

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
309 E. Adams Street  
Muncie, Indiana 47305  
Phone: 765-284-7749

Place  
Stamp  
Here



**The Visitor**  
MAY 2013

## **Not My Words**

*Wade Allen*

I enjoy preaching Lectionary passages. The chosen texts allow us to experience various parts of God's Word. We are challenged to journey through the church seasons along with the rest of the world (all who follow the church calendar). Yet I also enjoy preaching through books of the Bible. The week to week consistency of remaining in one book allows us to build on the previous weeks. We are able to experience the totality of the book; we encounter the whole of the author's writing. As we make our way through Paul's letter to the Ephesians, I find his words extremely relevant to us. While Paul is writing to a church nearly 2000 years ago, his words strike a chord with us, First Baptist Muncie. His prayer highlights our calling as a church. His admonitions paint a picture of a healthy congregation.

It is no secret; we are transitioning as a congregation. The dynamics of how we operate are shifting. Our culture is drastically changing. Non-profits across the country are learning to live on less. We are trying to figure out what this means for us. New people are joining our church family. Our congregational makeup looks a bit different than just a few years ago. While we are saying goodbye to long time members, we are also welcoming young families; the nursery is nearly to capacity most weeks. For the first time in several years, we are able to field a softball team. How might these changes impact us? How can we remain on track with God's purposes for us?

I don't pretend to have all the answers. Our cultural and congregational shifts are complex and challenging. Yet I am sure God will lead us. A crucial element of our seeking God is our study of Scripture. As we move through Ephesians together, I am astounded by the pertinence of each text to our congregational life. I am reminded of Paul's letter to the Thessalonians.

(1 Thessalonians 2:13 NIV) And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.

The Thessalonians viewed Paul's letter as divine. They submitted to it; they allowed it to transform them. In the same way, we must allow God's Word to lead us, direct us. As we gather each week, we come with open ears and open hearts to God's Word. Scripture will do its work in us as we navigate necessary changes.

I am comforted by this. My words are incomplete; I need a compass to traverse the current landscape. God's Word points us in the directions we need to go. I am looking forward to engaging Scripture with you each week. I am with you in this; together we will submit to Scripture as it encourages, prompts, guides us into the future.

## Robert's Ramblings

*Robert Burton*

A pastor friend in Memphis remarked that you could always tell that things were going well at church when most of the people stayed and talked after the service was over. If something controversial was happening in the fellowship, they would all head to the parking lot and drive off. Well, a lot of people lingered for a long time after our first "official" senior adult event on Sunday April 21. Thanks to all who worked to make it a success: Terry Harke, all the people brought cookies and snacks, and especially everyone who lingered after the program was over. A special thanks goes to our speaker, Peter Walters who, basing his thoughts on the mercy of the father shown in the prodigal son story, challenged us as Christians to replace our suspicion of each other over our differences with mercy toward all regardless of who they are.

Our next big event will be **4:00 PM Sunday, June 2**. This will be a picnic for members of both of our churches and friends. The picnic will be held, weather permitting, in the parking lot shelter at First Baptist. The group Common Ground, who have been with us before, will sing. Mark your calendars for that date. Be sure to come, eat, listen to the music, and linger for a while after the program is over!

## Missional Community Service Project

On **Monday, May 13** from **6:30-8:30 PM**, the missional community will be cleaning up trash and debris at Westside Park (right off river road). Bring your kids and join the group in helping make Muncie a beautiful place.

## New Building at Camp Tippy

For those who love Camp Tippecanoe, it has long been a dream to provide a new dining hall in order to better serve our campers and to enhance our regional ministry of camping and conferencing. The dream is closer to becoming a reality with the commitment of a major gift from Ben and Ruth Ann Yantis, members of Metea Baptist Church.

An initial design is being prepared with input from Tippy's camp committee and the vision of camp manager, Rebecca Scott, and can be shared with interested churches and individuals later this spring. A complete proposal for the dining hall project will be reviewed by the region's Finance Committee before it is recommended to the Region Board, and we anticipate that the Board will be able to act upon the proposal at its July meeting. This timeline would allow for construction to begin following the 2013 camping season.

Perhaps you would feel led to support this project. Gifts of any amount are welcome. Checks should be made out to "First Baptist Church" with "Tippy Dining Hall Project" clearly indicated in the memo line. We will make sure that your gifts are directed toward the camp.

## Sermon Series in Ephesians

We continue in Ephesians through the month of May. We hope that you will take time to prepare for worship as you read the text for each week.

- May 5 - Mystery Unraveled (Ephesians 3:1-12)
- May 12 - Rooted in Love (Ephesians 3:14-21)
- May 19 - Pastor Celebration Sunday, Alistair Brown
- May 26 - Unity in the Body (Ephesians 4:1-6)

## Pastor Celebration Sunday

On **Sunday, May 19**, we will celebrate, as a congregation, our pastor. In June 2012, Wade graduated from Northern Seminary with the Doctor of Ministry degree. In September 2013, Wade will celebrate his 20th anniversary of ordination. On this special Sunday, we will have a combined worship service at 10:45 AM followed by a celebration lunch. Alistair Brown, President of Northern Seminary, will be preaching in worship. Plan to join us on this special occasion.

## Alistair Brown at First Baptist

We are pleased to have Alistair Brown with us in worship on May 19. Dr. Alistair Brown is an ordained Baptist pastor from the UK who has served as President of Northern Seminary since 2008.

His early career was in journalism with 'The Scotsman,' but he committed his life to Christ at age eighteen and soon felt called to a life of Christian service.

Originally from Edinburgh, Dr. Alistair Brown studied at the University of Edinburgh and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree with merit and a Bachelor of Divinity degree with Honors. He went on to earn a PhD with a dissertation examining metaphors of baptism in the Pauline literature. Dr. Brown also earned an MBA from The Open University.

He was ordained in 1981 and pastored two churches in Scotland. One was a new church plant and the other a 100-year-old city center church. Both saw extensive growth during those years. In 1996, Dr. Brown was appointed General Director of the Baptist Missionary Society, founded in 1792 by William Carey, and he moved to its headquarters in Oxfordshire, England. These were fruitful years, with major reorganizations and travel overseas which took his number of countries visited to over forty.

Moving to the Presidency of Northern Seminary has been a change of role and change of country. It has proved to be a strategic time for his leadership gifts, and the seminary has experienced new life and growth.

Alistair is married to Alison, and they have four adult children and two grandchildren.

## Sunday Lunch Fundraiser in June for Camp Barnabas

The youth will be hosting a Sunday Lunch on **Sunday, June 9** following the late Sunday School/Gathering Hour. Plan to stick around for lunch and make a donation for the youth mission trip to Camp Barnabas. Camp Barnabas is a Christian camp for kids and teens, ages 7 to 17, with life-threatening illnesses and disabilities in Purdy, Missouri. Our teens serve the campers throughout the week.

## Teamwork Appreciates First Baptist

In the seven years that First Baptist has graciously made the kitchen area, lower auditorium and childcare areas available to TEAMwork for Quality Living, more than 17,000 meals have been served to more than 750 different people each Thursday evening, and each week strong, supportive relationships have been built with more than 75 families working to leave poverty. And TEAMwork wants to say "Thank You!"

**Thursday, May 9**, from **6-8 PM**, the Circle Leaders who are moving to financial independence, and their Allies, who are their intentional friends and accountability partners, want to invite you to come to fellowship and to witness their gratitude.

Anyone who is part of the FBC family is invited. For the purpose of having plenty of food, e-mail [angelic@teamworkql.org](mailto:angelic@teamworkql.org) or call 747-7158 if you'll be attending.

## Pentecost Choir Rehearsals

A special Pentecost Choir will be rehearsing on **Wednesday, May 8**, **Wednesday, May 15**, and **Saturday, May 18**. The choir will perform on **Sunday, May 19** in a combined worship service. All are invited to participate. Please contact Matt if you are interested in singing.

## Volunteer Appreciation Lunch

A Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon will be **Wednesday, May 8th** at **11:30 AM** in the lower auditorium. It will be a time to say thank you to the volunteers who give their time to work in the church office throughout the year, answering the phone and receiving workmen and visitors who stop by our church. Spouses are invited. Please RSVP by Monday, May 6th to Gayle Songer at 744-0991.

## Final Wednesday Evening Dinner for the Season

**Wednesday, May 22** will be the final Wednesday evening meal for the season. Prayer Shawl, Children Program, Handbells, Bible Study and Choir Rehearsal will resume following Labor Day.

## Open Door Passing Out Food at First Baptist

In May, Open Door Ministries will be passing out food to needy families from 7:30-9:30 AM on selected dates. If you know of someone who could use help with food, please let Duane Davis know. If you would be willing help out pass out food, contact Terry Harke. We will publish dates in the bulletin as they are available.

## First Baptist/Riverside Picnic on June 2

The FBC & RABC Picnic will be held at FBC on **June 2, 2013 at 4:00 PM**. Meat, drinks, and table service will be furnished. Please bring a dish or two to be shared. Our guests will be the Friendship Class from RABC, The YWCA, and other special guests. Common Ground will provide the music. There will be a freewill offering for them. Weather permitting we be outside so please bring a lawn chair.

## Survivor Voices

Dr. Michael Williamson has organized a celebration choir made up entirely of cancer survivors called *Survivor Voices*. They will be celebrating surviving cancer in song at these upcoming events. Please attend if your schedule allows.

**Saturday, May 18 7:30 PM- Civic Theatre Mainstage - Benefit Concert for Little Red Door**

**Friday, June 14 7:00 PM - Relay for Life at Delaware County Fairgrounds**

**\*\*Friday, June 21 at 12:00 PM - Mini-Concert at IU Health-Ball Memorial Hospital statewide Cancer Center Leadership Seminar-South Tower**

## Thank Yous

**Hopewell Church** – Thank you so much for allowing our church to stay at your church for Acquire the Fire! It was the most beautiful church we have ever seen and we gratefully appreciate you allowing us to stay! May your church be extremely blessed!

**Youth and Leaders at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church** – Thank you for allowing our youth group to stay at your church when we attended Acquire the Fire. Your hospitality and generosity are greatly appreciated!

**Dan & Reba Woods** – Just wanted to say thanks for your generous support of our daughter and son, Cynthia & Aaron from your church. May God bless you!

**Betty Brown** – Thank you so much for the flowers, cards, and prayer during my surgery and recovery. It means so much to know others are remembering me and lifting me up in prayers. I am improving every day and will soon be as good as new. Love, Betty Brown

**Brent & Brittany Burget** – Words cannot express our appreciation for all of the kindness & support for our FBC family. From prayers, hugs, the flowers, meals, & for the delicious meal following the service. Thank you so much for everything.

**Family of Frank Arthur** – Thank you for all the prayers, cards, and visits during Frank's recent illness and death. The family greatly appreciated Matt & Wade's visits to Frank and the peace lily sent for his funeral. Thank you for sharing Christ's Love.

## Calendar

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

**Wednesdays** – Wednesday evenings are a time for various programs, rehearsals and a shared meal. Prayer Shawl (4:30), Meal (5:30), Children Program (6:00), Handbells, Bible Study, other special meetings (6:30) and Choir Rehearsal (7:40). The final Wednesday evening for the season is **May 22**.

On the first Wednesday of each month, Missional Community Large Group Gathering will take place at 6:00 PM. Life Group Leaders Meetings are on the first and third Wednesday at 7:00 PM. The Missional Community will break for June and July, resuming in August.

**May 1** – Large Group Missional Community Meeting (6:30 PM)

**May 5** – Special Called Business Meeting (10:30 AM)

**May 6** – Transform Muncie Prayer Time (7:00 PM)

**May 8** – Volunteer Appreciation Lunch (11:30 AM), Pentecost Choir Rehearsal (6:30 PM)

**May 13** – Missional Community Service Project (Westside Park)

**May 15** – Pentecost Choir Rehearsal (6:30 PM)

**May 18** – Pentecost Choir Rehearsal (9:00 AM)

**May 19** – Pastor Celebration Sunday

**May 20** – Church Coordination Team Meeting (7:00 PM)

**May 22** – Final Wednesday Evening Programs for the Season

**May 29** – Music Discernment Team Meeting (6:00 PM)

## 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.

1 Kortney Criswell  
4 Troy Hershman  
5 Duane Davis  
Joy McConnell  
6 Terry Harke  
7 Daniel Bouton  
9 Sally Butler  
Roger Morency  
12 Kathleen Fox  
13 Phyllis Jennings  
Gretchen Reid  
16 Andrew Bouton  
Molly Flodder

Allen Shelton  
19 Sarah Harker  
21 Brian Clements  
Lois Craig  
Carolyn Hershman  
22 Kim Lee  
23 Alyvia Smith  
25 Jackson Crawford  
Darlene Shulze  
28 Ethan Hudson  
29 Patti Warner  
31 Camila Green