

# the spire

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Exploring what it means to follow the way of Jesus Christ



Photography by Kellie Whitlock

## A Snapshot in Time

By Pastor Tim Phillips

The photograph taken following our 150th Homecoming service makes clear that the legacy we are living and the hope we are imagining is about people. In our history there have been three changes of locations, several wars, waves of immigration, and climate change both in terms of our cultural reality and the environment itself. And still, as the picture reveals, there are people standing together, praying together, singing together, working together, and serving together.

Sometimes I worry that our beautiful building and our honorable reputation makes us take the actual people who built the building and the reputation for granted. For instance, the next time you look around at our lovely sanctuary, it would be good to remember that it could have easily been lost. After buying the Minor Hospital in 1929 as part of the church's commitment to lifelong learning, the Great Depression hit. The purchase had involved taking out a mortgage and our history reports: "To save the mortgaged buildings – as well as the sanctuary building, since it was collateral for the loan – dedicated members mortgaged their homes to pay the bank loan plus the interest on the mortgages." I should also note that "the pastor's salary was twice reduced by ten percent." Just to be fair, everyone risked their economic reality to save this place we call "home."

People did that. People committed themselves to make sure we would have what is available to us now. People entrusted their own financial security to the future of this church. People held on to some vision of what could grow out of their deep commitment and that remarkable trust.

And now, we are those people. Here is this photograph. There we are, standing side

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by side on Harvard Avenue, smiling into a camera for our children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren to see. What we leave to the next generation will not simply be a building or a reputation. It will be our legacy as people and how committed we are to entrust ourselves and our resources to a vision of what can be.

October begins another Stewardship Season. And especially in this 150th year it faces us with a crucial question: Will we be the people our ancestors hoped and sacrificed for or will we take all that we have been given for granted? What will this snapshot reveal of our people in this time?

## Young Adult Bible Study: Apocalypse...WHAT?!

Join Pastor Anita on Sunday afternoons in October and November for a bible study in the book of Revelation. This mysterious book holds much for us to learn from today. Join us at Optimism Brewing at 1 p.m. and bring your curiosity!

## Where in Seattle is Pastor Anita?

**Tuesday, October 8, 4 - 5:30 p.m. at Tougo Coffee, 1410 18th Avenue, Seattle**

Pastor Anita will be adventuring around Seattle throughout the coming year. Explore new neighborhoods with her, or just join her in your local favorite... This month, discover her at Tougo Coffee less than a mile NE of the Seattle First Baptist Church building. Support local business, chat, and enjoy new locations throughout this beautiful city.

## CFYA Sponsors the Burrito Roll!

**Friday, October 18, 11 a.m. and Saturday, October 19, 1:45 p.m.**

Every month, Seattle First Baptist Church takes the opportunity to ease the burden for our neighbors without homes through our Burrito Roll. This month, join our children and families as we create healthy, delicious burritos to distribute to 10 cities, tiny house villages, Operation NightWatch and given by Companion volunteers to hungry visitors who come to the church.

Want to join us? Set aside some time either Friday, October 18 at 11 a.m. to prep ingredients or Saturday, May 18 at 1:45 p.m. to roll burritos. Or perhaps you would like to take some completed burritos to an encampment or a tiny house village near you. Contact BurritoRoll1@gmail.com or Pastor Anita at anita@seattlefirstbaptist.org if you are interested.



## Save the Date: Annual Halloween Party

**Sunday, October 27, 12:30 - 2 p.m. in the Gym**

Bring your favorite costume and join our families and friends of SFBC for our Annual Halloween Party! We'll have a bouncy house, games, Halloween-themed lunch, cookie decorating, pumpkin art, and more!

Sponsored by CFYA Next Generation Ministries. ALL families welcome, so invite your friends!

# October World Communion and Mission Offering Sundays

## Sundays, October 6 and 13

The first Sunday in October is the celebration of World Communion, a practice of several denominations since the 1930s to celebrate unity and service. This year's World Communion Sunday recognizes our historic relationship with our Japanese neighbors and our ongoing partnership in ministry. As we celebrate 150 years of life together, Japanese Baptist Church celebrates its 120 years and the current pastor, Rev. Samuel Kim, will join us to preach and share Communion with us. The following Sunday, October 13, we will receive the World Mission Offering which supports American Baptist international work in medical clinics, educational opportunities, and solidarity with indigenous communities. Special envelopes will be provided for your gifts. Please join us in this commitment to unity and service stretching beyond our own borders.

# Welcome Home: Seattle First Baptist Fall Stewardship Campaign

## Pledge Sunday, October 20

"Welcome Home" is the theme of this year's stewardship campaign, in harmony with Seattle First Baptist's 150th anniversary celebration. The Stewardship Commission will launch the campaign on October 1 with the mailing of pledge packets to members and friends. Each packet will contain a pledge card, which can be completed for 2020 and returned to the church office. Extra pledge cards will be available at the Welcome Table and in Sunday bulletins. On October 9, the church office will send an email about the pledge process. A new option in the finance process for 2020 is paperless statements—receiving financial statements by email rather than by "snail mail." This option is currently being tested with several members and will be available to all who opt for it in the new year.

The commission has developed a full schedule of inspirational and educational events leading up to Pledge Sunday, designed to remind us of why we give—why stewardship is important. On Sundays October 6, 13, and 20, members of the Diaconate will present "Temple Talks" in the worship service, and a brief written piece on one important aspect of the church's ministry, entitled "Because of You," will be included in the bulletin. The Pledge Sunday celebration on October 20 will include a sermon on the topic of stewardship and an offertory procession with pledges for 2020.

Follow up to Pledge Sunday, leading up to the Annual Meeting and Budget Meeting on Sunday, January 26, will include contacting members who have not yet pledged and finalizing the budget for 2020. The Stewardship Commission is grateful to you, members and friends of Seattle First Baptist, for your generous and timely response in helping make the church's next 150 years a success!



# Strike Down Barriers to Health Care

## Tuesday, October 15, 5:30 p.m.

Seattle First Baptist Church is proud to sponsor Project Access Northwest's Strike Down Barriers bowling fundraiser on Tuesday, October 15, 2019. This event supports the organization's vision of providing low-income families access to medical and dental care so they can live healthier and more productive lives.

You can boost our support for this impactful organization by purchasing a ticket and attending the event. Join our team, community partners and business professionals on **Tuesday, October 15, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. at Garage in Capitol Hill**. You can bowl, play pool, network, visit with friends and learn more about the important work that Project Access Northwest is doing to transform access to health care in Washington. Tickets are on sale now: <https://bit.ly/2ZmFHjb>

# Women's Retreat: "The Thing with Feathers"

Friday – Sunday, October 25-27, 2019 at Rainbow Lodge

The Time to Register IS NOW!

*Emily Dickinson said:  
Hope is the thing with feathers  
That perches in the soul  
And sings the tune without the words  
And never stops at all.*

For so many of us, hope is hard to come by with all that's happening in our country and in the world. That is EXACTLY why we need a retreat -- a time and place where we can just BE with one another in a beautiful setting -- to rest, to remember who we are, to make and nurture supportive friendships, and to reacquaint ourselves with the place in our souls where hope always resides.

Women of ALL AGES, please join us for the annual Women's Retreat at Rainbow Lodge October 25-27. This year's theme is "The Thing with Feathers." \$175 shared room; \$200 single room. Some partial scholarships available upon request. Reserve your place by completing a registration form and submitting payment via the website or at the Welcome Table or Church Office.



## MY SFBC Storytelling Workshop and Story Slam

Sundays, October 20 and November 3



A Storytelling Workshop taught by Anne Rutherford will be held from 1-3 p.m. on Sunday, **October 20**. She got rave reviews the last time she offered such a workshop at SFBC. Open to everyone. Please sign up at the Welcome Table or Church office. Free, but donations to defray costs are welcome! Sack lunch provided.

On All Saints Sunday, **November 3**, the SFBC Creativity Connections Group is sponsoring a Story Slam in the Parlor after the morning service. The storytellers will be sharing 5-minute stories on the topic "My SFBC." If you are interested in telling a story, this topic can be whatever you make of it. Tell about your favorite SFBC experience, or what SFBC means to you, or maybe a funny moment at SFBC. Maybe, you'd like to tell a story about someone other than yourself – someone who touched your life or an SFBC historical figure – just do it! After all, we're celebrating 150 years, and there are a LOT of stories that could be told. If standing up in front of a group is not your thing, we hope you will put this on your calendar and join the audience!

Suggested donations: \$5 per person, \$10 per family. Simple lunch provided.

Storytellers for the Story Slam must register by **October 27** at the Welcome Table or Church Office.

If you have questions about either event, see Nancy Roberts-Brown or Cherry Johnson.

## Voter Registration

Sunday, October 6, during Coffee Hour

First Hill League of Women Voters will be available to register voters during the coffee hour on October 6. During these incredibly turbulent times, voting is our way to have our voices heard in the halls of government. Make sure that you are registered and ready to raise your voice and your vote in November by registering!



## Adult Education Offerings in October

Did you know that Contemplative Practice and Bible Study have begun again this fall? Every second through fourth Sunday of the month you can choose between Contemplative Practice in Fridell Hall and Bible Study in the Parlor. Both Contemplative Practice and Bible Study run from 9:30 to 10:30 on Sunday mornings. If you need to leave Contemplative Practice early, there are a couple of gentle breaks in the meditation when it is easy to leave without feeling disruptive. For Bible Study, you may feel free to arrive late or leave early as necessary, and there are children's books and an activity box available if you have a young companion.

In Bible Study this month, the pastors will follow the 150th-anniversary theme of peacemaking. Pastor Tim will lead on **October 13**, and Pastor Anita will lead on **October 20**, with Bible passages to be announced. Pastor Patricia will lead Bible Study on **October 27**. Her text is Romans 12:9-21, with the theme "Guidelines for Living Peaceably."

As part of our 150th anniversary, on the first Sunday of the month, **October 6**, Pat Kile will present the remarkable stories of some of our church's peacemakers: Alice Franklin Bryant, Elmer Fridell, Charles Z. Smith, and Robert Walker, among others. Please join with several relatives of these famous peacemakers, who plan to attend at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor. (No Bible Study or Contemplative Practice on first Sundays.)

In a special Wednesday night program on October 9, we will view the short documentary "My Friends Behind Barbed Wire." Then Dick Miller will talk about the peacemaking work of Pastor Harold Jensen during wartime. Mark Jensen will join Dick to share memories of his father, and Pastor Anita Peebles will talk about the present-day peacemaking of Baptist Peace Fellowship/Bautistas por la Paz.

## Save the Date: Tending the Habitat of the Heart

With Rev. Harriet Platts

Contemplative Spirituality and Practice Group Series  
Begins Wednesday, November 6th, 10-12 am – Hintz Chapel  
More info available at the Welcome Table – Fellowship Hall or  
Contact Harriet at [seeker@seanet.com](mailto:seeker@seanet.com)



## First Hill Meaningful Movies: Striving for Climate Justice

At St. James Cathedral Pastoral Outreach Center, 907 Columbia Street, Seattle

Doors open at 6 p.m. with light refreshments; film begins at 6:30 p.m. with discussion to follow. Contact Keith Ervin at [keithervin@msn.com](mailto:keithervin@msn.com) or 206-371-3834 with questions.

### Monday, October 7: *Paris to Pittsburgh*

With special guests Maddie Smith of Earth Ministry and Amanda Sorell of 350 Seattle

From coastal cities to America's heartland, Paris to Pittsburgh celebrates how Americans are demanding and developing real solutions in the face of climate change. And as the weather grows more deadly and destructive, they aren't waiting on Washington to act.

### Monday, October 14: *Cowspiracy*

With special guest Julie Mihalisin, founder of The New Health Club

Filmmaker Kip Andersen uncovers the most destructive industry facing the planet. Shocking yet humorous, Cowspiracy reveals the absolutely devastating environmental impact large-scale factory farming has on our planet, and offers a path to global sustainability for a growing population.

### Monday, October 21: *The Reluctant Radical*

With special guest Ken Ward, the "reluctant radical" in the film.

Activist Ken Ward confronts his fears and puts himself in the direct path of the fossil fuel industry to combat climate change. Ken breaks the law as a last resort, to fulfill what he sees as his personal obligation to future generations.

## Wow! A Letter from the Mayor!

We were delighted to receive a special letter from Mayor Jenny A. Durkan congratulating us on our 150th Anniversary. We received special mention of our social action in compassion, inclusion, and the environment. We are excited to be a community that blesses the city of Seattle, and this letter just confirms our call and care for the city we love.

When you get a chance, visit our homepage online to see the PDF of the document.

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## Seattle Jazz Vespers 18th Season with Eugenie Jones Jazz

October 6, 2019 at 6 p.m.

Nominee 2017, NW 2016 Vocalist of the Year - Winner 2013 NW Recording of the Year | Vocalist/  
Composer: classic straight-ahead, original straight-ahead, jazzed-soul, and blues.

Eugenie Jones-vocals, Peter Adams-piano, Eric Hollander-bass, Jamal Nance-drums



Eugenie Jones is described as a performer that makes audiences feel jazz. Vocally described as possessing, "A voice that covers words like pieces of silk covering precious stones," Jones is an emotive, engaging song stylist that entertains, dazzles and decisively wins over audiences.

Reminiscent of style and sophistication of iconic vocalists of the past, Jones sings and scats her way vivaciously through mainstream jazz, but also draws listeners inside contemporary story lines, sharing original tunes that have earned her recognition as a cleverly gifted lyricist. Born and raised in West Virginia to parents who loved jazz and soul, older siblings that were into the Motown-sound, and having a mother who sang lead in their church choir, exposed Jones to a variety of musical foundations as a child and before making her professional debut as a singer/songwriter in Seattle, WA.

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## Online Calendar and Extras

Are you looking for our calendar? The best place to find it is online!  
Find our calendar here: [ <https://www.seattlefirstbaptist.org/calendar> ].  
It has the most up to date information, and is updated as changes occur.

You can also find all of our past issues of the Spire online, including our special anniversary issue. The website is the best way to see images, videos, and find other content from Sunday mornings and events. Also make sure to look for us on Facebook!

Online: [www.seattlefirstbaptist.org](http://www.seattlefirstbaptist.org)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SeattleFirstBaptist>

Please feel free to email any questions about the website or the Spire to [editor@seattlefirstbaptist.org](mailto:editor@seattlefirstbaptist.org). We are working on ensuring a dynamic calendar with relevant up to date information, so please be patient as we continue making changes to improve our online experience!