



The Visitor

OCTOBER 2015

Reach Week and Parables

Wade Allen

The Solomon series has been fun. I have enjoyed this intriguing story. We learn just as much from the failures of God's people as we do from the heroic stories. In October, we will move on to other topics; we will finish the Solomon series on the first Sunday of the month. I would like to let you know where we are going from here.

As you may already know, **October 10-17** is our fall Reach Week. In April, we spent three weeks in a service-oriented church-wide emphasis. This fall, we are doing it again; this time the projects will span two weeks. On the first and last weekend of Reach Week, our worship hour will focus on our faith in action. We will revisit the James passage that speaks of faith in action on the 10th and share stories about Reach Week on the 17th.



Following the Reach Week emphasis, we will spend five weeks on Parables of Jesus. You might remember our 2010 series on the Parables. We spent eight weeks just before Easter that year talking about these fascinating stories that Jesus used in his teaching. Our brief survey of five parables only scratches the surface of the many included in the Gospels. However, each one serves to help us understand the mystery of God's Kingdom and Jesus' mission in our world. It should be a nice transition from the story of Solomon to the season of Advent.

Worship in October

During the month of October, we will conclude our series on the life of Solomon. We will be focusing on Reach Week and moving into a short series on the parables. The October schedule is:

- October 4 - Defiance or Repentance (1 Kings 11:14-43)
- October 11 - Faith in Action (James 1:19-27)
- October 18 - Reach Week Celebration
- October 25 - Parable of the Soil (Matthew 13:1-23)

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 – On **Oct. 11** from 3-4:30 p.m. 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. On **Oct. 13** at 7 p.m. we want others to have an opportunity to work with them and 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 on **Oct. 10** between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. 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. Love on someone who doesn't get a lot of love and attention! Coordinator: Cheryl Flaherty

Spa Day Project – We are hosting a Spa Day **Oct 12** from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. 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 or more volunteers to help do check-ins, take coats, help with food and just be a friendly face and/or conversation. Coordinator: Colleen Massoth

All Saints Day Commemoration

We will again honor the memory of all First Baptist Church family members who have passed away since last All Saints Day on the first Sunday in November. We need photos and birth and death dates of those who have passed away in the past year. Please give them to Mary Ann Bayer or leave them in an envelope in the office for her.

Free Flu Shots

As part of the service that will be provided to the members of Circles who meet in our Lower Auditorium each Thursday night, Walgreens will also offer free flu shots to members of the FBC family. You should call TEAMwork at 747-7158 or e-mail molly@teamworkq1.org if you'd like to get in on the free shots. Date of the shots will be **Thursday, October 15, from 5-7 PM.**

Are You Biased Against Poor People?

By Molly Flodder

It's easy to be judgmental when we don't believe people live the way we think they should. One of the most judgmental places you can be is in the grocery store line. "That woman doesn't have much. She's using her EBT card. Where does she get the idea that she should eat steak and expensive snacks? And, for goodness sakes, she is buying bakery cupcakes. She should have bought a cake mix and made them. She would have saved so much money!"



Have you ever had those thoughts? Do you believe people in poverty make poor decisions about the limited dollars they earn or receive from welfare? Of course many do, but consider this: "I'm so excited to fix a steak dinner for Kenny. He worked so hard to get his associate's degree." "Tony brought his English grade up from a D+ to a B-. He gets popcorn for his snack most nights. I'm excited to give him the Ultra Chips. He always asks me if we can buy them and I always tell him 'No.'" "I'm glad I was able to get cupcakes for Mandy's birthday. The school won't let us bring homemade treats for their birthdays. That's ok, because the landlord keeps promising to fix the oven, but he never does."

Many people in poverty make poor choices about how they use their limited resources. But many have what they feel are very good reasons for making the decisions they do. In January and February when televisions will be on sale, retailers will be appealing to Super Bowl football fans and poor people to buy big flat-screen TVs. A lot of people in poverty will "bite" on that opportunity, having just received a tax refund. Why on earth would someone who needs to catch up on their rent or water bill use the money that way? If you were a constantly-struggling, always-surviving mom who had never taken your kids to the movies or on a vacation, wouldn't you be tempted to give them a chance to have some fun and some entertainment with your sudden windfall because you want to do something nice for them? People living in poverty—especially those from generational poverty—have a time horizon of one day or one week. They aren't good at looking six months down the road to where they need to be and at goals that will get them there. If they suddenly have money, unless they have intentional friends or accountability partners to help them think this through, they will be tempted to spend it.

Before you look down your nose at the actions and decisions of people who are struggling, think again. Maybe you will not ever literally "walk a mile in their shoes," like the motto of the Muncie Mission walk, but you should get to know individuals living in poverty and learn about the patterns of behavior that they exhibit. If you ever feel compelled to help a family and want to help them "help themselves," I know from experience there is a lot to learn and you never really stop learning.

TEAMwork for Quality Living, the organization that First Baptist Church has supported for almost 10 years, will offer training in early November that can help you examine your own biases to people in poverty. Watch the bulletin for information on this class.

Children's Fall Cookout

We have decided to change our Children's Fall Event to a cookout at the Hershman's! (1469 E 600 N, New Castle, IN 47362) It will be **Saturday October 10** at 5 PM. We will eat between **5:30-6**. We will provide the meat, but we ask that you please bring a side or dessert to share, along with drinks for your family. There will be games for the children, a bonfire, hayride, etc! Come have some fun and welcome the beautiful fall season!

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.

Oasis International Student Ministry

Olya Cherevko came to the Oasis Student Ministry (American Baptist College Ministry at Ball State, formerly known as the Baptist House) as an intern in November of last year. Olya is from Kazakhstan. She is a graduate of Columbia University with a MA in Social Science. She also has a degree in Biblical Studies from Summit International School of ministry and a BA in Translation from Taraz State University.

While at Ball State she became aware of the number of international students. She began to invite them to activities at the Oasis. She became involved with the Friendship Family program at Ball State.

By attending activities on campus she began to meet many international students. She invited them to the Oasis for several activities. By becoming involved with students, she has learned that many of the spouses of international students speak little or no English. These people are not students. Olya, who is qualified to teach English as a second language, would like, as needed, to invite them to the Oasis to learn English. She is looking for volunteers who would be willing to give an hour or so to talk to these individuals so they can practice their English. Only commitment would be to talk, listen, and get to know. What a great ministry this would be for our church. If interested contact Olya at 716-5692 or Carolyn Harke, 284-2852 who will pass on your name.

Whaley-Jones Farewell Dinner

On **Sunday, October 4** we will be having a farewell carry-in dinner for the Whaley-Jones family following our morning service. They have been with us in some capacity for over 20 years. Betsy has accepted a position in Berea, Kentucky as Vice-President for Strategic Initiatives with the Mountain Association for Community Economic Development (MACED). She starts in mid-October. David will stay with Ben for his senior year. Julia will move with Betsy and they will come back on weekends. David will continue with Oasis this year and Betsy will begin her "dream job". She is especially pleased that she will only be 3 hours from her family. Meat and drinks will be provided. Bring a dish and share in their new adventure. Let's wish them Godspeed as they leave our church family.

Young at Heart Camp

Camp for Sr. Adults 55 and over will be held **October 20-22** at Tippecanoe Baptist Church in No. Webster, Indiana. Cost is \$80 and registration forms are in the office. The camp is handicapped accessible, and sleeping will be in the lodge. Shirley Pittenger is director of this camp and you can see her for more information.

Senior Adult Programs

Sr. Adult Day - **Thursday, October 8** - Hosted by Richmond First Baptist Church. 1601 South East Street Richmond, IN 47374 - Theme: Every Step of the Way. Program times - Registration 9:00. 10:00 program begins. If you have not paid Shirley Pittenger, and still want to go, the fee is \$12 at the door. If you have not contacted Shirley, please let her know if you plan to go.

Sunday, October 11, the Senior adult group is sponsoring a program at Riverside Baptist Church at **3:30 PM**. Everyone is invited to come. Our program will be presented by Chuck Gallitin, Aquatics director at the downtown YMCA. Chuck is a former school teacher, Choir director at the Lutheran Church, is a comedian and has a great singing voice. You won't want to miss it. For more information see Shirley Pittenger or Terry Harke.

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 November newsletter, please email it to wade@fbcmuncie.org by **Sunday, October 18**.

Thank You Notes

Steve Jones – Dear Friends, both Lori and I have appreciated all the love and support that our church “home” has given us throughout mom and dad to recent health issues. The flowers helped brighten their rooms and served as a visual reminder for us of the folks at First Baptist Church. Thanks again for all that you've done and the continued prayers.

Bill Eidson – Dear Church Family, Thank you for the beautiful carnation, prayers, cards, calls, and visits with which you have supported me recently. The hip replacement surgery went well and the recovery is going smoothly with the help of my devoted and loving caregiver.



Thank you to Terry Harke and Mark Flodder for repairing damage to the picnic shelter. We appreciate all that you guys do.

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)

October 1 – Life Group Leaders Meeting

October 4 – Whaley-Jones Farewell Dinner

October 8 – Senior Adult Day in Richmond

October 10 – Landscaping Project (Reach Week) and Children’s Fall Cookout

October 11 – Vespers Project (Reach Week) and Senior Adult Program at Riverside

October 12 – Spa Day Project (Reach Week)

October 13 – Friendship Class Project (Reach Week)

October 20 – CCT Meeting

October Birthdays

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

10/6 - Sarah Egly

10/9 - Ella Dawson

10/11 - Debbie Gregg

10/13 - Stephen Reid

10/15 - Lydia Burton

10/16 - Jack Klingensmith

10/16 - Muriel Michael

10/16 - Gayle Songer

10/17 - Anson Tooley

10/19 - Chance Lemen

10/20 - Donna Fouch

10/20 - Edward Strother

10/21 - Donn Roberts

10/22 - Autumn Earls

10/24 - Spencer Scruggs

10/25 - Ashlynn Randolph

10/25 - Carolyn Shelton

10/27 - Zoey Cummins

10/27 - Sue Mutter

10/29 - Danyalle Nealy

10/29 - Thomas St. Myer