The First Baptist Church at Worship
13th Sunday After Pentecost
Launch Sunday 2011

September 11, 2011 10:30 AM

Today we celebrate the start of the new Sunday School year with our theme: "Searching the Scriptures. Following the Word." Throughout the year we will be refocusing our attention on the reading and study of the Scriptures, seeking to understand Jesus—the Word—and his call to discipleship.

As part of our celebration in worship this morning ***during the Prelude****, everyone has been invited to* ***1)*** *Choose a verse or passage from the Bible that has been meaningful to you in your life of faith;* ***2)*** *Write or print out that verse or passage on a sheet of paper (you can be as artistic as you like);* ***3)*** *And bring it to worship today to place it on the "wall" at the front of the Sanctuary. Our intention is to create a "Wall of Scripture" that will then be placed in the Fellowship Hall for all to see throughout the year.* ***NOTE: If you forgot to bring your verse or passage of scripture, there are paper and pens/markers available at the front of the Sanctuary, so that you can still participate.***

The Gathering

THE PRELUDE — R. Alan Kimbrough, Organist

(We gather for personal and corporate reflection and prayer.)

"Vor deinen Thron tret' ich" ..... J. S. Bach
"Requiescat in Pace" ("Dundee") ..... Henry G. Ley
"Elegy" ..... Sir George Thalben-Ball

In Praise to the Lord

CHORAL INTROIT — Chancel Choir

Come Away from Rush and Hurry ..... #302 v.1

*LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN — #34 *Word of God, Across the Ages*
AUSTRIAN HYMN

Ferdinand Blanchard was born in New Jersey, had a long career as a Congregational pastor and was instrumental in the formation of the United Church of Christ. He wrote our opening hymn in 1953 assuring us that our God is one of all ages and for all people.

*OPENING PRAYER — Rev. Jason Alspaugh

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE — #342 *He Is Exalted*
HE IS EXALTED

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high; I will praise Him!
He is exalted, forever exalted, and I will praise His name!
He is the Lord; forever His truth shall reign.
Heaven and earth rejoice in His holy name.
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high.

*WELCOME & PASSING OF PEACE — Dr. Rodney Kennedy

(Please register your attendance by filling out a yellow card from the pew rack and placing it in the offering bag this morning.)

We are invited to greet our nearest neighbors, extend our hand, and greet one another in the name of Christ.

(Please be seated.)

RECOGNITION OF SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES AND BIRTHDAYS

Reading & Proclaiming God's Word

THE NEW TESTAMENT EPISTLE LESSON — Andy Black

Romans 14:1-12: Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God!

*THE GOSPEL LESSON — Rev. Jim Earnest

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord according to Matthew.
People: Praise be to you, O Christ.

Matthew 18:21-35: Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: Glory be to you, O Lord.

*FELLOWSHIP HYMN — #563 *In Unity We Lift Our Song*
EIN' FESTE BURG

Ken Medema, born in 1943 and blind his entire life, went on to study music and became well known as a contemporary Christian musician. We are reminded of our spirit of Christian unity in this hymn written in 1985.

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE — Rev. Jason Alspaugh

(Children in preK-grade 4 will be led downstairs for Sunday School. Younger Children preK-K will go to Room #4 and older children grades 1-4 will go to Room #3B. Parents should pick up their children after worship service.)

*REMEMBRANCE OF THOSE WHO DIED ON AND AFTER SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 — Dr. Rod Kennedy

CALL TO PRAYER — #391 v.5 *Prayer Is the Soul's Sincere Desire*
CAMPMEETING

O Christ, by whom we come to God,
the Life, the Truth, the Way,
the path of prayer You also trod;
Lord, teach us how to pray!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION — Rev. C. Roland Marcus

Show us your mercy, O Lord;
And grant us your salvation.
Clothe your ministers in righteousness;
Let your people sing with joy.
Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
For only in you can we live in safety.
Lord, keep this nation under your care;
And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
Let your way be known upon earth;
Your saving health among all nations.
Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
Create in us clean hearts, O God;
And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

PASTORAL PRAYER — Rev. C. Roland Marcus

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Debts & Debtors)*

ANTHEM — Chancel Choir

Help Us Accept Each Other ..... John Ness Beck

THE SERMON — Dr. Rodney Kennedy

"Welcome the Weak"

The Response of God's People

THE OFFERTORY — Debbie Lindley

Jesus, Name Above All Names ..... Naida Hearn

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE — #665 v.1 *Because I Have Been Given Much*
SEMINARY

Because I have been given much, I, too, must give;
because of Thy great bounty, Lord, each day I live,
I shall divide my gifts from Thee with every person that I see
who has the need of help from me.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER — Andy Black

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

(Persons wishing to join First Baptist Church are invited to come forward while the organist plays the first verse of the recessional hymn. You may join First Baptist Church by confession of faith, transfer of letter, or statement of faith. The pastor will greet you as you come forward this morning.)

*RECESSIONAL HYMN — #680 *I Then Shall Live*
FINLANDIA

Gloria Gaither wrote these words to remind us that through Christ we are forgiven. In that spirit of forgiveness, we too need to forgive and live to serve all of humanity.

*BLESSING AND DISMISSAL — Dr. Rodney Kennedy

*CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION — #268 *The Bond of Love*
SKILLINGS

We are one in the bond of love;
we are one in the bond of love.
We have joined our spirits with the Spirit of God;
we are one in the bond of love.

*POSTLUDE — R. Alan Kimbrough

Trumpet Voluntary ..... John James

At the close of today's service, the Lord's Supper will be celebrated in the Chapel, located in the Beaver Wing. Immediately following the Lord's Supper, a Service of Healing will be held in the Chapel. The service consists of prayers for healing and wholeness, with anointing and laying on of hands. All are invited.

Worship Notes

The God of scripture is one that encounters us in community, even if that community is frail and complex. The gospel lesson gives guidance for how to live faithfully in the midst of community. The people of God are called to authentic listening, honest candor, and empathy. Yet we struggle with forgiveness. It sounds so matter-of-fact on the lips of Jesus, but we usually find the road to forgiveness riddled with pot holes, detours, and dead ends. And what does Paul mean when he says, "Welcome the weak." Who are the weak among us? And do they feel welcome?

Prayer for the Armed Forces

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace, strengthen them in their trials and temptations, give them courage to face the perils which beset them, and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Welcome to All

Before Worship: Children arriving with parents or grandparents at the 9:00 Sunday School hour may go downstairs to Room 3 for activities. A reminder to parents and grandparents: please pick up your children no later than 10:15 to give everyone enough time to prepare for worship.

Visiting the church today? Here's an invitation! Please join the congregation for Coffee Fellowship immediately after the service. We hope you'll stop by the Visitor's Table, say hello, and meet a few members of First Baptist Church.

If you are visiting, ***please register your attendance*** on a yellow information card and fill in any needs or concerns you might have. Members are also asked to sign the information card. Prayer concerns or event registrations may be marked on these cards.

Childcare for infants and toddlers up to 3 years of age is available during worship and church school and is located in the West hallway. For your peace of mind, our nursery is equipped with a call-system that allows nursery caregivers to page our ushers should there be a need to contact the parents of an infant or toddler. Preschoolers are welcome to attend Children's Sunday School during morning worship at "Second Hour" (see below).

All children are invited to come forward for the ***Children's Message***. Following the message the children will be led downstairs for **Sunday School**. Young children (preK–K) will go to Room #4 and children (grades 1-4) will go to Room #3B. Parents should pick up their children after worship service. If you have questions or comments, please speak with Rev. Jason Alspaugh.

Congregational Dinner Today at Noon

BYF Second Sunday Gathering Today

Our Baptist Youth Fellowship (BYF) for youth in grades 6-12 will resume regular Second Sunday Gatherings today from Noon-3pm.

ATTENTION: *If you are an adult who is interested in serving as a BYF Mentor, or would like to help out in some other way (providing lunch, hosting a gathering at your home, help plan mission work/trips, etc.), please contact Rev. Jason Alspaugh (jalspaugh@fbcdayton.org) or phone 222-4691.*

(Please see inserts for additional announcements.)

First Baptist Church of Dayton

13th Sunday After Pentecost

Our Mission Statement:

To celebrate God's love as a community of believers in Jesus Christ through worship, education, fellowship, and outreach to others.

Dr. Rodney Wallace Kennedy, *Lead Pastor*
Rev. Jason Alspaugh, *Associate Pastor Children & Youth*
Rev. C. Roland Marcus, *Associate Pastor*
Rev. James Earnest, *Assistant Pastor of Visitation*
Ryan Gade, *Pastor Intern*
Ray Landis, *Music Director*
Gregory Land, *Organist*
R. Alan Kimbrough, *Organist*
Debbie Lindley, *Pianist*
Linda Mullins, *Financial Secretary*
Linda Blair, *Church Secretary*
Jerry Cook, *Custodian*

111 W. Monument Avenue
Dayton OH 45402
937-222-4691
Fax: 937-222-0649

fbc@fbcdayton.org
www.fbcdayton.org