

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

Place  
Stamp  
Here



The Visitor  
JULY 2012

## Leaning on God

*Wade Allen*

In a few weeks, I will be preaching from Genesis 24, the search for Isaac's wife. The story is one of adventure, doubt, anticipation and relief. Abraham commissions one of his servants to return to his homeland to find a wife for his son. If we rewind a bit, we remember that Abraham was called out of that land by God. While he resides in God's chosen place, it is still occupied by a pagan people; he doesn't want his son to be negatively influenced by a Canaanite wife. God had promised to make a great nation from Abraham's descendants. He miraculously provided a child to his aging, barren wife. But this son is unmarried, and Abraham is getting near the end of his life. How is God going to work this out? Abraham calls a trusted servant and explains his desire for Isaac to marry; he sends him to his country. But what woman is going to leave her family, her homeland? The plan seems far-fetched. Abraham acknowledges the difficulty but offers to release the servant from his orders

if it doesn't work out. (Genesis 24:8 NIV) "If the woman is unwilling to come back with you, then you will be released from this oath of mine." I wonder what was going through the servant's mind as he traversed the land. "This old man is crazy; I will never find a wife for his son in such a far-away land." Yet he attempts the impossible. Before arriving in Aram Naharaim, he has a conversation with God. "God, can you give me a sign. How will I know who to approach? If you are providing a wife, let me know who it is." He develops a plan. The servant, at the town well, will ask for water. The woman who offers not only drinking water, but also water for the camels will be the one. Before he can get the words out of his mouth Rebekah arrives. Her beauty catches his attention; he hurries to ask her for a drink. Rebekah does exactly what the servant prayed the chosen woman would do. You would think that he would celebrate and proclaim "she is the one!" We are often quick to

discern. We draw out scenarios asking God for a sign. "If the next person who walks through the door is wearing flip-flops, then I need to take the job." "If it rains after 5 pm today, then we should sell the house." We want to make our discerning quick and easy; we want it predictable and sure. Notice the response of Abraham's servant. (Genesis 24:21 NIV) "Without saying a word, the man watched her closely to learn whether or not the LORD had made his journey successful." He keeps a close eye on what God is doing. Just because she said the "magic words" did not mean that the deal was closed. It seemed that God was moving, but there was still more to learn. Would she agree to come? Was her father going to be OK with the plan? In this case, she was the one. As the servant relates his experience, her father and brother

agree that God is active. Their language is discernment language. (Genesis 24:50 NIV) "Laban and Bethuel answered, 'This is from the LORD; we can say nothing to you one way or the other.' Yes, they conclude, God has acted. This is confirmed again and again in the story. Their response is one of obedience. As we discern God's moving among us, let's remember that it usually comes in pieces. Quick, hasty decisions are often misleading. May we submit to what God is doing among us at First Baptist Church. May we keep a close eye on what He is doing and respond, not with our own opinions, but with attention to His movement. May we set our own agendas aside for God's purposes to be fulfilled in this place. His plan is always better than ours.

## Robert's Ramblings

*Robert Burton*

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. His mercies never come to an end. They are new every morning, new every morning. Great is Thy faithfulness, O Lord, Great is Thy faithfulness."

That was a favorite hymn of Sunday and Grace Osunnuga. The Osunnugas were members of Riverside for several years. From Nigeria by way of Northern Indiana near Chicago, they came to Muncie where Sunday was a resident in Internal Medicine at Ball Memorial Hospital. Grace, a nurse, also worked at Ball Memorial. When I first met Sunday, I had assumed that his name was a transliteration of an African name. However, he was named Sunday because that was the day to go to church. He and Grace were both raised Christian. Their children were given names that reflected their faith. Their son was named "Femi", which means "God is Love". The daughter was named Love.

Sunday and I became good friends. A running joke between he and I would be that I would call him by whatever day of the week it happened to be. "Hello, Dr. Wednesday!" "How is Dr. Friday today?" etc. He would often come up to me in the cafeteria and stand there until I would respond

with the appropriate name for that day and then would burst out with a big grin.

We were friends before I started at Riverside. I was very pleasantly surprised to discover that he and his family were active members of Riverside. An important part of their Christian commitment was to be active at the church closest to their home, which happened to be Riverside in this case.

I well remember the Sunday when Sunday and family introduced their favorite hymn to us. It was a reminder that the mercies of the Lord are new every morning. Each day that the old is passing away, something new is also happening, as the mercies of the Lord are new every morning.

The Osunnugas have since moved away. We miss them. We miss them terribly, as we miss all those whom God has led from us into new directions. But something new also is also happening each day where we are. We can count on it. "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. His mercies never come to an end. They are new every morning, new every morning. Great is Thy faithfulness, O Lord, Great is Thy faithfulness."\*

\*From #576 in the hymnbook at both of our churches

## Update from Sally Barrett

Hello First Baptist family! This has been an exciting year full of many learning experiences. I just recently returned from my first year in Slovenia. During our time in Slovenia I had the opportunity to do spirituality surveys and share the gospel with students daily. In addition to that I met with students on a weekly basis for

discipleship, bible studies, non-believer studies, and other gospel focused events. This year really expanded my heart for unbelievers and their need for Jesus. I was reminded how much God loves us and the great lengths to which he will go so that we may know him.

I am currently in Muncie for the summer raising more support until I leave for my second year in Slovenia. Please pray that I am able to raise all of my support by August 1st. Through this support raising process pray that people would be interested in the ministry in Slovenia and would want to join my team. Also pray that I would be working diligently this summer and still finding adequate time with family and friends. If you are at all interested in learning more about me and the amazing things God has done throughout the year in Slovenia please contact me at [sally.barrett@uscm.org](mailto:sally.barrett@uscm.org) or 765-730-7324.

## Converge 2012

**CONVERGE 2012: Service Opportunities** **When:** Wednesday, July 25th, 2012, 4:00 PM to 6:30 PM **Where:** Horizon Convention Center, Muncie, IN.

Learn about opportunities to impact our community for Christ and his Kingdom at this volunteer networking fair.

CONVERGE 2012 is a yearly event hosted by LEAD-ECI that brings together East Central Indiana's willing and talented volunteers, face to face, with the area's not-for-profit organizations that want their assistance the most. Like a job fair for volunteers, CONVERGE seeks to connect the interests, passions, and abilities of potential volunteers with the causes in their community they care most about. For more information and to register, visit <http://www.convergeeci.com/converge-2012/>

## Courageous

Just arrived the DVD Courageous in the FBC library, for personal use only. It is a film that is made by two brothers from Albany, GA First Baptist Church, about being a man and a father. Please feel free to stop by and check it out.

## 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](mailto:ptstigers@tayloru.edu)

**July 3** – Tim & Patty Stigers

**July 10** – Eli & Katie Beth Richardson

**July 17** – Adam & Jessica Fink

**July 24** – Chad & Colleen Massoth

**July 31** – Matt & Heather Headley

**August 7** – Tim & Patty Stigers

**August 14** – Chad & Colleen Massoth

**August 21** – Aaron & Cynthia Smith

**August 28** – Adam & Jessica Fink

## Lost Book

If anyone has found the book "The Boy who came back from Heaven" please turn it into the main office.

## Something Missing

If there is an event, story, photo or special thanks that you would like to put in the July newsletter, please email a request to [will@fbcmuncie.org](mailto: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 "July Newsletter" on the form or in the subject line of the email. The deadline for the information to be submitted is Thursday, July 24!

## 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

**Wednesdays** – 6:15 pm Band Rehearsal

**July 9th** – 7:00 PM - Leadership Council Meeting

**July 14th - 21st** – Youth at Camp Barnabas

**July 20th - 21st** – 4:00 PM - Urban Light Block Party

**July 25th** – 4:30 PM - CONVERGE 2012

**July 26th** – 6:30 PM - Circles Big View

## July Birthdays

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

1 Shirley Pittenger  
4 Connor French  
6 Lisa Criswell  
Ward Head  
9 Betty Brown  
Kaes Petroviak  
11 Barb Eidson  
William Nealy  
12 Kara St. Myer  
13 Joanne Sewell  
15 Maria Chavez

15 Cole Gnap  
18 Jody Osborn  
Chris Bade  
21 Emily Goul  
25 Bryan Bouton  
29 Doug Gregg  
Chad Massoth  
31 Larry Fouch  
Finn Massoth  
Keith Roberts