

It's been quite a week so far. Thirty of us signed a **Commitment to Radical Obedience** on Sunday morning. The Ravens beat the Patriots Sunday afternoon, and now head to the "Brother Bowl" for Super Bowl 47 on February 3. President Obama was publicly inaugurated yesterday, and the Cooperative Baptist

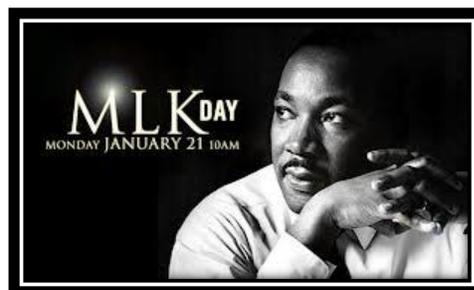


Fellowship (National CBF) has nominated Suzii Paynter to be its new leader, making her soon to be one of only a very few women to lead national religious organizations.



Yesterday was also our annual remembrance and celebration of the legacy of Dr. King, and tonight we'll consider his most famous words as a backdrop to our Meditative Worship Service.

I know some persons really wanted to sign the Commitment on Sunday morning, but weren't able to do so during worship. Others may have missed the service and need to catch up by reading the sermon first ("The Way of Jesus: Authority & Adventure," downloadable at www.dcstancil.com).

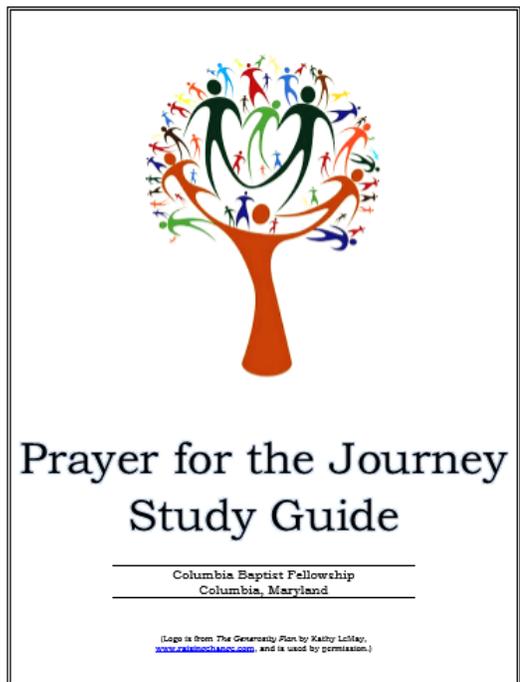


If you'd like to make the commitment, I've attached the commitment form on the next page, and you can bring it to church the next time you're here. We'll all continue to watch for God's leading as to how to live out that commitment in our individual lives as well as in our life together, and one way we'll do this is through our **Spiritual Strategic Journey** that begins on February 3.

This eight-week experience will be our Lenten emphasis this year, and will help us discern God's directions for the next 5-10 years of our life together. Participants (CBF membership is not required) will be matched with two other persons in "Prayer Triplets" for the eight weeks (a leadership team from the Council will do the matching).

Each participant will receive a *Prayer for the Journey Study Guide* that will provide the basic structure for discernment, and sermons during this period will be on the same general themes. We'll all meet the first time following worship on February 3, after which each triplet will set its own schedule of meetings at whatever locations seem good to you. We'll gather again on April 7 to hear what impressions we've received along the way.

The more listening hearts we can bring to this effort, the better we'll be able to discover God's guidance. I'm pleased to report that we already have thirty-four people signed up to participate! We'll have several more signup opportunities, so if you're interested in being a part of this journey, please be sure to let us know of your availability.



Dave

POSTSCRIPTS:

1. Please see the attached information about the seminar, “Crafting Your Best Life,” which Dr. Tracey Manning will offer this Sunday at 3 p.m. at The Meeting House. You’ll not want to miss this!
2. The Church Council has scheduled a very brief Called Business Meeting during worship on February 17 in order to formally approve the 17 applications for membership we received last month. A reception will follow the service in the Chapel.
3. February 17 is also **Invite-A-Friend Day**, sponsored by our FELLOWSHIP Team. A flyer is attached with this *Laptop* that you can use to get the word out, and other resources will also be available to assist you in making invitations. Please begin praying now to ask God’s guidance about whom to invite. Our Friends will also be honored at the reception following the service. (If you’d be willing to help with the reception, please contact Kat Ndiang, our FELLOWSHIP Team Leader.)
4. Our Church Council is in the process of developing an Operational Manual that will provide guidance for the routine functions in the life of our congregation. One deficit we’ve already discovered is a nearly complete absence of Minutes from church organizations here in the office. We really need to have records of the Minutes of all our Teams, Councils, Boards, and other regularly meeting groups. If you have copies (even one or two) of such documents, it would be a great help to have paper or digital copies of those to begin to remedy this deficiency. THANKS!
5. Finally, please remember that Peggy Wise, our Church Secretary, is the official person for completing booking slips for the use of the building. Having a central clearing house for such reservations helps us to be efficient and effective in our use of the Interfaith Center.

A Commitment to Radical Obedience

Lord, I will do anything that your Kingdom requires of me.
Wherever you want me to be, I’ll go.
Whatever I know to be your will, I will do.
If you want to meet a need through my life, I am your servant.
I will do whatever you ask of me.
Whatever the cost and regardless of the adjustment,
as best I know my heart,
I commit myself to follow your will today, ahead of time,
Because you are my Lord, and I will follow you.

My Signature: _____ Today’s Date: _____