

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

Place
Stamp
Here



The Visitor
SEPTEMBER 2012

Unity

Wade Allen

As the leaves begin their annual transition to red, yellow and orange, we find ourselves on the other side of two major church decisions. We have much to celebrate as a unified congregation. In this calendar year, we have changed our Sunday morning schedule and hired an associate pastor. These are major decisions for any church. The potential for conflict and dissension is great when a church makes significant changes. Yet, we have discerned together God's leading and have navigated these changes with great unity. In both decisions, we took considerable time to listen and consider all options. The leadership groups were sensitive to God's promptings and were careful to involve all voices in the decision. Everyone may not be happy with the outcomes (100% agreement on any decision is truly an impossibility), yet God seems to be bringing unity to our congregation. So where do we go from here? There are more decisions to make, more changes that will be required in coming years. Our fast changing world will re-

quire us to adapt. But for now, we can celebrate unity in what might have been a season of division. Certainly, we have seen our share of discord and strife. I am thankful for the progress we have made together as a congregation. As Paul wrote in Colossians, "(Colossians 3:12-14 NIV) Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity." At First Baptist Church Muncie, we are learning the value of humility and gentleness. We are learning to forgive as Christ has forgiven us. We are experiencing a unity in the faith that will prepare us for all that God wants to accomplish through us in the future. May we continue to move forward as one body fulfilling God's mission in our community.

Genesis Series Update

We have been in a sermon series on the book of Genesis since the week after Easter. I had hoped to work through the book in about 20 to 25 weeks. However, as we are nearing the end of the book, I am finding that we will need to expand the series a few weeks. As I have explored the upcoming texts, I have found that we will need more time to score the story. Otherwise, we will find ourselves shortchanged in our study of this tremendous book. I would like to give you a brief update for we will be in the month of September. The series will probably extend until mid-November, just in time for Advent.

- September 2 (The Reconciliation of Jacob and Esau, Genesis 33)
- September 9 (The Coat of Many Colors, Genesis 37:1–4, 12–28)
- September 16 (Potiphar's Wife, Genesis 39)
- September 23 (Joseph trusting God in Prison, Genesis 40)
- September 30 (Joseph going from Prison to Pharaoh, Genesis 41)

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.

Obedient Action

For the past three years, a group of young adults have met weekly for Bible study and prayer. As their lives have shifted (kids, marriage, job transitions), they have sensed God moving among the group. This summer, they have been working through a process of discernment; they have asked God to lead them toward His next steps for them. To be precise, the question they asked was,

Reflecting on what God has taught us, how is He calling this group to action so that our efforts might be expanded for the benefit of the church and the community?

They have been intentional about meeting, praying and discerning God's leading. In the last week of August, they completed this process. God seems to be calling them to new action. They developed this statement,

God is calling some of us to step out of this existing group in order to begin (lead) new groups in our church (perhaps missional groups). Some of us feel that God has called us to stay as this group. This will open the group to others (allowing this group to be accessible) so that the they may be discipled as we have been.

What will this look like? How will these young adults move forward in this calling? Who will step out? Who will remain in the group? There is still work to be done to determine what happens next.

It seems appropriate to celebrate the thoughtful discerning of our young adults. It is never easy to change and shift life patterns; it is never easy to sacrifice our comfort in order to reach out. This group has opened itself to God's calling. They are obediently moving forward in their response to Him. Thank God for the faith and obedient action of this group!

In the coming months, group members will willingly step out to discern new initiatives. Please keep them in your prayers as they consider this calling. I look forward to what God is going to do with the courageous step that this group has taken.

Robert's Ramblings

Robert Burton

On Sunday, October 7, 1962, a group of people met to worship at Westview School in Muncie. That was the beginning of what came to be Riverside Avenue Baptist Church. Sunday September 30, 2012 will mark the end of the first fifty years for Riverside. This will be a day of celebration. Laine Julian, son of former pastor Charles Julian, will preach that day at the 10:45 service. A hog roast on the church grounds will follow at 12:30. Around 2:30, once everyone has eaten, there will be a music program featuring many friends and former Riverside members. Members of First Baptist and everyone in the community are invited to these events. Those who plan on coming are encouraged to leave a message at either First Baptist (284-7749) or Riverside (288-3463) in order to help us with an estimate for preparations. If no one answers, please leave a message on the machine.

The Friendship Class will resume on Tuesday, September 11 at 7:00pm. Several of us will be attending a planning session at Sonrise Camp in Anderson the preceding Tuesday, September 4. We

will be joining with workers from other Friendship Classes from across the state and surrounding region. I want to give my personal word of appreciation for those who have worked with this ministry these past two years. I also want to extend an invitation for others to join us and be part of this program. The Friendship Class is a vital ministry and an important witness of our churches to a significant part of the community. If you are not part of this at present and are interested, I would encourage you to give this prayerful consideration. If you feel so led, please see me or Jane Patton.

The Friendship Class is but one example of the many ministries that have emerged from Riverside. Perhaps those worshipers who met for the first time at Westview School could not have imagined all ministries like this would have resulted from what they were beginning. However, I think they would be deeply gratified if they could have seen all the things that have happened over the next fifty years as a result. We do not know what will happen over the course of the next fifty years. My prayer is that, in whatever unfolds ahead, we would be gratified.

Riverside Avenue Baptist Church 50th Anniversary

On **September 30th** Riverside Baptist will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary. There will be a Hog Roast at **12:30 p.m.** followed by a program at **2:00 p.m.**. If you plan to attend please bring a dish or two to share. A lawn chair is also recommended. Please make plans to join Riverside in celebrating 50 years.

IU Health Ball Memorial Hospice Volunteers

The IU Health Ball Memorial Hospice is seeking volunteers 18 years of ages and older to provide support to patients and their families at the end of life. Volunteers can provide support in a variety of ways. Some of the main ways that volunteers provide support to patients and their families is through companionship, running errands, and being willing to be a good listener. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Phil Crofford at (765) 747-4273 or pcrofford@iuhealth.org

Crop Walk

First Baptist Church is participating in the annual Crop Hunger Walk. The walk will be held on **Sunday, September 30th at 2p.m.** starting at Riverside UMC on Wheeling. If you would like to participate, please contact Roger Morency to get a form. You can also participate by going online to

www.churchworldservice.org/goto/fbcmuncie

and make an online donation. 25% of the funds collected will go to the local Christian Ministries office to help fight hunger in our community. The rest goes to feed the hungry around the world. Please consider helping out by raising money and walking or by making a donation. **Note:** if donating by check, please make checks payable to CWS/CROP. Thanks!

Choir Rehearsals

Choir Rehearsals will be held on Sundays at **4:00 p.m.** beginning on **Sunday, September 16**. The choir will no longer meet on Wednesday evenings. If you are interested in joining the choir please email Matt Headley matt@fbcmuncie.org

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).

YFC Ministry Dinner

September 11 at 7–8:30 p.m. - Muncie Area Youth for Christ (YFC) will host a dinner & presentation in our church building to share the ministry vision of making disciples in local schools. All adults and youth who want to learn about this ministry are invited. Childcare will be provided. RSVP by Wednesday, September 5 to Matt Headley: matt@fbcmuncie.org or 765-405-0536 .

YFC Student Leader Retreat

September 29–30 7 p.m.–3 p.m. - Muncie Area Youth for Christ (YFC) will host a retreat for high school & middle school students who want to learn how to share the gospel of Jesus with their peers. The retreat will include dinner, games, discipleship training, sleeping over in the church building, joining FBC in worship on Sunday and lunch. Cost is \$20; scholarships available. If you know a student who may be interested in attending, please contact Matt Headley: matt@fbcmuncie.org or 765-405-0536 .

Oasis Needs

The Oasis Campus Ministry at Ball State is in need of the following items for one of our rooms (they need to be in good shape):

- A dresser
- A small desk and chair
- Tea Kettle that can be heated on the stove
- A heavy cooking pan for the kitchen
- Several pots and pans for the kitchen

Schedule for Tuesday Night Small Group

The Tuesday night small group will be rotating meeting locations through the month of September. Please check the dates below for the host families. During these meetings they will be meeting for a meal & prayer together. If you have any questions please email Patty Stigers at: ptstigers@tayloru.edu

September 4 – Tom & Kara St. Myer

September 11 – Eli & Katie Bell Richardson

September 18 – Eric & Stacey Paille

September 25 – Tim & Patty Stigers

Thank You Notes

Youth Group – Thank you to all who supported the youth by making a donation towards the corn fundraiser. The youth raised over \$175.

We also want to thank Joe Walker and Dawn Smith for donating part of their corn crop, and giving the youth an opportunity to raise money for their trips.

Patti Warner – Dear Church Family,

I want to thank you for your prayers, the lovely flower, food and cards that I received during my back surgery and recovery this summer. God is Good! We praise Him for all these blessings.

Patti Warner

Something Missing

If there is an event, story, photo or special thanks that you would like to put in the October 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 Tuesday, September 25!

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

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

Wednesday – 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

September 4 – Church Office Closed for Labor Day Holiday

September 8 – 8:30 p.m. - Choir Retreat

September 10 – 7:00 p.m. - Leadership Council Meeting

September 11 – 7:00 p.m. - YFC Ministry Dinner

September 13 – 6:00 p.m. - Senior Adult Day Planning Meeting

September 23 – 1:00 p.m. - Worship Arts Team Meeting

September 27 – 6:00 p.m. - Circles Big View: County Commissioners Candidate Forum

September 29–30 – 7:00 p.m. - YFC Student Leader Retreat

September 30 – 12:30 p.m. - Riverside 50th Anniversary Celebration & Hog Roast

September Birthdays

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

1 Monty Stinson	15 Dick Randall
Sam Stinson	16 Elizabeth Ratchford
2 Harry Irwin	17 Chloe Durke
4 Molly Flodder	18 Gene Warner
Nancy Stinson	21 Ella Mae Lemen
5 Edith Ford	23 Michael Bade
8 Cathy Henderson	24 Makayla Butler
10 Alex Harker	Tyler Cummins
11 Helen Heath	Polly Ratchford
Arch Mutter	25 Lynn Scisoe
Joan Thornburg	27 Mary Van Deventer
13 Will Drumright	28 Anna Ratchford