



The Visitor

NOVEMBER 2015

Parables Toward Advent

Wade Allen

As we move into the month of November, we continue our 5 week series on the Parables of Jesus. You might remember that we did an 8 week series on Parables back in 2010. After 5 years, it seems worth revisiting these profound stories. The *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary* lists 51 parables recorded in Scripture. We don't have time to cover them all, but we will study 5 of them together this fall. Jesus often taught crowds through this storytelling device.



Parables have a way of pulling us into a story and then exposing truth through the story. Yet we must pursue the meaning of the parable if we want to fully grasp its meaning. Michael Green, in *The Message of Matthew*, describes this dynamic,

The parable revealed truth to those who were hungry, and concealed it from those who were too lazy to look for it, or too blinded by hatred and prejudice to discern it.

This series gives us an opportunity to step into first century Palestine. We can imagine Jesus on a hillside or on a boat teaching. He is describing the Kingdom of God. As we engage these stories, we will learn about this Kingdom we continue to pursue.

Following the Parables series, we will move into the Season of Advent. We will follow the lectionary passages into Christmas. As we prepare for Christmas, we are reminded that it is a season of urgency and expectancy. I am looking forward to engaging God's Word with you each week during this season.

Worship in November

The November schedule is:

- November 1- Forgiven to Forgive (Matthew 18:21-35)
- November 8 - The One Talent Man (Matthew 25:14-30)
- November 15 - Dead Men Talking (Luke 16:19-31)
- November 22- Kingdom Inversion (Luke 18:9-14)
- November 29 - His Return (Luke 21:25-36)

Harvest Dinner

Sunday, November 22, our church family will gather for the annual Harvest Dinner. The meal will begin following the second service in the lower auditorium. Meat, beverages, and table service will be provided. Please bring a side dish with you if you plan to attend. This is a wonderful time to “meet and eat” with everyone in our church and a time to give pause for all the many blessings we have.

Please consider helping in the kitchen prior to the Harvest Dinner, or afterwards for cleanup. Call Cheryl Flaherty at 765-520-7260 if you are able to serve in this way.

Member Care Ministry Opportunities

November is a busy month for Member Care Ministry. Our two most important events, fruit baskets for shut-ins, and the Harvest Dinner are the same weekend, **November 21 and 22**. Many hands make for light work, so if you would like to participate in one or both activities, please contact Cheryl Flaherty at 765-520-7260. Here are ways you can help.

Fruit Baskets – Saturday, November 21, 9:00 AM, in the kitchen. 10 to 12 people to assemble baskets. 5 people to deliver baskets. Directions and phone numbers provided.

Harvest Dinner – Sunday, November 22. Prepare tables day before. Bake a turkey or ham (5 turkeys, 2 hams). Kitchen preparation morning of dinner. Clean-up

Thank you in advance for your help.

Clocks Falling Back

Just a quick reminder that Daylight Savings Time ends on **Sunday, November 1**. Please remember to set your clocks back on Saturday evening (October 31) before you go to bed.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

We are signed up to ring bells at the Mall **December 8 and 10** from **10 AM to 8 PM**. Our bells will be at Macy's and JcPenney's both days. Sign up sheets will be available at the Harvest Dinner; then, it will be posted on the bulletin board in lower hall. Give some of your time to help another.

“Understanding People in Poverty” offered free

Anyone who is part of the First Baptist Church family can attend the next session of “Understanding People in Poverty” on **Tuesday, November 10** from **10 AM-12:15 PM** at Grace Episcopal Church. This interactive session helps people understand the pattern of behaviors of many people who come from generational poverty. This training is a “must have” for people who want to understand more about what living in poverty is all about. Normally the class, offered by TEAMwork for Quality Living, is \$20 a session, but the fee will

be waived for anyone at FBC who would like to attend. Call 747-7158 or e-mail molly@teamworkql.org to RSVP. Make arrangements before **November 5** as the class is likely to fill up quickly.

Friday 13th can bring good luck

If you don't want to have to think about what to cook for dinner on **Friday, November 13**, your luck is changing. Be part of TEAMwork for Quality Living's Drive-thru Lasagna dinner. See Molly Flodder or call 747-7158 to get your tickets to drive through the canopy on the parking lot side of First Presbyterian Church (New York and Riverside) between **4:30-7 PM.** that day. You can pick up your meat or veggie lasagna (large portion), salad, breadstick and a cookie for \$8. Proceeds go to help individuals and families build resources and become self-sufficient. This group of people working with middle income friends and accountability partners in their journey to thriving meets weekly in our church basement.

Missional Community Update

The fall missional community session is underway. The fall life groups will go through November. During the months of December and January, the missional community ministry will break for evaluation and planning for the spring session.

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 December newsletter, please email it to wade@fbcmuncie.org by **Sunday, November 15.**

Thank You Notes

Dale Jones family – Dear First Baptist family, thank you so much for the lovely peace lily plant you sent for Dad's funeral. We so appreciate the love and prayers for us throughout all of this. Pastor Wade conducted a service honoring Dad, and we appreciate his willingness to participate. Love, Lori and Steve and families

Bill and Barbara Turner – Dear brothers and sisters in Christ. We wish to thank everyone of you for your support and kindness, especially your prayers, for our daughter-in-law Valerie Turner (Jim's wife) with her struggle with cancer. Thanks to the International Missionary Circle for their paper shower and Judy Edrington (Read and Weep Book Club) for their generous donations and every individual donation. We surely are very fortunate to have a loving church family as we have. We think we are seeing the light, now, with God's blessing.

Polly Ratchford and family – Thank you so much for all of your thoughts and prayers. Thank you for the beautiful plant that you sent in memory of my dad, Edward S. Quinn. Your church family is so special during tough times like this. Thanks again.

The family of Jack Klingensmith (Lynn, Ginny, Tim, Pam, Karen, and Debbie) – Thank you to the First Baptist Church family for the many cards, greetings, and visits for Jack Klingensmith for his 90th birthday celebration. By the date of his birthday he had received over 100 cards, and they are still coming in. It was such fun, he is looking forward to planning for 100!

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

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

November 1 – Daylight Savings Time Ends

November 7 – Thanks-sing Rehearsal

November 8 – Thanks-sing Service

November 13 – Teamwork Lasagna Dinner

November 17 – CCT Meeting

November 21 – Shut-In Basket Prep

November 22 – Harvest Dinner

November Birthdays

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

11/3 - Lexi St. Myer	11/18 - Britney Sue
11/4 - Bradley Rodgers	11/23 - Thelma Jones
11/7 - Sara Martin	11/24 - Kara Boye
11/8 - Michael Songer	11/25 - Dick Flaherty
11/11 - Katie Braswell	11/26 - Brady Lemen
11/11 - Emme Hembree	11/27 - Dawson Allen
11/12 - Pam Barnhouse	11/29 - Maren French
11/14 - Betty Clark	11/29 - James Martin
11/14 - Sandra Davis	11/30 - Jamie Harris
11/14 - Sofie Pannell	11/30 - Gerry Minnick
11/17 - Bethany Cummins	
11/18 - Darlene Hill	