



The Visitor

Dissertation Update

Wade Allen

As we come to this final month of summer, we look forward to the fall. I find myself in the midst of dissertation work. As some of you may know, I am working with a team developing a process for decision-making at First Baptist Church Muncie. We have developed the process and will put it to use this month. A combined group of church council and diaconate will begin the process on August 8. The decision we are considering is staffing for the future. With Matt graduating from seminary in 2012, it seems appropriate to begin to ask ourselves the right questions regarding staffing. The process is a four stage process; I would like to give you a bit of insight into how it works.

The first stage is called *Explore*. In this stage, leaders will outline all possible options. The goal of this stage is to clearly outline all facets of the decision. We will ask: What are the options? Who does each option impact? What resources are needed for each option? What does each option communicate to congregation, to the community? What are the pros and cons of each option? What are the timing issues of each option?

The second stage is called *Listen*. The leaders will develop a strategy for listening at this point. The goal is to determine 1) ways to seek outside information, 2) congregational participation, 3) methods for listening to the Spirit, and 4) theological issues to be addressed. The team will then carry out the listening strategy. This is perhaps the most extensive part of the process.

The third stage is called *Examine*. Once the listening strategy has been completed, the leaders will reflect on what they have heard. Continuing to ask questions, they will consider which options seem most appropriate. They will contemplate not only the best option, but the motivations behind the potential decision. Once they have adequately reflected, they will come to a decision.

The fourth stage is called *Communicate*. In this stage, the leaders will consider how to share the story of the process. What has God revealed in the process? How might this be shared? The leaders will also outline the next steps. In the case of staffing, the leaders will need to bring a recommendation to the congregation. They will determine the most appropriate way to carry out the decision.

Once characteristic of any decision-making process is that stages are not clearly separated. For example, an option not defined in the explore stage may emerge in the listening stage. Or it may be suitable to examine while listening. Yet, the process will aid leaders in asking the right questions, advancing toward decision. I am looking forward to the work ahead. Please keep your leaders in prayer as they begin the process. I am sure you will be asked to participate on some level as the team does its work.

ROBERT'S RAMBLINGS

Jake Hendershot will be returning again this Fall to sing at the Riverside/First Baptist picnic on September 25. Jake is the husband of Barb Wilson's granddaughter (grandson-in-law?). He is an Earth & Space Science Teacher New Castle Chrysler High School and also a popular local musician. Jake has a deep concern for a medical condition known as Amyloidosis. "Amyloidosis is a group of diseases in which one or more organ systems in the body accumulate deposits of abnormal proteins known as amyloid. Although amyloidosis is not cancer, it is very serious. It is disabling or life threatening. However, growing awareness of the condition seems to be leading to substantial new research and treatment alternatives." (Quoted from the web page for the Amyloidosis Foundation. For more information, see [HYPERLINK "http://www.amyloidosis.org/"](http://www.amyloidosis.org/) <http://www.amyloidosis.org/>). Through his concerts he has raised \$5,000 for the Amyloidosis Foundation and related research over the past eight years. A special offering for the Amyloidosis will be taken at the picnic.



The Riverside/First Baptist committee is already hard at work planning for the picnic. Of course there will be other items of interest at the picnic as well, including games, recreation, hot dogs, pub burgers, as well as catsup and mustard supplied by none other than Jane Patton. (You especially do not want to miss that!) Everyone is invited, including members of both churches, people from the mission, the friendship class, and people from the neighborhood. Mark your calendar for 4:00pm, September 25 to be on the grounds at Riverside Avenue Baptist Church.

Speaking of the Friendship Class, that will resume after Summer break at 7:00pm on September 13. There are several ways to support this important ministry to developmentally disabled adults. One is to get the word out to more people. If you know of developmentally disabled adults living at home with their families or if there is a group home in your neighborhood, please feel free to let them know about this program. Another is to volunteer to help. We have several fine people who have helped this past year and a half, but others are certainly welcomed. Those who have helped can well testify how they have been blessed. Others who join us will be as well. If you are interested, talk with me or with Jane Patton. A third way is to pray for this program. Pray as well for Holly Londt, Ball State Student and participant in the Oasis Baptist House campus ministry, who will be in an internship with the Friendship Class program.

Riverside as well seen itself as a "small church with a big heart whose doors are open to everyone." It was that spirit of openness that led us to this venture. We have been blessed by it! I wonder how many opportunities to be blessed that churches have missed when they did not open their doors to others and how many times they have been blessed when they opened their doors. The doors are open on September 13 and again on September 25. Come on in, and welcome others who come as well!

Coming Up in Worship

<u>Living Upside Down</u>	<u>Sexual Brokenness</u>	<u>Clinging to Rights</u>	<u>Title TBA</u>
August 7	August 14	August 21	August 28
1 Cor. 3:1-4:21	1 Cor. 5:1-14; 6:9-20	1 Cor. 6:1-8	1 Cor. 7:1-40
Wade Allen	Wade Allen	Wade Allen	Wade Allen

LEAVING A LEGACY SERIES

The third and final installment of Marc Kirchoff's *Leaving a Legacy* series is coming up on August 17. Marc is the Minister of Grants and Fund Raising at the American Baptist Churches of Indiana/Kentucky. This is part of a three evening event this summer on leaving a legacy for future generations. All are welcome to gather in the lower auditorium, even if you have missed one or more of the previous sessions.



SCAM ALERT

Be careful when you answer your phone to hear a sweet voice make an offer. A couple of us have been targeted for *Guidepost* renewals and have given credit card information before our "radar" clicked in. We both cancelled credit cards before being incurring fraudulent charges. Remember to give your credit card information only to people or companies that you have called.

- Mary Ann Bayer



SOMETHING MISSING?

If there is an event, story, photo or special thanks that you would like put in the September newsletter, please email a request to alex@fbcmuncie.org or fill out an event information form. This form can be submitted through the church website, mailed, hand-delivered, or faxed into the church office. Be sure to indicate "September Newsletter" on the form or in the subject line of the email. The **deadline** for the information to be submitted is **Tuesday, August 23!**

A NEW VENTURE

During the week of July 18 - 22 we had a new venture at First Baptist Church as we enjoyed our first music camp. Twenty-two children ages five through twelve attended with nineteen of them participating in a closing dessert theatre/concert on Friday evening. It was certainly a great week for adults and children alike.

Each day began with some fun songs with the children accomplishing things that most of the adults could not do such as singing the fruits of the spirit - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Try singing that at a fast tempo! Following this time of music and fun, the children went into a nicely decorated throne room for a Bible story. However, many times they did not stay in that nice room. On the very first day they came out, saw the waters part, and crossed the Red Sea. Following the Bible story more singing took place as the children prepared a portion of the mini-musical called *Son Castle Faire*. Next came a marvelous snack time in a very stately dining room commonly known as the "conference room". After snacks, the campers divided by age to have some fun with choir chimes and Orff instruments. The morning closed with more singing and preparation of *Son Castle Faire*. On Friday evening the campers shared what they had learned at a scrumptious dessert theatre.

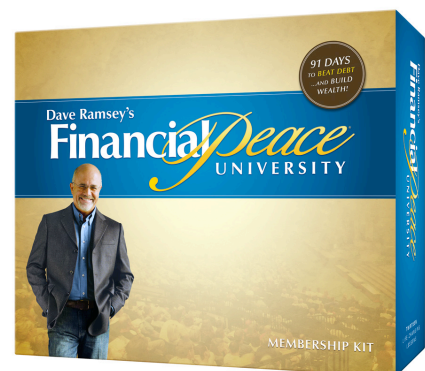


Because of the efforts of many, many people (too many to list here) we had a great new adventure this year with our first music camp. Thanks to everyone who helped in so many ways to make the week such a success. Maybe we can do it again next year!

- Special thanks to Barb Eidson for contributing this article

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Financial Peace University is beginning again this month! If you receive *The Visitor* through the US Mail, by the time you receive this newsletter the class will have already begun. For those who have already registered, the course will run on Wednesday nights again from August 3 through October 26 at 6:30 PM in the youth lounge.



AUGUST EVENT CALENDAR

Sundays

9:15 a - Classic Worship
 10:15 a - Sunday School
 11:15 a - Contemporary Worship
 TBA - Youth Group Events

Tuesday

6:30 p - Young Adult Small Group

Wednesdays

10:00 a - Women's Small Group at Riverside
 (July 3 and 17)
 6:30 p - Worship Band Rehearsal
 6:30 p - Financial Peace University

August 8

7:00 p - Leadership Council/Diaconate Meeting

August 17

5:30 p - Leaving a Legacy (Session III)

August 22

7:00 p - Worship Arts Team Meeting

August 25

5:00 p - Teamwork Ally Overview Session
 6:00 p - Circles Big View

August 30

6:00 p - Poverty Simulation

Note: The fall Wednesday schedule will begin on September 7

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

We'd like to say Happy Birthday to the following August birthdays!

Don Jennings - August 7	Barb Turner - August 21
Ginny Randall - August 7	Stacey Paille - August 23
Melva Ratchford - August 12	Tom Kistler - August 24
Irene Hiatt - August 13	Fred Shulze - August 25
Eli Richardson - August 15	Larry Van Deventer - August 25
Chris Hill - August 16	Nova Jarvis - August 27
Brittney Say - August 20	Carolyn Harke - August 29
Dana Davis - August 21	Mary Anne Bayer - August 31



CAMP TIME!

It's camp time! Throughout the summer, camp weeks for various age groups will be taking place. Registrations are in the office and from Shirley Pittenger. For more details or to find camp dates for your desired age group, please call Shirley at 282-0632 or visit camptippy.org.



SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to thank our First Baptist family for all the support while Katelyn and Aurora were in the hospital. Your phone calls, visits, prayers, and financial support were so helpful and appreciated. Thank you so much!

- Love, Eli, Katie Beth, Katelyn, and Aurora Richardson