



The Visitor

JANUARY 2016

Resolutions

Wade Allen

Christy has been teaching exercise classes at the YMCA for the past few years. When you are the teacher, you cannot opt to stay in bed; you have to be there. She has enjoyed the classes and the push to greater physical stamina. As the new year arrives, many will enroll in gym memberships. The attendance will increase for the first few weeks of the year only to fade by early spring. Christy tells me this is a common observation among the YMCA instructors. Why is this? It has much to do with what we call *New Year's resolutions*.



As January 1 rolls by, many feel the need to access their lives. The failures and shortcomings of the past year are identified. A new year provides an opportunity to *do better*. Some will set new exercise plans; others will venture into new diet plans. Perhaps a reading goal or a class enrollment will be on your list. What sorts of plans are you making for 2016? Will your plans last the entire year or will they slowly fade away by the time the weather warms?

As we consider the coming year, may we strive to walk closer to the Lord. May our resolutions be centered in God! May we ask Him how He would have us shift our priorities in the coming year. My prayer is that 2016 would be a year in which each person at First Baptist grows in their intimacy with God. Several new initiatives will provide opportunities for growth in the coming year. As you read through this edition of the Visitor, I hope you will find ways to be involved in ministries that help you grow in your walk with Christ.

Worship in January

The January schedule is:

- January 03 - We Three Kings (Matthew 2)
- January 10 - Baptism of Jesus (Luke 3:15-22)
- January 17 - The Surpassing Worth of Jesus (Colossians 2:20-3:4)
- January 24 - Hometown Reception (Luke 4:14-21)
- January 31 - Follow (Luke 5:1-11)

Marriage Retreat

Do you want MORE from your marriage? Do you want to make the most of your relationship with not only your spouse, but also with God? If so, plan on attending FBC's Marriage Retreat on **February 19-20** at the Artist Colony Inn in Nashville, IN. Suggested cost is \$100 dollars per couple and includes room, most meals and snacks, as well as several group sessions focused on making MORE out of your relationship with your spouse. A deposit of \$25 is required to reserve your spot. Space is limited, so please act fast. Always MORE! (Making Our Relationship Eternal) See Melanie Graham to make your reservation.

Men's Ministry

I am excited to see what God has in store for the men of FBC as we kick off our Men's Ministry with a men's breakfast **Saturday January 9 at 8:00 AM** here at the church. The Men's Ministry exists to help men connect as brothers in the Lord and to create opportunities to learn and grow in worship.

As the men of First Baptist, our ultimate desire is to be "**Men of God.**" The purpose of the Men's Ministry is to do all that we can to achieve that goal. Proverbs 27:17 says "**As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.**" We want to help each other grow in love, honor, faithfulness, patience, and understanding by the study of God's Word. We want to encourage and be encouraged by one another's faith. We want to become better servants of the Lord, to be better husbands, fathers, grandfathers, sons, friends, employers and employees. We want to support one another when we struggle or even fail. And we want to be the light of Christ in our everyday lives.

We will meet every Saturday morning at **8:00 AM** in the lower auditorium for prayer and bible study. Once a month we will have a breakfast with special guests to speak on topics relating to men's ministry. In addition, we are hopeful that this ministry will grow to have a fall retreat as well as other events such as a trip to a baseball game (to include young men).

Men, will you prayerfully consider participating in some or all of the events of Men's Ministry and to the women of FBC, will you please pray that God would be glorified through this ministry?

If you have questions about this ministry or would like to get involved please contact me or Pastor Wade.

Blessings,

Wes Russell

Missional Community Update

During the months of December and January, the missional community ministry will break for evaluation and planning for the spring session. Groups will start back in February. If you are interested in being a part of a life group, please contact Wade or Brad.

Youth Ski Trip

The youth will be attending a ski trip/retreat in Green Lake, Wisconsin on **January 15-18**. Please keep them in your prayers as they travel. Also, please pray that God would use this experience in their lives to draw them closer to Him. You can read more about the event at <http://skwim.org>.

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 February newsletter, please email it to wade@fbcmuncie.org by **Sunday, January 17**.

Thank You Notes

Ernestine Shields – Just wanted to thank everyone involved with Thanksgiving baskets and also the CDs from weekly service. Wishing you all a very happy Thanksgiving. I am truly blessed with good friends.

Bell Ringers Coordinator – A big thank you for the 28 families that rang Salvation Army Bells in December. Thank you for your time, your smiles, and your good wishes to those that passed your kettle and those who donated.

Pool Table Donation – A special thank you to Bill and Loretta Stephens for the gift of the Deluxe Brunswick Billiard Table for the youth room. The teens will greatly enjoy this new addition to the room.

Wheelchair Donation – Thank you to the Dale and Jean Jones family for donating a wheelchair. The wheelchair can be used by anyone who needs assistance on Sunday mornings. It will be stored near the handicap entrance of the church.

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), 6:30 PM Handbells (Choir Room), 7:40 PM Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Saturdays – 8 AM Men's Bible Study

January 6 – 5 PM Life Group Leaders Meeting

January 9 – 8 AM Men's Breakfast

January 11 – 5 PM Marriage Enrichment Planning Team Meeting

January 15-18 – Youth Ski Trip

January 19 – 7 PM CCT Meeting

Scripture Engagement Workshop

Mark your calendars for a special workshop presented at First Baptist on **Saturday, March 5** from **9 AM to noon**. Phil Collins, Ph.D. (A Taylor University Professor) will be presenting a highly interactive workshop, helping participants to:

- Develop their thinking (theology) and skills (practice) in engaging the Bible.
- Learn from Scripture about reflecting on God's Word.
- Practice different methods of reflecting on Scripture (e.g., praying Scripture, "storying," journaling, hand copying, Lectio Divina, memorizing, visual arts, singing, etc.) both as an individual and in small groups.
- Encounter landmark research about Scripture engagement Participants will receive a workbook that equips them to reflect on Scripture (the workbook explains the foundation of Scripture engagement, provides training on a variety of Scripture engagement practices, and includes numerous resources for further study).

Dr. Collins will be preaching at First Baptist on Sunday, February 28 (the week before the workshop). Look for registration forms in the coming weeks.

January Birthdays

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

1/2 - Jillian Barr	1/21 - Annie Wright
1/3 - Dale Stone	1/25 - Gene Carr
1/8 - Bob Oisten Jr.	1/26 - Veda Massoth
1/10 - Julia Whaley-Jones	1/27 - Kelly Rodriguez
1/14 - Grace Hahn	1/28 - Pam Kistler
1/17 - Andrew Heimlich	1/30 - Heidi Davis
1/18 - Lester Bryars	1/30 - Martin Lewis
1/18 - Gabriel Rodgers	1/31 - Patty Stigers
1/18 - Marjorie Wright	1/31 - Bill Turner
1/21 - Sharon Jackson	
1/21 - Katie Shutters	