

THE SPIRE

FALL 2025



THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF SEATTLE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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PRIDEFEST CAPITOL HILL

In June, church members represented SFBC at PrideFest Capitol Hill. Our yearly presence at Pride is one way we celebrate our LGBTQ+ siblings and affirm their belovedness as children of God.



MEN'S GROUP SERVICE PROJECT

In August, the Men's small group organized a brass cleaning party at SFBC. Under the direction of Marv and Stephen, 7 folks cleaned and polished brass throughout the sanctuary and fellowship hall entrances. Afterwards a pizza lunch and conversation was shared by all. Watch for future service projects sponsored by the Men's Group, and if your small group would like to consider a work party at the church, contact smallgroups@seattlefirstbaptist.org.



HOMECOMING LUNCHEON SEPTEMBER 7, 2025



Seattle Jazz Vespers: Chava Mirel Quintet, October 5



ROMNEY SPEAKER AMANDA TYLER SEPTEMBER 13, 2025



Author of How to End Christian Nationalism



REPORT ON ICA SUN DAY CELEBRATION by Linda Zaugg

On Sunday, September 21, Interfaith Climate Action presented a panel discussion during the education hour celebrating the ways we have worked to eliminate fossil fuels from our lives. This is quite an accomplishment, considering the grip that gas and oil companies have on our government, our lifestyles, and our perceptions. But there is a better way, and it is cheaper (once infrastructure is in place), much cleaner, and renewable. We're talking about solar, wind and hydro. Our panelists (Cindy Ervin, Cindy's neighbor Greg Gordon, and Lynn Gaertner-Johnston) were full of creative ideas—supplemented and seconded by over a dozen guests (bringing attendance to 28), who joined us thanks to Bill McKibben's Third Act publicity. Many people came to SFBC by Metro, electric car, carpool, and on foot, and we heard about things like community solar, regenerative farming, heat pumps, political advocacy, reducing our own carbon footprint, and the importance of setting an example. The energy in the room was palpable and contagious.



Nursery work party, September 2025



Pastor Anita recently visited with our resident centenarian **Renna Pierce** in Edmonds. Renna turned 101 years old in August, and is still going strong! She said that while she doesn't have the ability to attend church in person that she used to, SFBC is always in her heart and always in her prayers. Renna has been a member of SFBC since the early 1950s when she and her husband Tom moved to Seattle from Texas. Renna has contributed much to the life of this community over the years, including a few terms as President of the congregation. When asked what she wants the church to know, she said, "I love the church and will always be a part of the church. Keep spreading God's love everywhere you go. Keep serving the community. That's how we follow Jesus every day."



Optimism Hour, November 2025

EVERGREEN ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

In October, members of SFBC represented the church at the annual meeting of the Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches. The meeting was held October 9-11 at First Baptist Church of Olympia. Rev. Mark Rambo and his congregation hosted the gathering with immense hospitality! In attendance from SFBC were Pastor Anita, Pastor Leigh, Bob Sittig and Brooke Rolston. To follow along with what our Evergreen family is doing, visit ea-abc.org.



Men's Group lunch at Jimmy's on Broadway,
September 2025





Composer-in-residence Timothy Takach leading the Festival Sing

SEATTLE SINGS CHORAL FESTIVAL OCTOBER 23-25, 2025

Dear Seattle First Baptist Church,

I can't begin to express my gratitude to you for the support, help, and hospitality you provided to Seattle Sings this weekend. Over 1,100 singers and at least as many audience members were present over the three days. One critically important feature to the festival was the remodeled chancel with the accessibility ramp front and center in lowering barriers to access throughout the weekend. I've mentioned to Pastor Anita what a critically important decision it was – both for accessibility and for attracting new renters. I hope many more choirs reach out to you as they consider SFBC as a performance venue.

Seattle First Baptist is an important hub for arts and culture in our community in addition to providing care and support for so many of our neighbors on the margins.

With gratitude,

Scott Kovacs

Co-Chair, Seattle Sings Choral Festival



Bellevue Chamber Chorus, Ben Luedcke, Director



ALL-CHURCH RETREAT NOVEMBER 14-16, 2025

We had a great all-church retreat at Camp SFBC: Better Together at Camp Burton! Over 70 people signed up. We enjoyed worshipping together, singing camp songs, playing games, having a movie night, exploring camp through a scavenger hunt and generally resting and fellowshiping. Thank you to all who attended for making time for our church family. Thanks to: Pastor Leigh, Pastor Anita, Ben, Christian, Christina and Darren; Camp Burton staff; Kira Walmsley; Kris Garratt.



Screen printing pennants with Kira Walmsley



Woven banner being created for Advent



Scavenger hunt fun





Sunday worship in Grisham Hall



Camp songs with Minister of Music Ben Luedcke



Morning Prayer in Huber Hall



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2025 COUNCIL OF MINISTRIES

Sue Ross, *President*

David Greenhow, *Vice President*

Bob Sittig, *Secretary*

Roger Garratt, *Treasurer*

Daryl de la Cruz

Erin McGlenn

Joanne Wright

David Young

Sunday service at 11:00am

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