

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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Muncie, Indiana 47305
Phone: 765-284-7749

Place
Stamp
Here



The Visitor
OCTOBER 2012

Cultural Changes

Wade Allen

We are living in a transitional period of time in the life of First Baptist Church Muncie. In many ways, we find ourselves in a drastically different world. Muncie is not the same city that it was 50 years ago; the world is not the same world. We have moved from being in the center of the community to being on the fringes. I am not talking about geographically, but culturally. For those of you who've been around a while, you may notice more empty pews these days. This is not a characteristic unique to First Baptist Church Muncie. It's happening all over the country. Thom Rainer tells us that **65%** of the Builder generation (born before 1946) attends church on a weekly basis. The next generation (Boomers, born between the years 1946 and 1964) is about* **35%***. Their kids (Generation X, born generally from the early 60s to the early 80s) attend church at rates around **15%**. The youngest generation (termed Generation Y, born from the mid 80s on) attends church at about **4%**.

It is mind boggling to see such a drop in church attendance. No doubt, our world is changing. It is clear that we cannot continue to pretend that we exist in 1950. We are called, as a congregation, to navigate these cultural changes as we follow the Spirit of God. In many ways, we are returning to the world much like the early church. We, as the church, are no longer in the center of society. We no longer have the prestige, the power, the privilege of building a big building and watching droves of people flock through our doors. Our posture will need to change; we will have to focus outwardly. A group of young adults has been discussing the cultural shifts and considering ways to navigate the changes in our world. At the beginning of 2013, a small group will be experimenting with new models of ministry, in order to reach our community with the message of Christ. I hope that each of you will pray that God will direct First Baptist Church Muncie as we respond to God's leading. I am sure

that God will resource this congregation to fulfill His calling. You will hear more of these experimen-

tal ministries in the coming months. I mentioned them now so that you will join me in praying for God's leading as we plan.

Genesis Series Update

We have been in a sermon series on the book of Genesis since the week after Easter. I hope that you have enjoyed working through the story together. I wanted to give you an update on where we are going in the month of October.

- October 7 - Invited to the Table (Genesis 42–43)
- October 14 - The Reality of Restoration (Genesis 45)
- October 21 - Provision (Genesis 45–46)
- October 28 - Surprise Blessing (Genesis 48)

I hope that you will take time to read the story before and after worship. May we be strengthened as we explore and engage the Scriptures together.

Robert's Ramblings

Robert Burton

I have a hard time believing I am 70 years old. I do not feel that old (if old can be considered a feeling). I can remember in college making remarks about old guys fifty or sixty years old. Now I am neither one of those. They are right when they say that the years go far more quickly than you realize. The truth is that, should our health hold out and the Lord tarry, we will all become senior citizens. In fact, the most rapidly growing age group in our country is the senior citizen bracket. This serves as a challenge to those who are a younger that an important ministry in the church today is to "prepare a place for you!" This is not to diminish the importance of church youth ministry. It is said, appropriately, that the church that neglects young people may very well die in due time. The same can be said of ministry to the elderly as well. In fact, should the church neglect any age group, it is derelict in its calling. There is now an official Senior Adult Council to enable such ministries for our two churches. Members of this Coun-

cil include Terry Harke (chair), Jane Patton, Bill Stevens, Mary Harry, and Barbara Wilson. I am an ex-official member. I look forward to working with this group to ensure that our two churches provide care and support for all our senior members, include those who are only 70 years old.

Speaking of Senior Adults, First Baptist is honored to host the annual Senior Adult Day for American Baptist Churches of Indiana and Kentucky on October 11.

Also, Sue Mutter is scheduling several travel opportunities in the near future. These include a trip to Bear Creek on November 8 and Beef and Boards on December 6. She is also planning a trip to Washington, DC next spring. Information and sign up sheets for these are posted at both churches. These are opportunities for us to experience events in a wholesome setting with each other. Traveling together is an important way to strengthen our fellowship. I fully support what Sue is doing and I trust you will as well.

Youth Fall Retreat

The youth will be traveling to South Haven, Michigan on *October 12–14, 2012* for their annual fall retreat. If you would be interested in attending, please contact Wade or Christy Allen. The cost for the weekend is \$100 (scholarships available).

Fall Ministry Celebration

On Sunday, *October 21 at 5 p.m.* we will be having our fall ministry celebration. This will be a quick business meeting combined with a meal. Meat will be provided and everyone is asked to bring a side dish. We hope that you will make plans to join us.

MEW Mentorship Update

Joining us this fall are two new Mary Elizabeth Wood Mentorship students, Dorene Chen and Brittany Jackson. Over the past two years the MEW Mentorship program provided previous students Bailey McElravy and Audrey Boyers and current student Cynthia Smith with learning opportunities in our faith community. Dorene Chen is a graduate student in Piano Performance and Pedagogy at Ball State University. She majored in English/International Broadcast in Sichuan International Studies University, Chongqing, China, and her learning goals include planning and leading music in worship and developing communication through publications in our church. Brittany Jackson is a senior Church Music major at Taylor University. As part of her education at Taylor, and in preparation for seminary, she seeks to gain learning experience in both planning and leading gathered worship and youth ministry. Please welcome these students as they join us to learn and grow through service in God's kingdom.

Suzy's Fun Trips

Bear Creek Farms November 8, 2012 Show: Red, White, & Blue Cost: \$61.00/person Includes: Coach, meal, show and tips

Beef & Boards Christmas Show and Dinner December 6, 2012 Coach, meal, show, and all tips.

To sign up for either of these trips please email slawson2@aol.com or call (765) 749-3484

Heaven Celebration

On Sunday afternoon, November 4, at 5 p.m., First Baptist Church will host a "Heaven Celebration" in memory of members and attendees of the church who have passed away since 2006.

In commemoration of All Saints Day, the event will be preceded the previous Sunday morning with a short tribute to those who have died in 2012. Then at the November 4 service, the celebration will focus on all those who have gone on in the past six years. "This is a chance to pay tribute to the dear saints of our church," said Molly Flodder, church council worship ministry coordinator. "Best of all, we will use the time to celebrate the home that God is preparing for all of us with scripture and inspirational and uplifting music." A supper will follow the service and childcare will be provided. Mary Ann Bayer has headed up the research for this project with help from Bill Eidson and Betty Clark. Jane Patton and Patty Stigers are assisting in planning the service. Anyone still needing to turn in a picture of their deceased loved one should drop it off to Will Drumright in the church office before Friday, October 12.

Meals Needed

As a result of complications Hijinia Chamboneth will be confined to bed for the remainder of her pregnancy (approximately 14 weeks). We would like to provide at least one meal per week to give Hijinia's mother some assistance. If you could help with this project, please call Barb Eidson at 284-4825.

Poetry Book

There is a new poetry book in the library. It was donated by Dan Maddox. It is in the library under 811 MAD. Please feel free to check it out this month.

Thank You Notes

From Kid Team Members – We appreciate the church being so patient to put up with the cluttered hallways all summer. The sunken room that had waste standing in it is now restored and in good working order for children's programming.

A special thanks to Mark Flodder and Ray Conley for assembling the cabinets that now house the clutter and to Dawson Allen for laying the tiles in that room. We appreciate all your hard work very much.

Stop by and see their good work.

Thanks!

Kid's Team Members.

From Sally Barrett – Dear Wade & FBC,

Thank you for your continual support. I have never been a part of a church that supports me financially, prayerfully, and relationally. I have felt cared for by the church body since day one. Although I am not technically a member I am honored to call myself one. Thank you and your wife for your guidance and sincerity.

Thank You,

Sally Barrett

Something Missing

If there is an event, story, photo or special thanks that you would like to put in the November newsletter, please email a request to 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 "September Newsletter" on the form or in the subject line of the email. The deadline for the information to be submitted is Wednesday, October 24!

Calendar

Sundays – 9:15 a.m. Early Gathering/Early Sunday School, 10:15 a.m. Fellowship Time, 10:45 a.m. Late Gathering/Late Sunday School, 4:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Tuesdays – 7:00 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study

Wednesdays – 5:30 p.m. - Evening Meal, 6:00 p.m. - Childrens' Program, 6:15 p.m. - Band Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m. - Bible Study & Handbell Rehearsal

October 4 – 4:00 p.m. - TEAMwork 6:30 p.m. - Children's Ministry Team Meeting

October 8 – 7:00 p.m. - Leadership Council Meeting

October 11 – 8:30 a.m. - Senior Adult Day

October 12-14 – Youth Fall Retreat

October 18 – 4:00 p.m. - TEAMwork

October 21 – 5:00 p.m. - Fall Ministry Celebration

October 25 – 6:00 p.m. - Circles Big View

October 28 – 5:15 p.m. - WAT Meeting

October Birthdays

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

1 Marcy Hollis
4 Amy Roberts
5 Edith Flaherty
6 Sarah Durham
11 Debbie Gregg
13 Stephen Reid
15 Lydia Burton
16 Jack KligenSmith
Muriel Michael
Gayle Songer
Joan Thornburg
17 Anson Tooley
19 George McGalliard

20 Donna Fouch
Edward Strother
21 Donn Roberts
Kameron Spangler
22 Autumn Earls
24 Mary Carr
Don DeWit
25 Ashlynn Randolph
Carolyn Shelton
29 Vicki Conley
Danyalle Nealy
Thomas St. Myer
31 Amelia Roberts