



The Visitor

Schedule Change

Wade Allen

In November, we began a discernment process to determine if we should alter our Sunday morning schedule. The Leadership Council spent considerable time exploring options. We entered a three-week period of listening toward the end of November. We examined other church schedules, surveyed the congregation and spent time in prayer. We assembled together around the first of December to discern the Spirit's movement among us. The Council developed a proposed plan that involved a concurrent schedule (9:15 Early Worship/Early Sunday School, 10:15 Fellowship Time, 10:45 Late Worship/Late Sunday School). On January 22 we met as a congregation to discuss this plan. This was an opportunity for feedback and ideas. At the end of this meeting we took a consensus vote to determine how everyone felt about this change. The results of the consensus vote were overwhelmingly supportive of the new schedule.

Therefore, we will initiate the schedule change on the Sunday following Easter (Sunday, April 15, 2012). On Easter we will meet in a combined worship gathering at the new late hour (10:45 a.m.). We will gather at 9:30 a.m. for an all church Easter Breakfast (No Sunday School on Easter). On Sunday, April 15, 2012, we will begin the new schedule:

- 9:15 Early Worship Gathering/Early Sunday School
- 10:15 Fellowship Time
- 10:45 Late Worship Gathering/Late Sunday School

So what about Sunday School? When will the various classes meet?

Here's the plan. During the early Sunday school hour (9:15 a.m.), we will offer two intergenerational Sunday school classes. One class will be topical/issues based from a biblical perspective. The second class will be a Bible study working through various books of the Bible. Current teachers will be asked to teach for set periods of time, depending on their interest and schedule. These classes will provide a place for college students, retirees and all ages in between to sit together in study. Youth and Children's Sunday school (including a nursery) will also take place during the early Sunday school hour.

In Worship

3/4/12

Remember and Turn

Wade Allen

3/11/12

The Wonder of the Lord

Wade Allen

3/18/12

A Thankful Heart

Wade Allen

3/25/12

Repentance

Wade Allen

SCHEDULE CHANGE CONT.

During the late Sunday school hour (10:45 a.m.), the Bykota, Two by Two and Friendship classes will meet. There will be a children's church class for younger children, as well as a nursery during this time.

We may need to make further tweaks as we live in this schedule. We are excited about the new possibilities this schedule offers. A full hour for Sunday school, consistent start/end times for everyone, and a full half-hour fellowship time are a few of the advantages for this schedule.

Please continue to keep this change in your prayers. Change is never easy; this is substantial change for our congregation. However, we will find God's provision as we follow his leading.

ROBERT'S RAMBLINGS

I believe I have mentioned already (only five or six times!) in this column that Riverside will be celebrating its fiftieth anniversary on Sunday, September 31 this year. We plan to send out a letter of invitation to people, especially those who have moved out of town, who have played a role in Riverside's story. This would not only include former members, but friends of Riverside through the years. This is where we need your help. Carolyn Hemminger, of Riverside, and Carolyn Harke, of First Baptist, have graciously agreed to keep a list of all the names and addresses of those who should be invited to attend this special occasion. As names come to mind for you, we would appreciate it if you would forward that information to one of the two Carolyns. Be sure to include all the information you have, including mailing addresses if available. Carolyn Hemminger can be reached at 288-3161; Carolyn Harke at 284-2852. Thank you for your help in this matter.



I remember a comment someone shared with me several years ago when I was considering a call to be pastor of a church. That person reflected on the untold number of people whose lives would be touched by the church through the years. When you consider the times a church assists families in need, gives support to the grieving, prays for and visits the sick, stands by those in times of crisis, teaches the young, provides fellowship for the elderly, gives stability to the neighborhood, challenges people to have faith . . . the list is seemingly endless. I do believe that one of the most effective ways to enhance, and indeed multiply, our witness is by being a part of a church. The calling we each have in the church, whether teaching, preaching, singing, giving, and especially praying, plays an important role in the Body of Christ in bringing His message to the world. I would challenge us each to renew our commitment to be a vital part of God's people. I also invite us to participate as well in those special occasions, including September 30 this year, when we honor the work of our churches through the years.

EASTER CANTATA

The music ministry is preparing an Easter cantata, Jesus is Alive!, for a combined worship service on Easter Sunday. All voices and instrumentalists are invited to participate. We would love to see you be involved. Choir rehearsals regarding the cantata will begin February 29th during choir rehearsals on Wednesdays at 7:40. Band rehearsals will begin in March. If you would like more information please contact Matt Headley or Cynthia Smith (cynthialucilesmith@yahoo.com).

ASSOCIATE PASTOR SEARCH TEAM

At the Monday, February 13, 2012 Leadership Council meeting, the leaders nominated the search team for the Associate Pastor. As you might remember, the church affirmed the decision to hire an Associate Pastor with primary responsibilities in Worship and Outreach in October. We have budgeted for the position beginning July 2012. The team needs to be approved by the Congregation.

On Sunday, March 04, 2012, there will be a brief business meeting to vote on the team nominees. You will vote “yes” or “no” on each nominee by paper ballot. The nominees come from a variety of ministry areas within the church. The meeting will begin at 10:15 a.m. and should last only a few minutes.

CHILDREN'S ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

Easter season is upon us. It is time to start looking forward to the Children's Annual Easter Egg Hunt. This is a favorite among the children and we always have a great time. We are asking for candy donations to fill plastic eggs. We hide a lot of eggs! Last year we had about 25 children - that's a lot of eggs, if you allow them to find more than 3 or 4! Our Easter Egg Hunt is April 7th. If you are able to help, please bring candy by April 1st to the church office. Thank you for your generosity from year to year.

The Children's Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, April 7 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the lower auditorium of First Baptist. Children from birth to 5th grade are invited to come. We have loads of fun hunting eggs, crafting, gaming, snacking and most of all focusing on what Jesus did for us on the Cross. If you are blessed with a child in your life, whether it be your own, a grandchild, niece/nephew, cousin, friend, etc, we would love to have them join our fun. If you have questions please contact Christy Allen 717-5229.

SOMETHING MISSING

If there is an event, story, photo or special thanks that you would like put in the February newsletter, please email a request to will@fbcuncie.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 “March Newsletter” on the form or in the subject line of the email. The **deadline** for the information to be submitted is **Tuesday, February 21!**

POVERTY AWARENESS WEEK

On March 10-18, 2012, 15 organizations will sponsor a poverty awareness week series of 28 events, designed to help the residents of Delaware County understand the problem and pervasiveness of poverty and the issues it creates for our community. This event is one of the 47 goals of the Muncie Action Plan, and TEAMwork for Quality Living, the local organization that empowers people to move to self-sufficiency, serves as project manager for the event.

Facing Poverty Book

A highlight among the events will be the Facing Poverty project, a soft-cover booklet containing 25 stories of people who have experienced poverty themselves or faced poverty by volunteering in the community. Those stories will be unveiled in two readers' theatre presentations on the opening day of the poverty week and on the final Friday evening. Civic Theatre actors and Ball State University theatre education students will provide the presentations.

Interactive, Experiential Opportunities

Among the activities are a health forum, business forum, education forum, a Food Stamp Challenge, poverty simulations, tours of local service providers, presentations to churches and opportunities for local residents to sign up to volunteer at organizations that serve people living in poverty. In addition, 15 households will have just completed their Getting Ahead training with TEAMwork for Quality Living and will be presenting the stories of their past, their present situations and the dreams of where they are headed in order to become financially self-sufficient.

Speakers, Opportunities to Give Available

A speakers' bureau will be available to speak in organizations and places of faith throughout the week for a brief overview or in-depth look at poverty.

For more information on other activities throughout the week please visit www.teamworkql.org or contact 747-7158 or bsw@teamworkql.org

MARCH BIRTHDAYS**We'd like to say Happy Birthday to the following
March birthdays!**

Adalyn Cummins - March 6
Sherri Papp - March 10
Bill Young - March 11
Nina Oisten - March 12
Julie Kirklin - March 13
Lisa Earls - March 14
Louise Head - March 15
Katie Beth Richardson - March 15
Shala Pugh - March 16
Erik Redmon - March 16
Richard Morrow - March 20

Wade Allen - March 21
Adam Fink - March 21
James Petroviak - March 21
Robert Ratchford - March 22
Cindy Hershman - March 24
Ian Reid - March 24
Dan Lemen - March 26
Christian Chamboneth - March 27
Dennis Londt - March 28
Heather Headley - March 29

MISSION SERIES ARTWORK

We are excited about a recent art project by Ball State student, Emily Theis. She has developed five pieces of art based on the First Baptist Muncie Mission statement. These five works now line the main hallway at First Baptist. If you have not had a chance to see these in person, we would encourage you to do so. Pictures of the artwork are on the back page of this Visitor and are also posted on the web site along with descriptions of each piece at: <http://fbcuncie.org/why-we-exist/mission-series-artwork/>

Here is a statement from Emily about the artwork.

“This project was conceptualized in response to a class requirement for voluntary investment in the community and birthed out of Godly timing and missionary vision. Each piece is intended to convey the layered meaning of the verbs in First Baptist Muncie’s mission statement, according to advantage of shape and color as well as tools of typography. With mindfulness for frugality in process and a humble creative intent, I pray these pieces will serve the congregation and community of First Baptist Muncie with visual reminders of purpose within the blessing of eternal perspective. I am unspeakably grateful to our loving Creator for the gifts of opportunity and ability to experience this project.”

MARCH EVENT CALENDAR

Sundays

9:15 a - Early Gathering

10:15 a - Sunday School

11:15 a - Late Gathering

Tuesdays

7:00 p - Young Adult Bible Study at Stiger’s

7:00 p - Friendship Class for Group Homes
(Riverside)

Wednesdays

10:00 a - Women’s Small Group at Riverside
(March 7 & 21)

4:00 p - Prayer Shawl Ministry

5:30 p - Wednesday Evening Meal

6:00 p - Children’s Program

6:15 p - Band Rehearsal

6:30 p - Handbell Rehearsal & Prayer Hour

7:40 p - Choir Rehearsal

March 4

10:15 a - Pastor Search Team Meeting

March 8

6:30 p - Children’s Ministry Team Meeting

March 10 - 18

Solving the Puzzle of Poverty Week

March 12

7:00 p - Leadership Council Meeting

March 18

4:00 p - GEMs & Teens

March 22

6:00 p - Circles Big View

March 24

9:00 p - Band Rehearsal

