



The Visitor

OCTOBER 2017

Fall in 1 Peter

by Wade Allen

It is good to be back in the somewhat normal routine of life. As I have told a few of you, there is a new normal around our house this fall. With Dawson heading off to college, we are down to only Levi at home. Coming off sabbatical into this new environment has been a transition for our family. Nevertheless, we have missed our church family and are thankful to be back serving God through the ministry of First Baptist Church in Muncie.

I began planning our fall preaching series back in the spring. Considering our summer focus of discerning God's movement in our changing society, this seemed a relevant book study. Peter is writing to a church that is struggling with an identity crisis. Many are experiencing persecution as a result of their faith. How can they live out their faith in such a world? Would it not be easier to abandon Christianity in light of the values of the Roman Empire? How can Christians positively impact a hostile culture with the life-giving truth of God's salvation story?

Peter's letter to the churches of the first century can serve us well. Since we are a church with similar dynamics, this letter can reinforce the basics of what it means to follow Jesus in an unfriendly culture. Peter's instructions will seem challenging, but can point us toward what it means to live as a church on the sidelines of culture. I look forward to exploring this letter with you over the next several weeks.



Worship Schedule

- October 01 - Living Stones (1 Peter 2:4–10)
- October 08 - Submission (1 Peter 2:11–25)
- October 15 - Weak Wives? (1 Peter 3:1–7)
- October 22 - Living in the New World (1 Peter 3:8–17)
- October 29 - Like Noah (1 Peter 3:18–22) (Combined Service)

Harvest Meal Date

The Harvest Meal will be held on **November 19, 2017**. Please reserve this date on your calendar.

Friendship Class

The Friendship Class is for special-needs adults. Volunteers are needed to help with the classes. If you have questions about the class or would like to volunteer, call Jane Patton 759-8276.

Legacy Campaign Sets October 29 Pledge Event

The Legacy Capital Campaign team will be working over the next few weeks to get pledge cards out to the congregation in preparation for Pledge Sunday. **Sunday, October 29, 2017** will be the First Baptist Church Pledge Sunday Kickoff for the campaign, which is a 30-month capital campaign focused on renovating, restoring, and remodeling the church building. We will gather in one service at 10:45 AM on this Sunday. All Sunday School classes will meet at 9:15 AM.

In May, church members voted to support the campaign to raise \$300,000, an endeavor slated to culminate in December 2019 after First Baptist Church turns 160 years old and our current building turns 90.

There will be opportunities to give above and beyond our tithes in amounts and increments that best fit each household's priorities. On that Sunday, pledge cards will be due designating commitments to the campaign. For some, this might mean a smaller gift for 2017, with larger pledges in 2018 and 2019. For others, an amount to be given periodically—quarterly, monthly, weekly, etc.—might be a preference. Several gifts have already been pledged, including one-time pledges adding up to nearly \$150,000.

“We have a beautiful building that has been given to us by God,” said Joe Songer, building coordinator for the Church Coordination Team. “It is our responsibility to take care of it for our own use and our children's use and for blessing our community. Not everyone can give large gifts, but the Bible tells us that even the ‘widow's mite’ gives pleasure to God. No stone is unimportant in our beautiful stone church, and no gift is unimportant in this opportunity.”



Prayer Walk Will Aid in Discernment of God's Leading

On **Sunday, October 22**, after a light lunch at the church around noon, people are being asked to join James Martin and members of the Church Coordination Team in a neighborhood prayer walk. This prayer time will help in the post-summer process to discern what God is leading First Baptist Church to do as we join Him in the neighborhood.

“We have had good outcomes in the sabbatical summer of service,” said Molly Flodder, moderator. “Many members of our church family have been exposed to needs and to how those needs are being met right here in Muncie. We want to learn where God wants us to take this as we venture out more from the comfort of our own sanctuary and our usual way of serving God.”

The group will walk around for a few blocks, stopping occasionally to pray for God's leading and for the needs around FBC. If you or members of your family plan to participate, please call the church office or e-mail Molly at flodder@comcast.net.

Tribute Sundays Coming Up

On **Sunday, November 5** and **November 12** we will remember those who have passed in the last year and honor those living veterans who are part of our church family. We will need pictures and information for both groups of people. Contact MaryAnne Bayer at mabayer65@aol.com no later than **Sunday, October 15**, if you have questions.

Sabbatical's Summer of Service Brings Awareness of Many Area Needs

In addition to taking on many extra responsibilities in Pastor Wade's absence, the First Baptist Church family, led by the Church Coordination Team (CCT), tackled more than 10 different community service projects. During his sabbatical, Wade learned in the United Kingdom and several places in the US that some of the most vibrant churches are those that embrace their communities and opportunities to serve. From June through August, FBC was learning about the local Muncie community and stepping forward to serve.

"We had ten projects that we planned in advance," said Wes Russell, coordinator of outreach ministries, for the CCT. "Most of them focused on people in poverty, and several were around issues of food insecurity. If you look at the demographics of our church's immediate neighborhood, poverty and food issues are major concerns for our local neighbors."

A total of 38 people from the church did one or more projects, serving at two different food pantries, preparing and serving at four food distribution locations, and preparing sack lunches. In addition, a large group of volunteers helped distribute backpacks full of school supplies, shoes, and socks to families as children headed back to school.

A project that has become an ongoing part of FBC's work is the "Pillowcase Project." According to MaryAnne Bayer, event coordinator, this is an ongoing project in which she participates in Arizona each winter. She pulled it together here, starting an ongoing relationship with ladies living at the YWCA and expanding it to create a continuing service project for our middle schoolers.

"The ladies made colorful, decorative pillowcases for themselves and received a new pillow to go along with their creations," said MaryAnne. "Then, they wanted to help others and made a second pillowcase—and sometimes more—to donate to the blanket cupboard at the Y. Our youth have done the same thing: made their own and then picked a charity to which to give a second pillowcase." Those pillowcases are going to Christian Ministries, foster care children, and other community locations.

In a recent church-wide survey, church attendees have agreed and strongly agreed that the projects were beneficial to those who worked and to the organizations in the community that they served. Some of the individual feedback was as follows:

Julie Kirklin – "Bob and I enjoyed working at Blood 'n Fire and their Saturday night meal. The people we met were great and we were pleased to be a part of what was needed. We plan to go back to help."

Mary VanDeventer – "We worked on getting socks ready to distribute at the back-to-school backpack event. It was amazing to see how many people were there and what a critical need it met to have supplies and shoes and socks for these families."

Joe Songer – “We helped at the ‘Gathering Grace’ meal on a couple of Sunday afternoons. That meal serves 125–200 people and is coordinated by one couple who attends Grace Episcopal Church as well as a team of volunteers. There are no food pantries or soup kitchens open on Sundays. It is great to see a church neighbor making food available on a day that there is great need.”

Josh Heimlich – “Two of us went with our mom to work at The Food Pantry at Blood ‘n Fire. I helped sort tomatoes, stacked empty boxes, and then passed out potatoes to the shopping carts. It felt good to help people.”

Mallory Flodder – “I wasn’t sure if I would do any service, but my mom was taking Betty Arthur to help pack bookbags and told me I was going, too. It ended up being a good afternoon. We packed all the supplies for more than 300 kindergartners who were coming to the backpack day.”

Wes Russell – “This work gave us a good view of some of the need in our community. We look forward to discerning where God is leading us to go next. We have learned that ‘joining God in the neighborhood’ is something we want to do. We just need to figure out what He is leading us to do.”

Visitor or Bulletin Information

If you would like an announcement in the November Visitor or the weekly bulletin, please email it to wade@fbcmuncie.org by Sunday, October 22.

Thank You Notes

Betty Arthur – Dear First Baptist Church family, thank you for the flowers, cards, and visits while I was in the hospital. Thanks also to Wade for his visits and prayers.

October Birthdays

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

10/06 - Sarah Egly	10/20 - Donna Fouch
10/09 - Ella Dawson	10/21 - Donn Roberts
10/13 - Stephen Reid	10/22 - Autumn Earls
10/15 - Lydia Burton	10/24 - Spencer Scruggs
10/16 - Gayle Songer	10/25 - Ashlynn Randolph
10/16 - Muriel Michael	10/25 - Carolyn Shelton
10/17 - Anson Tooley	10/27 - Sue Mutter
10/18 - Mark Flodder	10/27 - Zoey Cummins
10/19 - Chance Lemen	10/29 - Danyalle Nealy
10/19 - Owen Dawson	