

The Visitor

A newsletter for members and friends
of First Baptist Church, Madison, Wisconsin

No. 9 May 7, 2018 Vol. 61

“ACT NOW: Unite to End Racism” Rally and Day of Action

Hi friends,

On April 3rd through the 5th members of First Baptist Church traveled to Washington DC for the “ACT NOW: Unite to End Racism” rally and Day of Action on the National Mall. Tom and Ava Kersten, Pam Mack, Jill Thomas, and I were all involved in part or all of the events throughout the week.

The week began on the evening of Tuesday, April 3rd, at Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral in NW DC. Close to a thousand people from across the country gathered to share a hauntingly beautiful service of Greek Chanting held in an amazing cathedral covered in incredible mosaics. This led to an inspiring Ecumenical Gathering with dignitaries from dozens of denominations throughout the country and around the world. This gathering reminded us of the work the Ecumenical Church has been doing to end racism and inspired us all to redouble our efforts to “finish the work” of ending racism in our land.

April 4th started bright and early, at 6:30 am, as we met with hundreds of Christians from across the country at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial. We were lead in a silent prayer walk from the memorial to the National Mall. Being in silence at the foot of King’s statue on the anniversary of his assassination with hundreds and hundreds of people from across the country who had all come together to try and continue his work, was one of the more powerful experiences of the whole week for me.

We arrived at the Mall for an interfaith service that was truly interfaith. Members of several different religions and dozens of different Christian denominations shared a time together of prayer, worship, teaching and commitment to working together to end racism in our land, in our lifetime. After the interfaith service the rally began in

earnest, as bus-loads of people from across the nation continued to show up to join in the event. There was music, sermons, motivational talks, dance, singing, rap, and liturgies.



The entire experience was geared towards helping us commit to the work of ending racism. Some of the highlights of the trip included:

- An inspiring performance by Gospel singer Yolanda Adams.
- A motivational talk by actor, director and activist Danny Glover.
- A humorous but poignant talk by ice cream aficionados and businessmen Ben & Jerry.
- A very instructive talk given by Black Lives Matter activist and pod cast host, DeRay Mckesson.
- A powerful benediction by the Bishop of the Mid-Atlantic Episcopal District of the AME Zion Church, Bishop W. Darin Moore.

The following day was day of action and advocacy throughout the Halls of Congress. We met in the morning at Historic Ebenezer United Methodist Church where we were given a brief overview and training on the following issues:

- Voting Rights
- Criminal Justice
- Immigration
- Gun Violence
- Healthcare
- Education
- Environmental Justice.
- Economic Justice

It was a lot to learn and hold onto in a short amount of time, but it was fascinating and helpful information. It was very instructive to hear how much race plays a part in each of these other issues. Whether we’re talking about education or healthcare or the environment, the negative effect of

all of these issues disproportionately affect people of color.

We broke into smaller groups and visited the offices of our representatives. I visited Congressmen Johnson and Pocan, as well as Senator Baldwin's office. Others went to the offices of other representatives from around the state. A smaller group of national leaders went to Speaker Ryan's office.

In all my visits, the staff we met with were cordial, responsive and interested in what we were doing there. And in each visit, I brought greetings from FBC, making it clear, that we are a community of people that care about these issues. That when I say I want something to be done about the achievement gap in Wisconsin, I am not just speaking for myself but for the hundreds of people (and voters) in my church community that sent me there with that message.

All in all, it was a busy, exhausting and an inspirational trip; and I thank all of you for making it possible for us to go.

Sincerely,

Pastor Jason

National and international newspapers took notice of our being there as we were on the cover of The Washington Post, The Globe and Mail (Ontario), The Providence Journal and the Chicago Tribune.



Here's how some other FBC folks experienced the trip:

"Everyone got together at the rally and they were actually peaceful, it was disappointing that the gospel choir didn't have more songs. How many people came was shocking to me, even surprising."

- Ava Kersten

"For me, the image of so many clergy, men and women, wearing their stoles and their collars was extremely powerful... that we live in a country where we can stand facing Capitol Hill with our backs to the White House and publicly declare the injustice that exists in our society, while simultaneously rejecting the policies and the man who currently occupies that house, was immensely gratifying... not because the end of the work is done... not remotely, but that there exists in America, even today, so many people interested in King's vision is compelling to behold... that his statue stands today with arms crossed, defiantly holding the words "all men are created equal" in the Declaration of Independence, staring at Thomas Jefferson's memorial, as if to say... "Really? After those words were written over 200 hundred years ago, are we really still doing this?"

- Tom Kersten

"The rally was really well done; the speakers were interesting and had a lot to say"

- Pam Mack

A Special Thank You!

Ava Kersten would like to thank "the person(s) who financed the Washington DC bus trip to ACT Now to End Racism Rally. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to attend. I had an amazing time and a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I was so touched by everything there and loved seeing everyone come together! Thanks again, Ava Kersten



Worshiping Together!

"... to create a worship experience that is as meaningful as possible for as many of us as possible."

The Visitor Publication Schedule

May 21, 2018

June 4, 2018

**Article deadline is 9 a.m.
on day of publication.**

Email to: fbcoffice@firstbaptistmadison.org

Phone (608) 233-1880 * FAX (608) 233-2814

Web Page: www.firstbaptistmadison.org

Prayer Concerns

Church Family: Virginia Henderson; Jim Siddell, Carl's father; James Evans; Brenna Kersten's friend; Katy Marty; Atlee Wilson; Lance Dockter; Jeff & Jeanette Kersten & family, and Jeanette's father; Ruth L. Parfrey; Paul Husting's friend, David Baer; Sheila Donald; Linda Stamm's sister, Karen Coleman; Linda Lindley; the family of Donald Anderson; Susan Donahoe's father, Rev. John Davey; Rhiannon Tibbetts' friend; and the family of Russell Novkov.

Deployed to Afghanistan: Art Hebblewhite

Our Shut-ins: Mercile Lee; Connie Smith; Pat Young; Phyllis Reisdorf; Linda Olson; and Joyce Tardrew

Expecting Parents: Julia Mueller and Garrett Voss are expecting their first child on November 3.

Births: We welcome Beckett Andrew Borchardt, born to Andy & Nikkie Borchardt on April 22.

Baptismal Candidates: Beni Lara, Robbie Gunshor

Others: Those whose names and needs are unspoken.

composed specifically for our concert by **Phyllis Louke**; a Chinese traditional melody played on piccolo from the church balcony; the entire Madison Flute Club with its array of instruments from piccolos to contra-bass flute; and some jazzy Joplin duets performed by **Linda Mintener** and **Madelyn Miessner**.



Teresa Beaman, our highly-acclaimed guest artist, thrilled the audience with lovely versions of American folk songs and impressive solos, showing off her dazzling technique and her ravishing tone.



Roberta Brokaw, a retired professor of flute, once again honored the audience with her presence by performing Arthur Frackenpohl's

Ballad and Tango. Both artists were accompanied by **Mark Wurzelbacher** on the piano.

All the musicians performed beautifully and had fun doing it despite the cancellation of one of our main rehearsals due to an unexpected April snow storm. It was a delightful afternoon of music. Next year's concert will be on Sunday, March 31, 2019 at 2:30. Put it on your calendar and plan to join us to support our Chinese Orphans Project.

Become a Supporter!

This year's concert collections, and our 6 new sponsors, have sent us well on our way to continuing our educational support for 108 impoverished orphans in China's Henan Province. If you would like to contribute, it's not too late! Write your check to First Baptist Church with "Chinese Orphans Project" in the memo line, and put it in the church offering plate, or give it to Linda Mintener, Bill Hausler or the church office. Or, better yet, become a sponsor for one of our young children for \$250 a year. We have a new group of 1st and 2nd graders who need sponsors. An example is Yiran whose father was killed in an accident and

Fresh News

April / May 2018 Attendance Numbers

Date	Traditional Worship	Common Table Worship
4/1/18	128	Shared Service
4/8/18	56	27
4/15/18	42	24
4/22/18	53	29
4/29/18	57	23
5/6/18	88	Shared Service

Thanks for a Successful Chinese Orphans Benefit Concert

Thanks to all involved for helping to make our 12th Annual Chinese Orphans Benefit Concert a success. The audience enjoyed a flute concert of lovely and delightful classical pieces. It included a world premiere of *Flirtations*, a bossa nova piece

mother abandoned him and his two sisters. The 3 children lived with an elderly and infirm grandmother. For food, the family relies on relatives and friends to farm their 1 2/3 acres. If you are interested in sponsoring Yiran or another of our orphans, see or contact Linda Mintener at (608) 231-1680.

Oversight Committee (Paul Chotlos, Vern Lowell, Mark Clinger, Nancy Emmert, and Gil Emmert).



Good News from Building for Ministry

We have paid off the BMO Harris and the MG&E loans completely this quarter. That leaves only the member loans.

Building for Ministry Debt Retirement Financial Report as of March 31, 2018

Total amount pledged or given to the Debt Retirement appeal	\$363,165
Retirement pledges/gifts received since start of the appeal	\$311,398
Retirement pledges/gifts received in First Quarter	\$16,314
Member loans converted to gifts in First Quarter	\$0
Total retirement pledges outstanding	\$50,342
BMO Harris loan	
Interest paid during First Quarter	\$520
Principal paid during First Quarter	\$66,985
Outstanding principal remaining	\$0
MG&E loan	
Principal and interest paid during First Quarter	\$107,04
Outstanding principal remaining	\$0
Member loans	
Interest paid during First Quarter	\$0
Loan repayments during first quarter	\$0
Outstanding loans	\$120,000.00
Total Indebtedness	\$120,000.00

We anticipate being able to pay off the outstanding member loans by the end of the current appeal, which is March 30, 2019. At that point, we will again, be debt-free! Gil Emmert for the Building for Ministry

Follow Up

Follow up news on the Third Tuesday Lunch program presented on April 17 by Terri Johnson about the **Healing House**, a respite center for homeless families and pregnant women recently released from the hospital with nowhere to go for recovery. This center is sponsored by Madison-area Urban Ministry and is located on Madison's Near West Side. Healing House is expected to have eight beds, provide 3 meals a day, case management, transportation and other services for up to 28 days.

According to an article in the April 25, 2018, *Wisconsin State Journal*, Healing House is expected to open sooner than expected because of a \$500,000 grant from CUNA Mutual Group Foundation. This gift will also allow expansion of other MUM programs, <http://emum.org/what-we-do/healinghouse/>. Update submitted by Claire Rider

Reminders



Don't Miss FBC's Talent Show this Week May 11, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.!

Come see your friends and families from FBC show off their talents! Talents are incredibly diverse this year. You can look forward to singing, dancing, piano, flute, crafts, karate, jokes and more. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at the door. There will be pizza, treats and drinks available as well. See you there!



Third Tuesday Lunch will meet at noon on May 15 in Fellowship Hall for a potluck lunch. The main dish will be provided. Please bring a

dish to share.

At 1:00 pm, the program, *Misbehaving Women and Others: Discovering the Voices of Women in the Protestant and Catholic Reformation*, will be presented by Laura Kolden.

With the recent celebrations of the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, much attention has been given to the historical antecedents that prompted a call for radical change in the Christian Church. Even more attention has been given to the men credited with leading that movement, well-known names such as Martin Luther, John Calvin, Ulrich Zwingli, and others. Yet, there were many courageous and persevering women of faith who also made significant contributions to the emerging Protestant Church and the reforming of the Catholic faith. This presentation will introduce you to some of those women, and celebrate their place in the history of Christian faith and practice.

Laura Davison Kolden is a former member of First Baptist Church; and since 2006 has served as the Associate in Ministry at Salem United Church of Christ in Verona. This spring Laura received her Masters of Divinity from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary on the Northwestern University Campus in Evanston, Illinois. She is currently seeking ordination in the United Church of Christ. Laura is the daughter of Jim and Edith Davison and the niece of Beverly Davison.

Everyone is invited to join us for the potluck and program. Please make a reservation by calling FBC's office, (608) 233-1880, by signing the pew pad, or by adding your name to the sign-up sheet located at the Gathering Space.



2018

The Board of Education has approved a scholarship of \$200 per camper for this year's summer Youth Camps at **Camp Tamarack**.

The 2018 schedule for church camp (Camp Tamarack) is now out and a copy of the schedule can

be found on the bulletin board at the kiosk in the Gathering Space. There are camping opportunities for first and second graders (a shorter schedule), middlers (3rd and 4th), juniors (5th and 6th) Junior High (7th and 8th) and Senior High students. There is also a family or grandparents camp from July 1 to the 4.

Contact Nancy Moore in the church office to coordinate funds. Contact Pastor Jason with any other questions.

Memorial Day FBC Picnic Breakfast

Memorial Day, Monday, May 28 at 8:30 a.m. Hoyt Park's Upper Shelter. Handicapped parking is available behind the shelter. Bring your own breakfast (something already cooked at home or from a restaurant). There will be time for fellowship, games, and talking. All are welcome!

An Invitation to American Baptist Women's Ministry at Camp Tamarack

You are invited to help celebrate 140 years of American Baptist Women's Ministry in Wisconsin at Camp Tamarack the weekend of June 1-3. First time ABWM Retreat guests will receive a gift certificate of \$25. For more information contact Lynette Miller 238-4155.

Green Lake Retreat

Per the Council's decision, staff will not be coordinating the Green Lake retreat this year. If members want to head up in the fall, now is the time we would typically be making reservations. You can reach the conference center at (920) 294-7250 or GuestGroups@glcc.org.

Gardeners needed at First Baptist

You might have heard that our master gardener, Gene Dewey, will no longer be tending the flower beds at church. Thankfully, that is not completely true. Gene has agreed to continue to plant and tend the large flower box outside the parking lot entrance and to serve as a consultant to other church gardeners who would like to "adopt" a flower bed at the church.



We are looking for 3-5 people who would like to be church gardeners and take responsibility for growing plants and tending a section of the gardens at church. Gene can supply information on what has been planted successfully in the past and what care is needed throughout the season. You can garden whenever the task fits into

your schedule, consulting with Gene and others who chose to join the team.

Please contact the church office to claim one or more of the following areas:

1. Front yard by the big church sign
2. Along the front sidewalk
3. Beds in front outside the choir room windows
4. Beds near the old front entrance

Paul Chotlos, for the Board of Trustees



Agrace to Offer New Volunteer Orientation in June

Agrace Hospice & Palliative Care is seeking local volunteers. You can brighten the lives of people with serious illnesses by volunteering. New-volunteer orientation sessions will be held **Monday, June 11, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., and Tuesday, June 26, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.,** at Agrace's Madison campus. Before they attend orientation, prospective volunteers will complete an application and interview about their skills and interests. Call (608) 327-7163 with questions, or to register for orientation.

Agrace to Offer June Grief Support Groups

In June, Agrace will offer three grief support groups at the Agrace Grief Support Center, 2906 Marketplace Drive, Fitchburg. There is no cost for these groups for people whose family member had hospice care in the past 12 months. Fees can be lowered or waived for others, if needed.

- **Bridges Grief Support Group** is for adults. No pre-registration is needed. Meets Wednesdays, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., or from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Contact Jody at (608) 327-7118 or visit agrace.org/griefgroups to confirm dates and times.
- **Family Grief Support Program** is for families with children aged 5 to 18. Meets every other Tuesday, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.; dinner is included. Pre-registration is

required. For detail, call Jessie at (608) 327-7135 or visit agrace.org/griefgroups.

- **Loss of Loved One from Alzheimer's/Dementia** is for adults and meets Wednesdays, 10 a.m. – noon; June 13 to June 27. Pre-registration is required. To register, call Cheri at (608) 327-7300.



BIRTHDAYS

May

June

1 Sam Gunshor	2 Lisa Ashwill
1 Hyunji Haynes	2 Gil Emmert
2 Katy Marty	5 Jennifer Angelo
2 Russell Novkov	5 Matthew Chotlos
2 Morgan Turner	6 James T. Evans
12 Frank Hill	8 Laura Sweet
13 James W. Evans	10 John Darling
18 Nancy Moore	11 Julia Voss
24 Doug Haynes	11 Brenda Moen
24 Kevin Lempp	13 Sean Blythe
25 James Moen	20 Gerald Eggleston
27 Steve Daggett	21 Ava Kersten
29 Brock Dockter	23 Billy Holland Jr.
30 Jim Davison	24 Karen Fennema
20 Del Dockter	25 Les Ferge
30 Charlotte Kersten	28 Susan Hausler
	28 Barry Kita
	28 Sylvia Lowell
	29 Edith Davison
	30 Vern Lowell



Worship Schedule for Sunday May 13, 2018

11:00 a.m. - Traditional Worship
11:00 a.m. – Contemporary “Common Table” Worship

FBC's Blended Worship Schedule for Summer 2018

A blending of worshipping styles to create meaningful experiences!

Sunday, May 20 through Sunday, September 2

11:00 a.m. - Blended Worship Service
Pastor Mark or Pastor Jason

12:00 Noon - Light Lunch served on 5/20, 7/1, 8/5, and 9/2 only. Church Picnic 6/3

The Visitor

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

518 N Franklin Ave, Madison WI 53705-3699

(608-233-1880)

(Affiliated with the American Baptist Churches, USA)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME VALUE: DATED MATERIAL -

MAILED - 5/8/18