



The Visitor

DECEMBER 2015

Anticipation

Wade Allen

As we come to the final month of the year, we find ourselves wrapped up in the holiday season. Many are frantically searching for the right gift for family and friends. Others are preparing for holiday gatherings. The season is anything but relaxing for most.

At First Baptist, we continue the season of Advent, of anticipation. We look forward to the coming of Christmas. At the same time, we ultimately look forward to the coming of Jesus to make things right in the world. As we continue in this season, allow me to challenge the people of First Baptist to keep this vision at the forefront of our hearts and minds. As we anticipate Christmas and the coming year, may we also look forward to all that God is going to do in our midst. May the proclaim the nearly final words of Revelation,

(Revelation 22:20 NIV) He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen.
Come, Lord Jesus.



Worship in December

The December schedule is:

- December 06 - Expectant (Philippians 1:3-11)
- December 13 - Re-Focus (Philippians 4:4-7)
- December 20 - Mary's Song (Luke 1:39-55)
- December 24 - Christmas Eve (Luke 2:1-20)
- December 27 - This is a Baptist Church (Matthew 3:4-6, 5:10-12)

Combined Service

We will gather in a combined service on **Sunday, December 27** at **10:45 AM**. Dr. Bill Eidson will be preaching. All Sunday School classes will meet at 9:15 AM on this day.

Dr. Bill Eidson is preaching this morning. Bill and his wife, Barb, are long time members of First Baptist Church. They joined First Baptist after moving to Muncie in 1966. The Eidson's came to Muncie after Bill was hired to teach history at Ball State. Bill taught at Ball State for 35 years and has also taught Sunday School, served on the diaconate and served in other leadership capacities at First Baptist.

Christmas Eve Service

We will gather at **7 P.M.** on Christmas Eve in a candlelight communion service. This special service has been a tradition at First Baptist for many years. It is a wonderful way to bring in Christmas with our church family.

Church Office Holiday Schedule

The church office will be closed from **Thursday, December 24** to **Friday, January 1** during the holiday season. The office will reopen on **Monday, January 4**. You can call Wade on his cell phone at 765-760-1520 if you have a pastoral emergency.

Children's Christmas Parties

Attention kids birth-2yrs! Please plan to attend a special Birthday Party for Jesus on **Sunday December 13**. The party will take place right in the 2yr old room (Joyce and Dave's room) Whether you come for the early or late service, we will have a special snack, craft, Christmas story and lots of fun! See you then! The preschool and elementary room parties will be held on **December 6** in the Sunday School rooms. Please RSVP to your Sunday school teachers so that they can be prepared.

Children's Christmas Musical

On Sunday morning **December 13** our children's choir will be presenting their Christmas musical *Aaron, the Allergic Shephard*. Aaron has some struggles but soon learns that Jesus will take care of these problems in his way and time. Please keep our children and adult helpers in your prayers as we prepare this message in music and speaking parts.

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.

Christmas Caroling and Dinner

First Baptist and Riverside Avenue Baptist Churches are once again partnering for the annual Caroling and Christmas Dinner. Join us on **Sunday, December 13** for a time of singing, fellowship and food. Arrive at Riverside at **3:30 PM** for assignments. The dinner will be at **6:00 PM**. The meat, drinks, rolls and table service will be furnished. Please bring a dish or two to share. There will be a program after the meal. Please RSVP to Jane Patton 759-8276 or Terry Harke 284-2852 by December 6 if you plan to go caroling.

Congregational Meeting

An all church business meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, December 20** to approve the 2016 operating budget and nominations for the 2016 CCT. This will be a brief meeting from 10:15-10:30 AM. There will be an informational meeting on **Wednesday, December 16** at **5 PM** for those wishing to discuss the budget in more detail. The informational meeting will be held in the church office.

Mission Trip to Dominican Republic

Dear Church Friends and Family,

I am very excited to share with you all about an upcoming opportunity that I have to travel to the Dominican Republic with my niece on a week long mission trip with Compassion International. My niece Macie is 17 years old and a Senior at Delta High School. While attending a Christian concert in Chicago, Macie felt led to sponsor a child in need. She has a huge heart for the Lord and serving others. She attends church and youth group at Glad Tidings. Macie asked me to join her on this trip since I went on a month long mission trip to Venezuela right after graduating High School back in 1999.

While in the Dominican Republic we will have the opportunity to visit the Child Survival Program where young mothers come with their infants to learn basic skills and resources to ensure their babies not only survive but also thrive out on their own. We will also visit the youth center where young Christian adults are preparing to graduate the program. Our time in the Dominican Republic will also be spent in several Compassion centers where we will lead children in vacation Bible school activities, service projects for the centers, and get a better knowledge of the Compassion program. We will also get to visit assisted children's homes where parents and children come to live when faced with extreme poverty.

Macie and I need your support in several ways to make this trip happen. If you could pray with us that the lives we come in contact with on this trip will be blessed, that lives will be forever changed, and for safe travels to and from the Dominican Republic. We also need your financial support to make this happen. The trip cost is \$2675 per person, plus the cost of airfare. If you feel led to give to our trip, please see me at church, or you can mail your donations to me at the address below.

Thank you Church for your love and support.

Blessings,

Shelby Harris 5881 E. County Road 450 N. Albany, IN 47320

Missional Community Update

During the months of December and January, the missional community ministry will break for evaluation and planning for the spring session.

Youth Ski Trip

Registration Forms are available for the youth ski trip **January 15-18, 2016**. Deadline for registration is **December 15**. You can get more information and forms at <http://fbcmuncie.org/ski/>.

Men's Group

If you are interested in being a part of a men's study group, please contact Wes Russell at wesleyrussell12@gmail.com or 765-480-9500.

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 January newsletter, please email it to wade@fbcmuncie.org by **Sunday, December 13**.

Thank You Notes

Marsena Washburn Family – Thank you for the wonderful peace lily and allowing Mom's funeral to be held in her favorite place.

Jane Patton – Thanks so much for all the filled boxes for Operation Christmas Child. We had a total of 56 boxes! My goal next year is 100. We can do it!

MORE

Marriage Retreat

February 19th-20th, 2016

Do you want M.O.R.E from your marriage?

(Making Our Relationship Eternal)

Please join us at the Artist Colony Inn in Nashville, IN with other FBC couples for a weekend of marriage enrichment and fellowship.

Suggested Cost: \$100 per couple (Includes room, most meals and snacks.)

*Sponsorships will be available as needed.

Space is limited; please make your reservation today!

Please see Melanie Graham for more info.



The closer we move toward
God, the closer we move
toward each other.

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 (No Friendship Class on December 22 and 29)

Wednesdays – 6 PM Praise Team (Sanctuary), 6 PM Children’s Choir Rehearsal (Lower Auditorium), 7:40 PM Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room) (No rehearsals on December 23 and 30)

December 5 – Special Children’s Choir Rehearsal

December 6 – YMCA Collecting Donations at First Baptist

December 8 and 10 – Salvation Army Bell Ringing

December 12 – Special Children’s Choir Rehearsal

December 13 – Christmas Caroling at Riverside

December 16 – Congregational Informational Meeting

December 20 – Church Business Meeting

December 24 – Christmas Eve Service

December 27 – Combined Worship Gathering

December Birthdays

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

12/2 - Tyler Stinson

12/4 - Shirley Johnson

12/6 - Eliana Heimlich

12/6 - Katelyn Richardson

12/6 - Aurora Richardson

12/8 - Kasey Kirklin

12/8 - John Mulcahy

12/9 - Julie Morency

12/11 - Bill Eidson

12/13 - David Jones

12/19 - Levi Allen

12/20 - Willow Brown

12/20 - Harold Gill

12/21 - Danielle Heimlich

12/23 - Benjamin Whaley-Jones

12/26 - Josh Barr

12/26 - Randolph O’Bryant

12/26 - Grace Wright

12/30 - Jennifer Howard

12/30 - Robert Kirklin

12/31 - Rodney Head