



The Visitor

FEBRUARY 2015

The Month of Red

Wade Allen

February is a month of red. We will begin to see Valentine's Day displays go up in stores as we prepare to express our love to those special ones in our lives. An article on history.com states,

Approximately 150 million Valentine's Day cards are exchanged annually, making Valentine's Day the second most popular card-sending holiday after Christmas



I am sure that card companies are happy to see this month roll around. However, love is more than candy, cards, and cupids. Love is ultimately expressed in the *agape* love of Jesus. John reminds us,

(John 15:13 NIV11) Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

February (this year) includes the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday, *February 18*, marks the six-week preparation for Easter. As a Southern Baptist kid, I did not celebrate or acknowledge the season. I heard of others *giving up* good things, but did not have a clue what the season meant. As an adult, I am a bit more familiar with the observance. I have learned that it is not just for Catholics.

I would challenge you to compare Valentine's Day and Lent this month. Both are about love, but they have very different approaches. Romantic love is beautiful, no doubt. But the self-sacrificial love of Jesus is far greater. To truly love, one must sacrifice. Are you planning on *giving up* during Lent? If so, how might your *sacrifice* help you consider the tremendous love of Jesus on the cross. Red is an intense color. May we see past the superficial hearts of Valentine's Day and look toward God's heart for us.

(Romans 5:8 NIV11) But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Worship in February

The February schedule is:

- February 1 - Steward
- February 8 - Impact
- February 15 - Light Shining (Mark 9:2-9, 2 Corinthians 4:3-6)
- February 22 - Suffering God (1 Peter 3:18-22)

Missional Community Update

Our spring session starts in February. There will be three life groups this session along with several social events.

The children’s team has planned several intergenerational events. This month, a Valentine Dance will be on **Saturday, February 14**. Everyone is invited to join this social event.

Life Groups		
Group	Day of Week	Time
Allen	Sunday	2 PM
Fink	Sunday	4 PM
Rodriguez	Sunday	6 PM

This session we are doing all of our mission projects during an April mission emphasis. A team has been formed and they are working on the details. For now, mark your calendars for **April 12-26**. The plan is to have 4-5 special projects/events during this time. Everyone is encouraged to participate in whichever one(s) fits their schedule. We look forward to serving our church and community during this mission emphasis.

Walk-A-Mile In My Shoes

Muncie Mission Walk-A-Mile In My Shoes is **Saturday, February 14**. Check-in is from **8-9 AM** at the Muncie Fieldhouse. There will be a free bus service from the Mission back to the fieldhouse. To register early visit www.walkformunciemission.com or call 288-9122 ext. 226. This number is also good if you want information.

Valentine Dance

Saturday, February 14 we are having a Valentine’s Day Dance! It will be from **2-4 PM** in the lower auditorium of the church. There will be a dessert bar, dancing, and a photo booth! We encourage kids who are interested to decorate a box/bag and bring valentines for an exchange! ALL are welcome, so bring the family and let’s “shake our tail feathers!”

Life Line Screening

First Baptist Church is pleased to offer a preventive health event. Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will host their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings on February 24. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to:

blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; **abdominal aortic aneurysms** which can lead to a ruptured aorta; **hardening of the arteries** in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; **atrial fibrillation or irregular heartbeat** which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a **bone density screening** (for men and women) used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes four vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners.

America for Christ Offering

The America for Christ Offering is the American Baptist response to the needs of home missions within and beyond the local congregation in witness and service for Christ as mandated by the Great Commission. Gifts are channeled through National Ministries and Regional Ministries to fund home mission, education, and local community ministries. First Baptist Muncie will be collecting this offering through March. If you would like to donate, please use the designated envelopes labeled *America for Christ*.

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 March newsletter, please email it to wade@fbcmuncie.org by **Sunday, February 15**.

Thank You Notes

Clifton Davis – It is hard to believe Julie and I and the kids have been at First Baptist for nine months! Thanks for all that you have done to make us welcome and to allow us to partner with you in ministry. Thanks too for the reception after my BSU recital last fall and for the Christmas bonus! We are honored to walk this part of the journey with you.

Youth Group – Thank you to everyone who donated to help teens attend the annual ski trip to Wisconsin. Our teens had a wonderful weekend of worship and fellowship. This winter retreat is a wonderful break from routine to help our teens refocus on God.

Calendar

Life Groups begin in February

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

Tuesdays – 7 PM - Friendship Class

Wednesdays – 6 PM Praise Team (Sanctuary), 6 PM Children’s Choir (Elementary Room), 7:40 PM Sanctuary Choir (Choir Room)

Note: Handbells resume in March

February 14 – Valentine’s Day Dance

February 17 – CCT Meeting

February 18 – Life Group Leader’s Meeting

February 24 – Life Line Screening

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

2/4 - Florence Arnold

2/4 - Jeff Jones

2/5 - Brandy Say

2/5 - Pam Williams

2/6 - Ryan Swayer

2/7 - Marge Manor

2/7 - Linzi Robinson

2/7 - Ernestine Shields

2/9 - Bracken Petroviak

2/10 - Betsy Whaley

2/11 - Gary Henderson

2/14 - Brenda Cox

2/16 - Melanie Graham

2/18 - Micah Braswell

2/20 - Jo Boyce

2/21 - Haylee Mathis

2/21 - Penny Morris

2/23 - Joe Johnson

2/23 - Daniel Morency

2/23 - Tom Papp

2/27 - Christy Allen

2/28 - Ethan Brooks