

# The Trumpeter

First Baptist Church

SW 12th and Taylor

Portland, Oregon

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## Monarchy and Democracy

It has been said that New England town hall meetings are the world's purest form of democracy. What about Baptist church business meetings? The floor is open, every Baptized believer has voice and vote (well, there usually are certain age restrictions, but theoretically, you might maintain that if someone is old enough to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, they ought to be able to vote on a church budget!), and the majority carries the day.

History teaches us that the first modern Baptist churches arose in England and The Netherlands when believers came together in covenant with one another and the Lord to constitute local congregations. This was in intentional contrast to the common practice of both medieval Catholics and early modern Protestants, for whom those born into and resident within parishes (geographical units) were presumed to be part of the parish. Technically, these early Baptist congregations were functioning democracies: self-constituting, self-governing, one person—one vote. Or were they?

One can make a powerful argument that the Church of Jesus Christ is more properly understood as a monarchy. Jesus Christ is King of Kings and Lord of Lords (*Philippians 2:9-11*), he is the visible and tangible presence of the eternal Creator (*Hebrews 1:1-3*) and we owe him absolute, unquestioning allegiance (*Luke 9:57-62*). And the central theme of

Jesus' original preaching was the dawning of the "Kingdom of God" or the "Kingdom of Heaven" (*Mark 1:14, Matthew 3:2, 4:17, 6:33*).

Many of us as modern Americans recoil from the idea of monarchy; it smacks of arbitrary tyranny and extreme class prejudice. But it is interesting for me to recall that many thinkers throughout history have felt the same revulsion for democracy. Aristotle, for example, felt that some men (yes, "men", not "people") were suited by nature to rule, others to follow, and still others were, by nature, slaves. Democracy, for Aristotle, was mob rule, the worst form of government.

In the pages of the New Testament, we see hints and fragments of many forms of church government, and – sometimes – the reflection of our own social location. Local congregations select and send out missionaries (but at the command of the Holy Spirit!) (*Acts 13:1-3*). Respected, Godly leaders seem to exercise authority over clusters of congregations and geographical territories (*1 Peter 1:1ff*). And leadership terms such as "elder", "bishop", "deacon" and "pastor" are used with a fluidity that defies our modern definitions and applications.

Still, we can know some things with certainty. Jesus Christ *is* the one Lord to whom we owe absolute loyalty, indeed, to whom we owe our very lives (*Galatians 2:19-20*). And in Christ, we enjoy

a fundamental equality in our diversity (*Galatians 3:28*), and a supernatural unity through the Holy Spirit who brings us together and distributes gifts among us (*1 Corinthians 12:4-13*).

This spiritual truth has lots of practical implications in the life of the Church. Among them is our privilege and obligation, in the Baptist tradition, to be present and accountable when our congregation makes decisions about leadership, programming and the use of our resources.

**Our annual congregational meeting is Sunday, January 24 at 12:30 PM. Be there, my brothers and sisters!**

Dr. David L. Wheeler




### Welcome Suzie Gilmore!

On Sunday, January 3rd, we welcomed Suzie Gilmore to our First Baptist Church staff. She will be serving as Minister of Christian Education and Discipleship. Suzie is a native of Portland and a graduate of Western Seminary. She and her husband Lance live in Milwaukie.

**Sunday Fellowship Dinner and Program.**

**Sunday, January 17 at 12:30pm**

**Let's dream together!**

 ★ Pastoral and professional staff of First Baptist Church will share their ministry goals and vision for 2010 at the January luncheon at 12:30pm.

Reserve your spot on your Sunday Communication Card or by calling the church office.

**Annual Meeting**

**Sunday, January 24 at 12:30pm**

Make plans to attend this important business meeting. Members from all three congregations are urged to attend and to vote. A quorum is necessary for voting to take place.

**Personal Prayer Available every Sunday after the 11:00 service**

If you would like to have someone pray with you about a personal concern, go to the Parlor at the back of Fellowship Hall after the 11:00 worship service. Someone will be there to pray with you privately.

**The next Food Barrel Sunday is February 14.**

Not only does the Drop-in Center provide free hot meals every Monday and Thursday, your Food Barrel donations make it possible for them to provide food boxes. You can put your non-perishable food in the food barrel any Sunday.

**Thanks for Angel Tree Volunteers**

You've done it again! You volunteered to help by calling angel guardians, tending the Angel Tree, purchasing and wrapping gifts and delivering them to the deserving recipients, the "angels" behind each door. Some who couldn't do any of the above donated monies to the Angel Tree fund to cover some of these expenses. Fortunately, we were not buffeted by snows as we were last year.

For the most part, great appreciation was extended by 28 children and their guardians. Thank you for your part in this compassionate ministry.

**Thanks for Poinsettia Deliverers**

Our honored members were blessed on Christmas week by the delivery of 31 beautiful poinsettias by many of our volunteers. Thanks to all of you able to deliver on Christmas Sunday or on the days following, and thanks to Bruce Bridgess for ordering them and having them delivered to our church. The gratefulness of our dear friends at home and in care facilities was evident. Presenting them has always been a blessing over the years.

-Rev. Norm Lawson, Membership-

*From Hazel Johnson*



*I want to thank you for the lovely poinsettia. It reminds me of this Holy Season and of the spiritual moments we have shared together. I so appreciate your ministry and the outreach work of the church.*



**January 17, 2010**

Isaiah 62:1-5

John 2:1-11

**"Delight"**

**January 24, 2010**

Psalm 19

Luke 4:14-21

**"The Full Gospel"**

**January 31, 2010**

**Pastor Ed Stelle Preaching**

Matthew 16:13-17

John 15:9-16

**"Revisiting Christ"**

Worship Services at 9:00 am and 11:00 am

Sunday school for all ages at 10:00am.

11:00 worship also in Spanish and Cambodian languages.  
Spanish: Candlelight Chapel  
Cambodian: Community Center

"Time for the Children" during the 11:00 service

Children's Church for ages 3 through Second Grade follows the Time for the Children at 11:00am.

Worship and Praise Celebration at 5:30pm in the Candlelight Chapel

**Worship and Praise Celebration Sundays from 5:30-7:30pm in the Candlelight Chapel**

No worship on Sunday, January 17.

**We're always looking for Scripture Readers for 9:00am or 11:00am worship services.**

Contact Genie at 503-228-7465, Monday thru Thursday, 8:30am-5:30pm. If you call after 4:00pm, add Ext. 114.

### **AARP Free Income Tax Preparation**

Free tax preparation at FBC starts **February 2** and ends **April 14**.

**Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9:00am-12:30pm**

To make an appointment, please call 503-228-7465 starting January 18 and talk to Lori, the receptionist. There will be no Walk-ins.

This tax service is for tax-payers with low and middle incomes--special attention is given to those 60 years and older.

If FBC is not convenient for you, call the toll free number: 1-888-AARPNOW.

### **Words From Jack Brophy on his way to Thailand**

"A big, BIG, thank you for those who provided all the food for the pantry shelves.

Also, I was amazed at the wonderful response for the piglet project. Many families will be blessed by your generosity. God is Good!"

-Jack Brophy-

### **For Sale**

Burial crypt at Portland Memorial Cemetery, SE 14th Avenue in Portland. FBC received this generous donation of a marble-fronted vault, large enough for one casket or urns for up to four families. Valued at \$8,000+; all offers entertained. All proceeds will support FBC programs. Please contact Karen Knauerhase, Moderator, at 503-228-1687.



### **Learn to Prepare the Elements for the Lord's Supper**

Your Worship Committee is seeking volunteers to take a turn periodically in this beautiful act of service in support of worship. We will train you. Contact the church office at 503-228-7465 if you are interested.

### **You've Got Mail...**

**The Trumpeter** is mailed twice a month to members and friends of First Baptist Church. It is our way of staying connected to you and an invitation for you to attend any of our many classes, events and activities.

Once a year we ask for a voluntary contribution to help defray the cost of producing and mailing **The Trumpeter**. The amount of the contribution is up to you, but at this time, the costs are about \$15.00 per year.

An envelope for your contribution has been enclosed with this issue. You may place the envelope in the offering plate during worship, drop it off at the church office, or mail it to us.

You can also help us keep the costs down by notifying us promptly of address changes. We pay an additional 50¢ for every **Trumpeter** returned to us by the Post Office.

If you no longer wish to receive **The Trumpeter**, please call the church office at 503-228-7465 and let us know.

## *January Birthdays*

- Jan 16 - Hanny Kusnan
- Jan 17 - Carmen Pasley  
Antoinette Hatfield
- Jan 18 - Samnath Koh  
Jim Lawson
- Jan 20 - Luigi Flammia
- Jan 21 - Eloise Fergerson
- Jan 22 - Charlie Hales  
Mary Lynn Parodi
- Jan 23 - Robert Bowin  
Grant Bramson  
Sandra Montgomery
- Jan 24 - Kristi Auvil  
Jennifer Smith
- Jan 25 - Marinelly Refuerzo
- Jan 27 - Ellen Chellis
- Jan 28 - Adelaide Andrews
- Jan 29 - Louie Paul
- Jan 30 - Lori Paul  
Dorothy Pickard
- Jan 31 - Janis Parke  
Tommie Young

We do not wish to leave anyone out. If you are a member, have a birthday in the last two weeks of January and it is not listed here, please call Genie at 503-228-7465.

### **First Baptist Church Family**

Here at First Baptist Church, we are a family in Christ. We don't want *anyone* to be ignored or forgotten. Please let the church office know of anyone who is unable to attend and to participate fully, even if that situation is only temporary.

You may call the church office or contact Pastor Ed Stelle directly. Everyone is important.

In Christ's Service,  
Senior Pastor David Wheeler

## *Time Dated Material*

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
909 SW 11th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97205-2099

Address Service Requested

The next Trumpeter deadline is January 21, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.  
Please send articles to Genie Bridwell at [gbridwell@fbc-portland.org](mailto:gbridwell@fbc-portland.org)  
or 503/228-7465, ext. 114. Please remember, all articles are subject to  
editing and available space.

### **The Trumpeter**

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## **Downtown Fellowship**

**January 21 at  
10:30am  
Third Thursday**



For this month's program at  
Downtown Fellowship, Pastor  
Ed invited police officers from  
the Multnomah County Sher-  
iff's Office to talk to us about  
their fight against drugs.  
There will be a "Thought for  
the Day," singing and sharing,  
and coffee and cookies.  
Stay for the hot, tasty lunch  
served at 11:45 for only  
\$3.00. You will have an oppor-  
tunity to discuss the program  
with the friendly people at  
your table.

### **Library Notes**



Four books by Peter R. Breggin,  
MD, have been acquired for the  
FBC library through a donation.

Dr. Breggin is a Christian-  
oriented clinical psychiatrist  
with impeccable credentials as  
America's foremost critic of the  
use of prescription drugs to  
treat mental and emotional  
problems. He is the author of  
numerous books related to the  
harm of psychotropic medica-  
tion.

Pastor David Wheeler has read  
his most recent book, Medicinal  
Madness.

—Charles E. Long—