



# The Visitor

MARCH 2015

## Beginning of Spring

*Wade Allen*

The month of March has always been a special month for me. First of all, my birthday is in March. As you grow older, your birthday is not as big of a deal as it once was. When you are a kid, the day is anticipated; when you are older, it just means that you have to add another number to your age. Secondly, March marks the beginning of Spring. While Indiana weather does not always cooperate, the weather does get gradually warmer. As we head south for Spring Break this year, we are looking forward to warmer weather.



As the season of new life comes to First Baptist Muncie, we are preparing for Easter as a congregation. This means that we are working through the season of Lent in worship. I am especially enjoying preparing sermons on the lectionary texts. The chosen scriptures are rich and powerful. This year, we are exploring the epistle lectionary text each week. Easter will arrive the first Sunday in April this year (with Palm Sunday on March 29). May we use this Lenten season to remember the incredible sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross.

(1 Corinthians 1:18 NIV) For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

## Worship in March

The March schedule is:

- March 1 - The Essence of Faith (Romans 4:13-25)
- March 8 - The Word of the Cross (1 Corinthians 1:18-31)
- March 15 - God's Workmanship (Ephesians 2:1-10)
- March 22 - Josh Holowell Preaching
- March 29 - Doug Gregg Preaching

## Missional Community Update

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Our spring session started in February. There are three life groups this session along with several social events.

This session we are doing all of our mission projects during an April mission emphasis (Muncie Reach Week). We are excited about serving our church and community during the Muncie Reach Week this April 12-26.

This is a church wide event and we want everyone to sign up for 2 events throughout this two-week period. Start thinking about where you want to serve:

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

We will be visiting shut-ins, having a service at Westminster Village, doing landscaping around the church grounds, cleaning and repairing the “sunken” room in the basement, having a beauty event/spa day for the women at the YWCA, doing a craft with the Friendship class, and participating in a class about understanding people in poverty, as well as doing a personal care items drive! There is something for everyone! Please be praying about where God wants you to serve. Look for a sign-up board on Sundays and mark your calendars for **April 12-26!** Muncie Reach Week!

## Team Seeks Funds for Potential Pastoral Sabbatical

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With support from the Church Coordinating Team, a small group of First Baptist members is working to help Pastor Wade apply for the Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Program. This opportunity, if selected, will bring to Wade, his family, and the church as a whole time of renewal and reflection as well as rest. Should First Baptist Church of Muncie be a recipient of this grant, we could receive up to \$50,000 to support Wade and his family and our congregation in a sabbatical sometime in 2017.

Wade’s tentative plans involve taking a 90-100 day respite that will allow the family to rest, travel, and rejuvenate while studying and examining an issue. Wade’s interest lies in what scholars have called “the death of Christendom or post-Christendom,” a slow-eroding of the importance of church in modern day society. This issue began decades ago among Christian churches in the United Kingdom, and first in our country in the northeast region of the United States with the South being a slower holdout. Wade plans to observe in these three areas what the strongest remaining churches are doing to remain a central core of their communities. The views of David Fitch from Northern Seminary have helped him formulate this idea for study and reflection. He plans to use what he learns and observes in sharing with our church, local churches, and the Indiana American Baptist churches when he returns.

Funds from the grant would pay for his travel and sabbatical-related expenses and up to \$15,000 of the total would be used to help the church fulfill pastoral duties during his absence with a likely interim pastor in the pulpit. Those dollars would also support activities to enable the congregation as a whole to be renewed in its ministry.

The grant proposal is due in mid-April 2016 and will support plans beginning in 2017. One stipulation of the funding is that the selected congregations should expect their pastor to stay a minimum of one year after the sabbatical ends.

Members of the team supporting Wade in this effort are Molly Flodder, principal grant writer, and Mary Ann Bayer, Bill Eidson, Dan Lemen, Shirley Pittenger, Joe Songer, and Mark Sue.

## Handbells Resuming

Handbells will resume **Wednesday, March 4 at 6:30 PM**. Anyone interested, please contact Dana Davis at 765-212-8318 or Twoddavis@ol.com

## Josh Holowell Preaching

Josh Holowell will be teaching at First Baptist on March 22. Josh is married to Whitney and they have two sons, Tyko and Finnigan. Josh and Whitney were on staff with Cru (Campus Crusade for Christ) at Ball State University from 2009-2014. They are now pursuing church planting through the PCA in Central Indiana.



## Easter Egg Hunt

A church-wide Easter Egg Hunt will be **Sunday March 29** following the late service. We ask that you bring a side/dessert to share, the meat and drinks will be provided. After lunch we will have an Easter story and then the egg hunt! This is always a great time, so please save the date!

Donations of candy will be collected in the church office to help fill the eggs.

## 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*.

## Daylight Savings Time

Daylight Savings Time begins on **Sunday, March 8**. Be sure to set your clocks ahead one hour on this weekend.

## Visitor and Bulletin Information

If you would like to place an announcement in the church bulletin please email it to [wade@fbcmuncie.org](mailto:wade@fbcmuncie.org). If you have an article for the April newsletter, please email it to [wade@fbcmuncie.org](mailto:wade@fbcmuncie.org) by **Sunday, March 22**.

## Thank You Notes

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**Betty Brown** – I want to thank everyone for all the prayers, visits, and acts of kindness to me during my stay in the hospital and my return home. God is so good and I am slowly regaining my strength. Thank you all!

## Calendar

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Life Groups meet in homes throughout the month.

**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), 6:30 PM Handbells, 7:40 PM Sanctuary Choir (Choir Room)

**March 1** – Muncie Reach Project Manager Meeting

**March 17** – CCT Meeting

**March 29** – Easter Egg Hunt Lunch and Senior Adults to Mount Olive

## March Birthdays

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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  
3/1 - Helen Peirson  
3/3 - Luke St. Myer  
3/6 - Adalyn Cummins  
3/8 - Renee Pierce  
3/9 - Andrew Dawson  
3/12 - Nina Oisten  
3/13 - Ray Bayer  
3/13 - Julie Kirklin  
3/14 - Lisa Earls  
3/15 - Louise Head  
3/16 - Shala Pugh  
3/16 - Erik Redmon  
3/17 - Alaina Reed

3/21 - Wade Allen  
3/21 - Adam Fink  
3/21 - James Petroviak  
3/22 - Matthew Fink  
3/22 - Bob Ratchford  
3/24 - Jan Armstrong  
3/24 - Cindy Hershman  
3/24 - Susan Randolph  
3/24 - Ian Reid  
3/26 - Alexis Johnson  
3/26 - Dan Lemen  
3/27 - Christian Chamboneth