

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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Muncie, Indiana 47305
Phone: 765-284-7749

Place
Stamp
Here



The Visitor
AUGUST 2013

Balanced Budget

The Church Coordination Team (CCT) has been hard at work this summer. We have been working through a discernment process to bring expenses in line with giving. Just to review, we began this calendar year with a \$40K projected deficit. It would have been unwise to rush any necessary cuts. At the same time, we could not continue to spend more than we receive. Therefore, we began a stewardship emphasis sermon series and planned to carefully discern God's direction in coming months.

In the late spring, we began to explore the options and as you might remember from the July newsletter, we identified three possible areas. These included staff reduction, cleaning the church with volunteers, and rethinking our missions giving. For the past two months, we have been gathering information and listening. Our listening strategy included talking with all staff, talking to cleaning companies, and conducting a church survey about missions giving. The team also committed this decision to prayer.

In late July, the team gathered to examine all information. Attentive to the movement of the Holy Spirit, the team discussed how God seemed to be leading. We came to a consensus around the following plan.

The Decision – As of September 1, all non-pastoral staff positions will be non-paid. While this decision was not easy, we can attest to movement of God in this decision. We can state as the apostles in Acts 15,

(Acts 15:28 NIV) It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us

Allow us to explain and answer possible questions.

First of all, everyone utilizing his/her gifts in ministry is a biblical model of a church body. While we value the contributions of paid staff, our reduction of resources forces us to reconsider how we function in ministry. We

believe that God has used our budget situation to call us back to a church in which all members contribute their gifts as a sacrifice and worship to Him, just as Paul writes to the Romans:

(Romans 12:1,6-8 NIV) Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship... We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

We will talk more about this in coming months as such changes will require everyone to use their gifts.

We are careful here to avoid the word *volunteer*. As some have suggested, this word does not adequately communicate the necessity of each part of the body. For example, we don't have volunteer kidneys or lungs. Each part of the body is essential and must participate for optimal health.

(1 Corinthians 12:21-22 NIV) The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable,...

Also, The team considered pastoral compensation in this process, but determined to leave these expenses in tact, as we are asking our pastors to take on additional responsibilities. With no administrative assistant or support staff, our pastors will be required to empower teams to do the work of ministry.

As a part of our listening strategy, we found that our cleaning service has not raised its rates in over 13 years. Because we have chosen to use the treasure of our building as an outreach ministry to bridal parties and other organizations, we feel that it is important to present our building at its best to the public. The cleaning service comes immediately anytime we call with water problems and only charges if additional equipment is needed. In addition, past history has informed us that church members cleaning the building can create contention among members because of varying standards of cleanliness. Given the essential nature of a clean building, cutting professional cleaning was deemed less than desirable.

Thirdly, we found that many individuals give directly to mission organizations in addition to our mission budget giving but determined that we should continue to give the budgeted amount to missions.

We were thankful that our budget cuts were not as dramatic as anticipated. Giving is up around 14% of what was projected. Therefore, moving non-pastoral staff to non-paid will be sufficient in balancing our budget.

What About the Ministries Affected? – Changes of this nature raise questions. How will ministries be affected? What will happen to the nursery? What will happen to Wednesday nights? What will happen to the organ?

As a part of this process, we talked with each paid part-time staff person. Each one indicated that they were not reliant on the income provided by the church. Each person was invited to continue serving the ministry as a non-paid worker.

The **nursery** will continue to function under the auspices of the nursery team. Background checked workers will continue to provide care for the children. Joyce and Dave Cross have agreed to continue their ministry with the infants and children as a non-paid position because they feel this is the greatest gift they can give to the church.

The **organ** will continue to be utilized in early worship. Barb Eidson, Molly Flodder and Julie Kirklin have agreed to share this ministry. They will work with the worship team to coordinate schedules and availability.

A **Wednesday night dinner** team will work to determine a meal schedule. This team will plan the types of meals (whether they are potluck or prepared) and a schedule for dinners (how often the meals will take place). More information will be available as this team meets.

What is Next? – Such changes do not require a congregational vote. However, we would like to give everyone an opportunity to express opinions and concerns. Therefore, we will have a congregational informational meeting on **Wednesday, August 7 at 7:00 PM**. On **Sunday, August 11 at 10:15 AM**, everyone will have an opportunity to participate in a consensus vote. Everyone is encouraged to attend the informational meeting to discuss the changes.

If you have questions or concerns about this decision, please do not hesitate to contact us.

The Church Coordination Team (CCT):

MODERATOR Adam Fink	TREASURER Dan Lemen
CLERK Sally Jones	WORSHIP Julie Kirklin*
CARE Kendra Ervin	ADULT Stacey Paille
CHILDREN Gayle Songer	YOUTH Casey Braswell
PROPERTY David Rodriguez*	OUTREACH Debbie Gregg
AT-LARGE Chris Hill	AT-LARGE Mary Anne Bayer*

*awaiting church approval

Robert Burton's New Position

Dear Members of First Baptist Church

I have accepted the position of Associate Regional Minister for Pastoral Care with the American Baptist Churches of Indiana and Kentucky. This is one of several part time positions that will be providing pastoral support for ministers in our region. The job description is essentially that of being a “chaplain” to pastors! I have definitely felt called into this work. This new opportunity will allow me to continue as Pastor of Riverside Avenue Baptist Church. However, the challenge of working three part time positions is more than I feel capable of handling. I am therefore submitting my resignation as a part time staff member of First Baptist Church, effective August 15, 2013.

It is my intention to remain active in First Baptist, especially in the choir and activities. I wish to also continue working with the First Baptist/Riverside Senior Adult Ministry Committee on a voluntary basis. Lydia and I have been part of First Baptist Church now for 14 years, longer than with any other church since being married. We look forward to many more years of continued involvement and wish to assure all of you, including your pastor and staff, of our full support.

Robert Burton

Sermon Series in Ephesians

We continue in Ephesians through the month of August. The last week of the month will feature youth serving in God's mission in the world. We hope that you will take time to prepare for worship as you read the text for each week.

- August 4 - Obscenity v Purity (Ephesians 5:3-4)
- August 11 - The Wrath of God (Ephesians 5:5-7)
- August 18 - Living in the Light (Ephesians 5:8-14)
- August 25 - Youth Sunday (Youth for Christ and Camp Barnabas)

Church Business Meeting

There will be a brief church business meeting on **Sunday, August 11 at 10:15 AM**. We will vote on candidates for the CCT as well as take a consensus vote on expense changes for the year.

Conley Benefit

On Friday evening, August 9, friends and neighbors of the Conley family are sponsoring a fundraiser barbecue dinner to help with the family with finances as Vicki prepares for more treatment for her cancer.

The dinner donation is \$7 and will be held at FBC and tickets will be sold at Cooper Tire on South Tillotson or Wilco Distributors on West 8th Street. In addition, Molly Flodder is selling them and may be contacted at flodder@comcast.net to reserve a ticket. On the 9th between 4:30 and 7:30 p.m., people may come into the Lower Auditorium and eat their meals or drive through the parking lot to pick up take-home containers.,

In addition to the dinner fundraiser, prize tickets will be sold for a drawing later in August. Drawing tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Tickets may be picked up from the same sellers.

Music Discernment Decision

After many hours of listening, discussion and prayer, the music discernment team is ready to communicate a decision. In our first meeting, the team set out to answer the following question:

How might we develop an overall strategy for the use of music in our worship gatherings that will enable the following?

1. participation in music ministries of excellence
2. creation of a manageable rehearsal schedule (logistics: time, space, participants, resources)
3. an understanding of our limited resources (stewardship)
4. Unity across styles & preferences

This was a daunting task! Our church has a rich musical heritage. In the past there have been multiple paid staff and lots of resources for robust music ministries. While we celebrate this heritage, it brings lots of expectations, some of which are unrealistic. Our church also has a recent history of divisive and harmful conflict over music. It was clear that discerning any changes in music must be taken with care.

The discernment team hosted a listening forum on a Wednesday night in April to hear from as many people as possible. Thirty-four people representing diverse backgrounds participated. The following questions were asked:

- *What do you enjoy about music in our church & why?*
- *What fears or concerns do you have about the future of music in our church & why?*
- *What would you hope to see in church music at the 200th year anniversary of FBC & why?*

The ensuing discussion was informative, passionate and emotional. The responses given showed there were some strong shared values among us, like God-centeredness and excellence in music for worship. However, some other values were opposites: formality and informality, familiarity and variety, tradition and newness. These responses illustrated the complexity of our task as a discernment team.

Early in the discernment process it became clear that some people were making fearful assumptions about the agenda of the music discernment team. One of these assumptions was that we would eliminate the early worship gathering. Like any other change, we were open to this as a possibility if it was the Lord's will. However, we decided to communicate to the congregation in the middle of the process what we had discerned which was that: combining to one worship gathering is not what God is calling us to do at this time.

As our discernment meetings continued, we began to gain clarity about what strategies could be adopted to address the complex issues. We came to some conclusions around the goals we set out to achieve as a team.

1. There are a variety of definitions of excellence in our church regarding music. Preferences and values are diverse.
2. Rehearsal schedules are constantly changing to adapt to people's availability.
3. Many of our resources like musicians, leaders, and time vary throughout the year.
4. Finally, unity is an ongoing challenge for the church. Our current sermon series in Ephesians has taught us about the importance of church unity for its health and vitality.

Recognizing these facts, we developed a *strategy* that emphasizes collaboration and advanced planning to address these goals.

We recommend the formation of four ministry teams.

- A **Traditional Worship Values Team** and a **Contemporary Worship Values Team** to identify and address the values of the members of each services. These two separate teams will be comprised of musicians and nonmusicians that are passionate about worship at FBC. They will represent their respective services and will formally meet 1-2 times each year.
- A **Music Ministry Team** to coordinate rehearsal schedules, combined service music, and special music ministry projects. It will seek to understand and steward our limited resources of time, space, participants and finances. The team will develop and implement strategies to recruit participants in our church's various musical ensembles. This team will also identify and address the values of our church's various musical ensembles. It will listen to the Traditional and Contemporary Worship values teams to address values our musical ensembles participate in. This team will be comprised of leaders and core participants from every musical ensemble in our church, including the Sanctuary Choir, Band, United Choir, Handbells, and other ad hoc ensembles.
- A **Worship Arts Team**, which has existed for the past 2 years, will operate as follows: We will have series planning meetings when needed for special church seasons or sermon series. Matt and Wade will also meet weekly with individuals to collaboratively plan our liturgy for both gatherings.

The new Worship Arts Coordinator, Julie Kirklin,, and I will work together to coordinate these teams. The Music discernment team has recommended names to Julie and me for these two teams, and we will begin our work with them as soon as possible before our Wednesday night activities resume in September.

Thank you for your prayers for the work of this team. Many of you demonstrated great courage in expressing your opinions and fears about the issues of music and change. Your contributions were invaluable to our work of listening and discernment. I would also like to publicly thank the members of the team for their hard work, courage and faithfulness in this process: Molly Flodder, Adam & Jessica Fink, Cynthia Smith, Daniel Morency, William Nealy, Joe Songer and Wade Allen (ex-officio).

I am confident that the Lord has given us a clearer vision for how to use His gift of music in our church's worship. May our music ministries help us achieve that goal which the Apostle Paul set before the church in Colossae years ago:

Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. (Colossians 3:16 NLT-SE)

Peace of Christ, *Matt Headley*

Missional Community Outreach Event: Downtown Clean-Up

On Saturday, August 17, we will join Muncie-Delaware Clean & Beautiful for their monthly downtown clean-up. Anyone, including members of the Missional Community, is invited to join us.

When: Saturday, August 17, 9am-noon

Where: Meet at the 2hr Parking lot on the corner of Jackson St. and High St.

What to bring: Yourself and a friend! Tools will be provided.

Letter from Dan Mattox

Dear FBC,

Today I begin my "ketchup in grief and as Granger Westberg says, we all experience deep emotion among which are distress, loss, guilt, anger, fear, and often we resist returning to the normal but gradually hope comes and life goes on. Iris slipped away from us June 16, 2013 at 7:40 PM. She actually left a few hours earlier but persons who could make the pronouncement didn't arrive until after 7 PM.

She went easy, actually Picks Disease had stolen all of her how to's and she had no way of fighting to live - but the moment of departure ended a 65 year and 6 month union. We married December 25, 1947 and celebrated the union each Christmas. In 2007, I was giving her her meds and she looked up and smiled and said "I love you so much." Little did I realize, those would be her last words. But words are words. She had been at the work of loving me and a world of others all her life. When she met me she loved generously and joyously. I had thought love was getting what you wanted, but for her, love was wanting to give herself joyfully to all who came.

What a great teacher she was. As she taught, I learned and one day singing in the choir, the invitation was "Wherever He leads I'll go" and I felt His leading and went. The Pastor Dottson Mills said to me down front, "Dan, what are you doing here?" I responded; "I thought you'd help me find out." The following weeks called me to recommit to the call to the work of ministry that I had known since I was 16 years of age - with Iris's help I learned to love and serve or serve by loving and we did over 50 years together in ministering the love of God to those who would respond or receive. They, and the oneness that grew in us encouraged ministering and it became a joy to both of us. Ministry was not work, it was life and a joy filled one.

Now, suddenly, I am left to love on, but without her love and support. I know the joy she must be experiencing with family and friends gone on before. Do let's keep in touch - for it is in family and friends we find the courage and the strength to continue faithfully serving.

Blessings to each of you in Jesus' name,

Dan Mattox

Address: Rev. Daniel Mattox
6961 S. Blue River Church Rd.
Salem, IN 47167-8010

Nursery Team Cookout

It's that time again! We want to show our appreciation by having a meal for all nursery volunteers, preschool and Sunday school teachers (and your family)! The date is Sunday August 11 following the late service. We just ask that you bring a side or dessert to share. We will provide drinks and will be serving pork chop sandwiches from Amazing Joes! Yum! If you can, please RSVP to Colleen Massoth at 765-744-1350 or cmassoth1110@yahoo.com We hope to see you there!

Youth Sunday

On **Sunday, August 25**, the youth will be sharing in worship about serving. That same weekend, Muncie Area Youth for Christ will be holding a retreat in our building. They will join Camp Barnabas participants in sharing in worship. Join us on this date as we learn from our teens about what it means to serve.

Sally Barrett Donor Dessert

You are officially invited to my first **Donor Dessert**. I have been so thankful to have my the church family of First Baptist on my team both in prayer and financial support. I would love to share with you a bit of what the Lord has done in my life this past year in Slovenia and what is to come. So please come and enjoy some dessert, see some pictures, hear some stories, and catch up. It will take place at First Baptist Church on **Sunday, August 25th** from **2:30-4:30 PM**. - *Sally Barrett*

As I continue to work on support throughout this year I will need a car to use on a daily basis to meet up with current and potential supporters. If you have an extra car (or know someone who does) and it is not in use may I borrow it from September- June? Please contact me at (765) 748-3771. - *Sally Barrett*

Fulbright Fundraising Yard and Bake Sale

Do you have unused items around your home that are taking up needed space? Do you have a gift for baking? Cynthia and Aaron Smith are having a Fulbright Fundraising Yard and Bake Sale, at their home (1321 W. Washington), to grow their travel expenses fundraising total for their Fulbright Award to Switzerland on August 9-10. The Sale will extend to August 17, if enough items are unsold from the previous weekend. Bring your sellable, unwanted items to First Baptist and the Smith's will collect them. For large items, contact the Smiths to make arrangements. Unsold items will be donated to local charities. If you are interested in providing baked goods or volunteering to help with the Sale, contact the Smiths at 828-553-7203 or cynthialucilesmith@yahoo.com.

Best,Cynthia

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will begin meetings the evening of the first meal. We will meet at 4:00, PM in the brides room. We welcome new and experienced knitters and crocheters. If you need to learn we can teach you. Anyone wanting to help financially with materials can contribute through the church, just indicate prayer shawl ministry on your contribution.

Thank You

Will Drumright – Dear Church Family, As my time here at First Baptist Church comes to a close I wanted to share a heartfelt thank you to you. It has truly been a blessing to have served as your Administrative Assistant for the past two years. It is very tough for me to put into words the amount of gratitude that I have towards this amazing church family. The church became an oasis away from the stress and work associated with my graduate work. I knew that I could come into the office or sanctuary and enjoy the company of some incredible people. Throughout my time here at the church I have felt God's love through your kind words and actions. Each and every time I came to church I was humbled by the love y'all continuously shared with me. I especially want to thank Wade for giving me this position in the church and allowing me to work alongside him and Matt. It has been such a blessing to have grown closer to both of you through work and worship. It is very hard to think about moving on from this church because it has become such a cornerstone in my life. As I move forward with my career in Sport Psychology please know that all of you are near in my heart and my thoughts. Please keep in touch and if there is ever anyway that I can help with the church or personally do not hesitate to let me know. My prayer is that God continues bless this church and that y'all show the many other students that pass through Muncie the same love and kindness that was shown to me. Thank you so much for everything and most of all reflecting God's love to me.

Dave and Joyce Cross – Thank you for the prayers, cards and coming to the funeral calling. It was really appreciated. Wade, thank you for coming to Dave's mom's and praying with her and the family. We appreciate all the church has done. Our church is such a wonderful support, when we go through the good times and the sad times! May God continue to bless all of our friends at First Baptist Church! Our love to all.

Susan Kesler – I am a parent of a Ball State graduate and fear I have neglected to thank you enough for the encouragement you given my daughter. Both your financial and prayer support have allowed her to seek God's will in her life. She has been working the past two semesters but will start graduate school for occupational therapy in the fall.

Please continue to support the Chinese students at Ball State. There is a huge language and cultural barrier, but the ones I have encountered want to learn about Jesus. Assist with transportation if you can. John 16:33, Isaiah 41:10, Phil. 4:13.

Sally Barrett – Thank you so much for your special gift. It will definitely help towards reaching my goal to go to training in September. The church has been such a blessing and has always been so supportive. You really do reflect the heart of Christ. Thank you.

Family of Virginia Gill – Words cannot express our gratitude for all of your kind expressions of love and sympathy during the last illness and passing of our precious loved one. Whether it was by card, telephone call, e-mail, visit, flowers, food, or just a hug, we truly thank you.

Calendar

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

Wednesdays – Riverside/FBC Summer Bible Study at Riverside (6:30 PM)

August 4 – Life Group Leaders Lunch

August 7 – Missional Community Meal/Gathering (5:30 PM)

Informational Meeting about Budget Changes (7:00 PM)

August 9 – Fundraising Dinner for Vicki Conley

August 11 – All Church Business Meeting (10:15 AM)

Nursery Worker Cookout (12:00 PM)

August 15 – Choir Party (6:00 PM)

August 17 – Downtown Clean-Up (9:00 AM)

August 19 – Church Coordination Team Meeting (7:00 PM)

August 24-25 – Youth for Christ Student Leader Retreat

August 25 – Youth Sunday

August 27 – Worship Arts Team Meeting (6:30 PM)

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.

8/6 Michelle Martin	8/21 Nathan Shuttters
8/7 Don Jennings	8/21 Barbara Turner
8/7 Ginny Randall	8/23 Stacey Paille
8/12 Melva Ratchford	8/24 Tom Kistler
8/13 Irene Hiatt	8/25 Larry Van Deventer
8/15 Eli Richardson	8/27 Nova Jarvis
8/16 Chris Hill	8/28 Cole Randolph
8/17 Alexa Chamboneth	8/29 Carolyn Harke
8/20 Brittney Say	8/31 Mary Anne Bayer
8/21 Dana Davis	8/31 Isabel Heimlich