



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DAYTON COURIER

JANUARY 2025

Volume 91, Issue 5

First Baptist Church of Dayton • 111 W. Monument Avenue • Dayton OH 45402
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Ring in the New

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Returning to El Salvador	2
Congregational Dinner & 2025 Budget	3
Stivers Choir Concert	4
Adult Sunday School Classes	5
Another World Is Possible	6
Preservation of Light	8
Rainbow & Religious Roundtable	13
Welcome New Members	15

*"Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light;
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.*



*Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true."*

So begins the great New Year's poem "Ring Out, Wild Bells" by Victorian Poet Laureate Alfred Lord Tennyson. The end of a year can remind us that there is much that passes away, and perhaps needs to. Since ancient times the turn of the year was symbolized by an elderly person fading away while the new year took the image of a baby being born. Perhaps since Christmas comes so close to New Year's Day on our current calendar it is appropriate to consider letting Christ represent the newness we wish to see in the world.

In the Hebrew language of the Jewish calendar the new year is called Rosh Hashanah, literally the "head of the year." It generally occurs in the autumn, during September or October depending on the overlap of our different calendars.

(continued)

For the strictest literalists, it is believed that the day marks the very anniversary of creation when God spoke the world into existence in Genesis. It is the beginning of the “high holy days” that climax with Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. Rosh Hashanah was marked with the blowing of the trumpet, the Jewish shofar or ram’s horn, and has come to be known as the “feast of trumpets.”

In the New Testament the coming of God’s kingdom and, consequently, the second coming of Christ and the final resurrection are described as coming with the sound of angelic trumpets. These are symbols of a new beginning that Christ comes to create in the world.

For now the most important place for Christ to return as Lord is in our hearts. We welcome him and his kingdom as a sign of the new life we wish to lead. We confess our sins and those things which need to pass away as we are crucified and buried with Christ by faith. His resurrection sounds forth through our praises as we sing and tell what he has done and can do in giving us new life.

Tennyson’s poem ends with these lines: “Ring out the darkness of the land, Ring in the Christ that is to be.” We leave behind a year where there has been much good. But surely there have been things less than good, too. Let’s ring out the old, and be ready to welcome the future that comes in “the Christ that is to be.”

--Pastor Kent Berghuis



Returning to El Salvador – Five Years Later

By Rev. Jason Alspaugh

Our last trip to El Salvador was December 28, 2018-January 4, 2019. We had plans to return in the spring of 2020, but, as you well know, we all found ourselves in the thick of the COVID-19 pandemic and unable to travel. And we were unable to travel for some time. Having traveled to connect and work with our folks in Ahuachapan regularly for nearly 9-years, we have not been able to do so for the last 5-years. However, thanks in large part to Diane Ashman, we have been able to maintain our connection; and, thanks to the generosity of our congregations (note: we still partner with FBC Springfield & St. John’s), we have been able to continue our financial support for the ministry projects of Iglesia Bautista Dios Compasivo in Ahuachapan.

And now we are set to resume travel to El Salvador, beginning with Diane Ashman traveling solo in late February 2025 to reconnect in-person with our ministry partners. Much has changed in just five years, with young people stepping into adulthood and assuming more leadership responsibilities, and with new children being served and supported with scholarship funds. A large part of the reason we travel to El Salvador is to build relationships, which foster love, compassion, and empathy for the work we then do together. Ultimately, we are helping another church do the ministry it feels called to do, and we learn from one another as we do so. And the experiences and the relationships are truly a gift.

I am grateful for Diane Ashman’s service in this mission partnership; she’s been there from the very beginning. I appreciate her willingness to travel solo to lay the groundwork for new ministry projects we can support, and for future group trips; and our Mission Board is glad to support her in this. Our plan is to have a group travel to El Salvador in December 2025-January 2026. If you are interested, please let me know. And stay tuned for more info throughout the year!

Annual Reports Due Jan. 6

Annual reports for 2024 are due by Monday, January 6, 2025 from all Board Chairs, Committee Chairs, and pastoral staff. Please email reports to Linda Blair at fbc@fbcd Dayton.org. Thank you!

Congregational Dinner and 2025 Budget Presentation

Sunday, January 26 @ 11:30am



This year we plan to have a congregational dinner with the annual meeting on Sunday, January 26, after worship service. This is an important occasion for the entire congregation and everyone is urged to attend. We will review and approve the Annual Report and 2025 Budget, and update you on the steeple and Preservation of Light projects. The dinner will be prepared by Chef Grey Booker who has served us with a couple of fantastic meals in recent months. The menu is still in the works but will be announced in upcoming bulletins/weekly e-news. Let us know that you plan to attend by way of yellow card on Sunday or by contacting the church office.

January Church Meetings

Board Meetings

Wednesday, Jan. 8 @ 6:30pm

Executive Council Meeting

Wednesday, Jan. 15 @ 6:30pm

Baptist Youth Fellowship Gathering

Sunday, January 12th

12:15-2:30pm

Our next BYF Gathering for youth (grades 6-12) will be on January 12th here at First Baptist. We will have lunch together and take some time to share ideas and make some plans for the New Year; and we'll, of course, have time for some fun & games. RSVP's are always helpful, and you can email/call/text Pastor Jason to do so (jalspaugh@fbcd Dayton.org / 937-631-3579). Friends are always welcome, but we ask they turn in a completed and signed BYF Medical-Transportation Form (available outside the church office, or electronically from Pastor Jason).

ALSO, save the date for a possible ice-skating outing with folks from Christ Episcopal to the Ice Rink at Riverscape Metro Park on Sunday, February 9th. Details TBA.

2025 Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

Celebration Banquet
Monday, Jan. 20, 2025 at 6:00 PM
The Dayton Arcade
35 W Fourth St, Dayton 45402

Theme: "A Charge to Keep I Have"
Guest Speaker: Dr. Rodney Kennedy
Individual Tickets: \$75

Sign-up forms are available at the church.
Please contact Ted Greenwood or Tim Holmen for further information.

STIVERS SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS



CHOIR CONCERT

Sunday, January 26, 2025 @ 4:00pm

First Baptist Church of Dayton



Once again First Baptist Church of Dayton will play host to the award winning choir from Stivers School for the Arts, under the direction of Paula Powell, on Sunday January 26, 2025 at 4:00 pm. The choir has performed throughout the Miami Valley, Carnegie Hall, and most recently at the Schuster for the Holiday at Home concerts with Neal Gittleman and the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra. The choir will perform music of all periods and styles. Admission is free to the public and a reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.



Church History: Medieval Christianity

Led by Dr. Roy Vice

Sundays, Jan. 5, 12 & 19 @ 11:30am-12:15pm

1st Floor - Chapel

We once again welcome Dr. Roy Vice, as he shares his knowledge of pivotal moments in Church History, this time focusing on Medieval Christianity. The High Middle Ages were the Golden Age of building the great Gothic Cathedrals. Gothic architecture has pointed arches, ribbed vaulting and flying buttresses. Some cathedrals have as much stone below ground as above. Notre Dame de Paris is just the most famous of these cathedrals. This was also the era of the growth of universities and Scholasticism, the effort by Thomas Aquinas and others to integrate the philosophy of Aristotle into Christian theology. This revival of learning was very influential.



After 1300 the weather turned colder and wetter and there were famines. The Ottoman Turks began to conquer land in Turkey and Greece. During most of the 14th century the papacy was in Avignon, France and the popes built a magnificent palace. John Wyclif criticized the wealth and worldliness of the church. To add to the suffering, The Bubonic Plague swept through Europe killing around a third of the population. Finally, the Hundred Years' War between England and France broke out. Ultimately, the new Nation States began to emerge...

Coming in February

The Psalms

Led by Dr. Brad Kallenberg

Sundays, Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23 @ 11:30am-12:15pm

1st Floor - Chapel

Another World Is Possible (or We'll Probably Be Alright)

By Rev. Jason Alspaugh

Sometimes it seems like
my little world
and the wider world
could all be coming to an end.
And I ponder what I will do if I lose the people I love most.
The very thought of it
leads me to some intense conversations with God,
which I have alone in my car,
because the volume, tone, and occasional profanity
would offend some people.

I watch the news,
and I am nearly numbed
and driven to despair
by the inhumanity.

And it seems like any day now
that scenario in “Red Dawn”—
the 1984 version—
could happen;
and maybe I’d have to become
a Wolverine—
like the guy Patrick Swayze played.

My mind wanders
and I wonder if I should start preparing, like a “prepper”;
and I start searching
for survival supplies on Amazon—
waterproof matches,
or maybe a ferro rod,
and a good knife—
stuff like that.
I add it to my cart,
and then decide to save it for later.

(Continued)

And then I wonder if I will someday
be three seasons into a
real Walking Dead situation,
and look back with regret
for not having committed
to the purchase.

Whenever I come across poetry, Scripture, songs, and such,
that give me hope,
I squirrel them away like...a squirrel,
thinking I may need them,
and trusting that I will be able
to find them later.

No matter what the day is like
I can still find myself singing,
“This is the day...
that the Lord has made...”
with the voices of saints past and present echoing the words.

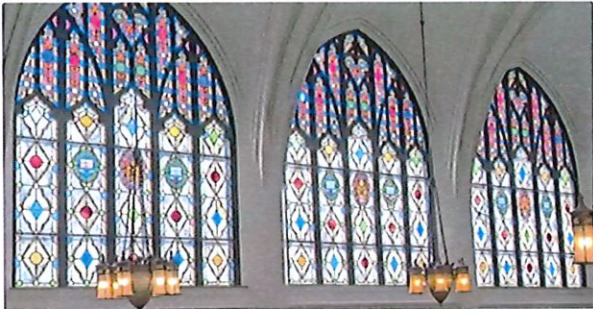
And I am thankful for
the Book of Job.

Sometimes,
when it seems that nothing matters,
I go to North Carolina
and meet up with friends to plan
a week of youth summer camp.
And I remember some words
by a rabbi and poet
that I squirreled away somewhere:
“Another world is possible.”
And once again
I believe it.

*~ from the sermon on November 17, 2024,
entitled, “When There’s Not One Stone On A Stone”*



“Preservation of Light”
*Campaign to Preserve the Stained-Glass Windows
of First Baptist Church of Dayton*



Three of ten side aisle windows in the sanctuary.

On any given sunny day, you can sit in our beautiful sanctuary and observe the incredible colors of light from the stained-glass windows bounding off the walls.

The thought that went into the creation of these windows must have been an ingenious stroke of wisdom to their creator. The preservation of these windows has been daunting and costly through the years for First Baptist Church congregation members. The torch has now

been passed to the current congregation to maintain the glow of God’s light through these beautiful and historic windows. Just in time to help celebrate our 200th anniversary, we are announcing “The Preservation of Light” campaign, a campaign with a goal of \$460,000.00 to help preserve and maintain these windows for the future. This campaign will stretch over a four-year period and with the help of grants, donations, and faithful gifts, we will be able to reach our goal and restore the stained-glass windows of First Baptist Church of Dayton to their greatest beauty. Fundraising efforts thus far have raised over \$150,000 to date.



The magnificent south facing three panel signature windows.

Since our modest beginning in 1824, First Baptist Church has been a leader in the Dayton area. The maintenance required to keep First Baptist Church beautiful, historical, and strong is extensive, and we intend to raise the money to allow our beautiful and historic campus to remain one of Dayton’s finest.



Restoration work in progress on a side aisle window.

The George Green Studio in Pennsylvania was commissioned to create all 22 art glass windows at a cost of \$8,500 in the mid-19teens. They worked with the building architects, Schenck and Williams of Dayton. Associated Crafts & Willet Hauser in Minnesota are overseeing the restoration which is being done in house as well as in their mobile lab located in Cincinnati, Ohio.

We invite you to take a tour of our historic church to see the preservation work in progress and learn more about the importance of the restoration project. Please call Pastor Kent Berghuis at 937-222-4691 to schedule an appointment. Thank you for your consideration.

Contributions to the First Baptist Church of Dayton, a 501(c)3 organization,
are fully tax deductible.

"Preservation of Light" Campaign Gift/Pledge Form



Donor Information

Mr., Mrs., Miss, Ms.: _____
(please indicate above how you wish to be recognized)

Company/Foundation: _____ (if applicable)

Address: _____
(billing address if paying in installments)

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: (H) _____ (W) _____ (C) _____

E-mail Address: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

I/We wish to remain anonymous.

Gift/Pledge Information

I/We gift/pledge a total of \$ _____ to be applied in its entirety to the "Preservation of Light" campaign for the restoration of the stained-glass windows at First Baptist Church of Dayton.

A single gift. Enclosed is my check made payable to *First Baptist Church of Dayton*.

Please bill me in Monthly / Quarterly / Annual payments of \$ _____
over 2 3 4 years starting _____ / _____
(circle one) (month / year)

In Memory/Honor Of

I wish my gift to be recognized:

In Memory Of _____

In Honor Of _____

Donations to First Baptist Church of Dayton, a 501(c)3 organization, are fully tax-deductible.

First Baptist Church of Dayton – 111 West Monument Avenue – Dayton, OH 45402
(937)222-4691 – fbcdayton.org – fbc@fbcdayton.org

**Preservation of Light Campaign
Donors**

Donna Miles Curry
Estate of Martha DeBold
Estate of Rose Peacock
Corine McMaster
Ted and Gina Greenwood
Trinity Legacy Fund
Pastor Kent and Angie Berghuis
Daryl and Barbara Bogan
Tom Lasley
Ronald and Diana Petry
Edward and Laura Rhodes
*Phyllis R. Barker via Barker-Oatts Fund
at The Dayton Foundation*
Rev. Dr. Karen E. Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Dawn Kalbfleisch
David and Melody Pugh
Jonathon and Julia Wolfe
Bob and Nancy Kerr
Roger and Joanne Stephens
Ron and Margene Taylor
William and Sue Wilson
Marcia Bogan and Randy Compton
Mary Malone
Libby Stanton and Stan Gockel
David and Peggy Coggins
The Wright Family Foundation
Don and Linda Brown

Brad and Jeanne Kallenberg
Carolyn Mowry
Nancy R. Soloski
Pete and Linda Thomson
Ed and Sharon Wingham
Preservation Dayton, Inc.
Ken Taylor
Lee and Dustin Tyson
Rieck Services
Roy Vice
Joseph A. and Carol B. Vondruska
Tina Rose
Charlene Bayless
Col. D. L. Stover Kendrick
Harold West
Ray and Janet Landis
Betty Coleman
Leslie Loper

In Memory Of

Charles and Margaret Barker
Marlen Berghuis
Joseph and Barbara Vondruska

In Honor Of


Rev. Jason Alspaugh
Harriet Berghuis
The Kalbfleisch Family

Christmas Pageant 2025 – Making a [Nativity] Scene

Thanks to all the children & youth and their parents for helping us to make a Nativity scene in worship on December 15, sharing the Good News of Christ's Birth with good fun!







DAYTON METRO LIBRARY

RAINBOW & RELIGIOUS ROUNDTABLE

A roundtable of community members who identify as LGBTQIA+ and are connected to a faith tradition will share their unique insights and experiences with the audience.

SAT, 1/25 | 2-4 PM

MAIN LIBRARY,
EICHELBERGER FORUM

Friends,

I will be participating in this roundtable discussion at the Dayton Metro Library, and would encourage you to attend and/or invite your friends. I think this is a wonderful opportunity to bear witness to God's inclusive love, and to hear from other people of faith. And my thanks to Jordan Ostrum, LGBTQIA+ Services Specialist for Dayton Metro Library for the invitation 😊.

Peace,
Pastor Jason



As 2024 ends and our 200-year celebration draws to a close I wanted to keep the 1820 décor with a Christmas tree as a final salute! Cinnamon sticks, pinecones, orange slices, strands of popcorn and cranberries, two antique bells that still jingle are on the branches. Queen Victoria began decorating trees with ornaments in 1850. English and German immigrants came to the U.S. to live and introduced this tradition to friends and family. I enjoy history and wanted to have a Christmas tree that reflected on what stood in the parlors of our church founders' homes. I hope this tree brought a little nostalgia to my fellow FBC members.

--Mary Herbert



Blanket Donation Drive ~ THANK YOU!



Thank you to all who were able to contribute to our blanket drive during November and December. We collected about 40 blankets in just a few weeks that went to folks being served by House of Bread and St. Vincent de Paul Gateway Shelter for Women and Families. A special shoutout to Meredith Ryan for suggesting we do this blanket drive; and to the children who helped promote it through our Children's Message times in worship.

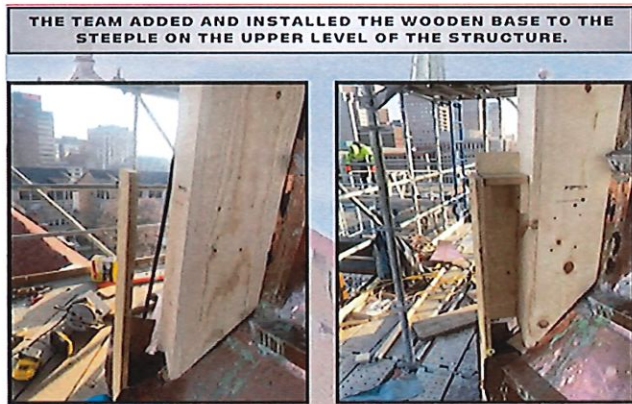


Lavanda Ferguson sends her holiday greetings.



Violet Coggins nestled in her bed.

Steeple Work Progress *(Photos provided by HKC)*





January Celebrants

- 1 Karen Bailey
- 3 Chris Pipenger
- 10 Connie Holmen, John Parent
- 14 Jack Mikesell
- 16 Michelle Sutton
- 17 Darris Forgy
- 19 Edward Molen
- 20 Michelle Smith
- 22 Debbie Reichard-Smith
- 27 Lila Pattison
- 29 Kevin Babb, Steven Wolfe
- 31 Sam Radachi

(Is your birthday not listed? Please notify the church office and we will update our records.)



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

The Right Hand of Fellowship was received by

Tom & Valli Howard

Sunday, December 22, 2024.

They join by Letter from The Summit in Boise, ID.

Their faith partners are Revs. Alan & Jean Carroll.

For Our Cards & Prayers



- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Clara Black | Shirley Nash |
| Don Brown | Mary Ann Paloncy |
| Linda Ginter Brown | Susan Parent |
| Gerald Busch | Judy Smith |
| June Collier | Roger Stephens |
| Donovan-Schlaile Family | Thomson Family |
| Lavanda Ferguson | Anne Veghte |
| Bill Harrell | Harold West |
| Kalbfleisch Family | Dorothy Williams |
| Landis Family | Sharon Wingham |
| Gene Lee | |
| Merkle Family | |

Military Duty:

Sebastian Ewald, Sunny Ewald, Brittany Kalbfleisch, Will Radachi, Andy Wilson

NOVEMBER 2024 Financial Report

	Budget	Received	YTD Budget	YTD Received
Loose Offerings	1000.00	81.00	916.67	990.03
Pledges	207794.00	16408.00	190477.84	177841.50
Non-pledged Contributions	55000.00	3602.00	50416.67	48683.00

Happy New Year!

