

The Tie Line

First Baptist Church of Silver Spring

Sharing God's love in the heart of the city

Volume 56 No. 2

January 22, 2012

Can Christians Be Civil About Politics? Part 1

The political corruption exposed in the past year has been overwhelming. At the end of last year, a neighboring politician and his wife confessed to enriching themselves while purportedly being servants of the public welfare. This year began with an investigation indicting a local young politician in embezzlement of public funds for his personal lifestyle. And investigations of a local mayor and other council members continue.

As would-be candidates for President continue to make a sham of our democracy by courting our votes we learn that most of them have enriched themselves by benefits from lobbyists and lobbying - a practice well known to derail the will of the people for the will of big money! So once again we will vote into political office another "1%-er" who cares little for the needs of the 90%+ from the shrinking middle-class and expanding lower-class who have little or no true representation in our government.

At the same time I came across two books that challenged my thinking about applying my Christian faith in the breadth of the world in which I live. The first book is: *Honoring God in Red or Blue: Approaching Politics with Humility, Grace, and Reason* by Amy Black (Moody Press, to be released June 2012). The second is: *Walking Gently on the Earth* by Lisa Graham McMinn and Megan Anna Neff (InterVarsity Press, 2010).

In the next few articles I want to share some thoughts from these books. For now I want to draw your attention to an event that really

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February Birthdays



1- Darrell Verner; 4- Marsha Lyles; 7- Roxanne Desir, Sally George; 8- Elizabeth Tandski; 10- Melissa Thomsen; 14- Olivia McQueen, Lisa Peddicord, Elvie Smith; 15- William Smith II; 16- Emily McQueen; 17- Lucille Haney; 21- William Smith; 23- Ethel Kennedy, Denise Moky; 24- Benita Bocar, Penny Harrison Gill, Alonza Moore; 26- Lizzie Graham, Asini Lindor-Taka; 27- Monique Harris

Worship with Us

[First Baptist Church](#)

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

pushed me to write these articles. In January 2009, Mark DeMoss, a long-time conservative Republican activist enlisted Lanny Davis, a long-time liberal Democrat activist (from Montgomery County, MD) to launch the Civility Project to counter the harsh tone of public discourse. They wrote to 585 political leaders of our country (all 100 Senators, 435 Representatives and 50 state governors) asking them to sign this pledge:

I will be civil in my public discourse and behavior. I will be respectful of others whether or not I agree with them. I will stand against incivility when I see it.

Both DeMoss and Davis are well known to all these leaders because both served for over 20 years as advisors and counselors to both parties and were serving in current positions. Of the 585 leaders to whom they wrote, **only 3 agreed to sign the pledge:** Senator Lieberman and Representatives Frank Wolf and Sue Myrick. Yet, thousands of private citizens, fed up with the incivility so popular to the extremes of each party, signed the pledge. However, at the end of last year, DeMoss and Davis were forced to shut down their effort because of the strong political pressure brought against it by both political leaders and, as DeMoss said, "his conservative fellows" who threatened him with vulgar, crude and often immoral and violent language.

What does this reveal about our current political climate in which conservative religion and politics are identical? Neither mentions nor stands for or with Jesus Christ. What kind of religion do we have and what value is our politics? Think, pray, then vote!

Pastor Mac

11:00 a.m. Worship Service



11:00 a.m.
Eglise Baptiste de la Foi
(Haitian worship service)
1:00 p.m.
Iglesia Bautista Emanuel
(Spanish worship service)

Notable Quote

"There can be unity where there is no uniformity."

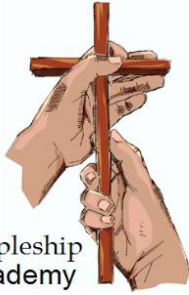
--Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Media Message



Are you a "techie" looking for a way to get involved at church? Are you someone who wants to learn more about technology and find a ministry home? Consider volunteering to serve as a member of the audiovisual team, whose responsibilities include setting up and managing the sound system for services and other church functions. Training will be provided. For more information, stop by the Media Center or contact *Jennifer M.*

Discipleship Academy



Discipleship
Academy

Join us for the Discipleship Academy, beginning on **Saturday, January 28**. A disciple is one who studies and follows the teaching of a person he or she recognizes as an authority. An Academy is a school for special instruction in a specific discipline. The scheduled beginning for each session will be 8:00 AM - gathering and continental breakfast; 8:30 AM - study session; 9:45 AM - summary, assignment, and closing prayer. We will meet each Saturday morning *through March 31*.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION CLASS

On **Sunday, February 5** from 12:45 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Pastor McIntosh will conduct a new members class for those who have gone to the Inquirers Room or come forward to join, asking for membership in First Baptist. You now need to go through the required membership class in order to become active voting members of FBC. A light lunch will be provided, so please let us know *in advance* if you plan to attend. (NOTE: No matter how long you have been *attending* First Baptist, if you have never JOINED the church, you are not a member.) Consider making a commitment to Christ and to the Lord's ministry at First Baptist.

DINNER THEATRE BENEFIT FOR NCCF

Make plans now to attend a special engagement of *The Wizard of Oz* on **Tuesday, April 17, 2012**. Friends and families who follow the yellow brick road just might venture "*somewhere over the rainbow*" and find themselves in a musical dream with Dorothy and friends.

This Toby's Dinner Theatre (Columbia, MD) performance will benefit the National Center for Children and Families' (NCCF) Greentree Adolescent Program (GAP). Tickets for the show and buffet are \$48.00 per person (*\$10.00 is tax deductible*). Reservations are due by **March 17**. For ticket information, contact Jerry O. (301-585-5454) or Vernell DeWitty. Make checks payable to: *Board of Church Representatives, NCCF*.

Doors open at 6:00 PM; Buffet served 6:15 PM-7:30 PM; Show begins at 8:00 PM

Keeping in Touch Across the Miles and Through the Years

Dear Jerry:

We continue to receive *The Tie Line* via e-mail and love reading about the happenings at First Baptist Church, Silver Spring. Please tell Pastor Mac that we always enjoy



his column.

Attached is our check for \$100.00 in appreciation of our being able to receive news from our beloved church of about 32 years-the church where Andy and Eric grew up-and the church where they had excellent leaders and inspiration that contributed to the men they are today. As we have said before, we will always be grateful to First Baptist Church Silver Spring for the Christian experiences we were so fortunate to have as a family. (Hope you had) a wonderful Christmas and please give our best regards to all our friends at the church.

Margaret & Marion

Free Movie Night

Want a FREE night at the movies? On **Saturday, February 11** (6:00 PM), Viers Mill Baptist Church (12221 Viers Mill Road, Silver Spring) will be showing "**The Encounter.**" Story line: Stranded, five strangers find themselves marooned in a deserted roadside diner. They all come face to face with a diner owner, a genial host who is a certain Nazarene. He knows all of their secrets and possesses the answers to all of their problems--if only they would trust him. It is a miraculous Encounter that will leave them all changed. (Not Rated - PG). All movies are FREE to the public; FREE refreshments will be provided; and there will be supervised activities for young children.

Upcoming DCBC Training & Seminars

The [DC Baptist Convention](#) is offering training to equip the Lord's disciples:

Spiritual Gifts Seminar on **Saturday, February 4** (9:30 AM to 12 PM) is for lay persons to discover gifts God has given them to establish or to strengthen local church ministries.

Forgiveness Seminar on **Saturday, February 11** (9:30 AM to 12 PM) involves "*The Power of Forgiveness*" video, Bible study and discussion, facilitated by Stephen Price (Commonwealth BC) and Robert Cochran (DCBC)

All sessions will be held at the DC Baptist Building (1628 - 16th St. NW, DC). Register by phone: 202-265-1526 or click on the link ("DC Baptist" name above) to register online.

Words from Two Nobel Peace Prize Winners

"I am convinced that if we are to get on to the right side of the world revolution, we as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values. We must rapidly begin the shift from a thing-oriented society to a person-oriented society. When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights, are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism, and militarism are incapable of being conquered."

1964 awardee **Martin Luther King, Jr.**, "*Beyond Vietnam*"

Transfiguration

"All over this magnificent world, God calls us to extend his kingdom of shalom-peace and wholeness-of justice, of goodness, of compassion, of caring, of sharing, of laughter, of joy, of reconciliation. God is transfiguring the world right this very moment through us because God believes in us and because God loves us.

What can separate us from the love of God? Nothing. Absolutely nothing. And as we share God's love with our brothers and sisters, God's other children, there is no tyrant who can resist us, no opposition that cannot be ended, no hunger that cannot be fed, no wound that cannot be healed, no hatred that cannot be turned into love, no dream that cannot be fulfilled.

1984 awardee **Desmond Tutu**, *God Has a Dream*

January - February 2012 Activities

Sunday, January 22

9:30 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship Service
12:30 p.m. Deacons

MONDAY, JANUARY 23

6:30 p.m. Young Adults Group

Wednesday, January 25

5:45 - 6:30 p.m. Dinner (*Barbequed ribs*) \$5.00
6:30 p.m. Bible Study (*1 John*) / Prayer
6:30 p.m. Handbells rehearsal
7:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous
7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26

7:00 p.m. Church Council

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

8:00 - 10:00 a.m. **Discipleship Academy** (1st session)
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Food Closet (Team C)

Wednesday, February 1

10:00 a.m. CDC Chapel (Pastor Mac)
5:45 - 6:30 p.m. Dinner (*Creamed chicken over rice*)
\$5.00

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

11:30 a.m. Saints Alive Lunch & Program (\$5.00)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Food Closet (Team D)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

12:30-4:00 p.m. New Member Orientation

Monday, February 6

6:30 p.m. Young Adults Group

Tuesday, February 7

7:00 p.m. Trustees



Ministers and Staff

Duncan McIntosh, *Proclamation*
Gareth Murray, *Associate Pastor*
Valeria Foster, *Worship & Administration*
Jerry Orrell, *Administrative Assistant*

Eric Walters, *Associate Pastor*
Jennifer Martin, *Media Center*
Marcellus Breach, *Organist*
Rosemary Piercey, *Celebration Ringers*

Barbara Williams, *Webmaster*

Bill Smith, *Listserve Moderator*

Contact Information

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