in the fellowship area for you to read over about the two regions before the Annual Meeting. The decision to stay with Mission Northwest or move to Evergreen Association will be on the agenda for that evening. We will also elect officers for the coming year and approve the 2020 Spending Plan.

By now most of you are aware of the announcement made at the end of worship on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Hans Stoker, Chair of the Pastoral Search Committee, reported that the committee had come to an impasse and therefore, did not have a pastoral candidate to put forth to the congregation. While this is disappointing news, we also have to hold tight to God’s promise that God will continue to lead us through this time. Sometimes, Romans 8:28 “All things work together for good to them that love the Lord...” is hard to understand, or accept, but we will continue to do the mission and ministry that God has called us to do in our downtown location and around the world. To Hans, George Gauntlett, Vern Blair, Patti Lehman, Sandy Grebbs, Beverly Vincent and David Nash (original member) THANK YOU for your time and effort and dedication in serving on this committee.

The Council is discussing “next steps” in moving forward in the pastoral search and I will keep you, the congregation, informed as we begin this process.

## Women's Ministries by Jean Heidal

Diapers... Diapers... Diapers! I hope you have seen the insert in the Sunday bulletins about our diaper collection to benefit the Foster/Adoption Parent Clothing Bank. We are collecting diapers through the end of November. The “Diaper Depot” to leave the diapers is in the overflow seating area of the sanctuary, closest to the fellowship area doors. Jane (Comstock) VanDeventer is the coordinator of the Clothing Bank and will welcome our donations. I have not purchased diapers for a very long time and had **no idea** how expensive they are! Many foster parents receive babies/toddlers with little or no clothing or other supplies coming with them. This Clothing Bank offers parents the opportunity to get new/gently used items for their little ones! Clothing is also carried for older children and teens as well. Jane will be the speaker at our November meeting and tell us more about her work as a foster parent and the Clothing Bank. Put Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 12 noon on your calendar for this meeting!

Christmas Brunch is coming! Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 am in Fellowship Hall. We will start selling tickets for the brunch on Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup> after church in the Church Library.

Our program includes Christmas music sung by Sandi Swarthout, an outstanding soloist and member of our church choir. Rev. Carol Sutton, former national Executive Director of American Baptist Women's Ministries, will bring the devotional thought. There will be a couple little “surprises” as well.

Tickets go quickly, so buy yours early.

As we enter the season of Thanksgiving I am grateful for the strong support of the women in our church who show up week after week and take care of all the little details that no one particularly notices, but would miss if they weren't there. ***Thank you all for your support and giving. You are a blessing to so many people!***

## Report from the Pastoral Search Committee

“When the committee first met, we agreed that a consensus decision model (to reach a unanimous decision) was the most appropriate way to decide on who to propose to the congregation. Using this approach, not everyone has to have their first choice, rather, everyone needs to agree that it’s a decision they can live with.

Over the past two years, we have worked hard to develop our “profile” of the congregation that was used to inform and attract potential candidates. Once that was complete we moved on to interviewing interested candidates. That went pretty slowly because, as many of you may know, the American Baptist Professional Services system/database was being completely replaced. That was a cumbersome process that led to several months of delays. We did some interviews online, but they were few and far between.

That is behind us now and we had a few more candidates to interview. During the past month and a half or so, we met every Monday night to talk and/or do interviews online, while being serenaded by the Olympia Bagpipers, who practice here every Monday! No worries, they were very considerate of our meetings!

With no scheduled interviews, we dedicate our most recent meeting to discernment and decision making. We were faced with 3 potential choices:

1. Continue the interview process for a while longer
2. Propose a candidate to the congregation for a vote
3. Realize we are at an impasse and cannot move forward.

We talked, discussed, respectfully argued, prayed. All were heard and while we disagreed, we respected each other's thoughts. Each of us believe we are doing the best for God's church here in Olympia. There are some who firmly believe we have done our due diligence and are ready to propose a candidate and others who believe we need to continue searching. After about an hour of discussion, proposals, sharing thoughts and strongly held opinions, we finally came to the conclusion that we are at #3: An impasse.

The entire committee expresses our deep regrets in not being able to fulfill our calling, desperate our best efforts to succeed. We agreed that the best next step would be for the current committee to disband completely, maintain confidentiality and none of us be eligible for the next pastor seeking committee. I know this is disappointing news. Many of you are likely dismayed, disappointed, angry, mad, or depressed by this announcement. The PSC gets that. It was only after exploring all other options that we arrived here. But like Pastor Mark said in a recent sermon, we are in it for the long haul. There are bumps in the road, sometimes major bumps and potholes. But we persevere. We go forward in spite of obstacles. Following Christ's directions aren't always easy or straightforward. We are a work in progress. I'm confident we'll get past this.”

Hans Stoker, chair, Vern Blair, George Gauntlett, Sandy Grebbs, Patti Lehman, Beverly Vincent