

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
309 E. Adams Street  
Muncie, Indiana 47305

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## The Visitor

MAY 2012

### Change

*by Wade Allen*

We have lived a few Sundays in the new schedule. I know that it has been an adjustment for some of us. The praise band has to arrive early to sound check. Many who were accustomed to arriving for Sunday school at 10:15 now arrive at 9:15. Some Sunday school have been divided or discontinued as a result of the change.

Change is never easy. As we grow older, our bodies change (sometimes letting us down). Our kids grow up, move off to college. Friends relocate to different states. We sometimes have the difficult task of saying goodbye to friends and loved ones as they pass away. Yet we are required to change in life. As God leads us, we respond to his movement. Many times He calls us to adjust. And as we adapt, we experience transformation that would not be possible without change.

As we enter our first full month of our new Sunday morning schedule, allow me to remind you why and how we discerned the need for this change. Conversation began among leaders in

November regarding the need for an adjustment of our Sunday morning schedule. We found that the Sunday school hour was inadequate as far as time for most classes. By the time people arrived for Sunday school, talked a bit and began the lesson, it was time to dismiss. Many classes found themselves with less than 30 minutes. Late worship service included less than half of its participants at the beginning of the service. Many were still in Sunday school and were unable to make it into the sanctuary on time. We're not sure how we needed to change or even if we needed to change the schedule at all.

We began an intentional Process of Discernment around the issue. This process included a time of exploration of options, a period of listening (which included outside information, people in the congregation, and prayerful consideration of the leading of the Spirit). We then examined the issue in light of our listening. There was an incredible unity among the leaders around the solu-

tion. Church leaders then brought the draft schedule to the congregation in January. Everyone was given an opportunity to ask questions, share opinions and discuss the ramifications of the change. Through a consensus vote, the congregation affirmed the discerning of the leaders.

I am not sure if you find the new schedule appealing. Maybe you think it is great; maybe you are having a hard time adjusting. In time, we will discover the benefits and liabilities of this change. For now, we trust that our careful discernment was not in vain. We trust that God has led us to this place.

As we make decisions in the future, I hope that we will take the necessary time to discern the lead-

ing of the Spirit. Our decisions must not be based on personal preference (or what we perceive is best for "us"). We must continue to ask God for His will, His desire for how we function. While any process is subject to human error, I have confidence that God will honor our discerning, that He will help us navigate the decisions that we must make as a congregation as we submit our will to His.

If there are concerns that you have regarding the new schedule, please take time to discuss the matter with church leaders. God may lead us to make further adjustments. Our discerning never ends; we continue with open ears as we participate in congregational life under the Spirit's leading.

## Genesis Series

In the month of May, we continue our study through the book of Genesis. Don't forget that there are two Sunday school classes (one during early hour, the other during late hour) available for you to explore Genesis in a deeper way. Tim Stigers and Jim Butler will be teaching the class during the early hour and Bill Eidson will be teaching this month in the late hour.

Here are the passages for May if you would like to explore them ahead of time.

- May 6 Genesis 2:4-17 (Longing for Eden)
- May 13 Genesis 2:18-25 (Creating Woman)
- May 20 Genesis 3:1-24 (The Fall)
- May 27 Genesis 6:1-8 (Wickedness of Humanity)

## Robert's Ramblings

*by Robert Burton*

Lisa Ferguson, certified and licensed additions counselor, will be using space at Riverside to offer professional counseling services for family members of alcoholics and drug addicts. The church council at Riverside met with her recently and voted to offer her space as she begins her practice in this important area of need. She has taught school for many years. She and her husband also are co pastors of a house church in the Yorktown area. After experiencing caring for a family member who is now in recovery with addiction, she felt the call to seek professional credentials to help others in similar situations. I remember a counselor I knew who said "you can not take anyone else any further than you have been yourself." Lisa has been there and is now prepare to help others who are there as well. Her main focus will be to work with family members who are dealing with loved ones

with the disease of additions. Her immediate plan is to begin on a limited basis as she builds her practice and will be using space at Riverside for this purpose. She comes to us with good recommendation from others who work in this field. She can be reached at (765) 730-5258.

Those who work in this field remind us that alcoholism or drug addiction is a disease. Like any other disease, it is not one that one chooses to have. It is not a disease that can be cured. A person with this disease, as those with diabetes and other similar conditions, must learn to live with it. It is however, a disease that can be treated. Key to recovery from addiction is the need often for professional help and treatment. An important piece of recovery is also spiritual. Recovering addicts tell us that finding a meaningful and personal relationship with God is vital in helping them to stay sober

each day. Family members, such as those to whom Lisa Ferguson will be helping, need to remember what some call the three C's. They didn't cause it, they can't control it, they can't cure it. What they can do is learn from others who have been there, and leave those things that they can not do in God's hands. In all of this, I am reminded of the well-known prayer by Reinhold Niebuhr:

God, Grant me the Serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the

Courage to change the things I can and the Wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time; Enjoying one moment at a time; Accepting hardship as the pathway to peace. Taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it. Trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His Will; That I may be reasonably happy in this life, and supremely happy with Him forever in the next. Amen.

## Mentors Graduating

Two of our Mary Elizabeth Wood scholarship recipients (Bailey McElravy and Audrey Boyers) will be graduating this month from Taylor University.

Both Audrey and Bailey are engaged to be married this summer. Bailey will be moving back to her home state of Colorado. Audrey will join her new husband in Kenya. On May 13, we will recognize Audrey and Bailey in worship and pray for them as they leave Indiana.

Bailey has worked with a team to produce a story-telling magazine highlighting various stories at First Baptist. She plans to complete this work after she leaves. Audrey has worked with the choir and praise team throughout her mentorship. She has contributed in countless ways to these groups and to the church as a whole. Our prayers are with both Bailey and Audrey as they take these next steps in their lives.

## Picnic

Its time for the annual First Baptist and Riverside Baptist Church Picnic! The picnic will be held Sunday May 20th, at 4:00 PM. Weather permitting we will be outside so please bring lawn chairs. Meat, drinks, and table service will be furnished. Please bring one or two dishes to be shared. Our guests will be the friendship class from Riverside, the YWCA, and others. Music will be provided by Common Ground. There will be a freewill offering for them. Please make plans to join us Sunday May 20th!

## Summer Break

Wednesday evening programs take a break during the summer months. May 23 will be the last Wednesday evening before summer break.

## Benefit Meal

On Sunday May 6th, there will be a benefit meal for Karen Bartling at the Muncie YMCA. The meal will run from 11:30 AM to 1:40 PM. The menu will include, chicken & noodles, mashed potatoes, green beans, coleslaw, rolls, & homemade desserts. The cost is \$8.00 a person and tickets are available at Muncie Music Center and will also be available at the door. Carry out service will also be available. Music will be provided by America's Home Town Band. Please see Dana Davis for more information.

## Watchcare

Would you like to be involved at First Baptist but don't what to do? Do you have ideas for gathering together, caring for others, or activities to do? Watchcare is looking for you! Contact Kendra Ervin at 744-2161 or [kendra2104@comcast.net](mailto:kendra2104@comcast.net)

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer Shawl Ministry will be working from home until fall programming resumes. We have welcomed a new member, Melanie Clark, into our group. Any requests may be made to Dana Davis, Jane Patton or Louise Head. We will continue to accept contributions for yarn and look forward to the fall and welcome any new members, novice or experienced.

## Car for Summer

We have a missionary who is living in Muncie for the summer in need of a vehicle. She will be returning to Europe in the fall but needs transportation during the summer months. If you have a vehicle that she could borrow, please contact here at [Sally.Barrett@uscm.org](mailto:Sally.Barrett@uscm.org).

## Life Line Screening

There will be a Life Line Screening at First Baptist Church on Wednesday May 30th. Screenings will take place all day. Pre-registration is required. If you are interested in more information or want to pre-register you can also call 1-800-324-1851.

To register online please visit: [www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners).

## Thank you from Holowells

First Baptist.

Thanks so much for welcoming us into your family and supporting our ministry at Ball State. It was so awesome to speak at the church and be a part of your impact to the community! Thanks so much! We are excited about this partnership for the sake of the gospel here at Ball State.

In Christ Alone,

Josh, Whitney, Tyko & Baby #2

## Something Missing

If there is an event, story, photo or special thanks that you would like put in the June newsletter, please email a request to [will@fbcmuncie.org](mailto:will@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 "June Newsletter" on the form or in the subject line of the email. The deadline for the information to be submitted is Thursday, May 24!

## Calendar

**Sundays** – 9:15 am Early Gathering/Early Sunday School, 10:15 am Fellowship Time, 10:45 am Late Gathering/Late Sunday School

**Tuesdays** – 7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study at Stigers, Friendship Class for Group Homes at Riverside

**Wednesdays** – 10:00 am Women's Small Group at Riverside (April 4 & 18), 4:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry, 5:30 pm Wednesday Evening Meal, 6:00 pm Children's Program, 6:15 pm Band Rehearsal, 6:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal, 6:30 pm Prayer Hour, 6:30 pm Bible Study, 7:40 pm Choir Rehearsal

**May 13** – 7:00 pm Leadership Council Meeting

**May 17** – 6:00 pm TEAMwork Circles Big View

**May 20** – 2:00 pm Worship Arts Team Meeting, 4:00 pm FBC/Riverside Spring Picnic

**May 22** – 11:30 am Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

**May 24** – 6:00 pm Circles Big View/TEAMwork Circles Big View Dinner

**May 30** – Lifeline Health Screenings, 6:15 pm Band Rehearsal

## May Birthdays

We would like to say Happy Birthday to the following people in the month of May. Please let them know that you are thinking of them on their special day.

2 Alex Reid	15 Joan Keesling
3 Neal Fouch	16 Andrew Bouton
4 Mark Clevenger	Molly Flodder
Troy Hershman	Allen Shelton
5 Duane Davis	19 Sarah Harker
Joy McConnell	20 Jennifer Durke
6 Terry Harke	21 Lois Craig
Matt Headley	Brian Clements
7 Daniel Bouton	Jennifer Conley
8 Tim Stinson	22 Kim Lee
9 Sally Butler	23 Alyvia Smith
Roger Morency	25 Jackson Crawford
10 Doug Clark	Darlene Shulze
12 Kathleen Fox	28 Ethan Hudson
13 Phyllis Jennings	29 Patti Warner
Gretchen Reid	31 Camila Jatoba