



The Visitor

JUNE 2015

Anna Graduating

Wade Allen

As summer begins, many things are happening at First Baptist. I hope you will take a few minutes to read through the June events in this edition.

On a personal note, my oldest daughter is graduating from high school in June. This is a new step for our family. For some of you (and for us), it is hard to believe that Anna is going to be in college next year. When we arrived in Muncie in 2008, Anna was just entering into middle school. The years have passed quickly and we are extremely grateful to all of you who have been involved in her life. You have attended her sporting events. You have taken her out to lunch. Some of you have spent time with her on youth trips as well as informal conversations. Christy and I appreciate you, our church family. As we celebrate this important step in her life, we hope you will join us for an Open House at 9409 Rachel Dr., Yorktown from 2-5 PM on Saturday, June 13.



Anna is planning on attending Ball State University in the fall. She will be in the Honors College and plans to major in Biology and/or Psychology.

Worship in June

The June schedule is:

- June 7 - A Father's Instructions (1 Kings 2:1-11)
- June 14 - Grace and Guilt (1 Kings 2:12-46)
- June 21 - Good Dad, Bad Dad, No Dad (Father's Day)
- June 28 - Summarizing Solomon (1 Kings 3:1-3)

Robert's Ramblings

Several have suggested I re-continue a column for this newsletter. I had initially called it Robert's Ramblings, as a companion to the one by Maynard Hatch when he was interim pastor and which he called Maynard's Meanderings. So here some ramblings of some things I have been up to in recent months.



One thing I am up to is being on several boards in our community. One is the Board for Christian Ministries in Delaware County. First Baptist Member Bill Eidson is also on the same board. Christian Ministries has been around since 1945 and was first known as Delaware County Council of Churches. It changed to its present name in 1972. Even before coming on the board, I was involved in planning the community Lenten and Good Friday services, which were held this year at the Unitarian Universalist Church and Union Missionary Baptist Church, respectively. Christian Ministry has a unique mission in provided emergency housing for the homeless and financial and food support for those in need. Like many such worth agencies in our day and age, they need financial support to continue the good work they are doing.

Along with several others, I am also on the board for the Oasis Baptist House campus ministry. Many are acquainted with Olya Cherevko, who is finishing an internship at the Oasis to begin a ministry with international students. Olya, from Kazakhstan, has been able to establish personal relationships with a number of international students at Ball State. While her internship is coming to an end, the board is working on arrangements for her to stay for at least an additional year. I find this an exciting development. Campus ministry has changed significantly since the days many of us were in college. The traditional mainline denomination campus houses have become a way of the past. Olya, working with David Jones, our campus minister, have been able to redefine the Oasis as an outreach to international students. The board is excited about the possibilities of Olya staying on to build on what she has already accomplished. One apparent need for her to continue this work is transportation and a car. If anyone knows of a car (not a clunker) that might be available can contact David Jones.

The final board I am on is for neighborhood association where we live. Riverside has also hosted meetings for a new neighborhood that is organizing for the neighborhood where Riverside is located. Our good friends Mary and Cornelius Dollison have been very active in the association that is transforming the Whitley neighborhood. Community leaders have encouraged the establishment of neighborhood associations all over our city, and many such associations are now functioning. I would encourage those who are able to become active in their neighborhood associations or to help organize them if one does not exist where you live. It seems I read somewhere that we should love our neighbors. Perhaps this is one way we can do that. Perhaps also, this is enough rambling for now.

Youth to Camp Barnabas

Please remember the teens from our church who will be serving as missionaries at Camp Barnabas from **July 4-10**. Camp Barnabas is a Christian camp for kids and teens, ages 7 to 17, with life-threatening illnesses and disabilities in Purdy, Missouri. Our teens serve the campers during the week. The experience is rewarding, but it can be extremely challenging. Please keep Anna Allen, Anna Childs, Tori Long, Anna Ratchford, Helena Condon, Dawson Allen, Alex Childs, Daniel Morency and Daniel LaVoie in your prayers as they serve.

Ministering to Students—Even the “Nones”

By Molly Flodder

In a nationwide study conducted in mid-2013, Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, asked college students about their spiritual, political and moral values. About a third were true believers, another third were spiritual but not religious, and the final third said they were secular.

Although many in the first two groups were Christian, there were a lot of “nones”—those with no religious identity. In trying to understand the “none” group, the researchers said the nones show a “remarkable degree of indifference to religion.” The findings challenged the notion that the nones are just religiously unaffiliated or searchers who have not yet found a religious home. According to the researchers, “This survey clearly revealed that today’s students with a secular worldview, who are mainly nones, are not traditional theists.”

So, in short, in comparing these data to previous studies done in previous decades, college students in particular and our society in general is moving further and further away from a religious identity and even a belief in God.

Five years ago, our church family discerned that students are a ministry of ours. What does that mean and how can we truly embrace students and who they are?

First of all, students who are nones might not ever come to First Baptist Church. The people most likely to be part of our congregation are those who came from a Baptist or similar upbringing. Having them be part of our worship means we are making them comfortable in a familiar environment, and they are making us comfortable because they are like us. What if we truly stepped out of our comfort zone and did more to make all students feel comfortable and what if that “all students” expanded to include people with religious affiliations such as Muslim, Jewish or other non Christians or especially the nones?

That can only happen if we are willing to build relationships with students to get past just saying “Hi” and working toward knowing and loving them as God’s creation. Regardless of what a student does or does not believe, he/she can’t and won’t turn away from a sincere relationship with a caring group of people. We might even get such a reputation for being a caring group that by the witness of our lives we would influence the nones to give their lives to Christ and move to the “true believers” category. Now that, friends, would be a true ministry to students!

Note: We have been toying with the idea of making more intentional efforts to make students feel welcome when classes start back in the fall. If you are interested in serving on a team to make that happen, contact Molly Flodder at flodder@comcast.net



Missional Community Update

Our spring session goes through May. A two month break will begin in June and the fall session will begin in August. If you are interested in joining a life group for the fall session, please let Wade or a Life Group leader know.

Have Items to Donate?

TEAMwork for Quality Living Circle Leaders will sponsor a rummage sale to be held on **Saturday, June 13**, from **9-2 PM**. The sale will be in the shelter and proceeds will help fund TEAMwork programs. Anyone wishing to donate should leave items in the room at the front of the Lower Auditorium (on the northeast side.)

Church Directory

Coming soon ... A new pictorial directory ... Photography dates will be: **July 29-31** and **August 1**. If you are interested in helping/hosting, please contact Ella Mae Lemen at 765-747-5941.

All Church Campout

When: June 19 & 20

Where: Mounds State Park, Anderson, IN

The Children's Ministry Team is coordinating a FBC summer gathering and campout that is bound to be a lot of fun. Camping, hiking, games, food, and fellowship just to name a few of the activities we have planned. Even if you prefer not to camp, there will be plenty of activities to enjoy. Whether you hang out by the campfire and fellowship, or take a walk in the woods, or play at the park, there will be plenty of fun for all.

Tentative Outline of Activities

Day	Time	Description
Friday	5 PM	Set up Camp
	7 PM	Dinner
	After Dinner	Smores, Campfire, and Fellowship If you want to camp, plan on coming Friday night.
Saturday	10 AM	Breakfast
	Morning	Hiking, Corn Hole Tournament, Volleyball Scavenger hunt in the woods for the kids
	1 PM	Lunch

If you would like to camp, please RSVP to Shelby Harris (shelbywee@hotmail.com or 765-748-5553) ASAP. We will need to reserve enough campsites to accommodate all the FBC campers. We look forward to the event and hope you all can make it.

Choir and Handbell Summer Break

Many thanks to all those who help lead worship at first service! The spring season is winding down with last rehearsals for bells on **Wednesday, June 3** and last rehearsal for adult choir on **Wednesday, June 17**. Stay tuned for information about plans for Fall 2015 including first rehearsal dates!

Urban Day Camp

We will be participating with Grace Episcopal Church this summer as they do a week long summer day camp about urban gardening, good nutrition, and living a healthy lifestyle for middle school age children in downtown Muncie. FBC will be leading the chapel time **Wednesday, June 16** and **Thursday, June 17** from **12:45-1:30 PM**. If you are interested in helping with this summer project, please contact Jessica Fink for more information. 765-894-3799.

Office Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

Attention all office volunteers: save this date, **June 30, 11:30 AM** in fellowship hall. We will have our annual volunteer appreciation lunch. IF you have helped this year, plan to come and enjoy and be appreciated.

Combined Service on July 5

We will joining two other local churches on **July 5** for worship. The Bridge (which usually meets at Cornerstone Center for the Arts) and The Revolution (which usually meets at the Ball State Student Center) will be joining us (at First Baptist) for a combined service at 10:45 AM. Neil Kring (from the Revolution) will be preaching and the band from the Bridge will be leading the music. We will not be having an early service on that day. Everyone will be meet for Sunday School at 9:15 AM.

Grief Support Group

GriefShare, a grief recovery program, is a weekly meeting with a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. If you are grieving the death of a family member or friend, you don't have to go through it alone. Each week, your GriefShare group will come together and watch video with top experts on grief and recovery, helping you to gain understanding about what you are going through and figuring out how to look forward as you rebuild your life.

A nationally recognized program, GriefShare runs on a 13-week cycle, giving you access to valuable resources, such as a personal workbook for further personal study at your own pace. Each week is "self-contained", so you don't have to attend in sequence, and you can join the group at any time. With each gathering, you'll watch a video, discuss the materials, and talk about what is going on in your lives. Wherever you are in your process, you can join. Whatever your doubts and fears, there is hope to be found.

Commonway Church, in partnership with First Baptist Church, will be offering GriefShare, a grief recovery program for anyone grieving the death of a family member or friend. Weekly gatherings begin at **6:30 PM** on **Wednesday, June 3** at First Baptist Church in downtown Muncie. Each meeting will last approximately 90 minutes, and the 13-week cycle will end on **August 26**. If you are interested in taking part, please reserve your spot by contacting Kim Kemper at (765) 760-3133.

Branson Trip in September

Suzy's Fun Trips are going to Branson, MO on September 13-19, 2015. The cost is \$759.00/pp, 7days-6 nights, 6 breakfasts, 5 dinners, with 6 shows including Sight & Sound Theater with the live show JONAH. Includes gratuities. For brochure, please call Suzy @ 765 749-3484.

Friendship Class Summer Break

The Friendship Class is for special-needs adults. Friendship Class will meet through the first week of June and will then be on break during the summer. If you have questions about the class or would like to volunteer in the fall, call Jane Patton 759-8276.

First Baptist/Riverside Spring Picnic

A spring picnic for both First Baptist and Riverside Baptist will be **Sunday, June 7 at 4:00 PM**. It will be at First Baptist Church. Meat, beverages, and table service will be furnished. Please bring a dish or two to share as well as lawn chairs. Special guests: Friendship Class, YWCA residents and other guests. There will be entertainment with a freewill offering will be taken for the entertainment. We hope you are able to attend.

Visitor or 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 July newsletter, please email it to wade@fbcmuncie.org by **Sunday, June 21**.

Thank You Notes

The Family of Bettyanne Morrow – My mother loved her First Baptist family. Thank you so much for your support during this very difficult time. We love seeing you all and celebrating Mom's life. Thank you for the floral arrangement and lunch after the funeral. It allowed us to receive comfort and feel God's everlasting love!

Calendar

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 (on summer break after June 3)

Wednesdays – 6 PM Praise Team (Sanctuary), 6 PM Grief Support Group (Bride's Room), 6:30 PM Handbells (through June 3), 7:40 PM Sanctuary Choir (Choir Room through June 17)

June 7 – Riverside/FBC Spring Picnic

June 17 – Grandparents Day at Camp Tippy

June 19-20 – All Church Camp Out at Mounds Park

June 21 – Father's Day

June 30 – Office Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

June Birthdays

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

6/1 - Michael Graham

6/2 - Cameron Pannell

6/2 - Kayonna Pannell

6/3 - Simon Braswell

6/6 - Betty Arthur

6/6 - Jon Stinson

6/8 - Heather Barr

6/8 - Casey Braswell

6/9 - Hunter Barr

6/9 - Wilma Neal

6/10 - Katelynn Cooper

6/11 - Anette Atterson

6/11 - Dawn Dawson

6/11 - Catie Earls

6/11 - Randy Washburn

6/12 - David Cross

6/12 - Marc Sue

6/13 - Julie Davis

6/14 - Kelli Petroviak

6/16 - Jim Hiatt

6/16 - Samantha Ratchford

6/18 - Winola Miller

6/18 - Tim Stigers

6/18 - Olivia Sue

6/20 - Jessica Fink

6/21 - Joyce Cross

6/24 - Sally Jones

6/24 - Joe Songer

6/26 - Shelby Harris

6/27 - Tory Pierce

6/30 - Colt Rutter