



The Visitor

FEBRUARY 2019

My Wife

February is a special month for our family, especially our marriage. First of all, the 5th is our anniversary. Christy and I celebrate 25 years this year. The month also includes Valentine's Day which is the day we express our love to that special someone in our lives. Finally, the 27th is Christy's birthday.

I would like to take a moment to recognize Christy. Not only is she a special wife, mother, and friend, she stands beside me in ministry each and every day. She has always held our home together when the demands of church work have infringed on our evenings and weekends. Her love for our family and our children has allowed me to pour into the life of this church. Christy's love for First Baptist is evident in the way that she has cared for the children and youth of the church, along with their families. She has been diligent in decorating and polishing our beautiful building. I would like to acknowledge her in this edition of the Visitor.



Happy 25th Wedding Anniversary, Christy. Thank you for your faithfulness, your support, and your constant encouragement. I love you and am thankful for your partnership in life.

Worship Schedule

- ▷ February 03 - Hearts Follow Treasure (Matthew 6:19–21)
- ▷ February 10 - Plank Eye (Matthew 7:1–12)
- ▷ February 17 - The Parables of Jesus (Matthew 13:24–43)
- ▷ February 24 - Abundant Table (Matthew 14:13–21)

How Do I Begin?

Last Sunday you found out about a remarkable way you can let your light shine in 2019 and beyond. As individuals, we are planning to tell our personal faith stories. Then, as a whole, First Baptist can reflect on and share the good work God is doing in our lives.

“But,” you ask me, “how do I start?”

That’s a great question! I would encourage you to begin by getting quiet for a few minutes. Yes, put your phone in the other room for a while—we all need a break from that. Sit in a place that makes you feel comfortable and relaxed. And start by asking God for help. Do you remember this prayer that Pastor Wade shared with us last summer?



“Lord, I am open to the Holy Spirit. Come to me, dwell in me, speak to me so that I may become more like Christ. Lord, give me the courage to be open. Lord, I am open to the Holy Spirit. Come, Holy Spirit. Amen.”

The Holy Spirit can help us understand how God has worked in our lives in the past and is working now. But it takes courage to be open, to listen. Ask for that courage, and for the Spirit to help you understand how God has been at work in you. It may be that the Spirit will begin bringing thoughts to your mind right away, but if not, that’s okay. You’re open to listening for the Spirit to speak.

To move your thought process forward, take some time to see if one of these ideas resonates with you:

- ▷ Have you seen something happen that can only be explained as a “God thing”?
- ▷ Do you have family members or friends? What would you like them to know about your spiritual journey?
- ▷ Have you gone through something very difficult and been changed for the better?
- ▷ Has God ever given you a promise and you’ve seen it come true?
- ▷ How are you different today than you were a year ago? 3 years ago? 5 years ago?
- ▷ If you had the opportunity to tell a very good friend about something God has done for you in the past, what would you tell them?
- ▷ Has there been a special Scripture verse or passage that helped you through a difficult time?
- ▷ Is there a way the discernment process used at FBC has changed you or the work you do in the church?
- ▷ Is there a way that being a part of this congregation in Muncie has changed your life, impacted your spiritual growth, etc.?
- ▷ Have you recently come to know Christ? How is your life different? What are some of the challenges? What are some of the joys you’ve found in coming to know Christ?

Even if you can just jot down a few thoughts today, it's a start. Another day you can work on it more. And if you get stuck, there are upcoming opportunities to get help from the Story Project Team. Please attend one of our one-hour information meetings on **Sunday, February 24**, or **Sunday, March 3**. We'll also have a longer workshop here at church the morning of **Saturday, March 16**. Team members will be here to help you one-on-one with the story you want to tell. You've got something to say!

Sunday Morning Study

Are you looking for a good way to connect with other adults on Sunday mornings? James Heimlich leads a great Sunday School class during the first-service hour! This group, which meets in the Bride's Room, includes adults of all ages and has a welcoming discussion format. If you attend second service, take a Sunday or two to come earlier and try it out.

Pastor Evaluation Underway

Late last year the Church Coordination Team (CCT) identified the need to conduct a performance evaluation of Pastor Wade Allen's pastoral leadership. In many churches, this is an annual exercise to provide feedback to a pastor to compliment his strengths and make suggestions if there are areas to address. Wade has been our pastor for ten years and has not had this structured kind of feedback. Wade is looking forward to comments to affirm his work and offer suggestions about his ministry.



Moderator James Heimlich and outgoing moderator Molly Flodder are heading up a team that is being assembled to coordinate this process. In addition, they are working with Pastor Wade as he provides a self-evaluation and coordinating the distribution of a random sample survey to 15% of our active church members.

If you are randomly selected to participate in sharing confidential feedback about Wade's ministry, you will receive a survey sometime this month. Only one person will know to whom the survey is sent; a different person will see the initial survey findings but not the people who submitted the responses. After that, the team will evaluate the responses and work with James and Molly to create a focused overview that will be shared with Wade. That team will also determine the highlights to share with the entire congregation.

If you have any questions or concerns about this process, please contact James Heimlich or Molly Flodder.

Historical Error

In last month's Visitor, you may have noticed a logo that referenced the 75th year of the Visitor. Based on the volume numbers, it appeared that 2019 was the 75th edition. However, upon further examination this information was incorrect. The Visitor began in January 1947. Somehow the volume numbers were incorrect in 2004 and again in 2012. In order to fix this oversight, the February edition will be volume 73, issue 2. We will celebrate the 75th anniversary in a few years.

New Addition to the Frey Family

Rob, Meghan, and Winona Frey recently welcomed a new addition to their family! Walter Ryan Frey was adopted in January. Walter was born in July 2017, making him 6 1/2 months younger than his big sister. Walter is Joe and Gayle Songer's new grandson. The family appreciates your prayers as they continue their journey.

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!

Thank You Notes

Clif Davis – On behalf of my family, let me thank FBC for the kind Christmas bonus the church gave us this year! We are glad to partner with you in worshiping God and sharing God's love with others.

Allen Family – Thank you for the generous Christmas bonus. It is a reminder that we serve a generous, gracious congregation. We love you all and are thankful to serve as your Pastor.

The Family of Robert Kirklin, Sr. – Dear Friends at First Baptist, The peace lily was lovely and we so appreciate all of your prayers and expressions of kindness during this time.

Michelle Ball – Pastor and Mrs. Allen and everyone at FBC, Thank you so much for the use of your beautiful church for my daughter's wedding. It turned out better than we expected. We believe a holy matrimony took place and God was glorified! Please share our gratitude with volunteers and the sound man! What a blessing!

Nancy (Cleaning Service) – FBC, thanks so much for the Christmas gift! I was able to use it when I went shopping with my granddaughters last Sunday. Thanks again! Blessings.

Shut-in Ministry – A special thank-you to Duane Davis and others who have helped produce and deliver DVDs to shut-ins. In 2018, 169 DVDs were delivered/mailed. An additional 55 DVDs were produced, 46 placed in archives, and more than 137 visits made to shut-ins without DVDs.

First Baptist Youth – Teens from First Baptist traveled to Green Lake, Wisconsin, this past month. Thank you to those who provided scholarships and for others who prayed for the trip. Everyone enjoyed the worship sessions and the fellowship with one another. It was a fantastic trip.

Bruce and Paula McFarland – We wanted you to know how grateful we are for the Christmas gifts from FBC. Thank you SO much for them! What difference they made in our lives. We really enjoy serving at FBC and we are deeply grateful for your generosity. For Him and In His Love.

Visitor or Bulletin Information

If you would like an announcement in the March Visitor, please email it to wade@fbcmuncie.org by **Sunday, February 17**. You can also email articles for the weekly bulletin by Tuesday of each week.

February Birthdays

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

02/04 - Jeff Jones	02/16 - Chris Wright
02/05 - Brandy Say	02/16 - Melanie Graham
02/05 - Pam Williams	02/17 - Elora Heimlich
02/06 - Ryan Swayer	02/18 - Micah Braswell
02/07 - Ernestine Shields	02/20 - Jo Boyce
02/07 - Linzi M. Rodgers	02/21 - Haylee Mathis
02/07 - Marge Manor	02/23 - Daniel Morency
02/09 - Bracken Petroviak	02/23 - Joe Johnson
02/11 - Gary Henderson	02/23 - Penny Morris
02/14 - Brenda Cox	02/24 - Wes Russell
02/14 - Nancy Borton	02/27 - Christy Allen
02/15 - Elizabeth Shreves	