



The Visitor

MARCH 2017

Lenten Season

Wade Allen

This year, the season of Lent begins on March 1 (Ash Wednesday). It continues for 46 days until Holy Saturday. If you take out the 6 Sundays, we are left with 40 days. The season is representative of Jesus' 40 days in the desert. Just as Jesus deprived his body of food (fasted), many choose to "give up" a particular food, habit, or pleasure during this time. This deprivation helps us consider the suffering of Jesus.



We continue this season to follow the lectionary passages as we move toward Easter. This year, we will engage several familiar stories that help us understand the mission and purpose of Jesus' ministry. We will reflect on Jesus' temptation in the wilderness, consider a late night conversation with this guy named Nicodemus, overhear a conversation between Jesus and a Samaritan woman and witness the healing of a blind man. Each of these passages give us insight into Jesus' identity.

Let me encourage you to read the passages for each Sunday ahead of time. You can also use this lectionary website, <http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/> for additional readings and art for each Sunday. May God enhance our walk with Him as we engage the Scriptures each week together.

Worship in March

The March schedule is:

- March 5 - Overcoming Temptation (Matthew 4:1-11)
- March 12 - The Starting Point (John 3:1-17)
- March 19 - Living Water (John 4:5-42)
- March 26 - Eyes to See (John 9:1-41)

Sabbatical time brings new opportunities to First Baptist Church

By Molly Flodder, Moderator

The Church Coordinating Team (CCT) has been hard at work planning the companion work that we will do while Pastor Wade and his family rest, recuperate and study. As outlined in the grant proposal submitted to Center for Clergy Renewal and Lilly Endowment, the Pastor will explore the “Death of Christendom” in the United Kingdom, the New England states and Georgia along with relaxing with his family. The Death of Christendom is in place across the world as the Church is becoming less central to society and culture. We have seen that here in the United States as church attendance declines and younger people are not necessarily plugged into any particular church.



What is known is that many churches survive and thrive when they have a heart for serving others outside the walls of the Church. We are committing to several service projects this summer that will allow us to “Join God in the Neighborhood,” a framework we are using in Wade’s absence. You will be hearing more about this as the summer approaches.

Late in April we will be making training available that will help us all to better understand some of the people we will be serving. Some of this training will be offered through funding that the local Circles operation—that meets in our church every Thursday—received from a Palmer Grant awarded for training American Baptists across the state.

One date we know that you’ll want to “save the date” is June 17. David Fitch, an author and theologian from Northern Seminary will be helping us understand many of the issues confronting the church today.

The questions we are hearing most:

Will we only have one service? – No. More than half the Sundays we will have two services.

Will only one pastor fill in for us all the Sundays Pastor Wade is away? – No. There will be seven different speakers during the 16 weeks, all of whom are working together to support our emerging mission: Building. Community. Presence.

Is there a plan for covering all the work that the Pastor does in terms of visitation, administration, etc.? – Yes, the CCT is leading and putting together teams of people to cover that work.

Will it be a busy summer? – Yes. If each person takes a small job in the operations of the church and then a couple of outreach programs, too, not to mention some training, there may be a few extra hours needed for church this summer. The CCT happens to be excited that this initiative will be transforming for our community of believers and our personal walks with the Lord.

Stained glass window project completed

Repair, cleaning and restoration of the south wall stained glass window mosaic is completed. S.A. Boyce Corporation completed the project expertly and efficiently, on schedule and with no interruption of church activities. Furthermore, the final cost was unexpectedly only two thirds of the approved estimate, saving FBC more than eighty-five hundred dollars.

When you see Scott Boyce, thank him for his diligence in getting the project completed on time, despite the weather, and for his most generous contribution to the preservation and beautification of our sanctuary.

Thank you, Scott.

Community Lenten Services

Here is a schedule for this year's community Lenten services. Each service will be at St. Andrew Presbyterian on Moore Rd. in Halteman Village. Each service begins at noon.

March 1 (Psalm 51:1-17) – Kathryn Rieder, Pastor, St. Andrew Presbyterian

March 8 (Matthew 4:1-1) – Denny Helton, Pastor, Full Gospel Tabernacle

March 15 (John 3:1-17) – Will Grinstead, Staff Chaplain and Palliative Care Chaplain, IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital

March 22 (John 4:5-42) – Jan Largent, Pastoral Team Member, Riverside Ave. Baptist Church

March 29 (John 9:1-41) – Earl Muterspaugh, Retired Educator and member of Friends Memorial Church

April 5 (John 11:17-27) – Robert Scaife, Pastor, Union Missionary Baptist Church

Youth News

Things in the youth program have settled down after the holiday vacations and annual Ski Trip. We had a nice turnout for the trip (around 20 youth were there and participated). Now that we are back home and getting in the flow of things - we are still hitting home the "4 Foundations" or fundamentals of our Christian faith.

Confidence – We have since moved on from this series, but a lot was learned within our youth members. We learned how to have confidence that God is real and active, but also confidence that He continually loves us despite our flaws.

Acceptance – We are currently in this series of learning the difference between a relationship and having fellowship with God. We are learning how to deal with our sin and how to truly reach repentance while moving onward seeking Jesus.

Development – TBA

Empowerment – TBA

Segments 3 and 4 we will have to wait and see what the youth really take hold on before I write to you about them.

Jesus is ever present in our group of 10 - 15 members. We are steadily growing, but also intentionally staying small to foster an environment that can readily outreach in the coming years.

Operation Christmas Child

News: We cannot include toothpaste or candy in this year's box.

In February and March, please bring toothbrushes and small picture books. For questions contact Jane Patton or Sharon Jackson.

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 April newsletter, please email it to wade@fbcmuncie.org by **Sunday, March 19**.

Thank You Notes

Shirley and Jay Pittenger – Wade, We appreciate your coming to share with us Grandma's passing. It meant a lot to both of us to have you come. Thanks so much for your love and caring.

Polly Ratchford – Thank you very much for the plant that you sent to me in memory of my mom. Also, thanks to those that sent me notes after she passed away. I really appreciate all of your thoughts and prayers. Love, Polly

Penny and Dick Stemer – Thanks to all my First Baptist family for your support following the death of Erma Jean Berlin (Penny's mom). Thanks for all your love, prayers and food. Wow! What a blessing to belong to such a big family. Thanks for all the cards! Thanks for the neat plate. It was greatly appreciated by everyone near and far. God Bless you all.

Maryanne Bayer – Thank you again to all the SA bell ringers who rang in December on very cold days at the Muncie Mall. Our kettles enriched the annual fund by \$442.48.

Church Business Meeting

There will be a brief business meeting to approve new CCT members on **Sunday, March 12** at **10:15 AM** in the lower auditorium.

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 – 7:00 PM Friendship Class at Riverside

Wednesdays – 6:00 PM Praise Team and Children's Choir, 6:30 PM Handbells, 7:00 PM Men's Bible Study, 7:40 PM Choir

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 – Community Lenten Service

March 12 – Daylight Saving Time Begins

March 14 – CCT Meeting

March 28-30 – Salvation Army Food Pantry Volunteers

March Birthdays

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

03/01 - Justin Earls	03/19 - Mavery Sims
03/03 - Chris Davis	03/21 - Adam Fink
03/06 - Adalyn Cummins	03/21 - James Petroviak
03/06 - Kaleigh Sheahan	03/21 - Wade Allen
03/08 - Emma Thurston	03/22 - Bob Ratchford
03/08 - Renee Pierce	03/22 - Matthew Fink
03/09 - Andrew Dawson	03/24 - Cindy Hershman
03/12 - Nina Oisten	03/24 - Ian Reid
03/13 - Julie Kirklin	03/24 - Jan Armstrong
03/13 - Ray Bayer	03/24 - Susan Randolph
03/14 - Lisa Earls	03/25 - Harper Rodriguez
03/15 - Louise Head	03/26 - Alexis Johnson
03/16 - Jon Kern	03/26 - Dan Lemen
03/17 - Alaina Reed	
03/19 - Mason Sims	