

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
309 E. Adams Street  
Muncie, Indiana 47305

Place  
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Here



The Visitor  
JUNE 2012

## Search Team Update

*Wade Allen*

As we move past Memorial Day, the swimming pools open and the kids get out of school; summer is here. Schedules slow down a bit or get more hectic, depending on who you are. People begin to travel and weekly church programs become a little more sparse. Yet the work of one team at First Baptist continues strong; the Associate Pastor Search Team is not going on break. While some of their work needs to remain confidential, I would like to assure everyone that the team considers their work of tremendous importance. They are fulfilling the mandate of a church-wide decision from last year. As you might remember, a group of church leaders (including the church council and diaconate) participated in a discernment process regarding church staffing in August 2011. They explored options and looked at other church models, entered a purposeful time of listening (this involved a 24 hour prayer vigil as well as small group discussions with various groups throughout the church) and examined the leading of the Spirit.

The leaders felt that God was directing us toward the hiring of an associate pastor with major responsibilities in worship and outreach. This is in contrast to hiring a specialized staff person for music, youth, children, Christian Education or missions. As First Baptist no longer has the resources to hire multiple specialists for specific ministries, the leaders sensed that a broadly focused associate pastor would give the church the needed leadership to function as the people of God, carrying out the ministries of the church in the community. In October, this decision was presented to the congregation in an evening meeting. The broader congregation affirmed the Spirit's movement among the leaders. No doubt, this implementation of this model for church staffing will require adjustment. We will no longer have specific staff for particular ministries; we will have two full-time pastors inspiring, empowering and equipping teams to carry out ministry. The responsibilities for each pastor will be beyond one person's capability if they were

to do the ministry on their own, yet this approach enables the congregation to take ownership of various ministries. In many ways, the people of the church will be doing the work of the church; this is in contrast to the staff doing the work of the church. The Search Team has been working with denominational leaders as well as reaching out to two seminaries and two Christian universities to discern God's plan for the person to fill this posi-

tion. The team has also interviewed Matt Headley, recognizing Matt as a strong candidate for the position. Please know that this team is giving due diligence to this process. The team may be prepared to make a recommendation to the church later in the summer. Please continue to pray for their steadfast work. As they discern the leading of the Spirit for the entire congregation, their work is essential for our health and vitality as a church.

## Robert's Ramblings

*Robert Burton*

I think the Riverside/FBC Picnic was a hit! It was good to see so many people there, not only from our two churches, but also from the community. Hat's off to all who made it happen: Jane Patton (for catsup and mustard, as usual), the two Davis, Lydia Burton, Mary Harry, Lester Bryars, Bill and Loretta Stevens, and Terry Harke, to name a few. I am always amazed at all Terry does and how he gets it done. Terry, you're the man!

The next Riverside/FBC event will be the Fall picnic at Riverside on Sunday, September 31. As stated before, this will coincide with the 50th anniversary for Riverside. Plans for the day will include a hog roast following morning worship, then a music program featuring friends of Riverside through the years. If you know of someone you think should be included in the music program (or if you think you would like to do so yourself), let me know. Our pulpit guest for the morning worship at Riverside will be Laine Julian, son of the late former Riverside pastor, Charles Julian.

I talked with Laine recently. He is doing well and sends his greetings to everyone. Laine recently graduated from Fuller Theological Seminary in Los Angeles. His wife is graduating from Fuller this Spring with a PhD in Psychology from Fuller, which has one of the premier theologically based Psychology programs in the country. Laine recently served as pastor of the English speaking congregation for a multilingual church in California. He is currently working for National Geographic and is waiting to see where his wife will be located before he pursues a new opportunity in ministry.

In another matter, the Friendship class will not meet this Summer, but will resume in the Fall. The Friendship class has agreed to be one of the many groups that will sing during the music program for the Fall picnic. With them there, as well as many friends through the years, including Laine Julian, it will be a day worth remembering. Be sure to mark your calendars.

## Father's Day Men's Choir

Attention All Men: On Sunday, June 17th, we will be having a Men's Choir lead us in Special Music for Father's Day. There is no obligation to be a part of the Sanctuary Choir to sing. All that is required is that you are a man who wants to sing fun and easy music. If you can participate, join us in the choir room for one rehearsal on Sunday, June 17th at 8:30AM, before the first service. We will sing at the beginning of both services. Bring your big, manly voices and let's praise the Lord! Questions? Contact Cynthia Smith at [cynthialucilesmith@yahoo.com](mailto:cynthialucilesmith@yahoo.com)

## Summer Break

Wednesday evening programs take a break during the summer months. May 23 was the last Wednesday evening before summer break.

## Watchcare

Would you like to be involved at First Baptist but don't what to do? Do you have ideas for gathering together, caring for others, or activities to do? Watchcare is looking for you! Contact Kendra Ervin at 744-2161 or [kendra2104@comcast.net](mailto:kendra2104@comcast.net)

## Car for Summer

We have a missionary who is living in Muncie for the summer in need of a vehicle. She will be returning to Europe in the fall but needs transportation during the summer months. If you have a vehicle that she could borrow, please contact here at [Sally.Barrett@uscm.org](mailto:Sally.Barrett@uscm.org).

## Youth Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

The First Baptist Church youth group will be holding a fundraiser on Sunday, June 24th. It will be a spaghetti luncheon following the second service. The money raised will go toward their trip to Camp Barnabas in July. This camp benefits children with disabilities and diseases. Please join us and show your support!

## Cru Trailer

Cru (Campus Crusade for Christ), a campus ministry is looking for a covered trailer to replace their trailer that recently broke. The trailer is used to transport sound equipment to and from each weekly gathering. If you know of anyone who would be willing to donate a trailer or someone who might be able to help please contact Josh Holowell at [jaholowell@gmail.com](mailto:jaholowell@gmail.com)

## VBS Fun - "All You Need is Love"

**Date:** June 25th-28th

**Time:** Free Dinner 5:15 (church van will leave FBC at 5:00), Opening 5:50, Pick-up 8:00 (church van will be back at FBC by 8:10)

First Baptist will be partnering with Holy Trinity Church on White River Blvd. to offer Vacation Bible School for our children.

This should be a great time for our kids to enjoy together.

First Baptist will be taking a van over each day. The van will leave at 5:00 from the church and will return around 8:10 for you to pick up your child.

Please register your 1st-5th grader with Holy Trinity, either online [www.holytrinitylutheranchurch.com](http://www.holytrinitylutheranchurch.com) or by phone (765-282-0619).

AND, be sure to sign your child up with First Baptist so that we can be expecting them to join us on the ride over.

You can do this by calling First Baptist 284-7749, Gayle Songer 744-0991, or Christy Allen 717-5229.

## Birthday Party for Sally & Joe

On Sunday June 24th, there will be a birthday party for Sally Jones and Joe Songer. This will take place at the FBC Shelter House at 5:00 pm. Meat and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side dish to share as your gift. Come and enjoy celebrating with Sally & Joe. Entertainment will be provided at 6:00 pm by Jake Headershot. For more information please contact Gayle Songer 744-0991.

## Something Missing

If there is an event, story, photo or special thanks that you would like 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, June 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

**June 4** – 7:00 pm Search Team Meeting  
7:00 pm Leadership Council Meeting

**June 24** – 12:00 pm Youth Spaghetti Lunch, 5:00 pm Birthday Party for Sally Jones & Joe Songer.

**June 28** – 6:00 pm Circles Big View

## June Birthdays

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

3 Grace Eaton  
6 Jon Stinson  
7 Rosemary Burget  
9 Wilma Neal  
11 Randy Washburn  
12 David Cross  
14 Kelli Petroviak  
16 Jim Hiatt

16 Samantha Ratchford  
19 Eric Paille  
20 Jessica Fink  
21 Joyce Cross  
24 Sally Jones  
Joe Songer  
30 Emma Langdon