



The Visitor

FEBRUARY 2014



A Significant Contribution

Wade Allen

I have little experience at First Baptist Muncie without the Headleys. Not long after I arrived, Barb Eidson found a young piano student at Ball State named Heather Parker. We were looking for someone to lead worship and found out that Heather's fiance, Matt, was a worship leader; he felt that God was calling him into ministry. The next step for Matt was seminary. God soon orchestrated a full scholarship for him at Northern Seminary and we hired him part-time as Worship Arts Director. It all worked out perfectly. A few months later, Matt and Heather were married and moved to Muncie.



First Baptist has been training ground for Matt. He commuted back and forth to Chicago each week for the first three years. Taking what he learned in textbooks, he was able to test it out in real life ministry. As Matt encountered new ideas, he tried them out in this ministry context. We have experienced new forms of worship, discipleship and leadership as Matt has contributed to the life of this church.

Worship – No doubt, the Headleys contribution to worship has been significant. Matt has taught us to think deeply about the order of worship. He has studied ancient models of liturgy and has incorporated applicable parts into worship at First Baptist. You might think that moving the offering until the end of the service would create havoc. But Matt was able to articulate theological convictions about how we worship and why we participate in each aspect.

Matt has also been intentional about involving others in worship planning. He believes that worship is the work of the people, not simply the work of the pastor. With this we have experienced more testimonies, creative components and out-of-the-box ways of carrying out worship.

Matt is not alone in his contribution to the church's worship. Heather has been active in the praise band sharing her gifts in music. In fact, she has been active in aiding our worship through music longer than Matt.

Discipleship – The Headleys have offered much in terms of discipleship. Matt prompted the conversation that began the process of planning what is now our Missional Community. He and I traveled to Fort Wayne to attend a conference that spawned the idea for this ministry. Heather was on the planning team for our pilot community a little over a year ago. Not only have they helped to guide overall church discipleship, Matt and Heather have been involved in many of your lives personally, helping you to grow in Christ. It is

difficult to quantify their contribution; we will not fully realize their discipleship impact until we are all able to celebrate God's work in Heaven.

Leadership – Matt and Heather have helped us transition as a congregation in terms of leadership. We are learning how to live into our new polity. We are moving toward a team model of ministry in which we all use our gifts for the sake of Christ's Kingdom. As leaders, it has been necessary to call on members to take responsibility for areas of ministry. Matt's role has always been less than full-time at First Baptist; he has been required to depend on you to carry out much of the ministry. He and Heather have empowered many of you to serve. For this, we are deeply grateful.



It would be impossible to highlight every contribution that Matt and Heather have made to First Baptist. However, I wanted to point out that their years with us have been years of impact. We are not the same because of the Headleys. They have impacted us; we are thankful for the years that God has given us together. At the same time, we will miss them tremendously.

We know that others will benefit from their gifts in the future and pray that God would continue to empower their ministry in the Kingdom.

Thank You

Matt & Heather Headley

Many of you read the letter Heather and I wrote to the church in January describing our call to leave Muncie. If you haven't already, please read it here (<http://goo.gl/vhp8y5>) or let me know and I can give you a printed copy.

When I have described our situation to others, several have reminded me of the call God gave Abram in Genesis chapter 12. Abram knew that he should leave his home and friends, but he did not know where he was going. Heather and I perceive that God's call in our lives is similar in that regard. While we have enjoyed much comfort and security in Muncie, we trust that God is sending us to a new place of service for him. Whatever that will be, we wouldn't be prepared for it without your prayers, affirmation and support through these past 4 1/2 years.



Thank you so much for providing us the opportunity to learn and grow with you. May God bless you and keep you and give you his peace!

Poverty video showing set for downtown "Lunch and Learn" session

Several people who are part of TEAMwork's Thursday evening Circles program have been featured in a video called "Stories of Struggle and Hope" that has been unveiled recently in the community. Pam Barnhouse, a FBC member who attends second service, is among those telling their stories in the video.

The video will be shown on **Wednesday, February 19**, from **Noon-1 p.m.** in a "Lunch and Learn" session at Open Door Health Services next to the church. (The meeting room is on the lower level.) Please come for the viewing and discussion and feel free to bring your own lunch.

Muncie Mission Walk-a-Mile

Walk-A-Mile In My Shoes fundraiser to benefit Muncie Mission will be **Saturday, February 8**. The purpose of the walk is to take a step into the struggles facing the homeless. It serves to extend the purpose of the Muncie Mission, which is to provide compassionate rescue services on an intermediate or long-term basis to the poor and needy in East Central Indiana. The walk will start at the Muncie Fieldhouse and continue on a course to the Muncie Mission at 1725 S. Liberty St. Transportation back to the Fieldhouse will be provided by MITS. Check-in time is 8 a.m.; the opening program will be at 9 a.m.; and the walk will follow. To register visit the website walkformunciemission.com or call Muncie Mission 288-9122 ext. 226.

Urgent Mission Need

The extreme weather we have been experiencing has slowed donations coming into the Muncie Mission's New Life Center. Our homeless and struggling neighbors are in great need of cold weather clothing (men's, women's, and children — all sizes) making the demand greater than what is coming in. Please help us spread this word for people to be able to respond to the need.

Items can be dropped off at: - New Life Center (corner of Memorial and Liberty streets) Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-4 p.m. - Attic Window Broadway (3400 N. Broadway Ave.) Monday-Saturday 9 a.m.-6 p.m. - Drop box at Dairy Queen (800 E. McGalliard Road) - Drop box at Small Engine Warehouse (4005 N. Wheeling Ave.) - Attic Window Hartford City (108 N. Jefferson St.) Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-3 p.m. - Attic Window Winchester (120 S. Meridian St.) Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Or if you'd like to collect a large donation at your church you could call (765) 288-9122 ext. 442 to arrange a pick-up.

America for Christ Offering

We will be collecting for the America for Christ Offering in February and March. With an America for Christ donation, you join with American Baptist Home Mission Societies in building communities of justice and hope across the United States and Puerto Rico through the transformational love of Jesus Christ.

AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2014

Worship in February

As we continue in the season of Epiphany, you may want to read the Scriptures ahead of time. The February schedule is:

- February 2 - The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12)
- February 9 - Salt and Light Living (Matthew 5:13-16)

- February 16 - Examining The Heart (Matthew 5:21-37)
- February 23 - Matt's Ordination Service (Combined Worship at 10:45 AM)

Volunteers Needed for Salvation Army Food Pantry

FBC members have faithfully served food distribution at the Salvation Army Food Pantry for many years. Marianne Tooley organized and scheduled volunteers over a period of time. With her recent passing, we no longer have an updated list of volunteers. If you worked in the past, would like to continue, or become involved in this ministry, please call the church office at (765)284-7749. Please leave your name and phone number. Cheryl Flaherty will contact you about a day and time.

The Pantry hours are 1-2 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Two people are needed for each day. FBC is scheduled for the following dates:

February 25, 26, 27 (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday), April 1, 2, 3

Thank you to Harry Irwin, Gene Carr, Bill Turner, Rodney Head, Shirley Johnson and Pam Williams for volunteering their time for the month of January.

Matt Headley Ordination

We will gather for a combined worship (10:45 AM) service on **Sunday, February 23** to celebrate the ministry of the Headleys. We will also ordain Matt to the Gospel Ministry during this service. There will be an all-church meal following the service to honor Matt, Heather, Hannah, and Noah. We hope that everyone will be able to attend this special service in the life of the church.

Missional Community Update

Missional Communities are underway for the Spring Session. We are making a few adjustments as we enter another season. A few changes will be taking place.

Social Events – We have found that our Wednesday evening large group events (on the first week of each month) were poorly attended. We determined that mid-week meetings are difficult for many family schedules. Therefore, we are adjusting our monthly large-group meetings to social events held on the first Sunday of each month. The purpose of these gatherings is to get to know people from the larger body of the church. Even if you are not involved in other aspects of the missional community, I would encourage you to take part in these events. The February social event is a series of Super Bowl parties. We will host this event at two locations (Gregg home and Braswell home). Sign-up in the church office so they can plan accordingly.

Focused Groups – We realized we must focus on specialized needs of group members. Therefore, we are holding a Marriage Enrichment group this session. Wade and Christy will be leading this group. The group is for those who have expressed an interest. If you would be interested in being in a focused group in the future, please let your group leader know.

What Stays the Same – We have found time for reflection and adjustment essential to our Missional Community ministry. The time of intentional evaluation has helped us adjust in important ways. At the same time, most aspects of the ministry remains the same. The first Sunday of the month kicks off the schedule.

On that day, we will hold a church-wide social event. On the second and fourth weeks of the month, Life Groups will meet in homes. On the third week of the month, we will have a mission project.

We are excited about the life change that is taking place in this ministry. Everyone is encouraged to be involved in one way or another.

February Mission Project

If you haven't noticed, there are quite a few children running around First Baptist these days. This is a great thing! To meet the challenge of providing adequate space for them, the CCT and Library Team have decided to move the library up to the second floor and turn the current Library room into an additional nursery room.

The church needs your help to get this done. On **Saturday, February 22 at 10 AM**, we will be meeting at the church to all help move books and shelving up to the second floor as a part of our Missional Communities mission project. Come join us and be a part of God's calling for our church!

March Social Event

On **March 2**, Paille's Life Group will be hosting an all-church social event from **4-6 PM** in the lower auditorium of FBC. We will have a Family Game Night. Bring your board games, a snack to share with everyone, and your fun-loving attitude. Drinks will be provided.

Wednesday Night Children's Program

Do you want your child to learn more about Jesus, read the Bible, have a fun environment where they will be treated with respect, and loved unconditionally? Then we have the place for you! Patty and Rachel Russell invite kids to join us in singing, worship, and learning on **Wednesday evenings** starting **February 5** from **6-7 PM**.

being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:6

Suzy's Fun Trips

On **June 18-24**, there is a 7 day, 6-night trip planned to Dallas-Fort Worth. The cost is \$609. During the getaway, you will be taking a tour of George Bush's Presidential Library, Sixth Floor Museum, South Fork, and lots of other sites. If interested contact Suzy Mutter at 765-749-3484.

Camp Tippy

It is time to think about camp at Tippecanoe Baptist Camp and Retreat Center. A camping experience can change your life forever. In a Christian environment, a beautiful, peaceful setting, and no distractions from outside of the camp, the opportunities for a rich experience our endless. The camp schedule is on the bulletin

board and the camp forms will soon be available. Invite a friend, and encourage your parents to volunteer for a week as help is always needed. Come join others in a Christ-centered ministry. You will be glad you did. I'm glad I did, and I have gone 66 summers so far and I never get enough. If you have any questions, give me a call or see me at church. Also, let me know when you are going. – Shirley Pittenger, 282-0632

Super Bowl Parties

Sign-up in the church office for one of the Super Bowl parties (**Sunday, February 2**). This is part of our monthly social events for Missional Communities. We have two locations at this point (the Gregg home and the Braswell home).

Dale Stone Joins First Baptist

During last year, a number of people joined First Baptist. We would like to highlight those who took this exciting step forward and introduce them in the newsletter. We had a total of 22 new members throughout 2013 – the highest number of new members in one year since 2000. We highlighted several in the December and January Visitor. We would like to highlight another new member this month.



After attending First Baptist for more than a year and a half, Dale Strong joined the Church on Sunday, December 29. He stated that the nice and friendly people were part of the reason he felt comfortable at FBC. Dale grew up in Muncie, graduated from Muncie Southside and spent most of his life here, having been in Florida for a while where he was baptized. He enjoys the outdoors, fishing, boating on Prairie Creek Reservoir and riding his bike on the Cardinal Greenway. He enjoys spending time with family and friends. His mother, Nancy, also attends the church. Dale is an usher and a greeter in the second service.

Visitor and Bulletin Information

If you would like to place an announcement in the church bulletin please email it to wade@fbcmuncie.org. If you have an article for the February newsletter, please email it to wade@fbcmuncie.org by **Sunday, February 23**.

Thank You Notes

Feed My Sheep Muncie – On behalf of everyone at Feed My Sheep Muncie, Inc., we thank you all for allowing us to host our food drive event in your church. This year, Feed My Sheep Muncie, Inc. set out to have its biggest harvest yet and because of your contributions, we were able to do just that. This year Feed My Sheep Muncie, Inc. was able to help over 900 families serving 1,263 hot meals and handing out over 1,400 bags of groceries. Four hundred and fifty of those bags went to satellite locations on the outskirts of town. Feed My Sheep Muncie, Inc. would not be able to operate without the support of the community, and

that is what makes our Thanksgiving meal and grocery delivery unique. We look forward to working with you all again when we make 2014 an even bigger year.

Gayle Songer – Thank you to the Deacon's fund and to those of you who made contributions to help families in need at Christmas. We were able to buy gifts for five children and groceries for two families to help with the extra needs the holidays bring. They were very appreciative. God bless you for your generosity.

Susan Londt – I know I speak for our entire family when expressing our sincere thanks to everyone who helped, came and prayed for us. Though Den's release from pain was sudden, you stopped in the middle of the busy Christmas season to come along side us as we celebrated his life. His funeral in Albion was equal parts tears and laughter as many recalled touching stories of his life. We know God's timing is perfect and that Den is home. Your expressions of comfort and support to us is exactly what he wanted. Thank you.

Salvation Army Bell Ringers Update – The MIFBC Salvation Army Bell Ringers raised \$543.76 the four days. We raised \$278.69 at Penney's and \$265.07 at Macy's. Thank you again for your help with this annual project.

Calendar

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

Tuesdays – 7:00 PM - Friendship Class at Riverside Baptist Church

Wednesdays – 6 PM Handbell Rehearsal and Children's Program, 7:10 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

February 2 – Super Bowl Parties (Greggs and Braswells)

February 8 – Muncie Mission Walk-a-Mile in My Shoes 8 AM

February 12 – Open Door Food Distribution

February 16 – Life Group Leaders Meeting at the Allens 1 PM

February 17 – CCT Meeting 7 PM

February 22 – Moving Library Mission Project 10 AM

February 23 – Combined Worship Matt Headley Ordination

February 26 – Open Door Food Distribution

February Birthdays

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

2/1 Trentin Temple	2/16 Melanie Graham
2/4 Florence Arnold	2/18 Micah Braswell
2/4 Jeff Jones	2/20 Jo Boyce
2/5 Brandy Say	2/21 Haylee Mathis
2/5 Pam Williams	2/21 Penny Morris
2/6 Ryan Swayer	2/23 Joe Johnson
2/7 Marge Manor	2/23 Daniel Morency
2/7 Ernestine Shields	2/23 Tom Papp
2/9 Bracken Petroviak	2/24 Hijinia Chamboneth
2/10 Betsy Whaley	2/25 Vaughn Phelps
2/11 Gary Henderson	2/27 Christy Allen
2/14 Brenda Cox	2/28 Ethan Brooks