



The Visitor

MAY 2017

Special May services

Two important Sundays coming up in May will combine all the church family as follows:

Sunday, May 21, 10:45 AM — Allen Family send off service. A time of sharing and talking about the wonderful opportunities of rest for the Allen family as well as our opportunities to work with God in our neighborhood will culminate in prayer for the safety and success and the patience and perseverance for our new and different roles this summer. Contact anyone on CCT if you have questions.

Sunday, May 28, 10:45 AM —Church in the parking lot for Memorial Day weekend. We will gather for singing, prayer, two brief special community presentations, fellowship and eating. The “we” is our church and members of the Revolution Church as well as others from the neighborhood who a team of people will invite. There will be games and activities for children, smoked pork provided by Mark Flodder, Chad Massoth, Neil Kring and others as well as sides procured by Chad. **FBC folks will need to bring desserts.** You’ll get more detail as time passes and directions for where to bring your food in order to follow safe food handling requirements.

Both Sundays there will be regular Sunday School as always.

Mark your calendar

On the weekend of June 17 and 18, Dr. David E. Fitch, the B.R. Lindner Chair of Evangelical Theology at Northern Seminary and a founder of a northern Illinois church, will be providing a workshop and preaching in Sunday’s combined service. Dr. Fitch is the author of *The Great Giveaway*, coauthor of *Prodigal Christianity* and author of the more-recent book *Faithful Presence*. His latest book invites us to see the church anew. In the book, he addresses the question “Is there a way to be the church that engages the world, not by judgment or accommodation but by becoming the good news in our culture?”



Plan to attend the Saturday morning workshop and to bring friends, neighbors and coworkers from the community. There will be more detail in “Sabbatical Notes” that will arrive at your home in a couple of weeks.

Important voting to occur on May 7

On May 7, between services, there will be two items presented for vote. First, CCT will present Barbara Young as the candidate for Member Care coordinator. Barbara has attended FBC for 12 years and joined the church earlier this year.

The second item involves asking the membership to approve the launch and implementation of the Legacy Campaign. The campaign, outlined by Properties Coordinator, Joe Songer, in earlier business meetings, will help us continue our efforts to restore and preserve our building. Seeking lead gifts this summer will be the job of the Legacy team, and a Pledge Sunday kickoff in October will launch the initiative. The campaign will allow all of us to give to this important part of our ministry as we contribute financially during a three-year campaign. The collection of this capital campaign will culminate in 2019 as we mark the 160th anniversary of our church and the 90th anniversary of our current building.

Open House for Dawson Allen

by Wade and Christy Allen

Dear Church Family: We would like to invite each of you to join us as we celebrate Dawson's completion of High School. On **Friday, June 9** from **6:00-9:00 PM** we will have a Backyard BBQ to honor his achievement. The menu will consist of pulled pork sandwiches and coleslaw (prepared by "Chef" Mark Flodder), chips and Dawson's favorite Homemade Pound Cake. Hope to see you there!



Why all this community service?

By Molly Flodder, Moderator

This summer's Sabbatical during which Pastor Wade is away from the church for 15 weeks (and 16 weeks from the pulpit) gives the Allen family a chance for rest and relaxation and Wade an opportunity for reflection. As he reflects on the topic he selected for purposes of the Lilly Clergy Renewal Grant awarded to FBC, he will learn from other churches and pastors both here and abroad about the dwindling importance of The Church in society.

While Wade is away, we will assume the posture of some of the more vibrant churches that have found their stride and nurtured their commitment to the Lord in opportunities for service. We will learn to better listen to God through dwelling in the Word, listen to each other as we learn and serve together, and listen to our neighborhoods, especially in our downtown part of Muncie.

Where might the Spirit be calling us to join with God in our neighborhoods? There are amazing things happening in our local community that, if we begin to see them, can transform our understanding of church. The American Baptist Church's program "Joining God in the Neighborhood" teaches: "As society changes, fewer people come to church. Simply trying to make church more attractive doesn't compel people to come, so we need to go and be where people are and the neighborhood is one of those places. As we discern what God is doing in our neighborhoods, we will begin to practice and plan how we are going to join God there."

Our new way of thinking can help us be less about doing "FOR" God and more about doing "WITH" God as we explore opportunities for service and relationship-building with those outside our church.

Wes Russell, Outreach Coordinator for the Church Coordinating Team, will be sharing service opportunities before each service during the next few Sundays. In addition, a complete list with dates and times will come

out in a separately mailed publication the week of May 8. Here is an updated list of what is going on so that you may begin to think about how you will contribute to what our church is learning about service, each other, and our neighborhoods.

While we said Friendship Class would be a ministry this summer, the group does not meet in the summer. Volunteers are needed to help at the September 12 Fall kickoff.



Opportunities for service are:

1. Rustic Hope personal care item drive with our church's children is currently underway and wrapping up in May. This local group especially needs diapers and baby items. (Collection container is in office)
2. Gathering Grace dinners at Grace Episcopal Church—Preparing and serving food to struggling families at 3 p.m. on a Sunday afternoon.
3. Urban Day Camp at Grace Episcopal Church (helping downtown middle schoolers learn to grow and prepare food) during their camp the week of June 12.
4. Muncie Soup Kitchen sack lunch preparation to occur at our church with delivery to their site. (\$ to purchase food for sack lunches are also needed.)
5. Circles (formerly TEAMwork) weekly meeting meal—Preparing and serving food to families working their way out of poverty on a Thursday night at our church
6. Hearts and Hands school supply/backpack give-away—Community wide distribution at Fairgrounds with bag assembly earlier in the week and final distribution on July 29th
7. Blood 'n Fire dinner and service—Serving struggling individuals at weekly meals on Saturday nights
8. Blood -n Fire Food Pantry—Helping prepare Food Pantry distribution on a Saturday
9. Salvation Army Food Pantry—Help the FBC regulars work the pantry during the fifth weeks in June and August.
10. YWCA Pillow Project—Help YWCA residents make pillowcases to cover new pillows, teaching sewing and providing a practical gift (\$ will be needed for pillows and fabric and we need someone who would donate a sewing machine for the ladies to have available to them permanently.)

Watch for “Sabbatical Notes,” a brief newsletter to detail dates, times and sign-up information for each of our summer projects.

Our prayer is that as Wade is reinvigorated and refreshed and that we as a congregation will become more reflective and sensitive to our community's needs as we explore the needs locally.

Toolkit Trainings Postponed

Because of many personal conflicts for people on this Saturday, April 29th, the four-hour training at Second Harvest Food Bank to prepare for a summer of service has been postponed. The training is occurring for Baptist worshipers in Kokomo at their church, but ours is being delayed.

The two shorter components of that training will occur in separate “Lunch and Learn” sessions as follows:

Volunteering 101 – Tuesday, May 23, 12 noon-1:15 p.m. at FBC in the lower auditorium. (If you have to leave after one hour because of work commitments, still sign up!) Learn about the spectrum of Volunteerism and decide where you think First Baptist Church falls in that spectrum. Realize the power of not only giving to people in need, but knowing something about those individuals and families.

Understanding People in Poverty – Wednesday, May 30, 12 noon-1:15 p.m. at FBC in the lower auditorium. Do you know why people from generational poverty make some of the decisions they make? Even teachers who have taught children living in poverty for 25 years have taken this class and been amazed at what they have learned the patterns that occur among many people who struggle financially.

Dorica Watson of Circles of Delaware County will be the trainer. Dorica has national training experience and a wealth of knowledge about building relationships across socioeconomic lines.

You must register for either or both the above sessions by the week before each so that the church may provide box lunches for attendees.

The two-hour poverty simulation is being scheduled for the summer months. Stay tuned for a date and details.

Open House for Heidi Davis

by Clif and Julie Davis*

Please help us celebrate Heidi Davis as she graduates with honors from Missisnewa High School! You are invited to an open house at our home on **Sunday, June 4, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.** Come when you can, leave when you must! We'll enjoy refreshments and wish Heidi well as she embarks on her time at Taylor University. Our home is located at 1032 Walnut Creek Lane in Gas City, just a couple miles off I-69.



Betty Arthur 90th Birthday

The families of Betty Arthur and Florence Shelby would like to invite you to celebrate the 90th birthdays of two sisters-in-law and long-time friends. The birthday celebration will be held at the Riverside United Methodist Church, 1201N. Wheeling Ave., Muncie, IN from **2-4:00 PM** on Sunday, May 28, 2017. Betty has been a member of First Baptist for over 60 years.

Youth News

by Nathan Bussberg

The Youth group has been doing a lot of different things lately. We are working through the challenges of outreaching. We have been going through different techniques of explaining Jesus' ministry to people and giving them direction on how to commit their life to Christ.

The youth team, which is separate from the youth group, has met and planned all of the late spring and most of the summer schedule for the youth group. We are going to be doing youth group twice a month with individuals hosting the youth groups. These meetings will also include the middle schoolers to start integrating them into being involved with youth group! We will be having more activity-based meetings including bonfires, movies, and lots of games.



Youth Group Meetings in May

May 7th, 6:30pm @ FBC Muncie

May 14th, 6:30pm @ FBC Muncie

May 20th / 21st - Lock In @FBC Muncie. Details to follow in the Bulletin.

May 28th, 6:30pm @ FBC Muncie

If you have any questions please give me a call or text at: 765-273-3013

Visitor or Bulletin Information

Over the summer, we will not be publishing a weekly bulletin or monthly newsletter. Instead, Julie Davis will be putting together a monthly publication to highlight all that is happening each month.

May Birthdays

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

05/04 - Troy Hershman

05/05 - Duane Davis

05/06 - Jeremiah Fink

05/06 - Lincoln Harris

05/06 - Terry Harke

05/07 - Daniel Bouton

05/07 - Mitchell R. Fountain

05/07 - Olivia Green

05/08 - Clifton Davis

05/09 - Roger Morency

05/13 - Gretchen Reid

05/13 - Phyllis Jennings

05/16 - Allen Shelton

05/16 - Andrew Bouton

05/16 - Mekayla L. Cooper

05/16 - Molly Flodder

05/19 - Rachel Russell

05/20 - Jennifer Durke

05/21 - Brian Clements

05/21 - Carolyn R. Hershman

05/21 - Jennifer Conley

05/22 - Jacob Hershman

05/22 - Kim Lee

05/23 - Alyvia Smith

05/25 - Darlene Shulze

05/25 - Jackson Crawford

05/29 - Patti Warner

05/31 - Janis Wright