

First Baptist Church

309 E. Adams
Muncie, IN 47302
765-282-0657

www.fbcmuncie.org

Non Profit Organization
US Postage Paid
Muncie, Indiana
Permit No. 300



SABBATICAL NOTES

First Baptist Church, Muncie, Indiana

May 2017

Clergy Renewal Grant funds sabbatical of 2017 and offers new opportunities

In April of 2016 a sabbatical team submitted a proposal to the Clergy Renewal committee at Christian Theological Seminary, the group that administers the Lilly Endowment funds for pastoral and church renewal. The team was comprised of Mary Ann Bayer, Bill Eidson, Molly Flodder, James Martin, Steve Reid, Shirley Pittenger, and Mark Sue. They learned in October that First Baptist Church was being awarded roughly \$40,000 for Pastor Wade's sabbatical and our work in his absence. Alt-

hough this is a national grant, they learned after the fact that of the 29 Indiana churches funded, FBC was the only Baptist Church. A requirement for Wade is to rest and relax, but to find a topic on which to reflect and grow. He chose the decline of Christendom, the current thesis that the role of the church has diminished in today's cultures. He will learn more from pastors in the United Kingdom, New England, and Georgia.

Because the grant requirements call for the awarded churches to also reflect and grow, FBC will focus on what is helping churches in our culture thrive: service to others. For the 15 weeks Wade is away the focus will be on joining God as He is at work in our city and our neighborhood.

Joining God in the neighborhood is not about what we do FOR God, but what we do WITH Him.

Are we ready to join God in the neighborhood?

By James Martin, Deacon and former Outreach Coordinator

This summer while Pastor Wade is on sabbatical, our church will be on a mission as well. While we focus on Building. Community. Presence., our church will be Joining God in the Neighborhood. Joining God in the Neighborhood is an American Baptist program designed to encourage individuals and groups within the church to go out and listen to, discern what, experiment with, reflect on, and decide what God is already doing in the community around our church and around our own individual lives. God is at work through missions and individuals in our community, and we want to find where God is already at work and then engage in that.

We will be empowering and encouraging individuals from our church to go out (as Jesus has commanded us to do) into our community this summer and experience the great wonders that God is performing in Muncie, Indiana. This will be done through small groups and individual efforts to purposefully spend time in our neighborhoods to listen to what is already occurring, and to discern how God is already at work. We will be equipping and encouraging groups and individuals to experiment with and engage with those who are involved. We will then reflect on all that we have discovered so that we can make decisions on how we can contribute to and empower what God is doing in our community. It is our belief that as we join what God is

doing in our neighborhood that individuals will grow in their walk with Christ, and our church will be changed and empowered through His Spirit. While this is occurring, Pastor Wade will be assessing the larger Church's role in the community in a post Christendom era as he travels this summer. Wade will be seeking how God is at work in the places he goes as well. When Pastor Wade returns, we will be comparing how God is at work in our neighborhood with how he observed God at work during his sabbatical. We are excited to be Joining God in the Neighborhood as we are Building. Community. Presence.

FAQ's about the sabbatical

May I call Pastor Wade if I have a need, concern or prayer request? No. The grant requires him to be completely away from the work of the church. His e-mail will be screened by the church moderator, who will find another FBC minister or lay person to minister to your needs.

Will the pastor have to come back to us if he gets a "better offer" somewhere? Yes. The grant requires him to stay at least one year after the sabbatical ends. He is excited to be part of our ongoing growth.

Will the summer worship speakers have any continuity in their messages? Yes. They have met, discussed and prayed about what we are doing and have collectively created the focus.

Allen family is set for R&R

In 20 years of ministry, Dr. Wade Allen and his family have not had an opportunity like the 2017 Clergy Renewal Sabbatical. The group will travel to the United Kingdom and Georgia, and Wade and Christy will have a few days in New England. We wish them God's blessings and offer prayers for safe travels as they rest, relax, and reflect.



June 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 C-9
4 C-1	5	6	7	8	9	10 C-9
11 C-1	12	13	14	15	16	17 B-3 Dr. Fitch
18 10:45 Combined	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 10:45 Combined	26 C-3	27 C-3	28 C-3	29 C-3	30	

B-Building to better understand (Training)

To help expand your awareness and understanding of the Church in our culture and people we will serve in our neighborhood, training will help you reach out to people in a loving and less judgmental fashion. Two of these sessions are coming up shortly.

Before summer begins--"Lunch and Learn" at FBC led by nonprofit that serves struggling people. Must register four work days in advance for a lunch.

B-1--Tues., May 23, noon-1:15 p.m.--**Volunteering 101**. Learn about the different levels of volunteering and where our church fits on that spectrum.

B-2--Wed., May 31, noon-1:15 p.m.--**Understanding People in Poverty**. Examine patterns of behavior that many from generational poverty exhibit.

Other summer training:

B-3--Sat., June 17, 9:30-11:30 a.m.--Dr. David Fitch presents "**Seven Disciplines that Shape the Church for Mission.**" In FBC Lower Auditorium

B4--Tues., July 18, 6:30-8:30 p.m.--**Poverty Simulation**. Take on the identity of a person trying to survive in poverty. At BSU Student Center. (Children 10 and older are welcome to participate.)

The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40

July 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10:45 Combined	3	4	5	6	7	8 C-9
9 C-1,2	10	11	12	13	14	15 C-9
16	17	18 B-4 Simulation	19	20 C-4	21	22
23 C1,2	24	25	26	27	28	29 C-6
30	31					



Your Church Coordinating Team (CCT) is asking every person to commit to one or more trainings and at least one or preferably two service projects this summer. The group has prayed that all of us will grow and change as the FBC family experiences joining God in the neighborhood.

Signing Up

Follow the registration links you received in your e-mail from Wes Russell or call Molly Flodder at 282-0657 to sign up.

August 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 C-9
6 C-1,2	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 C-1,2	14	15 C-7	16	17 C-5	18	19
20 C-1,2	21	22	23	24	25	26 C-9
27	28	29 C-10	30	31		

C-Community our church joins God in the neighborhood (Projects)

C-1--Gathering Grace free meal for the community at Grace Episcopal Church (needing a 2-3 person team any marked Sunday to assist in setting up, serving and cleaning up from 2:15-4:30 p.m.).

C-2--Urban Day Camp at Grace Episcopal to help coordinate pre-meal kids' crafts and activities, 1:30-3:15 p.m.

C-3--YWCA Pillowcase Project--Help women make pillowcases to cover new pillows FBC will provide. Mary Ann Bayer (289-5593) will set volunteers up for 2-3 hour work sessions. Monetary donations for fabric and pillows are needed.

C-4, 5--Circles Dinner on July 20 or Aug. 17 at FBC from 4:30-8 p.m. Food provided, but meal prep, serving and staying for discussion are needed.

C-6--Hearts and Hands Back-to-School Project--Distribute backpacks for a 2 1/2-hour shift from 9-2 at Delaware County Fairgrounds on July 29.

C-7--Muncie Soup Kitchen sack lunches--Join with others on Aug. 15 at 9 a.m. to prepare lunches for soup kitchen users. Donations to purchase the food are also needed.

C-8--Salvation Army food pantry--Organize and distribute food. Someone will contact you about the FBC scheduled dates.

C-9--Blood 'n Fire meal and service--Help at any of the marked Saturday evening suppers and stay for their worship service, 3:30-7:30 p.m.

C-10--Blood 'n Fire food party--Prepare the pantry items from 1:00-3:00 p.m. and pass out food from 3:00-5:00 p.m.

P-Presence with God (Worship)

Five Combined Services--May 21, May 28, June 18, June 25, July 2

Altered Services--

May 28 --Informal service with The Revolution, 10:45 a.m., and neighborhood smoked pork meal in shelter, 11:30. Kids games, too. (Bring a dessert.)

Sept. 3 --Prayer services for our community at BSU Student Center or Union Missionary Baptist Church. No service at FBC.

See insert for preaching schedule.

Summer pastors fit us to Join God in the Neighborhood

“One of the most unique ways of approaching our summer of service is to hear from a variety of pastors who will approach the topic in a variety of different ways,” said Molly Flodder, church moderator. “The fact that all have met together and prayed for our church and this process makes it especially powerful.”

The schedule is as follows:

*May 21--Community Picnic, various speakers and Scriptures

Jun. 4--Jim Sandburg, “Getting Over Ourselves,” Isaiah 58:1-12

Jun. 11--Neil King, “Sacred Spaces,” Acts 2:42

*Jun. 18--David Fitch, “Faithful Presence,” (No scripture yet)

*Jun. 25--Nathan Bussberg (no title yet), Amos 5:18-27

*Jul. 2--Neil Kring, “God Who Is at Work,” Isaiah 43:19

Jul. 9--Josh Holowell, “Living Faithfully in Exile,” Jeremiah 29:1-14

Jul. 16--Nathan Bussberg, “Reshaping Church,” Malachi

Jul. 23--Various community members involved in service in the neighborhood, “The Power of Relationships,” Matthew 25:37-39

Jul. 30--Carl Frost, “Presence,” Psalm 105:4

*Combined service



Summer speakers with Pastor Wade. Standing: Nathan Bussberg, FBC youth pastor, Wilisha and Robert Scaife, Union Missionary Baptist; Neil Kring, Revolution. Seated: Carl Frost, Revolution; Jim Sandberg, Tabor Baptist; Pastor Wade; and Josh Hollowell, City Fellowship.

Aug. 6--Jim Sandberg, “Being Light in the Darkness,” Ephesians 5:8-14; Philippians 2:12-16

Aug. 13--Carl Frost, “God With Us,” Various scriptures

Aug. 20--Robert Scaife, “Preparing for the Harvest,” Matthew 5:13-16,

August 27--Wilisha Scaife, “Salt and

Light,” Matthew 5:13-16

Sept. 3--Prayer services at BSU Student Center and Union Missionary Baptist. No service at FBC.

Sept. 10--Neil Kring, “Overcoming Social Barriers to Loving People,” Luke 10:25-37

Note: Wade returns to FBC on Sept. 4 but will not return to the pulpit until Sept. 17.

Author Dr. David Fitch to preach and lead workshop

Dr. David E. Fitch, the B.R. Lindner Chair of Evangelical Theology at Northern Seminary, will be providing preaching in Sunday’s combined service on June 18. The workshop is Saturday morning, June 17, 9-11:30 a.m., and the topic is “Seven Disciplines that Shape the Church for Mission.”



Sendoff and celebration bookend the sabbatical experience

Pastor Wade's last Sunday before the sabbatical will be May 21. It will be a day for the Allen family to share what they will be doing and the Church Coordinating Team to talk about what we as a church want to accomplish during the summer.

The following Sunday (Memorial Day weekend) we will meet in the church parking lot to have music and a brief service before sharing a smoked pork lunch with members of Revolution Church and people from the neighborhood. There will be

games for children and fellowship time. FBC attendees are asked to bring desserts and to park in the bank or library lots or at the YWCA.

In a celebration on Saturday, Sept. 16, late afternoon and evening, the church family will gather at the home of Larry and Donna Fouch to meet up with the Allen's, learn about their summer and share what we have learned about our community and ourselves during the sabbatical experience.

In her comments on Sunday morning, April 23, CCT Adult Ministries Coordinator Julie Davis talked about school children sharing after their summer break. She said, "We don't plan to blow anything up here at First Baptist, but this is going to be a fun summer! I can't wait for Wade to come back in September and hear about all we've done. I think he'll be pleased at how we worked together in various church needs while he was gone from taking care of the office to visiting people. . . I want him to know that we've prepared food for Gathering Grace. . . I'm eager to tell him how many backpacks I got to hand out to kids who didn't have school supplies. I hope he'll be excited to hear how many sack lunches we made for the soup kitchen. . . I am ready for God's church within these walls to walk outside these walls to make a difference in our community."



Three steps for a successful summer of service

Pray. To be a vibrant church in a changing world, we must be willing to change. Pray that our church will grow and embrace change.

Bring your tool kit. Filling up a sack lunch or handing out a food pantry item doesn't require much interaction. However, working directly with a homeless woman to

make a pillowcase is something that isn't accomplished just by "being nice." See the calendar to take advantage of training to give you tools to best serve people living in poverty.

Move out of your comfort zone. You may not want to get to know someone who struggles, but it may be life-changing and strengthen your walk with the Lord.

Who's coordinating church functions while the pastor is away?

While Pastor Wade is on sabbatical, dozens of FBC people are serving in roles they already have and ad-hoc leaders are putting together groups of workers for every conceivable need.

In each of several categories there are primary contacts who can address needs and coordinate oppor-

tunities. Areas and people are:

Communications: publications, e-mails, website, bulletin board, weekly announcements, facebook updates--*Julie Davis, Molly Flodder, Colleen Massoth, Clif Davis.*

Worship Services: preaching, music, hosting guest preachers, slide/sound setup, emergency service cancella-

tions--*Adam Fink and Clif Davis*

Pastoral Care: funerals, hospital/shut in visits, DVD burning, weddings--*Gayle Songer, Barbara Young, James Martin*

Administration: building usage, calendar mgmt., key distribution/lock mgmt./office admin., scheduling volunteers, spending/requisitions, database--*Dan and Ella Mae Lemen*