



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

The Visitor

SEPTEMBER 2013

Responding to Change

As a congregation, we have experienced much change in the past few years. We have hired an associate pastor, changed our Sunday morning schedule, launched a new missional community (and Life Groups), and recently adjusted our budget expenses to match our income. My head is spinning with the amount and variety of adaptations we have been required to make.

Many congregations are finding themselves unable to adjust to new realities. They find themselves stuck, unable to bend in a shifting world. We are not that sort of congregation; our ability to reorganize around new realities is admirable.

The recent budget modifications may have been the most challenging. I don't think that anyone was excited about having to readjust in this manner. Yet, the consensus vote, taken on August 11, revealed a high level of support for the modifications presented by the Church Coordinating Team (CCT). I wanted to take few minutes to summarize your feedback.

We had a total of 48 people fill out a ballot. The results are as follows

- I love it. Sounds like a great plan (16 people) 33%
- It is perfectly acceptable (12 people) 25%
- I can live with it (9 people) 19%
- I have severe reservations, but I would not block it (8 people) 17%
- I would block it (3 people) 6%

If you consider the top four options as a yes, the percentage of yes/no votes would be

- Yes 94%
- No 6%

It is safe to say that there are some in the congregation with severe reservations. However, it seems that the CCT has overall support for this decision. The feedback confirms the discernment process as revealing God's direction for the church at this point in time.

As we live in the new reality of non-paid support staff, we will each be called to utilize our gifts to support the ministry of the church. I would encourage everyone to find a place to contribute time and energy. The CCT will continue to expand ministry teams to carry out God's calling in our congregation. May we continue to be flexible to this ever changing world in which we live.

Wednesday Evening Schedule

We begin weekly Wednesday evening pitch-in meals on **Wednesday, September 4**. Each Wednesday evening, we will gather at 5:15 PM to set up (beginning the meal at 5:30 PM). The Handbells will rehearse at 6:00 PM and the Sanctuary Choir at 7:10 PM. There will be no childcare provided on Wednesday evenings.

Mid-Week Bible Study

In the fall, we will be holding a Mid-Week Bible study on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at Riverside Baptist at 1 PM. Wade will be leading this study. We will not have Bible study on Wednesday evenings during the fall.

The New Worship Year Kicks Off with Several Music Opportunities

As we start the new worship season at First Baptist Church, it is time for you to look at opportunities for service and to consider being part of the music program. The Music Ministry Team invites you to consider participation in one or more of several different options. There will be bulletin insert surveys on Sundays, September 1 and September 8, and the team would like you to fill one out. Please share your interests and capabilities, fold the survey, and place it in the offering plate.

Beginning September 4, Cathedral Bells and Sanctuary Choir will kick off with weekly rehearsals and, also in September, a new season for Praise Band will begin, with rehearsals every three or four Wednesdays. Closer to the holidays, there will be a Unity Choir comprised of vocalists who attend both services. Finally, if a child in your family enjoys singing, you may want to have them involved in Children's choir, also available on Wednesday evenings. The opportunities and rehearsal times for all these groups are as follows:

Cathedral Bells – This is an opportunity for adults and older youth who read music to play handbells for preludes, offertories and choir accompaniments in services every few weeks, including occasional Unity Choir opportunities. The group rehearses each Wednesday from 6-7 p.m. in the choir room. Director is Barb Eidson and assistant director is Dana Davis.

Sanctuary Choir – This group leads worship in the early service throughout the fall, winter, spring, Advent and Lenten seasons, singing anthems each Sunday. You need not be a music reader to participate. Rehearsals are from 7:10-8:30 p.m., and the group is led by Barb Eidson.

Praise Band – This group of vocalists and instrumentalists leads worship each Sunday during the second service. You need not read music, but if you are an instrumentalist, you need to be able to read chord charts. The group practices every 3-4 weeks and rotates participants so that the commitment need not be every single Sunday. Rehearsals are on periodic Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8 p.m., and the group usually prepares music for several weeks, meeting again each Sunday morning from 8-8:45 a.m. to polish and pull together that Sunday's offerings. Worship leader for the band is Matt Headley.

Unity Choir – Comprised of singers who attend both services, this group will share special music for Thanksgiving and Advent services on November 24 and December 15, respectively, beginning rehearsals in November. Those who are unavailable to sing for both holiday services are welcome to be part of one or the other. The group will rehearse from 6:30-7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays beginning November 13.

Children's Choir – Children's Choir will be from 6:00-6:30 PM on Wednesday evenings. In October, Kids Club will begin (children ages 4 years old-5th grade) and will follow Children's choir. Barb Eidson will lead the music; Patty and Rachel Russell and Penny Morris will lead the Kids Club.

If anyone has any questions about these opportunities, you may contact Matt Headley or members of the Music Ministry Team: Lydia Burton, Dana Davis, Barb Eidson, Adam Fink, Molly Flodder, Julie Kirklin, or Kelli Petroviak.

After reviewing the results of the survey to be in the bulletin, the team will plan possible other ensembles and performance opportunities for the January-May part of this season.

Sermon Series in Ephesians

We continue in Ephesians through the month of September. We hope that you will take time to prepare for worship as you read the text for each week. In October, we will begin a series in the book of Ruth.

- September 1 - Living in God's Will (Ephesians 5:15-21)
- September 8 - Marriage (Ephesians 5:21-33)
- September 15 - Parents and Children (Ephesians 6:1-9)
- September 22 - Principalities and Powers (Ephesians 6:10-20)
- September 29 - Final Words of Ephesians (Ephesians 6:21-23)

Missional Community Outreach Event

On **September 14**, the missional community will be joining Muncie-Delaware Clean & Beautiful in their annual White River Clean-up. We will be meeting at Westside Park from **8 AM to noon** to clean the river alongside up to hundreds of fellow Muncie residents. Lunch and a t-shirt will be provided at the event. If you would like to be a part of this, please contact David Rodriguez at drod7425@gmail.com or 862-219-9573.

FBC/RABC Fall Picnic

Sunday, September 29, 4:00 PM at Riverside Avenue Baptist Church

Meat, drink, and table service will be furnished. Please bring lawn chairs and a dish or two to share. Special guests will be the Riverside Friendship Class and the Muncie Mission. Music will be by Audie Murphy. A freewill offering will be taken for him.

Event Postponed

The Saturday September Singspiration (set for September 14) has been postponed. Stay tuned in future months as the Music Ministry Team works to create another event similar to this.

Open Door Food Distribution

Open Door Ministries will be passing out food to needy families from 7:30-9:30 AM on select Wednesdays in the fall. If you know of someone who could use help with food, please let Duane Davis know. If you have a group (SS Class, Mission Circle or Life Group) that would like to help distribute food, please contact Matt at matt@fbcmuncie.org.

All Saints Sunday to Honor Recently Departed

On **Sunday, November 3**, in both services, those who have passed from our church in the last year will be honored in a brief memorial tribute. If you have a loved one who has passed away since November 1, 2012, please send his/her photo and date of birth and death to Mary Ann Bayer no later than **October 1**. Mary Ann will put the material together, and Roger Morency will create a visual presentation in memory of these FBC people.

K-5 Skating

On **Sunday, September 29**, K-5th grade Sunday school class will be going to lunch and skating immediately after the late church service. Christy Allen and Tom and Kara St. Myer will be escorting. We will meet in the church office. Students can be picked up at the skating rink or receive a ride home, if needed. Pickup times and more info to come. Children are asked to bring \$5 to cover lunch and skating.

Children and Families Lunch

On **Sunday, September 22**, children and their families will gather at Pizza Hut on Wheeling for a time of fellowship. This allows the children to bond and parents time to hang out together. We are asking that each family pitch in \$5 to help cover pizza and drinks. Dessert will also be provided. Please RSVP to Christy 717-5229 by September 21 for a head count on food. This is something Children's Team will be planning every 6 weeks or so to foster community with one another.

Friendship Class

The Friendship Class for Special Needs Adults will start **Tuesday, September 10 at 7:00 PM** at Riverside Baptist Church. We still can use some more volunteers. I know those who volunteer will receive great blessings! If you have questions, please call Jane Patton 765-759-8276.

Publications Team Starts New Tasks

As financial challenges associated with a growing church and tightening resources require more and more volunteer effort, a new team is emerging to tackle the publication of the Visitor and the weekly bulletin. Three ladies will collect information and work with Wade and Matt to produce these publications. Team members are:



Michelle Martin (wife of James and mother of Andy, Joshua, Eliana, Isabel, and Danielle) has a degree in journalism with a photo-journalism emphasis and is excited about being able to help with essential church tasks while staying home with her children.



Kara St. Myer (wife of Tom and mother of Lexi and Luke) has a background in journalism and graphic design and looks forward to including occasional photos and adding some design touches in the publications.



Molly Flodder (wife of Mark and mother of Maggie and Mallory) has a background in public relations, including 11 years as a corporate newsletter and magazine editor.

Information for both publications may be emailed to the ladies or given to them at church. Although all three attend the second service, Molly will often be in the first service as well. Their email addresses are: Molly (flodder@comcast.net), Kara (karastmyer@gmail.com) and Michelle (littlem1m@aol.com).

The group wants to remind people that the bulletin deadline is Monday night of each week and the Visitor deadline is 5-7 days before the beginning of each new month.

“Walk for Water” Helps African Village

It’s amazing what striving together for a good cause—such as the outreach efforts associated with our missional communities—can accomplish.

Ned Campbell (son-in-law of Bill and Barb Eidson) was the leader of a project that shows how working together reaps great rewards. After 1 year of planning, the 2013 “Walk For Water” was a huge success. Unique bright yellow 5-gallon buckets are a symbol of daily existence and the burden of everyday living in the village of Kager, Kenya where people walk 3 miles to obtain water. On July 27th those buckets became symbols of hope, compassion, and generosity for hundreds of people. That day 200 people walked from the American League Mall, around Monument Circle to the Indianapolis Water Canal balancing buckets of water on all kinds of heads. Through the efforts of the walkers and 70 volunteers more than \$49,000 was raised to help the 3000 people in Kager gain access to a new Community Water System. If you would like to see more info and some great pictures of the walk, please type in or click on the following link: <http://jubileevillage.org/>.

Calendar

Sundays – 9:15 AM Early Gathering/Early Sunday School (Intergenerational Class, K-5th grade, Junior & High School), 10:15 AM Fellowship Time (enjoy coffee, donuts, and fellowship), 10:45 AM Late Gathering/Late Sunday School

Wednesdays – 5:15 PM Pitch-in Meal (begin eating at 5:30 PM), 6:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal and Children’s Choir, 7:10 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

September 4 – Missional Community Gathering

September 8 – Life Group Leaders Lunch (Massoth Home)

September 11 – Open Door Food Distribution, Mid-Week Bible Study

September 14 – 7th Annual White River Cleanup, Cooking Healthier on a Budget

September 15 – Music Ministry Team Meeting

September 16 – Church Coordination Team Meeting

September 18 – Life Group Leader Meeting

September 22 – Children and Family Lunch at Pizza Hut

September 25 – Open Door Food Distribution, Mid-Week Bible Study

September 29 – K-5 Lunch and Skating, Fall Picnic at Riverside

September Birthdays

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

9/1 Nancy Hall	9/16 Joshua Heimlich
9/1 Monty Stinson	9/16 Elizabeth Ratchford
9/1 Sam Stinson	9/17 Chloe Durke
9/2 Harry Irwin	9/18 Gene Warner
9/4 Mallory Flodder	9/21 Ella Mae Lemen
9/4 Nancy Stinson	9/24 Makayla Butler
9/5 Edith Ford	9/24 Tyler Cummins
9/8 Hannah Headley	9/24 Polly Ratchford
9/8 Cathy Henderson	9/24 William Smith
9/10 Alex Harker	9/25 Lynn Sciscoe
9/11 Helen Heath	9/27 Mary Van Deventer
9/11 Arch Mutter	9/28 Anna Ratchford
9/13 Will Drumright	