



January 2019

Tower Tidings

First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland

*May God's love
light your way and
lead you into a new
year that shines with
His special joy!*

In This Issue

The Best Christmas Gift

Now that the hustle and bustle of the holiday season has drawn to a close, wrapping paper is being recycled, leftovers are being eaten and unwanted gifts are being returned, let's not forget the best gift we received. The birth of Jesus Christ. Keep this in mind into the new year and remember the love that God bestowed upon us with this gift!

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Family Tree

On the list of popular Christmas gifts for 2018 was a DNA ancestry test kits. For under a hundred dollars, a small box containing a tube to collect one's DNA and return box became the family go-to gift. After the sample is mailed, a few weeks later an e-mail notice would indicate that the test results are available. These kits do not test for genetic markers for health but rather they look for genetic patterns to indicate ethnicity based upon their growing database. In our ever mobile world and shortened attention span's interest of history, many have limited knowledge of their family heritage, ancestral roots or ethnic composition.

My wife and I succumbed to this curiosity a year ago and purchased a DNA kit Ancestry. From the knowledge passed onto me by our family genealogist, both parents came from English and Irish immigrants in the early history of the United States, primarily from early 1600's to 1780's and settled in New England and the middle Atlantic states of Virginia and Pennsylvania. They were predominantly farmers who then moved to the Ohio Valley and Indiana during its pioneer years of the early 1800's. Upon receiving my DNA test, it pretty much confirmed what I was told with a result of being 65% English, 27% Irish, 7% Norwegian which combined to make me 99% Western European. It also includes about 1% from the African Inland region of Mali.

This quest to discover who we are has long been an important part of understanding ourself and our identity-who we are and where we came from- to help us unlock the mystery of why we are here. This new field of mitochondrial DNA research is being used to unlock these same questions to our human identity.

Researchers Mark Stoeckle of Rockefeller University in New York and David Thaler of the University of Basel in Switzerland in a report published in the journal Human Evolution, made news in their academic field, with a startling finding that DNA clearly pointed to a "bottleneck" of the human genome between 100,000 and 200,000 years ago in which all human ancestry derive it's origins from a single human pair.

For their study, Stoeckle and Thaler relied largely on more than 5 million mitochondrial barcodes from more than 100,000 animal species, assembled by scientists worldwide over the past 15 years in the open access GenBank database maintained by the US National Center for Biotechnology Information. The two scientists used the collection to examine the range of genetic differences within and between animal species ranging from bumblebees to birds. They found surprisingly minute or little genetic variation (between 0.0% and 0.5% variance) within most animal species – but very clear

genetic distinction between a given species and all others.

The authors concluded that the surprisingly little genetic variation found within each of nearly all existing animal species can only be explained by the species all being young – no more than 100,000 to 200,000 years old. Convergent lines of evidence show that mitochondrial diversity in modern humans follows similar sequence uniformity followed by the accumulation of largely neutral diversity during a population expansion that began approximately 100,000 years ago.

Stoeckle and Thaler wrote:

"More approaches have been brought to bear on the emergence and outgrowth of Homo sapiens (i.e., modern humans) than any other species including full genome sequence analysis of thousands of individuals and tens of thousands of mitochondria, paleontology, anthropology, history and linguistics. The congruence of these fields supports the view that modern human mitochondria and Y chromosome originated from conditions that imposed a single sequence on these genetic elements between 100,000 and 200,000 years ago." (p. 22)

While the authors are quick to step back from the story of Adam and Eve in Genesis, their findings support two important findings which relate to our biblical world-view. First, we are all connected as a single biological family. Our individual ethnicity is secondary to our common humanity. This has always been the teaching of Christ. And second, our uniqueness as well as every other living thing (plant, animal, insect or organism) carries a uniqueness to be cared for and respected. Evolutionary theory has long held that lower forms of life transition into higher forms of life. Over the last century, this has fueled racism and was a premise accepted by the likes of the Nazi's of a superior master race and inferior races to be eliminated. Instead, we do have a moral responsibility for the protection of all species and the preservation of our environment.

Christians accept by faith that our existence was planned, prepared and preserved by the conscious will of the Divine. In Christ, we believe in another existence planned, prepared and preserved beyond this material cosmos within our Creator's realm. If a person can accept this premise of an all-able God who has given us life, and has co-joined in humanity's DNA (Jesus Christ) to make a way of salvation, then we truly are able to unlock who we are and understand why we are here as stated in the old Westminster Confession of Faith, "to know God and to blessings, "

Pastor Kregg Burris
Senior Pastor

M.Y. Stoeckle and D. S. Thaler, "Why should mitochondria define species?," Human Evolution, Vol. 33, n. 1-2, May 2018, pp. 1-30.



Brass Band Of The Western Reserve

3:00 PM Sunday, January 27, 2019
First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland
Dr. Keith M. Wilkinson, Music Director

"We're forming a band and we're aiming high!" was the message sent out to local brass players and percussionists in 1997 when it was discovered that the experienced and successful British brass band director, Dr. Keith M. Wilkinson, was residing in northeast Ohio. That these ambitious sentiments have been amply achieved can be judged by the many impressive performances the band has carried out since that time.

The band presents its own Concert Series, five concerts each year, often with guest artists. Additionally BBWR receives several invitations to play at other locations, and any of these are repeat bookings. Prestigious concert venues have included The Amphitheater, Chautauqua Institution, Hoover Auditorium, Lakeside Chautauqua and Severance Hall, Cleveland. Summer concerts include a July 4th performance, followed by fireworks.

Wherever BBWR performs its audiences are captivated by the wide variety of music presented as well as the band's ability to impressively perform repertoire ranging from quiet and delicate to strong and powerful. Come to the concert and enjoy great music from a band called by many as the equal to the Canadian Brass and Burning River Brass ensembles.

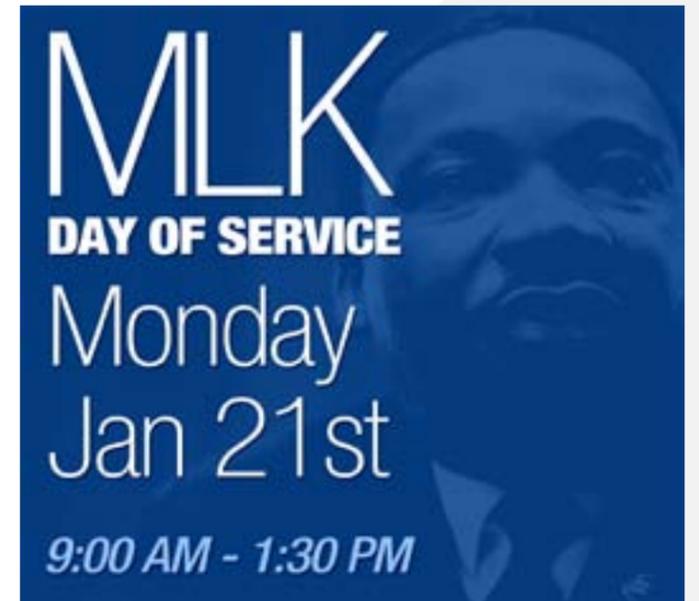
Tickets at the Door

Adults \$12 Students and Seniors \$10
First Baptist Members and Friends \$8

Annual Meeting

Unified Service at 10:00 AM
Sunday, January 27th, 2019

We will have our business, vote on new leadership, then have lunch following the meeting.



Jazz-Poetry Night Returns!



7:30 PM Friday, February 15, 2019

Yes, we are bringing back the very popular Jazz-Poetry Night to First Baptist. The original format of alternating poetry readings with jazz numbers related to each poem performed by the Demetrius Steinmetz Jazz Trio will be followed again. Goodies will be provided at the event.

This is an opportunity for you to share your favorite poems with an eager and appreciative audience. Up to two poems per person suggested.

If you would like to participate, please contact Mike Skerritt and let him know of your interest and availability as soon as possible.

Sign up – <http://firstbaptistcleveland.org/jazz>

January Birthdays

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|-----|------------------|-----|------------------|------|-------------------|------|------------------|------|-----------------------|
| 1st | Larry Maurer | 5th | Arnold Simmons | 8th | JoAnn Neff | 16th | Ralph Hise | 22nd | Alexander Jackson |
| 3rd | Julie Mizener | 6th | Carole Negus | 11th | Sheri Stevens | 18th | Brenda Eakin | 24th | Wendy Chaney |
| 4th | Anthony Peebles | 7th | Kim Kidd-Collins | 14th | Theodore Fielding | 19th | Carolyn Neal | 25th | Amelia Gruber-Canning |
| 5th | Gabrielle Arnold | 7th | Destiny Miller | 14th | Tom Neff | 20th | Beverly Farmer | 25th | Margo Jerome |
| | | | | 14th | Joseph Tillman | 21st | Faith Kenniebrew | 27th | Jack Shelley |
| | | | | 15th | Kregg Burris | 22nd | Bonnie Heath | | |



Tower Tidings

First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland
3630 Fairmount Blvd.
Shaker Heights, OH 44118

Non-Profit Org.
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Thanks for prompt delivery!

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**Facebook/First Baptist Church of
Greater Cleveland**

2018 FBC Lay Leadership

Moderator: Kim Kidd-Collins
Vice Moderator: Tony Peebles
Treasurer: Ralph Hise
Clerk: Tammy Gordon
Children's Center: Frank Marino

Communication & Outreach: Angela Fielding
*Greeters, Welcome Center, Marketing,
& Communications*

Discipleship: Suzanne Blum
*Discipleship Classes, Children's Ministry,
Youth Ministry, & Covenant Groups*

Fellowship and Nurture: Iris Goins
*Stephen Ministry, Deacons,
& New Member Orientation*

Stewardship: Dan Mizener
*Property and Finance, Stewardship Campaign,
& Endowment and Audit*

Missions & Social Concerns: Jessica
Chapman- Martinez

Worship and Fine Arts: G. Michael Skerritt

Serving in Ministry

Rev. Dr. Kregg F. Burris, Senior Pastor
Rev. Jeff Gordon, Associate Pastor
Stephanie Price, Director of Music
Betty Meyers, Associate Director of Music
Brian Kozak, Director of Praise Team
Minister Jae Williams, Director of Youth Ministries
Carly Marino, Director of Children's Ministries
Jane Pernicone, Director of Children's Center
Star Knuckles, Executive Assistant/Office Admin.
Greg Beckner, Graphic/Web Designer & Marketing
Margo Jerome, Accountant

Tower Tidings Staff

Editors: Greg Beckner, Kregg Burris, Jeff Gordon

Thank you to the many volunteers who help
assemble the Tower Tidings mailing each month!

If you would like to be a part of our volunteer team
please contact the church office. Lunch is provided.

February Tower Tidings Deadline: **January 15th**
February issue will be mailed January 31, 2019

Please e-mail articles or news to Greg Beckner:
office@firstbaptistcleveland.org