



# The Visitor

JULY 2015

## Midsummer Month

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*Wade Allen*

It is summer at First Baptist. Many take advantage of school breaks and warmer weather to travel, to visit family and recover from the normal routines of life. We also shift our attention to our nation's annual birthday party which is often celebrated with hot dogs and fireworks. It is month of rest, celebration and relaxation.

This year, as has been the case the last several years, I will be with our teens as they serve on a mission trip to Camp Barnabas. Their work at Camp Barnabas is not a vacation. They will not be relaxing in the woods. They give a week of their summer to serve those with developmental and physical disabilities. I hope that you will take time to pray for our teens as they serve. While I am with our teens, our church will gather with two other churches for worship. It will be a unique opportunity to join with other believers in what is often a sparsely attended Sunday.



We also continue our study in the life of Solomon in July. During this month, we will talk about Solomon's wisdom. We will discover how he attained wisdom and how it played out in his rule.

While midsummer months sometimes offer sporadic attendance in church, I am looking forward to July. Remember, you can always catch up on the sermon each week at <http://fbcmuncie.org/video> if you are unable to gather with us.

## Worship in July

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The July schedule is:

- July 5 - Combined Service with The Revolution and The Bridge
- July 12 - Solomon's Dream (1 Kings 3:4-15)
- July 19 - Discerning Truth (1 Kings 3:16-28)
- July 26 - Measureless Wisdom (1 Kings 4:1-34)

## Robert's Ramblings

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As this is being written, the story of George for this week goes something like this:

George did not have a father living at his house. He lived with his mother. His grandfather lived next door and looked after him after school and during the summer while his mother worked as a nurse. Having no father made him feel sad. (Days like Father's day next week were hard for him). But one day, while he was thinking, he realized a lot of good things had happened because his story was the way it was. He had come to know and love Grandfather, who was his favorite person in all the world. Living next door had made it possible for mother to go to school and become a nurse. Because he lived where he lived, he had friends he would not have had: Henry, Sam, and Ahmed. Grandfather said, "We all have sad things happen to us, but good comes out of them too." Some really sad things happened to King Saul, but that led to David being king, and Bethlehem being where Jesus was born, and even to our being here in church today. God does not always change sad things, but instead brings good out of them.



For better or for worse, George has become a regular feature at Riverside. He first showed up as a developmentally disabled adult when I was chaplain at a developmental center in Tennessee in the early 1970. Several years later I was pastor of a small congregation in Memphis, not too far from Graceland. Several working single moms were in the church. George became a small boy with a single mother. Grandfather lived next door. He followed us to Evansville where I was chaplain at Welborn Baptist Hospital. I would serve as interim pastor at several churches there and George would come along. The children at one church even drew pictures of how they imagined George to be when the interim was over. Finally, after we came to Muncie, George began making appearances at Riverside. Even though his stories were intended as children's sermons, the adults seemed to like him more than the real sermon. They insisted on George even if there were no children attending. So George has remained. Perhaps there is a lesson here. It seems the gospel is best conveyed not in arguments, neat little formulas, not even in sermons, but in stories, pictures, and art. We may well do at times to put aside the things we think to be clever and effective and trust instead the simple process of telling a story or showing a picture.

Perhaps the best way to convey the values we cherish  
is not to talk about them all the time,  
or to try and legislate them,  
but rather to create literature and art  
in which they fit as firmly embedded nails.

*Philip Yancey*

## Combined Service on July 5

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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.

## Youth to Camp Barnabas

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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.

## **Missional Community Update**

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The Missional Community is on break during the months of June and July. The leadership team is meeting during this month. We will be discerning next steps for the Missional Community. If you are interested in being a part of a life group during the next session (August-November), please contact Wade or one of the life group leaders.

## **Church Directory**

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The church is doing 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. Please go to <http://fbcmuncie.org/directory> to register for your session. If you do not have Internet access please contact Melanie Graham at 765-722-0302.

There is no cost and you will receive a free 8 x 10 for taking the time to be photographed. We hope that everyone will be a part of the directory. You also have the opportunity to invite your friends and family to sign up for a photo session or perhaps have an extended family photo session. All sessions will receive a free 8 x 10.

## **Grief Support Group**

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Commonway Church, in partnership with First Baptist Church, continues to offer GriefShare, a grief recovery program for anyone grieving the death of a family member or friend. Weekly gatherings begin at **6:30 PM** 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 contact Kim Kemper at (765) 760-3133.

## **Branson Trip in September**

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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.

## **Visitor or Bulletin Information**

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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 July newsletter, please email it to [wade@fbcmuncie.org](mailto:wade@fbcmuncie.org) by **Sunday, July 19**.

## Calendar

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**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

**Wednesdays** – 6 PM Praise Team (Sanctuary), 6 PM Grief Support Group (Bride's Room)

**July 4-10** – Youth to Camp Barnabas

**July 6** – Softball Game at 8 PM

**July 7** – Softball Game at 9 PM

**July 13** – Softball Game at 9 PM

**July 15** – Life Group Leaders Meeting

**July 20** – Softball Games at 8 and 9 PM

**July 22** – Life Group Leaders Meeting

**July 28** – CCT Meeting

**July 29 - August 1** – Lifetouch Picture Sessions

## July Birthdays

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

7/1 - Shirley Pittenger  
7/4 - Connor French  
7/5 - Ian Davis  
7/6 - Ward Head  
7/6 - David Rodriguez  
7/9 - Betty Brown  
7/9 - Kaes Petroviak  
7/11 - Barb Eidson  
7/11 - William Nealy  
7/12 - Kara St. Myer

7/13 - Joanne Sewell  
7/21 - Emily Goul  
7/25 - Bryan Bouton  
7/29 - Doug Gregg  
7/29 - Chad Massoth  
7/31 - Coby Anderson  
7/31 - Larry Fouch  
7/31 - Finn Massoth