



The Visitor

Fall Ministry Celebration

Wade Allen

In August, we gathered together for a meal; I shared with you about our mission as a church. It was a great time to share thoughts and visions about who we are as a church. We're going to gather again in October for the same sort of deal. On **October 23, 2011** we will meet in the lower auditorium at **5:00 PM**. As we share dinner together, we will talk about where we have been this year in ministry and where we hope to go in the upcoming months. This will be our quarterly business meeting; however, I hope that it will be a different experience than past business meetings. Too often our business meetings are just that, business. We are not a business; we are a community. We are a church family striving to live out our calling in the Kingdom of God. Our coming together should be to celebrate what God is doing and to discern how he is calling us to live in the future. It should be a time when each of us is able to express our understanding of the Spirit's movement among us. It should be a conversation, a time of listening to each other, sharing with one another.

The leaders of the church would like to share with you their experience working through a discernment process regarding staffing at First Baptist Church Muncie. There is no final decision at this point; our meeting in October is a part of the process. You will have an opportunity to share your thoughts; the team will share what they have experienced. Together, we will discern the movement of the Spirit of God among us.

I look forward to exploring this sort of format in our business meetings. I hope you plan to join us as we continue to explore ways that God might be calling us in ministry.

In Worship

10/2/2011

RE member

Wade Allen

10/9/2011

Body of Christ

Betsy Whaley

10/16/2011

The Main Thing

Wade Allen

10/23/2011

Building 1 Another

Wade Allen

10/30/2011

If Christ Has Not Been Raised...

Wade Allen

RECYCLING IS HERE AT FBC!

There are recycling bins with blue bags on each floor of the church: the kitchen, the fellowship hall, the office, and the choir room. The following items can be placed in these bins: newspapers, magazines, books, paper, corrugated and paper board packaging, aluminum, glass, plastic bottles & jugs: nos. 1 -7 plastic containers, and tin & steel products. Questions? Contact: Cynthia Smith, cynthialucilesmith@yahoo.com



ROBERT'S RAMBLINGS

Even though we are barely past the Riverside/First Baptist annual Fall picnic for this year, it is not too soon to share a very special event that will coincide with the same event for next year. Mark your calendars for **September 30, 2012**. That will be the celebration for the 30th anniversary celebration of the founding of Riverside Avenue Baptist Church. Plans are already underway. While we have yet to receive firm confirmations, we have already invited several people who played a significant role in Riverside's history. After anniversary celebrations during morning worship at Riverside, the activities for that day will conclude with the annual Riverside/First Baptist picnic, at Riverside (or First Baptist if it rains again!)

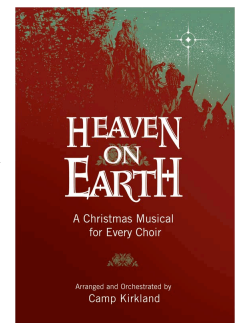


In spite of the rain, this year's picnic was a success, thanks to First Baptist for being the back up location because of the weather! The food was good, as always. (Thanks to all who prepared dishes and helped to set up and then clean up afterwards.) The entertainment by Jake Hendershot was first rate. At least \$230 was collected in honor of Jake for the Amyloidosis Foundation. I was especially moved by the variety of people who came, and who were welcomed. Men from the mission came, as well as members of the friendship class. There were university students, and families from the YWCA who attended. Someone commented that the diversity represented reminded them of how Jesus would have welcomed them all in. It was personally gratifying to witness. I think it is good to know that there is a small church, and a big one as well, whose doors are open to everyone in Jesus' name.

Amen

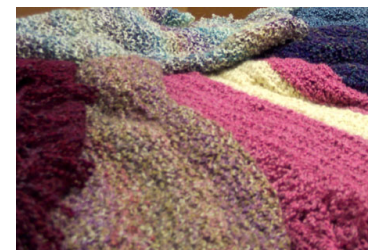
CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Rehearsals for the Christmas cantata, "Heaven on Earth" will be held each Sunday from 4:00-5:00 PM beginning on October 2. Everyone youth and up is welcome to become involved in rehearsals. "Heaven on Earth" will be presented on **Sunday, December 18 at 11:15 AM** during a combined worship service. If you have any questions please contact Cynthia Smith, cynthialucilesmith@yahoo.com.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Prayer Shawl Ministry meets each Wednesday at 4:00pm in the conference room. We welcome any newcomers who would like to participate in this ministry. Even if you don't knit or crochet, please join us and we will teach you. For more information contact Dana Davis at Twoddavis@aol.com, 765-358-3911 or 765-212-8318



UNDERSTANDING POVERTY IN OUR COMMUNITY

This week the Star Press published a column in which the author made several assertions about poverty. In his closing paragraph, he stated this:

“The factors that propel and keep families poor are well known: substance abuse, quitting high school and teenage pregnancy. Sadly, poverty is not the result of economic problems, which would be a relatively easy fix. The real cause of poverty is embedded in bad decisions by teenagers, where earnest and effective remedies are few.”

While there is some truth in that statement, i.e., those three factors can greatly increase the likelihood of an individual and their family struggling with poverty, it is an oversimplification which seeks to blame the individual for their poor decisions and fails to recognize that there are systemic issues which can cause and perpetuate poverty and which have nothing to do with individual choice.

Increasingly, we are seeing middle class families who have been negatively impacted by the economic recession find themselves facing very real economic hardship. Currently, one in seven Americans are receiving help through the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) which was formerly known as the food stamp program. That represents a 74% increase since 2007. Increasingly, SNAP is serving as a support for workers who are underemployed (working part time or at low wage jobs). Many of those workers lost their jobs during the recession and have little hope of returning to their former level of employment any time soon. Employers are increasingly using the strategy of hiring part-time workers in order to avoid the high cost of providing benefits to full time employees. Our community, like many others, has seen a loss of jobs which paid a living wage as companies moved and plants closed over the last 20 years. While there has been some economic development, most of those jobs have not been replaced. Consequently, even when teenagers avoid pregnancy, substance abuse and dropping out of high school, they are not able to find adequate employment in our community.

I am saddened to realize how little understanding exists about the barriers faced by our brothers and sisters struggling to make ends meet and by the lack of compassion exhibited by many who want to blame those in poverty for their “bad decisions.” Unfortunately, some of those same attitudes exist within the Christian community as well. Our congregation is making an effort to provide opportunities to deepen our understanding of poverty and to discern how God is calling us to be a part of the solution. Our emphasis is threefold:

- 1) Learn about the issues
- 2) Listen to the call of God in our lives
- 3) Get involved in helping to end poverty in our community

We would like to raise \$5,000 to support the work of the “Circles” campaign in our community. To learn more about Circles, go to www.teamworkql.org

Upcoming events are continued on the next page. Please check the website for future events.

UNDERSTANDING POVERTY IN OUR COMMUNITY (CONT.)

Here are a few of the activities coming up this month:

8 Week Elective Study “What Every Congregation Needs to Know about Poverty”

Begins **Sunday, October 16**, 9a.m., - Location: Library, Teacher: Betsy Whaley (Location will be changed if the group size warrants it)

Movie Night – **October 29** – Pizza at 5:30 PM, Movie begins at 6:00 PM.

Adults: “The Pursuit of Happiness”, Children: “Kit Kittridge, American Girl”

Both these films deal with issues of families struggling with poverty. A discussion will follow.

Donations will be accepted to cover the cost of the Pizza and an offering will be taken for the “Circles of Support” program.

 SERVICEMEN’S BIRTHDAYS

This is a birthday list and contact information of those men and women serving in the armed forces who have a connection here at First Baptist Church. If you would consider sending them a greeting card or a warm note around their birthday, the gesture would be greatly appreciated. Also please continue to keep these individuals, along with the other men and women serving for our country in your thoughts and prayers.

- **Micah Jones**; Air Force

Birthday:

2104 Hayes

Portales, NM 88130

- **Aaron Marlow**; Iraq

Birthday: May 14

AOB-C COS

Kalsu

APO AE 09312

- **David Knox**; Qatar

(Gt Grandson of Jack Klingensmith)

Birthday: December 10

379th EMX-MXMG

APO AE 09309

- **Bill Moore**; Marines

(Friend of Brian Clements)

Just keep him in your prayers

- **Andy Kirk**; Air Force

(Grandson of Jack Klingensmith)

2414 Princeton Dr.

Barkdales AFB

LA 71110

- **Clay Hildreth**

(Son of Gerri Hildreth)

Birthday: January 15

Ft Benning until December, then Ft. Bragg

- **Matt Snell**; Afghanistan

(Meredith Songer’s husband)

Birthday: June 9

HHC 172B BDES-3

FOB Sharana

APO AE 09311

- **Trenton Temple**; Afghanistan

(Son of Julie Temple, Grandson of Edith Ford)

Birthday: September 21

Package or mail can be sent once a month

Contact either Julie Temple or Edith Ford

OCTOBER EVENT CALENDAR

Sundays

9:15 a - Early Gathering

10:15 a - Sunday School

11:15 a - Late Gathering

TBA - Youth Group Events

Tuesdays7:00 p - Friendship Class for Group Homes
(Riverside)**Wednesdays**10:00 a - Women's Small Group at Riverside
(October 8 and 19)

4:00 p - Prayer Shawl Ministry

5:30 p - Wednesday Evening Meal

6:15 p - Children's Program

6:15 p - Band Rehearsal

6:30 p - Handbell Rehearsal

6:30 p - Prayer Hour

6:30 p - Financial Peace University

7:40 p - Choir Rehearsal

October 2

5:00 p - Youth to Lemen Home

October 7-9

5:00 p - Youth Fall Retreat

October 10

7:00 p - Leadership Council Meeting

October 16

5:00 p - Youth at Gregg House

October 17

12:00 p - EPIC Meeting

October 23

5:00 p - Family Ministry Celebration

October 27

6:00 p - Circles Big View

October 29

5:30 p - Movie Night at Church

October 30

5:00 p - Youth at Gregg House

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

We'd like to say Happy Birthday to the following
October birthdays!

Marcy Holls - Oct 1

Aaron Garrett - Oct 4

Avery Hudson-Roberts - Oct 4

Edith Flaherty - Oct 5

Sarah Durham - Oct 6

Debbie Gregg - Oct 11

Stephen Reid - Oct 13

Lydia Burton - Oct 15

Jack Klingensmith - Oct 16

Muriel Michael - Oct 16

Gayle Songer - Oct 16

Anson Tooley - Oct 17

George McGalliard - Oct 19

Donna Fouch - Oct 20

Edward Strother - Oct 20

Donn Roberts - Oct 21

Kameron Spangler - Oct 21

Mary Carr - Oct 24

Don DeWitt - Oct 24

Carolyn Shelton - Oct 25



Vicki Conley - Oct 29

Danyalie Nealy - Oct 29

Thomas St. Myer - Oct 29

Amelia Hudson-Roberts - Oct 31

ALANNA STORY

Anna and Ally Long, of the Anderson-based band Alanna Story, will be leading in both of our worship gatherings on **Sunday, October 16**. These sisters are passionate in their commitment "to love Jesus and lead others to the throne room of God." You can learn more of their story on their website, www.alannastory.com



SPECIAL THANK YOU

To First Baptist, Thank you for all the calls, cards, visits, & rides to the nursing home. Also for the food provided. Special thanks to Robert Burton and Wade Allen for their calls, words of comfort, and prayers. Most of all I thank everyone for their prayers. Keep me in your prayers. What a blessing to be part of such a compassionate and caring church. Sincerely, Joanne Sewell

FIRST
BAPTIST
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Muncie, Indiana 47304