



The Tall Spire

First Baptist Church
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An American Baptist Church

Rev. W. Kelly Grimsley
Pastor

February 2010

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

In our cell-phone-driven society, we have learned how to speak in acronyms and abbreviations. As a result of texting, we are becoming accustomed to shorthand--such as "lol" for "laugh out loud" or "BFF" for "best friend forever." One of the acronyms is "TMI" for "too much information." The phrase is often used when someone is divulging too much personal information that is normally not revealed to the public.

Valentine's Day, celebrated in February, is traditionally about love and romance. And in searching for a theme for the holiday, I considered giving this column a personal slant. The danger is that I will expose too much information.

For me, Valentine's Day was usually a day of frustration. In grade school, I would send anonymous cards. I pined in secret--like Charlie Brown, who liked his red-headed girl from afar. When I was in junior high, I developed crushes and infatuations. Unfortunately, I had two shortcomings. I was shy and timid, terrified of the opposite sex. Most of my interest was unrequited. The young ladies had no idea that they were the object of my affection. Also, my timing was terrible. There were several instances when I discovered that a young lady had been interested in me. However, at the time, I had no idea. I was clueless. I had been oblivious to the clues and hints. When I finally came around to expressing my interest, the young ladies had lost their interest. They had given up and moved on.

What does this have to do with our church? Is this "too much information"? As we begin the Lenten season on Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday, we should consider the love of God. The narrative of the Passion and Resurrection is a story of the extent of God's love for us. Yet, that love is often unrequited. It is not that we have not received signals. During this season, we should study the many scriptures that remind us of the love of God and the promises of God's faithfulness. We should recall the words of prophets and preachers that have reinforced the message of God's love. And we should remember the many times that God's love has been a factor in our own lives.

Valentine's Day is a time for cherishing those that love us and those we love. Let us not overlook the "love that will not let us go" ...the love of God. We all need and long to be loved. You are loved! "How do I know? The Bible tells me so." May that love be acknowledged and experienced in your life every day.

Kelly Grimsley, Pastor

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Psalm 51:10



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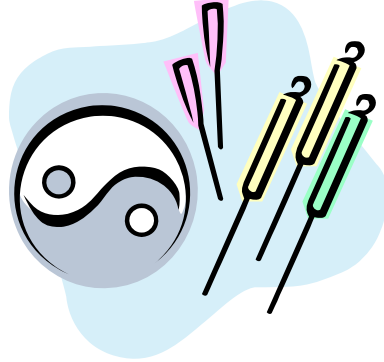


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Wellness Center

The Wellness Center has begun its operation at First Baptist Church. Fees are affordable and the benefits may be life-changing.

---A yoga class meets each Tuesday evening under the direction of Jeff Comulada. There may be another class formed for Tuesday afternoons, so if you are interested, contact Mary Jo Johnson at 347-880-0310 or call the church office.



---Acupuncture and Thai Massage are available through Mary Jo Johnson. Contact Mary Jo at 347-880-0310.

---Our nurse, Noemi Osunero, R.N. will offer health screenings and consultation one Sunday a month or by appointment on Sundays after fellowship.

---Pastoral Counseling is available through the Reverend Dr. Souci Grimsley. Contact Souci directly at 1-917-860-6140.

Yahoo!!!! Cowboy Chili

First concocted in Texas by cowboys passing through on cattle drives

INGREDIENTS: 1 tbsp. Vegetable oil; 1 lb. boneless chuck or rump roast, cut into 1/2-inch cubes; approx. 2 cups onions, chopped; 6 cloves garlic, minced; 2 cans low-sodium beef broth; 1 tbsp. cumin; 1 can diced low-sodium tomatoes; 2 dried ancho chiles; 1 tbsp. masa harina de maiz (finely ground corn, similar to flour); 1 cup water; 2 cans pinto beans, rinsed and drained; 1/2 tsp. salt; 1 tsp. cider vinegar.

DIRECTIONS:

1. **Brown the meat:** In a large Dutch oven, add oil and heat over medium-heat. Once oil is hot but not smoking, add beef and cook until browned — about 5 minutes. Remove beef, set aside, and reduce heat to medium.
2. **Make the chili:** Add onion to the Dutch oven and sauté until translucent — 3 to 5 minutes. Add garlic and cook 1 more minute. Return the meat to the Dutch oven. Gradually add 1 can beef broth and deglaze by scraping up the brown bits from the bottom of the Dutch oven. Add chili powder, cumin, tomatoes, and the second can of beef broth. Reduce heat to medium low, cover, and simmer for hour.





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Lenten Program

Shrove Tuesday: Tuesday, February 16, 7 p.m.

Three kinds of pancakes, apple sauce, and ice cream sundaes prepared by our Master Chef/Minister of Music, Frank Miller. Come and confess on a full stomach. Celebrate "Fat Tuesday." (Repent on Wednesday!!)

Ash Wednesday: Wednesday, February 17, 7:30 p.m.

Informal service at the Wilson House on Ash Wednesday. This is a traditional occasion of repentance as we enter the season of Lent, the weeks approaching Easter. It is an opportunity to reflect on our mortality. Prepare your hearts and minds for the Passion and the Resurrection of Christ.





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Capital Needs

First Baptist Church is blessed with a large and beautiful campus. The facilities on the campus are to put to such diverse uses as worship, Sunday school, housing, daycare, gardens, community meeting rooms, a wellness center, and overflow parking for events at the high school. The list is seemingly endless.

Maintaining the campus is a fulltime job, and First Baptist Church is fortunate to have a dedicated Property Committee and Sexton. The Property Committee and the Sexton work hard to maintain the campus to the highest standards with limited resources.

First Baptist Church has been at its current campus for approximately 50 years and its age is showing. There are significant projects that need to be undertaken at the Church to ensure that it is properly maintained and safe for the campus' many users. For example, the parking lot and the sidewalks need to be repaved, exterior lighting needs to be upgraded, doors and windows need to be repainted and possibly replaced.

The Finance Committee is looking for a few dedicated individuals who will work on fund raising to cover these capital needs. The committee will be responsible for identifying fund raising goals, developing a plan for raising the money, and implementing the plan. If you would be interested in participating in this important effort, please contact Mary Hamby at 914.421.1589 (home) or 914.286.7769 (work).

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

International Ministries of the American Baptist Churches has advised that at this point in time financial contributions are the best means of helping the victims of the Haitian earthquake. It is not known how much food, medical assistance, clothes, etc. is needed, so International Ministries is currently just accepting monetary donations.

This can be done in any of the following manners:

- You can write a check to: OGHS (One Great Hour of Sharing) Haiti Earthquake Relief and place in offering, give to the church, or send to: International Ministries, P.O. Box 851, Valley Forge, PA 19482;
- Go to www.internationalministries.org/items/80 You will see a box wherein you can put a donation, and click on shopping cart. If you follow the process, you will be able to put in your credit card number, which will be charged for that amount; and,
- There will be a special box in the narthex for contributions to the Haitian relief fund. Contributions of any amount, in cash or check form (made out to OGHS Haiti Earthquake Relief), are welcome and very much appreciated.



Lent originated as a time of preparation for Baptism at the Easter Vigil on Easter Eve. In Lent, God bids us to cleanse our hearts and prepare for the Paschal Feast. We pray that God will renew our zeal in faith and life.

For us, Lent is a time of preparing for Easter by reflecting on the meaning of our Baptism.

We contemplate our baptismal dying to the old life of sin and rising to the new life in Christ.

We confess our failure to live in the covenant of our Baptism, our failure to live the life our Creator intended for us. Our sin separates us from God, from our neighbors, and from creation. We pray, "Graciously cleanse us from all sin and make us strong."

Lent is a time of spiritual cleansing, of prayer, and of growth in faith...a time of returning to the Lord our God, who is gracious and merciful and abounding in steadfast love.

Lent concludes and Holy Week begins on the Sunday of the Passion, Palm Sunday. Then we will contemplate our Lord's Passion and participate ritually in his death and Resurrection.

After our forty days as Lenten people, we will move from darkness to light, from death to life, from repentance to forgiveness, from ashes to Easter...and we will live as God's Easter people.

Crosses are veiled during Lent as a reminder that this is a season for austerity, purification, and spiritual cleansing.

The omission the "Alleluia" from the Liturgy and hymns reflects the solemnity of Lent.

The absence of flowers reminds us of the somber nature of this season.

Purple, the color of repentance and solemnity, is the color for Lent.



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FEBRUARY 2010



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 7:00 PM Yoga	3	4	5	6
7 9:30 AM Church School 10:30 AM Worship	8	9 6:30 PM Property Meeting 7:30 PM Board Meeting	10 10:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Spanish Bible Study	11	12	13
14 9:30 AM Church School 10:30 AM Worship 	15	16 7:00 PM Shrove Tuesday	17 10:00 AM Bible Study 7:30 PM Ash Wednesday	18	19	20
21 9:30 AM Church School 10:30 AM Worship	22	23 7:00 PM Yoga	24 10:00 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Spanish Bible Study	25	26	27
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FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2/3 Jane Yan | 2/24 Della Howell |
| 2/4 Jenny Magliari | 2/24 Carolyn Hughes |
| 2/4 Sue Nelson | 2/24 Janaye Stanford |
| 2/5 Carl Coffman Schmidt | 2/25 Mary Saldaña-Guarno |
| 2/5 Thomas Coffman Schmidt | 2/25 Carolyn Tyler |
| 2/6 Katherine R. Cruz-Griffith | 2/26 Joe Clifton |
| 2/9 Margaret Pape | 2/27 Miriam Alvarez |
| 2/10 Sylvia Adsit | 2/28 Thomas Forenz |
| 2/10 Anthony Forenz | |
| 2/13 Jennifer Venuto | |
| 2/14 James Lipscomb | |
| 2/15 Oliver Rivas | |
| 2/16 Teresa Guerrero | |
| 2/18 Corinne Chen | |
| 2/19 William Steward | |
| 2/20 Alexander Olivieri | |
| 2/21 Kenneth Shortlidge | |

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 2/3 Shirley and Astor Thompson

