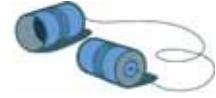


# The Tie Line



*Sharing God's Love in the Heart of the City*

**First Baptist Church of Silver Spring**

9727 Georgia Avenue ▪ Silver Spring, MD 20910-1458 ▪ 301-754-1100 ▪ [www.fbcss.org](http://www.fbcss.org)

*Multi-national, -cultural & -generational, united in Christ to worship, grow & serve*

Volume 61 No. 12

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## HOW TO LIVE IN THE WORLD, PART 10

In the last *Tie Line* I wrote about Pope Francis as a Jesus follower who lives to change the Church and the world today. At the end I said I would write next about his “namesake” who is the example of living as a follower of Jesus in the world to change the world. Let me tell you a little part of the story of Francesco di Pietro di Bernardone who was born in 1181 in Assisi, Italy. His father was a wealthy cloth merchant and landowner and his mother was a beautiful Frenchwoman. Though known for his charm and vanity, he left school by age 14 and became known as a rebellious teenager who frequently drank, partied and broke the city curfew. He mastered the skills of his social class: archery, wrestling and horsemanship. Rather than pursue his family textile business, Francesco dreamed of being a knight—a Medieval action hero. At 20, he joined the Assisi cavalry in a war with Perugia—a life-changing decision and experience.

The Perugians routed the much smaller army of Assisi and killed hundreds. Francesco and others were marked by their expensive armor as aristocrats who would bring a large ransom. So, he was captured instead of killed and, with all the other aristocrat soldiers, led off to a dismal underground cell where he spent the next year waiting for his father’s payment. During that time he contracted a serious disease and also began to receive visions from God. He 1203 he returned home. He was battle-fatigued and a gravely damaged casualty of war. Instead of working in his father’s business, he turned his focus toward God. He spent more and more time

at a remote mountain hideaway or in old, quiet churches around Assisi praying, seeking answers, and helping to nurse lepers. During a time of prayer before an old Byzantine crucifix at the church of San Damiano, Francis said he heard the voice of Christ telling him to rebuild the Christian Church and to live a life of extreme poverty. Francis did, devoting himself to follow Jesus as closely as he could. He preached around Assisi and soon had a band of 12 followers. Soon after this experience, Francis sold his horse and a bolt of cloth from his father’s shop to raise money to rebuild the Church. His father was angry and dragged him before the local bishop who ordered him to return the money to his father. Francis stripped off his own clothes, giving them and the money to his father declaring that God was the only father he recognized.

Some people regard Francis as a madman or a fool and today would likely be considered as a battle casualty. Others view him as one of the greatest examples of how to live in the world as a follower of Jesus. Francis was canonized as a saint on July 16, 1223, less than two years after his death. In 2013, Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergogli chose to honor St. Francis by taking his name, becoming Pope Francis.

In the next Tie Line I will show you how St. Francis lived to demonstrate that he was truly touched by God. So may we!

**Pastor Mac**

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## PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE: SURVEY RESULTS

Thank you for participating in our recent Pastor Search Committee Survey. The survey was conducted for four weeks from April to May, 2017. During that time a total of 84 responses were collected (through the mail, in person after church service and online). The survey asked five questions about the individual taking the survey and 10 questions about the qualities that are desired in a new pastor.

Of those who responded, 62% were female and about 80% were 50 or older. Fifty-four percent identified as White and about thirty percent identified as Black or African American. Over 60% were married but only 10% had children at home. More than 50% of the survey participants were retired.

Over 80% prefer that the new pastor to be full-time and over 65% did not care about the new pastor's gender. For approximately 60%, neither marriage nor family status was important. About 45% did not care about the age of the new pastor, but more than 50% would like the new pastor to

have, at a minimum, a seminary degree and to have more than five years of experience.

The responders were almost evenly divided among the areas in which they would like the new pastor to have experience. These areas include ministry in an urban church, working with a racially and internationally diverse congregation, leading a church with an aging congregation, and leading a church with active young people. The two most desired leadership skills were preaching and worship with about 44% and outreach ministry/vision for growing the church with 27%.

Once again, we thank you for taking time to fill out the questionnaire and to let us know your preferences. We also thank those who provided thoughtful and encouraging messages. We will use this data to help direct us toward potential candidates, and we trust God to guide us in our decisions.

*Your Pastor Search Committee  
Linda Kreitlow, Chair*

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## THANK YOU FOR THE SHIRT DONATIONS

The Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs (AFOP) thanks First Baptist Church of Silver Spring for supporting the long-sleeve shirt drive. The church's donation of 48 long-sleeve shirts contributed to the 216 shirts donated in the District of Columbia area, and will be donated to a farm worker organization in North Carolina that conducts health and safety training to farm workers.

We would like to express our sincerest gratitude to all who supported the shirt donations. The 12,126 shirts donated nationwide will mean safer and healthier lives for the farm workers who will receive a long-sleeve shirt free of charge as a result of the 2017 National Long-Sleeve Shirt Drive.

Sincerely,  
*Vashti Kelly*

AFOP Program Manager, Health & Safety Programs

## **AUGUST CHOIR: SING WITH US!**

Add your voice to the "choir mix!" Just come to church a little earlier (10:30 a.m.) on any Sunday morning in August, ready to practice a song along with our devoted choir members who sing year round. You will be in good company with lots of musical support as we pool our voices to sing an easy song to contribute to the worship experience.

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## FESTIART 2017 – LIVE MUSIC, ART, EXHIBITS

**SATURDAY, JULY 8 5:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.**

Don't miss this show at Blair High School, featuring musician **Jean-Pierre Leroy** from our sister church Eglise Baptiste de la Foi. An exciting art festival, with live jazz, Brazilian and Caribbean music. Admission is \$30 at the door, or \$25 *before July 1*. See [www.festiart.com](http://www.festiart.com) for more information.



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### CALLING ALL VBS VOLUNTEERS AND PARTICIPANTS MONDAY, JULY 17 - FRIDAY, JULY 21 6:00 - 9:00 PM

Activities for children from age 3 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Don't wait until the last minute to volunteer or participate in this year's Vacation Bible School at Montgomery Hills Baptist Church. We need teen *and* adult volunteers. Register online at <https://vbspro.events/p/mhbc>  
Dinner is provided each evening (6-6:30 p.m.) \$2.50/child/day or \$10 for the week



### MINISTRY ON THE NATIONAL MALL: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED THIS SUMMER

On five *Saturdays* this summer, members of D.C. Baptist Convention churches will be sharing bottles of cold water, tourist information, and the Gospel of Jesus Christ with those who visit the National Mall. Water, Bibles and tracts are provided by DCBC. Volunteers are needed **July 8, July 29, August 5 and August 19** at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. If interested, please contact Gail Lacy (DCBC 202-265-1526) or [gail.lacy@dcbaptist.org](mailto:gail.lacy@dcbaptist.org)

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### WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDY

<b>Mondays</b>	7:00 p.m.	10755 McGregor Dr., Columbia, MD <i>Contact Sara Reed 301-307-0021</i>
	6:30 p.m.	Bi-weekly College/Career Group at Montgomery Hills <i>*Will resume in September</i>
<b>Wednesdays</b>	1:30 p.m.	Montgomery Hills Baptist Church <i>Contact Sharon Husic 301-221-2607</i>
	7:30 p.m.	Online Bible Study( <i>Google Hangouts</i> ) <i>Contact Karen Vance kev.9900@verizon.net</i>
<b>Fridays</b>	7:00 p.m.	<b>1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup></b> @ 11303 Amherst Ave., #4, Wheaton <i>Led by Abraham Joseph 202-415-0138 Next date:</i>

**July 7**



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### SOLAR ECLIPSE!

In case you had not heard, there will be a solar eclipse on **Monday, August 21, 2017**. Our very own Professor Harold Williams is planning a special program for those who would like to learn more about this event. Details to follow.

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**Building Fund Update**

Received June 18: \$2,265.00  
 Total Received: \$352,386.92

**July Birthdays**

*\*Indicates youth*

**June - July 2017**



1	Linda Taylor	17	Gabriel Anderson*
6	Dorian Snowden		Maria George
10	Buma (Vickey) Pekanze	24	Daniel Weldeston*
12	Donna Snowden	30	Ivory Bennett
13	Nene Martins		Wayne Sherwood
15	Libanos Berhane		

**Activities**

**TODAY, JUNE 25**

2:00 p.m. **Deacons Meeting @ 11303 Amherst Ave., #4,**

Wheaton

**MONDAY, JUNE 26**

7:00 p.m.

Bible Study @ 10775 McGregor Dr., Columbia

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28**

1:30 p.m.

@ Montgomery Hills Baptist Church

7:30 p.m.

Bible Study

Online Bible Study (*Google Hangouts*)

**THURSDAY, JUNE 29**

7:00 p.m.

@ MHBC

Choir Rehearsal

**SATURDAY, JULY 1**

10:00 a.m. - Noon

@ MHBC

Food Closet (Team B)

**SUNDAY, JULY 2**

10:00 a.m.

@ TPCC

Adult Bible Study

11:00 a.m.

Worship Service & Communion

11:30 a.m.

Children's Bible Study

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 5**

1:30 p.m.

@ MHBC

Bible Study

7:30 p.m.

Online Bible Study (*Google*

*Hangouts*)

**THURSDAY, JULY 6**

5:00 p.m.

@ MHBC

Shepherd's Table

7:00 p.m.

Choir rehearsal

**FRIDAY, JULY 7**

7:00 p.m.

@ MHBC

Pastor Search Committee

7:00 p.m.

Bible Study @ 11303 Amherst Ave., #4, Wheaton

**SATURDAY, JULY 8**

10:00 a.m. - Noon

@ MHBC

Food Closet (Team C)



Duncan McIntosh, *Proclamation*  
 Jerry Orrell, *Administrative Assistant*  
 Valeria Foster, *Worship, eTL Editor*

Eric Walters, *Associate Pastor*  
 Gerald Piercey, *Organist*  
 Rosemary Piercey, *Celebration Ringers*

Gareth Murray, *Associate Pastor*  
 Barbara Williams, *Webmaster*  
 Sharon Husic, *The Tie Line*