



The Visitor

NOVEMBER 2013

Thanksgiving

Wade Allen

As we get closer to the end of the year, we anticipate the cooler temperatures and the signs of the Christmas season. It is hard to believe that we only have two more months in 2013; November is here. A highlight of November is Thanksgiving. It is generally a time when families get together to thank God for the blessings they have received throughout the year. As a church family, we will be joining together in a number of ways this month.



Ruth Drama – We continue our study of Ruth through November. On Sunday mornings, we are moving through the story together. We are finding the story to be Gospel (good news). It is more than a romantic tale. The grace and unconditional love of Ruth and Boaz reveal the posture of Jesus. God's movement in the lives of this ancient family reminds us of His love for us. A group is preparing to present the story in drama format in a combined service on **Sunday, November 24**. If you would be interested in being a part of this presentation, please contact Matt.

United Choir – A second way we are joining together as a church family is through a United Choir. Participants of both early and late worship hour are coming together to lead worship through singing. I hope that you will consider being a part of this special group. Rehearsals will be from 6:30-7:30 on Wednesdays, November 13 & 20 and December 4 & 11, and on Saturday, December 14 at 9 a.m.

Harvest Dinner/Fall Celebration – Finally, we will join together in worship, food and celebrating during the annual Harvest Dinner on **Sunday, November 24**. During this time, we will relate what God is doing among us this year. Ministry Area Coordinators will share what is happening in each area. We will officially approve new members and celebrate God's provision in our congregation. Everyone is encouraged to bring a side dish to share.

November is a month to thank God for all that He is doing. We look forward to celebrating together in special ways this month.

Worship in November

As we begin our study in the book of Ruth, you may want to read the Scriptures ahead of time. The November schedule is:

- November 3 - Redeemed (Ruth 4:1–12)
- November 10 - New Life (Ruth 4:13–17)
- November 17 - Roundtable Discussion on Ruth (Ruth 4:18–22)
- November 24 - Ruth Drama (Combined Worship and Harvest Dinner)

Making People's Holidays Brighter: Food Drive and Salvation Army Bells

A toter in the basement near the lower auditorium is the place to donate non-perishable food items for Feed My Sheep, the organization that provides free Thanksgiving Day meals to more than a thousand local residents. Bags of the donated food will be given for people to take with them after eating the meal. Please bring your food items no later than **Monday, November 11**.

In December, our church will be responsible for ringing Salvation Army bells on **December 17 and 19 from 10 a.m.-8 p.m.** inside the Muncie Mall. This is an outstanding outreach opportunity for people of any age, and is a wonderful service project for families to do together. Sign-up sheets will be available at the Harvest Dinner on November 24.

First Baptist to Participate in Interfaith Nativity Event

Cathedral Bells and Julie Kirklin will represent our church at the 3rd annual Nativity event coming up on **Saturday, December 7** at Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 4800 W. Robinwood Drive. Although the nativities will be available for a longer time, FBC will be a part of the Interfaith service from 4-5 p.m. Watch the bulletin for more information about times that you can come out and view the nativities.

Special Donations

The church has received several significant donations in the past several months (totaling over \$60,000). We are thankful for God's provision. These funds will be applied to the Operating Reserve to replenish funds that were used for building maintenance (including the roof and lower auditorium floor). Donors wish to remain anonymous.

Children and Family Fall Party

All children and their families are invited to Larry and Donna Fouch's home on **Sunday, November 10 from 4-6 PM**. We will be having old fashioned games (sack race, 3-legged race, tug of war, needle in a haystack, etc.), food (hot dogs provided), bonfire, and a possible hayride. We hope that you will plan to join the fun. Please RSVP to Christy Allen at 717-5229 or wadechristy@gmail.com to sign up to bring a side dish.

Harvest Dinner

There will be a combined service on **Sunday, November 24** along with an all-church pitch-in lunch following the service. Everyone will attend Sunday school during the early hour and worship together during the second hour. Please bring a dish to share and join us for a time of fellowship and sharing. During the lunch there will be a brief time for church business to celebrate all that God is doing at First Baptist.

Immediately following the Harvest Celebration and Ministry Celebration, people will gather in the sanctuary for an informal time of decorating the church for Christmas. There will be a brief time of Christmas singing and reflection, and people will work to complete the church in readiness for Christmas. "Many hands make light work," so please plan to join in!

Helping Out with the Harvest Dinner & Food Baskets for Shut-ins

Member Care is looking for volunteers to help with our upcoming Harvest Dinner, and with preparation and delivery of food baskets for shut-ins. If you would like to volunteer, make a donation, or have questions, please contact Kendra Ervin at 744-2161 or email at Kendra2104@comcast.net

Betty Clark's 90th Birthday Celebration

The family of Betty Clark cordially invites the church family to join in a celebration honoring Betty on her 90th birthday. The reception will be held on **Saturday, November 16** from **1-3 PM** in the FBC Fellowship Hall. Cards are welcome. No gifts, please.

Missional Community Gathering

The Missional Community will meet at the church **Wednesday, November 6** at **5:30 PM**. Everyone in the church is invited to join us for dinner. We will gather for a pitch-in meal. Bring your children, your favorite dish, and join us for fellowship and discussion.

The Fall Missional Community Session goes through November. On the first week of the month (the first week begins with the first Sunday of the month), we will gather on Wednesday evening for a meal and family worship. This is a time to bring your favorite dish and your children for a shared meal and worship. We will keep the environment kid-friendly. The purpose of these gatherings is to connect with others in the Missional Community. On the second and fourth weeks of the month, everyone will meet in Life Groups in homes. On the third week of the month, we will gather as a large group for a mission project.

Missional Community Service Project for November

November's service project will be Tuesday evening, **November 19, from 6:30-8 PM** in the basement of FBC. We will be extending a gesture of appreciation to the staff members of our neighboring facility, Open Door Health Services. In the spirit of Thanksgiving, we want them to know they are appreciated for the work they do with the people in the community we all serve. Also, we are more than just another church in the area but a part of the fabric of the downtown community.

We will put together treat bags for staff members, with some candy and a simple note from us (FBC). I'm asking for families of FBC to donate bags of individually packaged candy for this project. Great to buy right after Halloween after they're marked down, but please don't buy candy that's "Halloween-y". Stacy Paille will deliver all of the treat bags on Wednesday, November 20, and if others want to join her, please let her know.

Operation Christmas Child

Filled boxes are due at the church **November 10**. If you need empty boxes, they are available in the basement. If you need tooth brushes and or tooth paste, see Jane Patton to receive free ones. If you have a question, call Jane 759-8276. Thank you for your participation in this most worthwhile project.

All Saints Day Presentation to Honor Departed

On **Sunday, November 3**, in both services, we will commemorate the lives of those in our church family who have passed away in the last year. Special thanks to Mary Ann Bayer and Roger Morency for arranging this tribute.



Thank You Notes

Gene Carr and Family – Thank you for your prayers, flowers, support, and service with lunch for our family! Mary loved her church family. God bless you!

Calendar

Sundays – 9:15 AM Early Gathering/Early Sunday School (Intergenerational Class, K-5th grade, Junior & High School), 10:15 AM Fellowship Time (enjoy coffee, donuts, and fellowship), 10:45 AM Late Gather-

ing/Late Sunday School

Tuesdays – 7:00 PM - Friendship Class at Riverside Baptist Church

Wednesdays – November 6 & 20 (10 AM) - Bible Study at Riverside (Jan Largent Leading)

November 13 (1 PM) - Midweek Bible Study at Riverside (Wade Leading). We will *not* have Bible Study on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

5:30 PM Pitch-in meal for those in Wednesday evening activities, 6:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal and Children's Choir/Kids Club, 7:10 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

No Wednesday evening activities on November 27 due to Thanksgiving

November 3 – Life Group Leaders Meeting (Rodriguez home)

November 6 – Missional Community Gathering

November 10 – Children's Fall Party

November 13 – Open Door Food Distribution and United Choir Rehearsal

November 16 – Betty Clark's 90th Birthday Party

November 18 – Ruth Drama Rehearsal and CCT Meeting

November 19 – Ruth Drama Rehearsal

November 20 – Life Group Leader's Meeting and United Choir Rehearsal

November 21 – Ruth Drama Rehearsal

November 23 – Ruth Drama Rehearsal

November 24 – Harvest Dinner and Fall Ministry Celebration

November 27 – No Afternoon Bible Study or Wednesday Evening Programs

November Birthdays

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

11/3 Lexi St. Myer

11/8 Michael Songer

11/11 Katie Braswell

11/11 Emme Hembree

11/12 Pam Barnhouse

11/13 Anderson Smith

11/13 Marsena Washburn

11/14 Betty Clark

11/17 Bethany Cummins

11/18 Darlene Hill

11/18 Britney Sue

11/21 Krista Mulcahy

11/23 Thelma Jones

11/24 Kara Conley

11/25 Dick Flaherty

11/26 Jim Butler

11/26 Brady Lemen
11/27 Dawson Allen
11/29 Maren French

11/29 James Martin
11/30 Gerry Minnick