



Without an Associate Pastor

Wade Allen

As the ground begins to thaw (hopefully), we are continuing to experience change at First Baptist. It was wonderful to experience Matt's ordination at the end of February; we now face the reality of his absence. What does this mean for us? Who will do the work that he has been doing? What is going to happen next? While some questions remain unanswered, I would like to fill you in on what we do know.



Media/Sound Improvements – We have been fortunate in that we have had several months to prepare for Matt's departure. We have been careful to identify unfinished projects that would help us as we learn to live without Matt. Two main projects have to do with the sound and media equipment. We have aging technology that hinders our ability to streamline our sound and media. We have identified weak links in our technology and are in the process of replacing the sound board and projector. These improvements will make it easier for the sound and media volunteers. While Matt did much of this work, we will be able to function primarily with volunteers in this area.

Leading Worship – An obvious question has to do with worship leadership. Matt has been able to equip volunteers in many areas, but having a key person to lead is important. We have identified three students who will work in this area. Jericho Hughes has been working with the choir for several weeks now. He will continue this learning experience. Two others students, Jeff Janiszewski and Kaylie Walker, from Taylor University have agreed to work with the praise band during the late service.

Jeff Janiszewski has lived in a number of places including Asheville, NC, Chicago, Pittsburgh, and recently Upland to attend Taylor University. He is a junior Music Marketing major and has participated on the chapel band.

While living in Pittsburgh in high school, he played as part of the worship team at a local church. Last summer he served as the worship leading intern and essentially filled the duties of the worship pastor while he was doing work on his dissertation.

Jeff's role at First Baptist will be in a worship leading mentorship. He will schedule worship band practices, select music, and help design the structure of the service a few weeks per month.



“I am most excited to get to know the members of the church as I join them in worship,” he said. “This church seems like a great place to be, and I am looking forward to getting familiar with it this spring.”

Kaylie Walker is also joining the worship team at First Baptist. She is originally from Grosse Ile, MI, which is near Detroit.

Kaylie is a junior Church Music Ministries major at Taylor University. She has spent the last four years leading worship at a summer camp in the upper peninsula of Michigan and has been singing in praise teams at her home church since she was in high school. She also works with College Wesleyan in Marion.



At First Baptist, Kaylie will be sharing the worship leader duties with Jeff and the Praise Band. She feels very grateful to this opportunity and is looking forward to joining the team.

“I am excited to be a part of such a great team and learn from each of them as well as serve the congregation with music,” Kaylie said. “I love worship and being able to lead others in it, so I’m excited to see how God will use this opportunity to help me grow and maybe even the rest of the team and congregation as well.”

It is exciting to offer these opportunities to students who are looking for the experience to lead. We will continue to serve as an equipping church as we empower students to serve. Please join us in welcoming Jeff, Kaylie and Jericho to First Baptist’s worship team!

Look for a feature article on Jericho Hughes in the April Visitor.

Coordinating Worship – Leading worship is a visible way in which Matt served the church. But the *behind-the-scenes* planning required much time and attention. Who will do this work? While Julie Kirklin serves as Worship Coordinator, it would be impossible for her to carry the weight of this responsibility alone. A team will work together to organize and plan the worship services.

Dana Davis will be the early service coordinator. She will organize a team to do the work of planning early worship. Adam and Jessica Fink will serve as late service coordinators. They will arrange the various pieces each week, relying on team members to take care of particular aspects of worship. I will work with the coordinators, giving and receiving information to plan worship each week. Certainly this model requires volunteers to take on more responsibility. At the same time, this sort of approach allows for members of the church to be involved, expressing their gifts for the building up of the body. As Paul wrote to the church at Corinth,

(1 Corinthians 12:27 NIV) Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

Replacing our Associate Pastor – I have been asked several times, *Are we going to replace Matt?* The question might be phrased *Are we going to hire another Associate Pastor who leads worship?* The immediate answer is that we are not sure. This is a question that needs time and attention. We plan to work through our discernment process (the one that we have used on a number of occasions) to discern God’s plan in this area. We are certainly a different congregation than we were four years ago. We have different needs and God may be calling us in new ways. We need to figure this out. The beauty of the discernment process is that allows for everyone to have a voice. Opportunities for your feedback will come as we work the process. It will take several months to do the work involved.

Decreasing staff is never an easy transition. I am sure that we will find tasks that go undone. At the same time, I am confident that the church will step up to the challenge. I am sure that God will provide for all that He is calling us to do.

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 March

As we move from the season of Epiphany into the season of Lent, you may want to read the Scriptures ahead of time. The March schedule is:

- March 2 - Mountaintop Lessons (Matthew 17:1-9)
- March 9 - Overcoming Temptation (Matthew 4:1-11)
- March 16 - The New Birth (John 3:1-16)
- March 23 - Water from the Rock (Exodus 17:1-7)
- March 30 - Eyes to See (John 9:1-41)

White Cross Donations

It's White Cross time and this year our overland donations will go to Edna Martin Christian Center, in Indianapolis. They are requesting:

- 3-100 ct. packages of disposable paper cups
- 3 -100 ct. packages of paper plates 3 -100 ct. packages of paper napkins 5 - spiral notebooks
- 2 girls blouses, any size
- 2 girls dresses, any size
- 1 package of girls underpants, any size
- 1 pair of girls slacks or jeans, any size
- 2 packages of girls socks
- 2 girls sweatshirts, any size
- 2 girls sweat pants, any size

Our overseas purchase plan request is \$167. This year's request goes to aid health care in the Congo. Through our support, patients unable to access care at other hospitals because of lack of funds, are provided with good medical care Baptist hospitals in Vanga, Sala, Kikongo, Moanza, Boko, Kipata, Katika, Sona, Bata, Hselo, Kimpese And Nsona Mpangu.

White Cross is a ministry of American Baptist International Ministries. For additional information please go to www.internationalministries.org and www.abc-whitecross.org.

Monetary contributions may be made to First Baptist Church, Att. White Cross. Material supplies may be left in the office. Contributions are due March 31. If you have questions, contact Dana Davis, 765-358-3911, 765-212-8318, twoddavis@aol.com.

Kid's Club Postponed

Due to weather and other activities the Kid's Club on Wednesday night will resume meeting on **April 2 at 6 P.M.**

Church Business Meeting

An all-church business meeting is schedule for **Sunday, March 9 at 10:15 AM.** This should be a brief meeting as we will be voting on nominees for the Outreach and Member Care area.

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.

Missional Community Update

We are up and running with the Spring Session of Missional Communities. We have four Life Groups that meet in homes for fellowship and Bible study. Please keep these groups in your prayers as they learn and grow together. The Fink small group is organizing a March Mission Project. Details will be available in the bulletin in coming weeks.

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.

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 are 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

SonRise Retreat in March

On **March 7-9**, adults and youth are invited to serve as volunteers for a retreat for disabled adults. The retreat begins on Friday evening and goes through Sunday morning. See Wade if you are interested in being a part of this ministry.

Open Door Food Distribution

On **March 12** and **March 26**, Open Door Ministries will be passing out food to needy families from 7:30-9:30 AM. 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 James Martin (765-729-7968 or baronjlm@aol.com).

Seminar for Memory Function

On three Thursdays, **April 3, 10, 17** from **1-2:30 PM**. Charles Gilbert will be leading DVD lectures produced by The Teaching Company. They will explore the real research (not the fads) on how memory functions—and then apply these findings to help you make better use of the memory abilities you have. By tapping into a series of scientifically proven strategies, tricks, and techniques, and by practicing them through dynamic exercises, you'll emerge from the end of this short course with the ability to process information more effectively and to increase your chance of remembering almost anything you want.

No Charge — Reservations Required by April 1

Topics Covered Each Date:

- April 3: Your Amazing Prehistoric Memory; Encoding Information with Images
- April 10: Maximizing Short- and Long-Term Memory; Why and When We Forget
- April 17: Keeping Your Whole Brain in Peak Condition; Human Memory Is Reconstruction, Not Replay

For reservations call 765.285.8975

Daylight Savings Time

This is reminder that everyone will need to set your clocks ahead on **Sunday, March 9** as we transition to Daylight Savings Time.

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 April newsletter, please email it to wade@fbcmuncie.org by **Sunday, March 16**.

Thank You Notes

The Richard Morrow Family – Our dear, wonderful church family, thank you so much for your thoughts, prayers, and support during Dick’s passing. It meant so much to us to have our church family by our side. Also, thank you so much for providing the lunch that brought everyone together after the funeral. We celebrated Dick’s life and remember the man who gave us so much love.

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

March 2 – All Church Game Night (4:00 PM)

March 12 – Open Door Food Distribution

March 16 – Life Group Leaders Lunch

March 17 – CCT Meeting (7:00 PM)

March 24 – Muncie Mission Chapel Service

March Birthdays

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

3/1 Justin Earls	3/17 Alaina Reed
3/1 Helen Peirson	3/21 Wade Allen
3/3 Luke St. Myer	3/21 Adam Fink
3/6 Adalyn Cummins	3/21 James Petroviak
3/8 Renee Pierce	3/22 Matthew Fink
3/10 Sherri Papp	3/22 Bob Ratchford
3/12 Nina Oisten	3/24 Cindy Hershman
3/13 Julie Kirklin	3/24 Susan Randolph
3/14 Lisa Earls	3/24 Ian Reid
3/15 Louise Head	3/26 Dan Lemen
3/15 Katie Beth Richardson	3/27 Christian Chamboneth
3/16 Shala Pugh	3/29 Heather Headley
3/16 Erik Redmon	