



Discerning Resources

Wade Allen

Fall is my favorite time of the year. Football, bonfires, and cooler weather mark the season. We also enjoy the return of vacationers and those who spend weekends at lake homes. It is a wonderful season for gathered worship. As we step into this season (officially following Labor Day), I want to update you on what we have been calling *our church staff discernment process*. Church leaders have been working through a discernment process around the issue of church staffing since the spring of 2014. When Matt and Heather (who are now expecting twins!) left for Alabama, we began considering next steps. Soon after their departure, God led Clif Davis (and his family) to our church in an interim capacity. Leaders have been prayerfully considering God's movement in these circumstances.



At the same time, we have been carefully examining our financial stability. We are operating on a much leaner budget that has afforded us the benefit of remaining in the black for a good portion of this time. We ended 2014 almost \$29K in the black. While 2015 has not offered as much overage (as of July, we are almost \$9K in the black), we are thankful for God's provision. We do not yet know how 2015 will end, but we hope to have additional resources to commit to God's work through our church's ministry.

Church leaders have been talking about the discernment process and feel that the focus is more about *resources* rather than *staffing*. The later description presumes that we will hire additional staff. Instead, while leaving ourselves open to this possibility, we will discern the broader topic of our resources. How might God be calling us to invest our additional resources in ministry? Should we add more staff? Should we commit more resources to ministry budgets, to our building, to outside ministries? Should we consider offering more internships for students? We will reflect on how we currently utilize our resources and discern together God's calling for the future.

Over the next several months, we hope to gather in listening sessions around this topic. Leaders are currently organizing the information about our current resource usage and will present this information to the wider church body. We value your input and prayer support during this season of discernment. These are exciting times at First Baptist as we continue to discover God's mission in our community and join Him in it.

Missional Community Update

The fall missional community session is underway. Several new groups have been formed this session. We are also holding another Muncie Reach Week in October.

Muncie Reach Week

Muncie Reach Week is a special outreach emphasis that is designed to involve the entire church in service projects during a concentrated period of time. We held our first Reach Week in April 2015. A second Reach Week is scheduled for October 10-17, 2015. In October, we will be participating in five projects. You can sign up with the Project Coordinators or with Melanie Graham. If you show up at First Baptist, you will probably be asked to sign up for a project.

Vespers Project – We will be ministering to those living in an assisted care facility by providing a worship service. We will be sharing music and personal reflections of scripture at the service, and after, we will be moving to their healthcare side and ministering to those residents through music, and visiting those who are not able to get up and about as well. Coordinator: Adam Fink

Friendship Class Project – The Friendship class meets weekly at Riverside Baptist. We have a few very dedicated members of our church who are helping with that program weekly. We want others to have an opportunity to work with them and to get to know this group of special needs adults so we will work with them on a craft that evening as well as just spending time sharing God's love with them. Coordinator: Melanie Graham

Landscaping Project – Fall has arrived and as part of Muncie Reach Week, we are planning a day of beautification for the outside grounds of our church. Please join us with your gardening tools and be prepared to get dirty. Green thumbs are not required! If it rains, we will still meet and work on the inside of our building! Coordinator: Jamie Harris

Shut-In Project – We at FBC have a wonderful set of members who due to illness, age or other condition, are not able to get out and about like most of us. We would like for a family or individual to take a name, and go visit that person, spend about an hour or so, get to know them a bit and pray with them before you leave. Just loving on someone who doesn't get a lot of love and attention! Coordinator: Cheryl Flaherty

Spa Day Project – We are hosting a Spa Day for the ladies at the YWCA and Teamwork for Quality Living! (All spa services will be provided by The Salon and Spa.) We are looking for 10 volunteers to help do check-ins, take coats, help with food and just be a friendly face and/or conversation. Coordinator: Colleen Massoth

Children's Church Update

The Children's Ministry Team has come to realize we no longer have enough leader/worker support to continue children's church. Kelly and I have enjoyed teaching and getting to know all the children, and we pray that sometime in the future the church will be able to continue the children's church ministry. But, for now, I would like to answer some questions about what this will look like coming up.

When will children's church come to an end? – The last day for children's church will be Sept. 13th. Kelly and I will be having a party that day for the kids. Graduation will be Sept. 20th; that will be the first day for children to be in the adult worship service.

Will the children be in the adult worship service? – Yes. Children from grades kindergarten and older will be in the adult worship service. We will be providing activity packs/bags for these children. They will be located at the back of the sanctuary.

Will we ever have children's church again? – Children's church isn't gone forever. We simply don't have the leaders/workers right now to continue. We, however, do not have a restart date for children's church at this time.

Is there any way I can help? – Of course! Please welcome our children into the service. It is a big transition for them and their families. Also, if you feel God calling you to volunteer with children, please contact Colleen Massoth. There are many areas in the children's ministry that are need of volunteers.

Thank you!
Jessica Fink*

Fall Picnic

The annual fall picnic for First Baptist and Riverside Avenue Baptist will be **Sunday, September 27 at 4 PM** at Riverside. The meat, drinks, and table service will be furnished. Please bring a dish or two to share and a lawn chair. Special guests will be the RABC Tuesday evening friendship class and the Ball State Oasis Campus Ministry. It would be great if everyone would sit with someone they don't know and make a new friend. In case of bad weather the picnic will be inside. If you have any questions, you can contact Terry Harke.

Fall Children's Event

We will be meeting at One Fun Farm on **Sunday, October 4 at 3 PM**. This is a very kid friendly place with lots of activities for our little ones! And you can get your pumpkins and mums while you are there! More info to come on pricing.

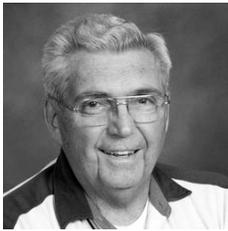
Children's Ministry Volunteer Appreciation

We invite all teachers and nursery volunteers and their families to join us for an appreciation lunch on **Sunday, September 20** following the late service. Everything will be provided! You just need to come and enjoy!

Friendship Class Resuming

The Friendship Class is for special-needs adults. Volunteers are needed to help with the classes. If you have questions about the class or would like to volunteer call Jane Patton 759-8276. You will be blessed if you decide to volunteer!

90th Birthday



Please help us celebrate Jack Klingensmith's 90th birthday on **October 16** with a card shower. His address is: 4320 N. Walnut St., Muncie, In 47304.

80th Birthday



Marsena Washburn is celebrating her 80th birthday on **November 15** from **2 PM to 5 PM**. You are all invited to come and help her celebrate and meet her family. Please take a minute to RSVP to (765) 212-4404 or songlady2000@aol.com so that she can know how many will be attending. Thank you.

Children's Choir

Children's choir rehearsals will resume on **Wednesday, September 9** at **6 PM**. We will meet in the room behind the dining area in the lower auditorium. Any child in grades K-6 (some reading skills are helpful) is welcome. We have to sing in a couple of mornings services this fall and to present a Christmas musical. Work on that musical will begin immediately. If you have questions or concerns, please call Barb Eidson at 284-4825 or 744-0161. Looking forward to a great year!!

Legacy Sunday

On Sunday, September 27, we will gather in a combined service. Ron Shelton, former youth pastor at First Baptist from the 1960s, will be present in worship. Doug Gregg will be preaching on this Sunday as we reflect on leaving a legacy. All Sunday school classes will meet at 9:15 AM and worship will begin at 10:45 AM.

Doug Gregg Ordination



Doug Gregg will be ordained into Christian ministry at **2 PM** on **Sunday, September 27** at First Baptist. Doug was licensed for ministry by First Baptist years ago. With recent job changes in his life, Doug feels led to pursue ministry on a part-time basis. We would like to affirm his calling to ministry through ordination. We hope that everyone will be able to join us during this special service.

Softball Season

The 2015 softball season is over. Thanks to everyone who supported the team. A special thanks to player/coach Roger Morency and organizer David Rodriguez. We look forward to getting back to the diamonds next year.

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 October newsletter, please email it to wade@fbcmuncie.org by **Sunday, September 20**.

Thank You Notes

Pam Kistler – Dear Church Family, I would like to let you know how much your prayers have meant in support of Tom and I in this time around my surgery. Thank you too for the beautiful flower. It really lifted my spirits.

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 at Riverside (Beginning September 15)

Wednesdays – 6 PM Praise Team (Sanctuary), 6 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal (Lower Auditorium), 7:40 PM Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

September 15 – CCT Meeting

September 20 – Children's Ministry Volunteer Lunch

September 24 – Life Group Leaders Meeting

September 27 – Combined Service and Doug Gregg Ordination and FBC/Riverside Picnic

September Birthdays

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

9/1 - Nancy Hall	9/17 - Chloe Durke
9/1 - Monty Stinson	9/17 - Meagan Fountain
9/1 - Sam Stinson	9/18 - Gene Warner
9/2 - Harry Irwin	9/21 - Gabrielle Heimlich
9/4 - Mallory Flodder	9/21 - Ella Mae Lemen
9/5 - Edith Ford	9/23 - Kimi Dahl
9/8 - Hannah Headley	9/24 - Makayla Butler
9/8 - Cathy Henderson	9/24 - Tyler Cummins
9/11 - Helen Heath	9/24 - Sarah Gough
9/11 - Arch Mutter	9/24 - Polly Ratchford
9/12 - Noah Headley	9/25 - Lynn Sciscoe
9/13 - Austin Martin	9/27 - Mary Van Deventer
9/14 - Kimberly Lewis	9/28 - Anna Ratchford
9/16 - Joshua Heimlich	
9/16 - Elizabeth Ratchford	