

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

Place
Stamp
Here



The Visitor
NOVEMBER 2012

Office Hours

Wade Allen

A few months ago, my son's friend (a middle schooler) asked me a question. Knowing that I am a pastor, he wondered about my work week. "What do you do all week?," he asked, "Do you clean the church or something?" He pictured me sitting in my office during the week with little to do. Maybe vacuuming the sanctuary or cleaning windows would keep me from getting too bored. While we may laugh at this kid's honesty, perhaps some of you wonder how I spend my time. It is honest to say that I never run out of work. Many high-profile pastors have struggled with issues of life and time management. Some have neglected their families in light of a "higher" calling. Others have neglected their bodies, failing to exercise and eat right due to hurried schedules. A few weeks ago, Matt and I spent an entire day outlining our job/ministry descriptions. It became clear that we rarely work a 40 hour week; most of our weeks are 55–60 hours. So what takes up all this time?

Why are pastors so busy? While Matt and I serve different roles in this congregation, our work patterns are similar. We spend time preparing sermons or planning worship, leading teams of volunteers in ministry, reading current literature on theology and church life, caring for those who are sick or bereaved, communicating (through church publications or blogs), connecting with the larger Muncie community and spending time in relationship with people. Our work day is not 9-to-5, it is unpredictable and we don't always have a weekly pattern. Evening meetings and late night emergency calls sometimes interrupt family time and sleep. Indeed, we have to work hard to keep balance in our lives. While it may be difficult to define the work of a pastor, the primary purpose of our role is to lead this congregation in following the calling of God in our lives. This may involve conversation in a coffee shop, lunch with someone who is struggling, a visit with a hospital pa-

tient, connecting with other church leaders in the community or sequestering for prayer and study. Our work often needs to take place outside of the church office. Because of the fluctuating nature of our work, it is difficult to predict where we may be at any given time on any given day. If you drive to the church office, you may or may not find us there. Nevertheless, I want you to know that your pastoral staff is accessible. Our cell phone numbers are published in the church bulletin; please feel free to call or text us. We will gladly speak with you on the phone or schedule an appoint-

ment. Some may feel hesitant about calling; it may seem that your concern or question is insignificant. Therefore, we are providing a staff contact request form in the church office. Please fill free to fill this out to request a contact with Will, Robert, Matt or myself. Sometimes a 9-to-5 job seems appealing; predictability in schedule offers benefits. However, I love the work that God has called me to. And while I am rarely needed to vacuum or clean windows in the church, I do receive such assignments at home.

Robert's Ramblings

Robert Burton

A special word of appreciation should go to all who helped make the Senior Adult Day for ABC of Indiana/Kentucky on October 11 a success. Shirley Pittenger did an outstanding job of pulling us all together on this effort. She asked for at least 30 to help decorate the church and make preparation. Over 40 responded! Terry Harke did an amazing job of working out a lot of details, as usual. Arch Mutter drove the van back and forth between FBC and Riverside for all the workers. Ray Conley and Jim Petroviak worked late several nights painting and decorating the rest rooms in the basement

in time for our guests to arrive that day (while Joe Songer and others supervised!). The program speakers were all excellent. (If I did not know better, I would have thought that old lady in the skit with Shirley looked a lot like her daughter Kelly!) The only glitch was when the caterers were late bringing lunch, but every one was understanding and made good use of the time for fellowship with one another and allowed a shift in the schedule for some of the afternoon events to take place earlier. All in all, it was a good day. Thank you to all who worked to make it possible.

Missional Communities

The Young Adult small group that has been meeting for the past three years has been working through a season of discernment. The group is continuing to meet through the end of the year as it closes this season of ministry.

In January, the group is shifting its focus to what some call *Missional Communities*. The group will be doing a pilot missional community to explore the possibility expanding this model church wide. A team has been formed to plan and implement this ministry in January. We will keep you updated in the coming months. Please keep this group in your prayers as they discern God's leading.

Annual Harvest Dinner

We will have our annual Harvest Dinner Sunday, November 18th following a combined service at **10:45 a.m.** Meat and drinks will be provided. Please bring a dish to share. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Vickey Conley at 749-3015 or pconley01@comcast.net.

Children's Musical Jonah

On Sunday morning, **November 18th, at 10:45 a.m.** we will have a combined service. A highlight of that morning will be the presentation of the musical "Oh, Jonah" by a group of our children. We hope you will keep this ministry in your prayers and will support the children by your presence.

Food Baskets for Shut-ins

We need volunteers to assist in assembling and delivering food baskets to shut-ins. We will be doing this Saturday, November 10th at **9:00 a.m.** in the lower auditorium.

Please contact Polly Ratchford at 748-6019 .

Harvest Sunday Donations

Reach out to our community's hungry by bringing a non-perishable item or items each Sunday through **November 18 (Harvest Sunday)** which will be donated to the Muncie Mission Pantry. All foods are needed that would provide nourishing meals for individuals and families. Such items might include: jello, peanut butter, canned meats, fruit, veggies, instant potatoes, dry or packaged milk or soy milk, pudding and so on. Please share God's Blessing that we have received in abundance with others who are struggling to feed their families during these rough economic times. A collection box will be located in the Welcome Center (Church Office). Questions may be directed to Thelma Jones @ 288-4830 or Sally Jones @ 288-4968.

Washington D.C. Trip

Washington DC trip, May 16-21, 2013, \$699.00 includes hotel, 8 meals, tour guide, all tips, baggage handling. For more info contact Sue Lawson-Mutter at 765-749-3484, Archie-765-744-9088 or 765-284-3069, email @ slawson62@aol.com

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 in heaven 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. We hope that you will make plans to join us for this celebration.

Sermon 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 November. We will conclude the Genesis series mid-month with two special services toward the end of the month.

- November 4 - The Destiny of Jacob's Sons (Genesis 49)
- November 11 - A Closing Scene (Genesis 50)
- November 18 - I Don't Want to Go (Jonah)
- November 25 - Katy Kessler (Ministry in China with Disabled Kids)

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.

Thank You Notes

Howard & Nova Jarvis – To our First Baptist Family,
Thanks so much for your needed prayers and for the flower. God is so good.
Your friends in Christ,
Howard and Nova Jarvis

The Say Family – Dear First Baptist Church,
I want to thank you for all the help you have provided to our family. The list is endless and I know Jesus is the sole provider of these things. Without this help I don't know where we would be today. I wish there was something I could do to repay you for all of your help. Each and every one of you is special in my heart and all are in my prayers. Thank you for sending Brandi to camp Barnabas, that was a once in a lifetime experience. A special thank you to Barb & Bill Eidson for all they do for us.

Thank you so much!
The Say Family

Something Missing

If there is an event, story, photo or special thanks that you would like to put in the December 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 Monday, November 26!

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

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

November 4 – 3:00 p.m. - Thanks-singing Festival 5:00 p.m. - Heaven Celebration & Dinner

November 8 – 4:00 p.m. - Teamwork

November 12 – 7:00 p.m. - Leadership Council Meeting

November 15 – 4:00 p.m. - Teamwork

November 18 – 10:45 a.m. - Combined Worship Service 12:00 p.m. - Harvest Dinner

November 27 – 7:00 p.m. - MSG Meeting

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.

3 Lexi St. Myer
8 Michael Songer
11 Emme Hembree
12 Pam Barnhouse
13 Anderson Smith

13 Marsena Washburn
14 Betty Clark
17 Bethany Cummins
18 Darlene Hill
19 Terry Criswell

21 Wanda McGalliard
23 Thelma Jones
24 Jim Butler
 Kara Conley
25 Dick Flaherty

26 Brady Lemen
27 Dawson Allen
29 Maren French
30 Gerry Minnick