

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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Place
Stamp
Here



The Visitor
AUGUST 2012

Continuing to Seek God's Direction

Wade Allen

As we step into the month of August, we are nearing the one year mark of our discernment process regarding church staffing. In August 2011, church leaders (a combined team of Church Council and Diaconate) entered a process of discerning: the question was future staffing at First Baptist Church. We embarked on a journey that took us through several activities (a prayer vigil, listening sessions, exploring outside sources and deliberation among leaders). The leadership team concluded that God was leading us toward an additional staff person who would have broad responsibilities; yet his/her focus would be in outreach and worship. This decision was presented to the congregation in October. A consensus vote revealed overwhelming support for this direction. Last winter, a search team was formed to identify a candidate to fill the position. The search team has been working for months surveying profiles, contacting potential candidates and interviewing candidates.

They have taken their work seriously; they have offered their best to determine God's leading in this matter. All of these efforts have led to a unanimous recommendation. The search team is proposing that we hire Matt Headley as Associate Pastor at First Baptist. Matt has been active in pursuing God's direction over the past few months. In the meantime, an opportunity for outreach with Youth for Christ was presented to him last month. After contemplating the options and conversing with Matt, the search committee has determined that Matt serving 3/4 time at First Baptist and 1/4 time with Youth for Christ will benefit everyone. On August 12, the membership will have an opportunity to vote on this proposal. This decision has not been in haste; it has taken almost a year to complete. The committee has followed a spiritual discernment process as they have deliberated, and members of the congregation have had input as well. As the church body is asked to finalize the

calling of an Associate Pastor in the coming weeks, I want you all to be assured of the due diligence of this team and in the process they have authen-

tically sought and indeed sensed God's leading in this decision.

Robert's Ramblings

Robert Burton

As this is being written, we are have just returned from a two week tour of the British Isles. We visited England, Guernsey (a British commonwealth nation and island in the English Channel), Ireland, Wales, and Scotland. One thing we observed was the Catholic/Protestant conflict in Ireland. Our Irish guides did not conceal their contempt for the British. On our side of the "pond", we tend to see that as a religious conflict. That is hardly the case. The seeds of the conflict have to do more with how the English dominated over other inhabitants of the islands, which included the Welsh, Scots, and Irish. Besides that, the English through the centuries were just plain not nice. They ruled with an iron and cruel hand. They were definitely the privileged class. Others, especially the Irish, were often deprived of basic rights. It was a matter of coincidence that the Irish were Catholic, while most of the English, thanks to Henry VIII, became Protestant and part of the Church of England. The continuing conflict between Catholics and Protestants in Ireland has much more to do with a history of oppression than it does with religious differences. While re-

sentment towards the English is most pronounced among the Irish, we did see traces of that among the Scots and Welsh as well. Also, among the Scots, Presbyterianism emerged as a religious distinction between them and the English.

Two thoughts come to me from this. One is a deeper appreciation for the events that led to the American revolution. Many under British rule, including our forefathers and mothers, resented the cruelty of the English. The other is a deeper appreciation for religious liberty. From time to time, we would see a Baptist or Methodist church on the side of the road as we passed through a town or village. I wondered how old those churches were and how their founders must have endured the cruelty of those in power in order to be free to worship as their hearts led them. We must not forget the struggle endured by those who came before us. We must also pay careful attention to how we treat those different from ourselves, so that we do not fall into the same trap of mistreating people in the same matter of the cruelty that our fore bearers endured!

Youth Camp Barnabas Trip

Our youth had a great week at Camp Barnabas. Please take a few minutes to see the pictures at <http://fbcmuncie.org/campbarnabas>

Here are a few comments from our participants.

Camp Barnabas was an awesome experience for me because I learned so much more about what being a Christian really means. We had so much fun as a cabin and that really helped the week go by smoothly. Leaving camp, I really felt like I knew the people I spent the week with my whole life. I don't know if all cabins were like that or not, but even the campers in my cabin were like having some brothers for a week. Everybody got along so great and I think that's what made this week so amazing. – **Dan Morency**

Camp was a great experience for me! I realized what life is like for people who work daily to provide for their families. waking up early and going to bed late takes a toll on a person and yet we still manage because we have to. This trip has taught me a lot about inner strength, obedience, respect, and discipline. Doing dishes, cleaning bathrooms and serving all day were hard but fun at the same time. My favorite part was hanging out with the cabin I was assigned to. I got very close to my campers even though I wasn't a CIA. The cabin I was with were all blind in some way and hearing them explain how life was like left me speechless. It was sad to see them go along with my other fellow barnstormers. I can't wait to go next year! – **Kayla Cooper**

I think camp Barnabas was a really good experience for me, it taught me how to serve others before I serve myself. I had a really amazing time. When we first got to the camp, I was so scared and nervous. I didn't know what to expect. I was a barnstormer at Camp Barnabas. It was super tough and hard but I really think it was worth my time & strength. My favorite part about being at camp would be meeting my campers and getting so much closer to God. I really can't wait to go next year! – **Brandi Say**

Camp Barnabas was a great experience! I really was taught to put others before myself. Even though I didn't have a 1 on 1 experience with a camper, I still was able to see how hard life is for some of the campers and how easy I really have it. That week I just put what I wanted to do aside and try my best to make the week amazing for the campers that I get to interact with. Being a barnstormer, I got to spend a little time with the campers, but not much. We mostly prepared for all the meals, served and cleaned. It was still really fun! I made a lot of new friends and enjoyed serving. I can't wait for next year! – **Dawson Allen**

Going to Camp Barnabas was a humbling experience for me. Although I was in a sibs cabin, I still learned a lot. I never realized how difficult it was to be a sibling to someone who is disabled. One skill that improved for me was patience. I feel like after camp I can be a better brother for my siblings. Camp strengthened my relationship with God, more than I imagined. – **Clayton Sherwood**

Camp Barnabas was definitely a learning experience for me this year. Going in, I was not expecting as much of a challenge as I ended up facing. I found myself with a difficult camper. This week was ten times harder than I expected it to be. It was hard for me because my camper lacked a lot of social graces, so it was hard getting her to listen and be kind to everyone, especially me. It really drained me both physically and mentally. I've learned that in times like that, you can't do it on your own. I've learned to rely on God when it feels like I can't go on any further. It's amazing what clarity can come out of sheer exhaustion. Barnabas never fails to bring me closer to God, and I can't wait to see what next year holds. – **Anna Allen**

Update from Sally Barrett

Hello First Baptist Family! After spending a year in Slovenia doing ministry with college students, I am back home for the summer. I will be returning in September; but, before I leave I would love to share my experiences with you. On **August 5** during the Sunday school hours (in the lower auditorium) I will be sharing pictures, stories, food, and ministry experience from my year. Please join me as I share the amazing things God is doing in the lives of students in Slovenia. - *Sally Barrett*

Associate Pastor Calling

The search team is recommending that the church call Matt Headley as Associate Pastor. Please mark two important dates on your calendar as you participate in this process.

- **Wednesday, August 8, 6 p.m.** - Church dinner (food will be furnished) and question and answer time with Matt and Heather (Childcare will be provided)
- **Sunday, August 12 (at the end of both services)** - Written ballot vote to call Matthew Headley as Associate Pastor of First Baptist Church

Shower for Heather Headley

All ladies are invited to a baby shower for Heather Headley ** Sunday, August 5, at noon** in the lower auditorium. Please RSVP to Christy Allen at wadechristy@gmail.com or 765-717-5229 if you are able to attend.

Minister to Senior Adults

As we consider hiring an Associate Pastor this month, we naturally consider the roles of current staff. When we began the search process a few months ago, **Robert Burton** proposed a revised job description for the role of Minister of Pastoral Care. Robert is a tremendous asset to both First Baptist and Riverside Baptist. His love for Christ and his gifts in ministry are aptly suited for both contexts. He has been serving First Baptist primarily in the role of pastoral care. Robert visits hospitals and nursing homes; he cares for those who are physically ill. At the same time, Robert is active in a wide variety of ministries at First Baptist including leading Bible studies and participating in the choir.

As we transition by adding an associate pastor, Robert's job description will shift. He will move from pastoral care to a broader role of **Minister to Senior Adults**. Robert will continue to serve both churches by focusing on ministries for seniors. Wade, the Associate Pastor, and Robert will equally share the pastoral care responsibilities. We look forward to this transition as Robert continues to serve First Baptist and Riverside.

Teamwork Circles Big View

On Thursday evening, **August 23**, FBC family as well as other members of the community are invited to attend a candidates' forum as part of TEAMwork for Quality Living's weekly meeting, held in the lower auditorium.

Sue Errington and Brad Oliver, democrat and republican candidates for state representative, respectively, will talk about the issue of poverty, their positions on services provided by government to the poor, and what needs to happen to reduce poverty in our communities.

Dinner is at 6 p.m. and the program will follow.

If you plan to attend, call Angelic at 747-7158 or e-mail: americorps@teamworkql.org

Young at Heart Camp

Here is a chance to feel like a kid (at heart) again!

Ages 55+ are welcome to join us at Tippecanoe camp and retreat center lodge on September 4, 5, & 6. The cost of the camp is \$80. If you are interested please use regular camp registration forms on the Camp Tippy website: tippy@embarqmail.com If you have any other questions about this event please email Shirley Pittenger at: jpittenger2@juno.com

Riverside 50th Anniversary Coming Up

Just a quick reminder for you to mark your calendars for **Sunday, September 30**. Riverside Baptist Church will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary. Laine Julian will be preaching in the morning service (10:45 am). A hog roast on the grounds will follow the service. Everyone at First Baptist is invited to join. At 2 pm, a music program will be provided by former members and friends.

Thank You Notes

from Sally Jones – Thank you for your love, prayer, and concern during my father's (Jim Bates) passing earlier this month. The peace lily sent in memoriam at the funeral is beautiful and I hope to be able to keep it looking that way. The love from this community of faith covered me like a warm blanket on a chilly night. God Bless, *Sally Jones*

from Katy Kessler – I want to express my gratitude for your support both financially and prayerfully for my trip this summer. China is only 3 weeks away and I am so excited to see what God has planned for our team. I am also eager to return and share with you how God moved in the orphanages. Thank you again! In Him, *Katy Kessler*

from Betty Brown – Thank you so much for the lovely flowers/It brightened my stay at the hospital, just knowing you were thinking of me. Thank you too for your prayers. Your kindness will be remembered with love and gratitude. Love in Christ, *Betty Brown*

Summer Schedule for Tuesday Night Small Group

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

August 7 – Tim & Patty Stigers

August 14 – Chad & Colleen Massoth

August 21 – Aaron & Cynthia Smith

August 28 – Adam & Jessica Fink

Something Missing

If there is an event, story, photo or special thanks that you would like to put in the August 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 Thursday, August 23!

Calendar

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

Tuesdays – 7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study at Stigers

Wednesday – 6:15 pm Band Rehearsal

August 8 – 6:00 PM - All Church Dinner for Search Team Report and Q/A time with Matt and Heather Headley

August 12 – Following Both Services - Business Meeting to Vote on Associate Pastor Calling
4:00 PM - Youth Swim Party at Van Deventer's Home

August 13 – 7:00 PM - Leadership Council Meeting

August 23 – 6:00 PM - Circles Big View

August Birthdays

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

7 Don Jennings
Ginny Randall
9 Haleigh Criswell
12 Melva Ratchford
13 Irene Hiatt

15 Elijah Richardson
16 Chris Hill
17 Alexa Chamboneth
20 Brittney Say
21 Dana Davis

21 Barbara Turner
23 Stacey Paille
24 Tom Kistler
25 Fred Shulze
 Larry Van Deventer

27 Nova Jarvis
28 Cole Randolph
29 Carolyn Harke
31 Mary Anne Bayer