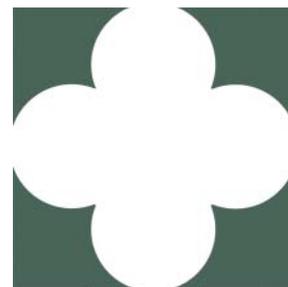


# the spire

Volume 82 / Number 3

March 2018

Exploring what it means to follow the way of Jesus Christ



seattle first baptist



## Associate Pastor Search Recommendation

Special Congregational Meeting following worship on Sunday, March 11

By Bob Sittig, Search Committee Chair

It is with great pleasure and excitement that the Search Committee for an Associate Pastor recommends Anita Peebles for this position. We started our search in late January of 2017 and worked for 14 months, during which time we received over 25 viable applications for that position. We chatted with several candidates by telephone, had video conferences with some, and had three candidates come to visit us during this search. After that level of research, we concluded that Anita would be the best fit for our church and our future.

On Sunday, March 11 Anita will visit our church to meet many of you and she will preach the sermon in that morning's worship service, following which President Jim Singletary has called for a congregational meeting where a vote will be taken regarding calling Ms. Peebles to join our pastoral staff. Several opportunities to meet Anita are being planned during the weekend. See the sidebar to this article or the Calendar of Events for details.

I could tell you quite a bit about Anita Peebles' qualifications and experience, but I think it would be more enlightening if you heard her own words. Following is a

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letter that she wrote to the search committee that provides an excellent picture of her background. Anita writes:

Dear Seattle First Baptist Church Pastoral Search Committee,

I write to express interest in the position of Associate Pastor, ministering particularly with women and families. I am currently finishing my Masters of Divinity at Vanderbilt Divinity School (VDS), with a graduation date of May 11, 2018. In Nashville, I am a member of and seeking ordination through Glendale Baptist Church (Alliance of Baptists).

Immediately following my undergraduate education at Oberlin College in northeast Ohio, I moved to Nashville to be a Belle H. Bennett Fellow at the United Methodist Women-owned Scarritt Bennett Center. This program served young women-identifying people who wanted to get involved in social justice in the Nashville community. During this fellowship year I coordinated programs for women in the Nashville community, including book studies and continuing education for professional women. Upon the conclusion of my fellowship year, I continued to help plan spiritual formation practices and worship experiences for the next few groups of fellows. Belle Harris Bennett, for whom my internship was named, is quoted as saying, "Yes, Lord, I'll do it!" when following her call to provide theological education to women in the 1800s. I intend to honor her legacy by answering my own call to prophetic, pastoral ministry with special concern for women and children by offering my own, "Yes, Lord, I'll do it!"

Ministry with children is a clear call for me. During my yearlong internship at Glendale Baptist Church, I taught weekly Sunday school classes for children in kindergarten through second grade, as well as occasionally led classes for youth and older adults. I regularly organized Wednesday night spiritual formation programming for children, with options from gardening to art to meditation to dramatic retellings of Bible stories. This past spring, I served as a facilitator for the biennial youth retreat regarding healthy and faithful sexualities.

I also have experience working with children and engaging families outside the church context through my work with Plant the Seed, an experiential environmental education organization serving preschoolers in Metro Nashville Public Schools. This, too, is part of my ministry, as I have centered the needs of children and their families while developing lessons, programs and family engagement events. In all this, I strove to provide an opportunity to experience the world in new, exciting and empowering ways.

I understand my ministry to be one of hospitality and welcome, inviting all people to participate in the body of Christ as we seek to learn from and with each other to make the world a more loving and just place. Our world calls for prophetic and pastoral ministry, and I am excited for the opportunities ahead for people of faith to witness for peace and justice together.

Thank you for your kind consideration of me for this position.

With peace and appreciation,

Anita Peebles  
(she/her)

## Candidating Weekend Schedule

The following events are planned to allow the congregation to meet Anita Peebles.

### Wednesday, March 7

6 p.m. – Community Dinner. Anita will be in attendance. After dinner we will have time for discussion in the Parlor. All are invited.

### Saturday, March 10

Note: Free parking is available in the lot adjacent to the church beginning at 4 p.m.

5:30 p.m. – Reception with staff, Diaconate, and members of the Search Committee. Limited attendance.

7 p.m. – All Church Dinner with a structured time to ask questions. All are invited.

### Sunday, March 11

11 a.m. – Worship with Anita preaching

Following Worship – Congregational Meeting to vote on her candidacy.

Please plan to attend our worship service and meeting on Sunday, March 11. You will be as delighted to get to know Anita as our committee was.

As Committee Chair, I also wish to acknowledge the dedicated effort that all the members of our committee brought to this task. They fully participated with their intelligence, enthusiasm, humor and heart. My undying gratitude goes out to them. The committee members are: Sara Tollefson - Vice Chair, Susan Blythe-Goodman, Joyce Phillips, Lupe Carlos, Megan Walker, Russ Kaake, Kathleen Southwick and Tim Phillips.

# Acknowledging Our Humanity during Holy Week

By Jim Segaar

For some people, Holy Week will start a day early this year.

Palm Sunday traditionally is a time to remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, riding the colt of a donkey while his followers cheered "Hosannah!" One could think of it as a non-violent protest march, circa 2,000 years ago.

This year March For Our Lives is taking place one day earlier, on Saturday, March 24. In the wake of the most recent school shootings students are leading the charge to demand gun control and an end to deadly violence in our schools. Thoughts and prayers are simply not enough. A march is planned in Seattle [ <https://www.facebook.com/events/148775925933794/> ] and others are expected in Washington D.C. and around the country. A number of members of the SFBC community are planning to participate, and everyone is welcome to join in.



*Palm Sunday traditionally marks the beginning of Holy Week, but this year many of us will start a day early. Read the story for details...*

We could consider the March For Our Lives as the kick-off event for our Holy Week celebration this year, as we focus on our humanity. Following is information about the Holy Week activities planned at Seattle First Baptist this year.

## **Palm Sunday, March 25**

Adult Learning, at 9:30 a.m., features the conclusion of *Resisting the Empire: Living the Sermon on the Mount Today*, a series led by Professor Leticia Guardiola-Sáenz. Worship at 11 a.m. will include Palm Sunday-worthy music and Pastor Tim Phillips preaching. At 12:30 p.m. our organist, April Kuhr, will present a mini-concert intended to help us begin Holy Week with reflection and contemplation. Jazz Vespers moves to a special night at 6 p.m.

## **Wednesday, March 28**

Join us for Community Dinner at 6 p.m. Yes, we know traffic can be horrible, but time with friends and great food are a fitting reward. The choir will rehearse at 7 p.m. in preparation for the weekend services.

## **Good Friday, March 30**

Our service begins at 7 p.m. We begin with Communion to commemorate Maundy Thursday. The service includes music from the Sanctuary Choir and soloists, and meditations on the theme of "A Very Human Story." Childcare will be provided in the Nursery, and parking is free in the lot adjacent to the church. Last year's service was very meaningful for many of us, and this year's version promises to continue that tradition.

## **Easter Sunday, April 1**

We begin the day at the civilized hour of 8:30 a.m. with the Evergreen Association Sunrise Service on the campus of Seattle University. Our own Rev. Bruce Chittick will preach this year. Activities at SFBC begin at 9 a.m. with the Easter Brunch, which will be followed by lots of activities for the kids, including an Easter Egg hunt and a visit from the Easter Bunny. At 11 a.m. we will have our festive worship, featuring special music and a guaranteed-to-be-spectacular sermon from Pastor Tim Phillips.

Details and times can change, so please confirm the schedule in our Calendar of Events on the website. We do our best to keep it up to date at all times. And through it all may you find inspiration and strength to carry you and the rest of humanity forward.

## **Palm Sunday Mini-Concert**



Please join us in the Sanctuary on Palm Sunday, March 25, at 12:30 p.m. for an organ mini-recital. April Kuhr will lead us on a Holy Week Journey through music based on famous Lenten and Passion Hymns by Mendelssohn, Walther, Bach, Pachelbel and Walcha. Please use this time for personal reflection and meditation.

## Lenten Adult Education Series Continues

### *Resisting the Empire: Living the Sermon on the Mount Today*

Please join our continuing Lenten series on the Sermon on the Mount, and bring your friends! Sessions take place on Sundays from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor. SFBC member Professor Leticia Guardiola-Sáenz of Seattle University is presenting all sessions except March 18, which Pastor Tim Phillips will lead. Here are the readings and themes:

- March 4, Matthew 6:1-18 – Unmasking the Powers
- March 11, Matthew 6:19-34 – The Economy of the Empire vs. the Economy of the Kingdom
- March 18, Matthew 7:1-14 – “Be the Change That You Wish to See in the World”
- March 25, Matthew 7:15-29 – A Call to Action: “The Time Is Always Right to Do What Is Right”



*Professor Leticia Guardiola-Sáenz*

## Living Lighter on the Land: An Adult Education Series

*By Keith Ervin*



*Packing Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) boxes at Skyroot*

For the past month, several Seattle First Baptist members have been participating in Taming Bigfoot, a friendly competition to track and reduce our carbon emissions. We're tracking the volume of water that comes into our homes, the electricity we use, the garbage we dump, the gas our cars burn, the meat we eat, and much more.

We've begun to see how much carbon goes into producing a serving of steak or salmon, a gallon of gas, a daily newspaper and -- heaven forbid! -- a transcontinental flight.

We're going through this exercise because we know that if our children are to avoid the most catastrophic effects of climate change, worldwide carbon emissions have to drop by 80 to 100 percent over the next three decades. That's a big challenge, and we need to get started now.

Interfaith Climate Action - First Hill is organizing a Sunday morning adult-education series in which we look at our personal responsibility for the climate crisis and ways we can do better in our homes and our personal lives. On April 8, 15 and 29, we will offer these programs:

- Members of Seattle First Baptist and Bet Alef Meditative Synagogue will share what they have learned by participating in Taming Bigfoot.
- Dr. Beth Wheat, farmer/owner of Whidbey Island's SkyRoot Farm and an award-winning University of Washington lecturer in the College of Environment, will explain sustainable agriculture as a climate solution.
- Steve Lough, founder of the Seattle Electric Vehicle Association, will discuss the environmental benefits of electric cars, and challenge us to make the leap from gasoline to electricity.

Details of the three programs are being finalized, so stay tuned for details. Then let's explore our personal responsibility for the climate crisis, and learn some exciting ways we can become part of the solution.

## Senior Adult Lunch – March 18

Following worship on Sunday, March 18, join us for lunch and a conversation about Senior Adult Ministry at Seattle First Baptist Church. We have been blessed to have the ministry of David Kile in our life together and now, with his retirement, we are looking for wisdom about the future of this important ministry.

Hosted by Pastor Tim Phillips and Church Nurse Sue Ross, the lunch discussion is titled: “Imagining Senior Adult Ministry Going Forward: What are the needs and the possibilities?” We look forward to your input. Please join us.

## Join Us for an Evening with Zack McDermott

*By Laura Van Tosh*

Zack McDermott, author of *Gorilla and the Bird: A Memoir of Madness and a Mother's Love* will be at Seattle First Baptist for a live interview, reading, and book-signing event. It all will take place on Saturday, April 7. A presentation begins at 7:30 p.m. and book signing will be at 8:30 p.m. Christopher Poulos will interview Zack and engage the audience in dialogue. The evening is sponsored by the Rodney R. Romney Legacy Fund and Companis.

## About the speakers:

Zack McDermott is the author of *Gorilla and the Bird: A Memoir of Madness and a Mother's Love*. Zack worked as a public defender for The Legal Aid Society of New York for six years. His work has appeared in The New York Times, This American Life, Morning Edition - NPR, Gawker, Deadspin, SplitSider, among others. Zack is from Wichita, KS and a graduate of The University of Kansas and The University of Virginia School of Law. He lives in New York and Los Angeles.

Christopher Poulos is an attorney and executive director of the Washington Statewide Reentry Council. Prior to his appointment, he served as executive director of Life of Purpose Treatment at the University of North Texas, where he was also an adjunct professor of criminal justice. He served at the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and The Sentencing Project. Christopher graduated from the University of Maine School of Law, where he was president of the American Constitution Society. Poulos, once a homeless teenager, served nearly three years in a federal prison for a drug-related conviction. His story was chronicled by the Washington Post and NBC News. Christopher presented a TED Talk in 2015, and was interviewed by TVW's Austin Jenkins on Inside Olympia.

*Gorilla and the Bird*  
A memoir of madness and a mother's love



"A tragicomic gem..." – *New York Times*

## Confronting Domestic Abuse and Violence

By Sue Ross, Faith Community Nurse

As the "Me Too" movement grows in momentum, more and more people are realizing that sexual harassment can no longer be covered up or ignored, and with this is the knowledge that we also need to continue to fight domestic abuse and all forms of violence against women and men, youth and children. I would like to believe that any church would be a place of safety and support, but as many of us know, that often is not the case. Those of us who are members of SFBC want to get the news out that SFBC is a church where anyone who is a victim of harassment, abuse or violence will be believed, heard and supported.

The Adult Ed class hosted a three-part series presented by Bettie Williams-Watson of The Faith Trust Institute. This is an organization which has provided leadership in faith communities in the field of sexual and domestic violence for over four decades. Ms. Williams-Watson shared her own experience of being a domestic abuse survivor and talked about the prevalence of domestic violence in faith communities, the challenges around addressing these issues, and resources available for supporting victims of abuse.

As the Faith Community Nurse I encourage anyone who has experienced violence in any form and is looking for help to feel free to contact me or one of our pastors. This is a safe place to speak your truth, to be confidentially supported, and to find resources.

If you want to talk to someone anonymously, here are some phone numbers:

The National Domestic Violence Hotline, 24 hours everyday, 1-800-799-7233

Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WSCADV) 1-800-562-6025

The Crisis Clinic – 206-461-3222

Youth Eastside Services (YES) - 425-747-4937

## Membership and Engagement Commission Adds a New Program

### ReachOut Calls

By Joan Benner

Have you noticed someone has been missing on Sunday mornings? The Membership and Engagement Commission would like to underscore our sense of true community by making a 'reach out' phone call to people who usually attend on Sundays that we haven't seen for a while.

The purpose of these calls is to ask if all is well, see if there is a need for assistance and just let the person know that there is a community that cares about them.

Maybe they have a concern or hurt that we can begin to mend. Or maybe they just would like to hear a friendly voice from their church family.

So, if you notice that someone has been missing for a few weeks and would like us to make a 'ReachOut' call, please stop by the Welcome Table on Sunday and let us know.

# Faith Over Fear: Empowering Faith Leaders to Combat Islamophobia

By Joanne Wright

I attended a conference called Faith Over Fear: Empowering Faith Leaders to Combat Islamophobia on January 28 – 29. This was a powerful conference, organized by the Muslim Association of Puget Sound (MAPS), Neighbors in Faith, Shoulder to Shoulder Campaign, and the Council on American-Islamic Relations – WA. This conference will be repeated across the U.S. The Seattle event was the first conference of this kind.

Materials from this conference will be available in the SFBC library in March, and include notes, a Qu’ran and documentary films about Islam.

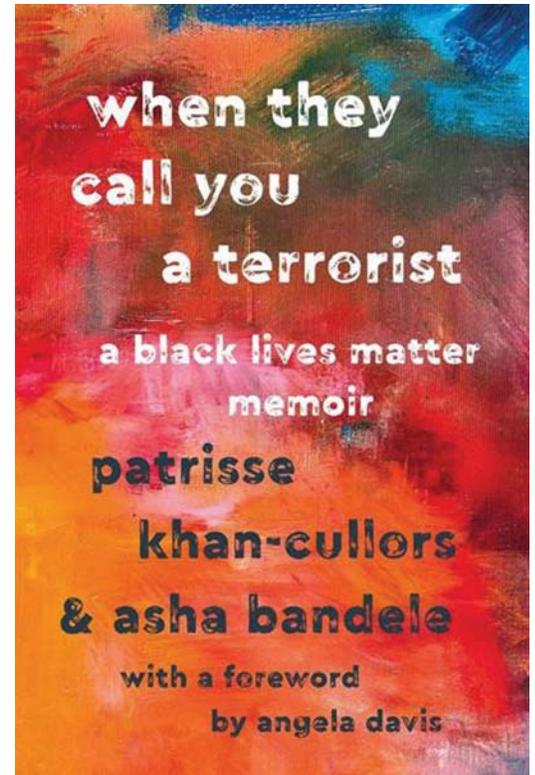
The leaders held many sessions including: an introduction to Islam, how to be an effective ally, locating our own fears, messaging and media, the demographics of Muslims in the U.S., anti-Islam groups and violence in the U.S., addressing difficult questions, and practicing responses to some typical negative and stereotypical beliefs about Islam.

For instance, we learned the authentic meaning of words such as “sharia” and “jihad”, as well as studying the role of women in Islam, issues that are subject to misunderstanding.

I learned to respond to criticism by re-framing an anti-Muslim statement using personal stories and an understanding of Islam. Research has shown these skills to be highly effective in combating prejudiced statements. I learned to avoid using terminology used by skeptics such as “sharia law” or “terrorist”, and instead to focus on the similarities between Muslims and myself, whether it’s religious practice, or as a public citizen that cherishes freedom.

I also joined in Muslim prayers. I found the call to prayer to be a peaceful moment in the busy conference.

I encourage SFBC to attend an event at MAPS. The MAPS website is <https://www.mapsredmond.org/>. MAPS holds quarterly open houses. The next open house will be held the weekend of April 21; I will confirm the exact date and put it in church announcements.



Join us for a discussion of the book, “When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir,” at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 4 in the Parlor. Joanne Wright and Lynn Gaertner-Johnston are hosting the event. Author Patrisse Kahn-Cullors spoke at Seattle First Baptist in January. Please bring your own lunch.

## ABW Regional Conference Coming in April

By Shirley Wilkinson

“Feeling God’s Love, Laughter, and Grace” is the theme of this year’s Regional American Baptist Women’s Conference, April 6-8, in Yakima. This year’s Bible study leader is Dr. Sandra Hasenauer, associate executive director of American Baptist Women’s Ministries. Another Bible study leader is Sarah Nash, a newly endorsed missionary to Bolivia whose home church is Olympia First Baptist .

This conference is always an inspiring and fun time. The cost this year ranges from \$160 for a room with 4 people to \$320 for a private room, and includes 5 meals. Further information and registration forms are available from Shirley Wilkinson.

## Friendship Circle Learns About Real Change

By Imogene Williams

We had a high level of interest and excitement for the February meeting of the Friendship Circle. It featured Aaron Burkhalter, editor of Real Change newspaper. He and Megan Walker came to us from Oregon.

Real Change was founded in 1994 by Tim Harris. The work is influenced by Dorothy Day and the Catholic Workers. The News Room has 4 staff, 4 staff work with the Vendors; and there are 8 others.

Their work is ‘advocacy journalism.’ The articles are based on fact with social justice goals: racism, homelessness, fair housing (rent control), the Northwest Detention Center where undocumented immigrants are held, minimum wage, and paid sick leave.



Members of Friendship Circle gather around Aaron Burkhalter, editor of Real Change and a member of SFBC.

They plan fundraisers to help meet the budget of \$1 million annually. The vendors buy the newspaper for 60 cents per copy and sell it for \$2. This enables them to get out of homelessness.

Then came a lively question/discussion session, and the meeting concluded with a Prayer Circle. Make a note of the March meeting: Tuesday, March 13, at 5:30 p.m. in Fridell.

## Winter Retreat Fun



*About 35 people from Seattle First Baptist and University Baptist - including three generations of Zauggs - enjoyed a family retreat at Cascade Meadows February 16-18. Mother Nature provided fresh snow, and the attendees did the rest. Look for more about the retreat in the April Spire.*

## March Calendar of Events

- Sunday, March 4**    **Lent III**
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Learning - Resisting the Empire: Living the Sermon on the Mount Today.  
Matthew 6:1-18 – Unmasking the Powers, led by Professor Leticia Guardiola-Sáenz - Parlor
  - 10:15 a.m. Family Fellowship Hour in Youth Lounge, 3rd Floor
  - 11 a.m. Worship and Communion with Pastor Tim Phillips preaching  
After Worship - Young Adult Luncheon at Pastor Jennifer & Mike's home. Contact: Pastor Jennifer
  - 12:30 p.m. A discussion of the book When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir  
- Parlor. Please bring your own lunch.
  - 6 p.m. Seattle Jazz Vespers Presents: Michael Clune and Sleep Till Noon Band - Sanctuary
- Wednesday, March 7**
- 6 p.m. Community Dinner - Fellowship Hall. Anita Peebles, our candidate for Associate Pastor, will be in attendance.  
Following Dinner - time to meet Anita - Parlor
  - 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- Saturday, March 10**
- 5:30 p.m. NOTE: Free parking is available in the lot adjacent to the church beginning at 4 p.m.  
Reception for Anita Peebles, our candidate for Associate Pastor, with staff, Diaconate, and members of the Search Committee. Limited attendance.
  - 7 p.m. All Church Dinner with Anita Peebles, including a structured time to ask questions. All are invited.
- Sunday, March 11**    **Lent IV - Daylight Savings Time Starts - set clocks forward 1 hour**
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Learning - Resisting the Empire: Living the Sermon on the Mount Today.  
Matthew 6:19-34 – The Economy of the Empire vs. the Economy of the Kingdom, led by Professor Leticia Guardiola-Sáenz - Parlor
  - 10:15 a.m. Family Fellowship Hour in Youth Lounge, 3rd Floor
  - 11 a.m. Worship with Anita Peebles, candidate for Associate Pastor, preaching.  
Following Worship - Special Congregational Meeting to consider the nomination of Anita Peebles to be our new Associate Pastor - Sanctuary
  - 4 p.m. Labyrinth - Fellowship Hall

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#### Wednesday, March 14

- 6 p.m. Community Dinner - Fellowship Hall
- 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

#### Thursday, March 15

- 7 p.m. Diaconate - Parlor

#### Sunday, March 18 **Lent V**

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Learning - Resisting the Empire: Living the Sermon on the Mount Today. Matthew 7:1-14 – “Be the Change That You Wish to See in the World” (Mahatma Gandhi), led by Pastor Tim Phillips - Parlor
- 10:15 a.m. Family Fellowship Hour in Youth Lounge, 3rd Floor
- 11 a.m. Worship with Theologian in Residence Patricia Hunter preaching  
Following Worship - Senior Adult Lunch - program will be a conversation about the Senior Adult ministry led by Pastor Tim Phillips and Sue Ross - Parlor

#### Wednesday, March 21

- 6 p.m. Community Dinner - Fellowship Hall
- 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

#### Sunday, March 25 **Palm Sunday**

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Learning - Resisting the Empire: Living the Sermon on the Mount Today. Matthew 7:15-29 – A Call to Action: “The Time Is Always Right to Do What Is Right” (Martin Luther King Jr.), led by Professor Leticia Guardiola-Sáenz - Parlor
- 10:15 a.m. Family Fellowship Hour in Youth Lounge, 3rd Floor
- 11 a.m. Worship with Pastor Tim Phillips preaching
- 12:30 p.m. Organ Mini-Concert to begin Holy Week with our organist April Kuhr - Sanctuary
- 6 p.m. Seattle Jazz Vespers Presents - The Wolf Tones - Sanctuary (Date moved because of Easter)

#### Wednesday, March 28

- 6 p.m. Community Dinner - Fellowship Hall
- 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

#### Friday, March 30 - Good Friday

- 7 p.m. Good Friday Service - includes Communion, music from the Sanctuary Choir and others, and meditations on the theme of A Very Human Story. Childcare will be provided in the Nursery. Parking is free in the lot adjacent to the church.

#### Sunday, April 1 **Easter**

- 8:30 a.m. Evergreen Association Sunrise Service on the campus of Seattle University. Rev. Bruce Chittick preaching.
- 9 a.m. Easter Brunch - Fellowship Hall
- 11 a.m. Worship and Communion with Pastor Tim Phillips preaching
- 6 p.m. No Seattle Jazz Vespers - See Sunday, March 25

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## Online Extras

Our blog recently has covered several highly current topics, ranging from Black Lives Matter to Lent to going beyond Thoughts and Prayers to confront gun violence. Take a look at our blog and share your thoughts via comments: <http://www.seattlefirstbaptist.org/our-blog>

