



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
515 N. LADD STREET
PONTIAC, IL 61764

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The Family Tree

First Baptist Church of Pontiac
—Growing the Family of God

Pastor: James O. Wolfe III



In his book, *Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home* Richard Foster tells the story of a friend who was walking through a shopping mall with his two-year-old son. The child was in an especially cranky mood, fussy and fuming. The father tried everything he could think of to pacify the little boy but nothing worked. Suddenly, the father scooped his son into his arms, held him close to his chest and started singing an improvised love song in the ear of the whiny child. The words didn't rhyme, and dad sang off key. "I love you," he sang. "I'm so glad you're my boy.

You make me happy. I like the way you laugh." As they moved from store to store the father continued singing, off key and making up words that did not rhyme. The child relaxed and became still, listening to this strange and wonderful song. When they finished their shopping and returned to the car and Dad was buckling his son into the carseat the little boy looked up and said, "Sing it to me again, Daddy! Sing it to me again!" 1

I was reminded of this story recently when a devotional referenced Zephaniah 3:17 in which the prophet declares: The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

Please allow me to share with you some of the thoughts that occurred to me as I read these words from the ancient prophet in light of an all too familiar incident of a frustrated parent struggling to calm a fussy child.

To begin with, the vision of God who loves us even when we are fussy and cranky, selfish and irritable. God who scoops us into loving arms when we really deserve spanking and loves us completely in spite of ourselves. Father God who celebrates us as his unique child, enjoys our silly stories and laughs at our jokes.

The word for Father is an important word. The word for Father is "ABBA" which is a term of endearment and may legitimately be translated as "daddy" or "papa". When God is known as "papa" both the story and the verse take on an even deeper meaning. It is our papa who picks us up when we are broken and most unlovable and sings us a song of unmitigated love.

Life, more often than not, seems totally unfair. It seems that evil triumphs over good, our friends

From The Pastor...

and family fail us and we cry out to a God who seems unbelievably far, far away. It is when our behavior is at its worst that Abba loves us the most. When our lives are most fractured and hope is gone that we hear a gentle voice singing in our ear, "I love you. I am so glad that you are my child."

Papa rejoices over you with a glad heart. Papa sings in your ear a deep, deep song of everlasting love. Rest gently in the arms of your Papa.

¹ Foster, Richard. Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home. San Francisco, Harper Collins. 1992. (pp. 3-4).

American Baptist Women's Area III Spring Rally

First Baptist Church
701 N. 7th St.
Fairbury



Saturday April 18, 2015
Registration: 8:30 - 9:30 am
Meeting: 9:45 am - 2:30 pm
Lunch will be served.

Ladies of Area III, Great Rivers Region, are invited to First Baptist Church of Fairbury for a day of fellowship, information, laughter, music, and inspiration. Our guest speaker is Sharyl Jennings, a Lifestyle Coach and Grief Recovery Specialist. The 2013 - 2015 AB Women's Ministry Theme "A Time to Serve", will help you understand how you have been uniquely shaped by God for the ministry to which you've been called, and sent out to the world.

Graduate Recognition Sunday



Graduate recognition Sunday will be held this year on Sunday, June 14th.

If you or someone you know in our church family is graduating from junior high, senior high, college, graduate or technical school this year, please contact the church office at 815-842-4321 and let us know **no later than May 10th** so that we may properly acknowledge their achievements.

Nursery Care Available

Nursery care is available during worship services for infants and toddlers through age 3.

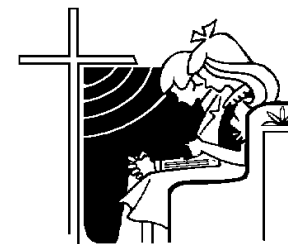
The nursery is located across the hall from the sanctuary.

Newsletter Deadline



All articles for inclusion in the May edition of the church newsletter must be submitted to the church office no later than Friday, April 17th.

You may submit your articles by phone (842.4321), fax (844.6943), by e-mail (Rhonda@fbcpontiac.org) or by leaving them in the black box outside the church office door.



Financial Information

Gen. Fund Beginning Bal.	(\$2,983.18)
Gen. Fund receipts	\$17,583.05
Gen. Fund int./adj.	\$0.00
Gen. Fund Expense	(23,449.27)
Gen. Fund End. Bal.	(\$8,849.40)
Avg. Weekly Offering	\$4,395.76
Avg. Weekly Need	\$5,150.37

Children's Church

April 5: Shirley and Bob Carroll

April 12: Shirley and Bob Carroll

April 19: Rick Golliday and Jacob Krominga

April 26: Rick Golliday and Jacob Krominga

VBS Needs YOU!



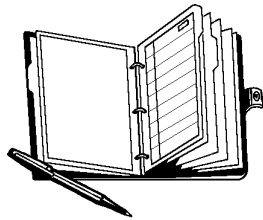
We are still in need of someone, or a group of people, to volunteer to coordinate our Vacation Bible School this year.

The coordinators pick out the curriculum, choose the dates, arrange for teachers and helpers, and coordinate the scheduling.

Please pray about your involvement in VBS and if you are willing to volunteer contact Julie Amdor as soon as possible.

Notes From the Church Office

From Tuesday, April 7 - Friday, April 10th, our Administrative Assistant Rhonda will out of the office. During that time the office will be operating on the following abbreviated schedule:



Tuesday: 9:00 am – 12:00 noon
Wednesday: 9:00 am - 12:00 noon
Thursday: 9:00 am – 12:00 noon
Friday: 9:00 am - 12:00 noon

We appreciate your patience and understanding.

Holy Week Activities



Maundy Thursday

There will be a soup and sandwich supper held at 6:00 pm on Thursday, April 2nd with a special Maundy Thursday service to follow at 7:00 pm.

Easter Sunrise Service

A special Easter Sunrise service presented by the youth of our church will be held at 7:00 am on Sunday, April 5th with a family breakfast to follow.

We will also gather for our 9:00 am worship on Easter morning.

We invite you to come and join us during these very special worship services



Board of Ministries

The Board of Ministries met at 7:15 pm on Thursday, March 12th.

Church Clerk: The membership list has been updated and will now be kept in a computer database that will be updated regularly and that can be transferred to the next clerk.

Adult Ministries: The "Power Thoughts" small group continues to go well.

Youth Ministries: Preparations are underway for the upcoming TeenServe mission trip.

The 'Be About' Sunday School class won the food

challenge.

Children's Ministries: ABK attendance is down. There are five weeks left before they disband for the summer.

Still looking for someone to coordinate VBS this year.

Sunday School: In the month of February the average attendance was 78 with an average offering of \$46.00.

Karen Meister has resigned from teaching her Sunday School class.

Fellowship: We hosted approximately 190 people at the Celebration of Life ser-

vice for Fran Dean.

The Food Pantry served 64 families with a total of 204 people during the month of February.

Moderator: Plans are being made for a board retreat that would also include committees and teachers.

Senior Pastor: Ed and Diana Rich will be in charge of the Maundy Thursday dinner with the soup for the meal being provided by Baby Bulls.

Baptisms will be conducted on Easter Sunday with either 5 or 7 candidates being baptized.

Schedule Notes



In honor of the Easter holiday, there will be no evening activities on Sunday, April 5th and the church office will be closed on Monday, April 6th.

We wish our entire church family a joyous and healthy Easter weekend!

Thank You

Dear Church Family,

I want to thank everyone for preparing and bringing the meals to me. A special thank you to




Diana Rich for coordinating the meals.

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers. I enjoyed the wonderful meals and the great company.

God Bless,

Ruby Lloyd



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:00 am ROMEO Club 9:00 am Ruth Circle 1:00 pm Esther Circle 7:00 pm Adult Choir	2 Maundy Thursday 6:00 pm Soup and Sandwich Supper 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service	3 Good Friday 	4 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
5 Easter Sunday 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 	6 Easter Monday Church Office Closed 7:00 pm Monday Night Bible Study	7	8 9:00 am ROMEO Club 7:00 pm Adult Choir	9 6:00 pm Diaconate Council 6:30 pm Barb's Bible Study 7:15 pm Board of Ministries	10	11 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
12 Food Pantry Sun. 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 5:00 pm ABK/ABY 6:15 pm Power Thoughts	13 1:00 pm Single Women of Faith 7:00 pm Monday Night Bible Study	14	15 9:00 am ROMEO Club 7:00 pm Adult Choir	16 6:30 pm Barb's Bible Study	17 Newsletter Deadline 	18 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
19 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 5:00 pm ABK/ABY 6:15 pm Power Thoughts	20 7:00 pm Monday Night Bible Study	21	22 Secretary's Day 9:00 am ROMEO Club 7:00 pm Adult Choir 	23 6:30 pm Barb's Bible Study	24	25 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
26 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School	27 7:00 pm Monday Night Bible Study 	28	29 9:00 am ROMEO Club 7:00 pm Adult Choir	30 6:30 pm Barb's Bible Study		

- 1-Brianna Meister
- 1-Bob Matteson
- 2-Jenna Battleson
- 3-Dean and JoAnn Miller
- 3-Daniel Kindred
- 4-Tom Battice
- 5-Juanita James
- 6-Ron Poshard
- 6-Samantha Streid
- 6-Wayne and Debbie Verdun
- 7-Paul and Norma Miller
- 7-Don and Eva Schiff
- 8-Rachel Krominga
- 8-Tyler Hoover
- 9-Lucy Jackson
- 9-James Letsos
- 9-Dean Sidfrids
- 11-Bill Bowman
- 12-Sanjay and Karla Gidwani
- 13-Carter Wykes
- 16-Virginia Asper
- 16-Dan and Karen Meister
- 17-Branwen Sidfrids
- 19-Cheryl Stith
- 20-Norma Miller
- 20-Steven and Jennifer Frobish
- 24-Danny and Connie Grider
- 25-Jordan Brereton
- 26-Jill Cole
- 27-Ron McBeath
- 27-JoAnn Miller
- 28-Christina Beck
- 28-Karen Meister
- 29-Michael Cole
- 29-Devin Battice
- 29-Kaitlyn Baron