



Season of Epiphany

As we step into 2019, we have much to celebrate around First Baptist Church. This year marks the 90th anniversary of our building and the 75th year of our newsletter. You can read more about a special project of collecting our faith stories in this issue of the Visitor. I am looking forward to another wonderful year as we celebrate God's work in our lives.

As we begin 2019, we step into the season of Epiphany. Epiphany, which means light, is the season between Christmas and Lent. It begins with the story of the Wise Men and continues through the life and ministry of Jesus, who is the light of the world. This year, we continue to follow the Narrative Lectionary each week, which places us in Matthew's account of Jesus's story.



Worship Schedule

- ▷ January 06 - Quest of the Wise Men (Matthew 2:1–23)
- ▷ January 13 - Rivers in the Desert (Matthew 3:1–17)
- ▷ January 20 - Tempted in the Wilderness (Matthew 4:1–17)
- ▷ January 27 - Stories (Matthew 5:13–16)

YOUR Story Tells OUR Story

A few years ago in mid-autumn, I was taking a walk by myself on the Cardinal Greenway, carving out a few minutes to clear my head. Solitary walking, hiking, and running is “processing time” for me, and that day was no different. I don’t remember particularly what I was thinking about, just that the day was a little chilly and the sun was blazing. I loved the way it shot slants of light through the leaves that still remained on the trees.



The Greenway was empty of people and the wind had swept most of the leaves from the path. Suddenly a bright yellow leaf dropped at my feet and I stopped to look closer. Its veins still ran with green that feathered out in tiny spurts through the leaf. It was about the size of my hand, and so simple, but I was stunned by how intricate it was.

For some reason, I started to think about what it would take for me to create that leaf. I have a fair amount of education, but I don’t understand the leaf’s DNA. I appreciate art, but I could never replicate its beauty. I realized I could no more fashion that leaf than I could walk to the moon. It was an exquisite creation. And then I turned around.

The floor of the woods was a yellow carpet of wonder. As far as I could see there was nothing on the ground but yellow leaves. Thousands and thousands and thousands of them. God could make so many that covering the ground for miles was nothing. But I could not make a single one.

My sense of God’s glory in that moment changed me. Years later, I cannot forget it. God is at work. There’s no doubt about it. That I often miss seeing his work is also sure. I try to pay attention, because I don’t want to miss what he’s doing in me and in the people around me. But even when I pay attention in the moment, sometimes I forget over the long term. And I don’t want to forget.

God has been at work in your life in the past and he is working still. He works in you individually and in our church and communities collectively. We don’t want to miss noticing and we don’t want to forget! Recognizing our stories of God at work now and remembering them for the long term is an encouragement to us today and a testimony to others who come after us.

God works in big ways that are obvious to us, but he also works through our “yellow leaves.” At the end of this month, you’ll hear about a great opportunity for us to collect and preserve the big or little stories of God working in our lives. You’ll want to be sure to be in church on January 27. If you can’t be here, please make sure to listen to the sermon from the link on the church website.

Your story is important. It tells our story. And we want to tell our story of God at work for generations to come. –Julie Davis

Nursery Workers Needed

Our goal is to have a staffed nursery each Sunday, with two adults in the crib room (birth to one year) and one adult in the one-year-old class. To be a nursery volunteer, you simply need to have a background check on file at the church. Please see Britney Sue or Colleen Massoth if you are interested in becoming a nursery volunteer. We would love to have you on our wonderful team of workers!

Youth Ski Retreat

Teens from First Baptist will be traveling to Green Lake, Wisconsin for their annual ski retreat from **January 18–21, 2019**. If you would be interested in providing a scholarship for one of our teens, please contact Wade. The cost of the trip is \$175.

Life Groups

Most of our life groups are on break during December and January. The new life group session will begin in February. If you are interested in being in a life group, please see Julie Davis.

Thank You Notes

Michael, Maggie, Mason, Mavery, Maleah, and Maizey Sims – FBC, We cannot thank you all enough for the continued prayers, showering of gifts, and for the wonderful meals! We truly love and appreciate each member of our church family! Have a blessed Holiday Season!

Kitchen Klips

Please remember to label any refrigerated opened food with the name of the group and the date opened. Refrigerators are cleaned monthly and unlabeled items will be removed. Personal items may be stored in the office refrigerator.

To avoid dried food being left on pans and utensils, please do clean-up ASAP after preparing food. Thank you. The Kitchen Team

Visitor or Bulletin Information

If you would like an announcement in the February Visitor, please email it to wade@fbcmuncie.org by **Sunday, January 20**. You can also email articles for the weekly bulletin by Tuesday of each week.

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.

01/02 - Jillian Barr	01/21 - Katie Shutters
01/03 - Dale D. Stone	01/21 - Sharon Jackson
01/08 - Bob Oisten Jr.	01/22 - Meghan Fry
01/08 - Debra Bradburn	01/24 - Maggie Sims
01/11 - Natalie Green	01/24 - Wyl Atkinson
01/12 - Larry Bradburn	01/25 - Gene Carr
01/14 - Grace N. Hahn	01/26 - Ann Siverly
01/17 - Andrew Heimlich	01/26 - Veda Massoth
01/17 - Jay Pittenger	01/27 - Kelly E. Rodriguez
01/18 - Lester Bryars	01/28 - Pam Kistler
01/18 - Marjorie Wright	01/30 - Heidi Davis
01/21 - Annie Wright	