

THE BULLETIN

of the First Baptist Church in Beverly



A progressive and welcoming Christian community!

Ministers:

Rev. Julie R. Flowers

Rev. Kent D. Harrop

Director of Music: Dr. Esther Chang

Office Manager: Pat Haight

HNS Director: Jennifer Baez

HCP Director: Andrew DeFranza

Business Manager: John Thomson

Facilities Manager: Jeremy Weir

Communication Associate: Mary Powers

Visit our Website

Join Us On Sunday at First Baptist Church in Beverly
Sunday, January 20, 2019

10:00 a.m. Worship and Multi-age Children's Class

(Childcare is provided throughout the service for our youngest children, through Kindergarten. Our children in Grades 1 and up are encouraged to begin worship in the sanctuary with us - either in the Prayground space or with families in the pews - and then will be dismissed to their class time following Stepsitters!)

Transition and Change. Through January, Julie and Kent's sermons will focus on Bible passages that remind us that God is *always* faithful during times of transition and change. Transition and change (while unnerving) can also open us up in new ways, to the movement of the Spirit!

How Can We Keep From Singing?

Rev. Julie Flowers, preaching

Scriptures:

Joel 2:28 – 29

Philippians 4:4 – 9

IN THE MIDST OF CHANGE



GOD CAN STILL BE FOUND



A Heartfelt Thank You from Beth

A funny thing happened in the early hours of Monday, January 7. As I rolled over in bed, I discovered that my right arm and shoulder hurt. It felt like I had some really sore muscles. It took me a couple of minutes to realize the pain was the result of giving and receiving so many hugs in one day, and I smiled.

I cannot possibly express fully to you, the family that is First Baptist Church in Beverly, the gratitude I feel for the wonderful celebration on Sunday, the 6th. It was more touchingly wonderful than I ever could have imagined. The thoughtfulness, generosity and caring attention to detail were astounding. From the Celebration Ringers opening worship with the Hallelujah Chorus to the opportunity to share Communion with you one more time, from the financial gift to the stained glass piece and all the gifts with special meaning, from honoring my family who supported my ministry in so many ways to baking cherry nut bread, and the wonderful note cards, letters, picture books in the memory box...my heart is full. Over the past week, I spent time reading a few notes each evening and cherishing the gifts. Thank you to everyone who participated, to the planning committee, to Bob Blanchard for serving as Master of Ceremony with perfection adding in just enough humor to keep me nervous!, and to every person who was there (or who could not be, but sent a note or held us all in prayer).

May God continue to give all of us "courage to step out without any fear" and "the wisdom to know the way to go" on our journeys of faith.

Grace and peace,
Beth (Leadfoot) Loughhead



Family News

We remember the life of Denise Ouellette, who died at Kaplan House on January 11th. Denise in recent months worshipped at FBC twice, after a long absence due to health issues. Being back at FBC was an answer to prayer for Denise, and was made possible by the support of her family. Denise's life will be remembered on January 19th at Berube and Sons Funeral Home, 191 Lafayette Street, Salem. Visiting hours are 12-2:30 p.m. with a memorial service at 2:30 p.m. officiated by Rev. Julie Flowers.

Church Family Chat Sessions

In times of change and transition, in the saying goodbye to a beloved and long-term minister, there are also very unique and very personal journeys on which each one of us in the wider church families travels. Sometimes, on the journey, it can be nice just to be together with others in the family and share stories, enjoy one another's company, and talk about what we are carrying – or just be there to experience the warmth of being together.

In recognition of this truth, Julie and Kent would like to extend to the wider church family opportunities to just come and be together and share stories, feelings, raise questions – whatever is on your hearts and minds – as we move together in this time of transition and reflect on our journey with Beth. These sessions are designed to be very informal –these are, quite simply, times to be together for those who would like to do so.

Following a chat session this past Tuesday evening, the next chat sessions will take place on **Thursday, January 17th, at 7 p.m.** (there is no choir this week due to Esther Chang being on vacation); and **Friday, January 25th at noon.**

If you are interested in attending and would find that childcare would make that easier for you to do, please email Julie at jflowers@fbcbeverly.org to request that service.

Additionally, both Julie and Kent are always available to all church family members for phone calls, emails, drop-in visits, lunches, coffee dates, or whatever else feels good and helpful. They can always be reached at 978-922-3295 or by email at jflowers@fbcbeverly.org or kharrop@fbcbeverly.org.

January 18th at 2pm: Book Group Discusses *Circling the Sun*

The Book Group will begin the new year by meeting on Friday, January 18 to discuss its latest choice, “Circling the Sun” by Paula McLain. Ms. McLain, author of the bestselling “The Paris Wife” about Ernest Hemingway’s first wife Hadley, specializes in writing biographical novels about independent women. The topic of her latest novel is Beryl Markham, the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean from east to west and the first woman to do it solo (apparently a few other women had died attempting this feat). When she was four years old, Beryl’s family had left England to join the early white settlers of Kenya, then a British colony. She struggled to overcome the traditional social restrictions facing women of that era, becoming a well-known horse trainer whose horses won highly respected steeplechases, as well as an adventurous aviator. She mixed with an interesting social set that included the Danish novelist Isak Dinesen and the famed big game hunter Denys Finch Hatton who were the leading characters in the Oscar-winning movie “Out of Africa.”

New members are always welcome to join the group for a lively discussion in the church lounge.

The meeting begins at 2 o’clock and usually lasts about an hour. The winter season is a great time to begin a new book!

A Very Generous December at FBC

Even though it was the traditional “season of giving”, the church experienced an unusually strong outpouring of generosity during the month of December and is very grateful to the many members, friends and community people who gave so generously. The month offered many opportunities for giving, including worship service offerings, the fellowship offering, the Christmas offering, the Gift of Heat, poinsettias and memorial gifts, Change for Good, and an extra fifth Sunday at the end of the month but people responded with open hearts to every opportunity. This year’s Christmas offering was especially noteworthy. Last year’s Christmas offering totaled \$1,428, and this year’s Christmas offering stands at a remarkable \$6,090 with donations continuing to come in! The collections for Christmas Sunday and the two Christmas Eve services came to \$12,046, as opposed to last year’s total of \$8,030. Interestingly, the attendance at both year’s Christmas Eve services remained the same (200 people at the early service and 90 people at the midnight service). During the worship services from December 16 to the end of the month (which includes the ever-popular Music Sunday), \$21,300 was given. It was a remarkable month, and the Christmas spirit was strong at FBC.

The pledge drive for 2019 is in its final stages, but it’s not too late to make a pledge. Pledges are the life blood of the church and provide the stable financial basis for the church budget and all that the church hopes to accomplish during the year. Pledge cards are in the pews where they can be filled out and dropped into the collection plate on Sunday. Other alternatives are dropping by the church office or emailing Pat Haight, the church’s financial Secretary, at phaight@fbcbeverly.org. Business Manager John Thomson is eager to begin putting the 2019 budget into final form for presentation at the church mid-year meeting at the end of the month so the Stewardship Committee hopes to receive final pledges by January 15. Let’s continue the spirit of generosity into the new year!

Souper Bowl Sunday February 3rd

This delicious fundraiser for our Mission Committee and mission programs is back by popular demand! On Superbowl Sunday, members of our mission groups will be holding a SOUPer Bowl fundraiser after worship. They will be selling homemade soups for you to bring home for your lunch or to serve during the big game later that day. All money raised will go to support the mission programs of our church.

If you are interested in *making* and donating a homemade soup to be sold, that would also be very welcome! Those who would like to donate a soup should please contact [Cindy Shupp](mailto:Cindy.Shupp), Chair of the Mission Committee, for more information and to let her know what you would like to make and bring. Cindy can be reached by email at cjshupp@verizon.net.

This Winter! All Church Intergenerational Fun Night

NEW for 2019, one Friday per month, we'll gather at FBC for an intergenerational fun night! Stay tuned for more details on Pickle Ball Night and Board Game Night currently in the works for February and March.

January 25th 6:00-8:00 p.m. Pizza and Fun @ FBC Gym for Volleyball and 'Kin- Ball'! (similar to a large beach ball, perfect for *all ages* and abilities in lobbing the ball over the net for fun and points). This event is for *all* church family members and friends, as well as anyone you would like to invite to come and join you! Our hope is to have a relaxed and silly evening for all ages to help break up some of the chill of winter. Please join us and invite a friend or two along, as well!



Midyear Meeting on January 27th

Please stay after worship on Sunday, January 27, for the Midyear Meeting. It will start at 11:20 in the chapel and we are looking to be finished before 1:00. There will be bagels and fruit to munch on as we deliberate on the budget for 2019 and look ahead to the exciting new year at FBC. There will be no late morning adult classes that day; there will be childcare during the meeting.

Coming Up at FBC



Thursday, January 17
7:00pm: Church Family Chat Session

Friday, January 18
2:00pm: Book Group

Saturday, January 19
12:30pm: Lunch Program
7:00pm: Women's Fellowship

Sunday, January 20
9:00am: Seekers Adult Class
9:45am: Morning Cafe
10:00am: Worship and Children's Class
11:20 am: Adult Education
4:00pm: MS Fellowship
6:00pm: SH Fellowship

Monday, January 21
Martin Luther King Day: Church Office Closed
6:00pm: Monday Night Supper

Tuesday, January 22
9:30am: Staff Meeting
12:30pm: Lunch Program
7:00pm: Deacon's Meeting

Wednesday, January 23
4:30pm: Lectio Divina
6:00 pm: Joyringers
7:15pm: Harborlight Ringers

Thursday, January 24
6:00pm: Celebration Ringers
7:30pm: Sanctuary Choir

Friday, January 25
12:00pm: Church Family Chat Session
6:00pm: All Church Fun Night in the Gym

Sunday's Sermon can be viewed here or online at
fbcbeverly.org/sermons

Walking on Water: 101

Rev. Kent Harrop, preaching

Scripture: Matthew 14: 22 – 36

