



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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Growing the Family of God

Telling the Story

Serving the Community

Nurturing Believers

Coffee with Jim



TAKE AWAYS AND NEXT STEPS

As you receive this newsletter we will be concluding the TRANSFORMED church wide campaign. As we close this program it is imperative that we consider what we take away from this ministry and the next steps we take to assure our continued growth as individuals and community.

First, we have learned what it means to be TRANSFORMED in seven key areas of our lives: Spiritual, Physical, Mental, Emotional, Relational, Financial, and Vocational health. We have viewed video presentations, practiced daily devotions, and held small group conversations. We may not have always agreed with what we saw and read, but we have been challenged and guided into meaningful discussion.

One measure of the success of this ministry is the conversations that have taken place outside of the small groups. As I have had the opportunity to chat with many of you it has been a joy to hear you discussing the lessons that you have studied. This ministry has challenged us to examine our lives in each of these seven areas, to reevaluate our relationship with God and with one another. Some of the take aways have been painful to accept; while providing opportunities for spiritual and emotional growth. This ministry has had a positive impact on many of us that we will not soon forget.

Second, we cannot afford to allow the momentum of this experience to simply wither and die. It is incumbent upon us to continue the ministry of small groups. I want to encourage you to continue to meet in your small groups. To support you in that endeavor we will make material available to you to utilize in your small group ministry.

We will provide sample materials for you to examine and select for use in a small group setting. Some of the material will be video based, others will be print media. A book study is an appropriate avenue to pursue in a small group. If you have a book that you have been dying to read; gather a group of friends and read it together. The key point is to maintain and build a small group ministry in our church. We need to be in small groups to build relationships. Corporate worship is important to building up the body of Christ, but small groups are crucial to establishing personal relationships. It is virtually impossible to overestimate the positive impact of small group ministry to the overall spiritual health and growth of the church.

From the Pastor... (cont.)

Recently, I read FOR A NEW GENERATION by Lee Kricher. This book tells the story of Amplify Church, a nondenominational church founded in the late 1970s in the eastern suburbs of Pittsburgh. The author notes as is the case with most churches, it had experienced seasons of growth and decline. However, by 2003 the decline was so serious that the very existence of the church was threatened.

As the premise for revitalizing the church the leadership committed to do whatever it took to become a new generation church. A new generation church is defined as a church with attendees whose average age is at least as young as the average age of the community in which the church exists.

In Pontiac, the median age of residents in our community is 39.8 years. (<http://www.city-data.com/city/Pontiac-Illinois.html>). This means that if our church is to survive to reach the next generation the average age of attendees needs to be 40 years old. A quick glance around the sanctuary on any given Sunday morning clearly indicates that we have our work cut out for us.

Small groups are a crucial step in building the relationships and deepening the spiritual commitment that will allow us to move forward with the changes necessary to be a next generation church. Prayer Partnerships need to be revitalized and new commitments established. The body of Christ is built through relationship; with God and with one another. Programming alone isn't going to accomplish the task. We need relationships; small groups and prayer partnerships are absolutely crucial. A glorious past and a favorable physical location do not guarantee survival.

Churchleadership.org reports that every year more than 4000 churches close their doors compared to just over 1000 new church starts. The statistics are daunting, the challenge enormous; but our God all powerful.

The next step following TRANSFORMED is take seriously the call to discipleship; to prayerfully commit ourselves to the changes necessary to revitalize, reenergize, and restore this community of faith to the ministry to which she has been called.

Look Who's Blogging!

Pastor Jim has begun blogging again! If you're interested in stopping by and joining the conversation, visit his blog at: www.fbcpontiac.org/blog.

Newsletter Deadline



All articles for inclusion in the May edition of the church newsletter must be submitted to the church office no later than Tuesday, April 18th

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.

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.

Holy Week Activities



Maundy Thursday

There will be a soup and sandwich supper held at 6:00 pm on Thursday, April 13th 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 16th 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

Office Notes

In honor of the Easter holiday, there will be no evening activities on Sunday, April 16th and the church office will be closed on Monday, April 17th.

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

Children's Church

Apr. 2: Lynn Battice/Vicki McBeath

Apr. 9: Lynn Battice/Vicki McBeath

Apr. 16: Patty Gray/Mary Frobish

Apr. 23: Patty Gray/Mary Frobish

Apr. 30: Juanita James

LADIES NIGHT OUT

Spring into good weather and drop by for the next Ladies Night Out Thursday, April 27, 2017, from 6:30-8:00 pm. We expect to meet in the Vineyard Room for food, fellowship, and following "Peter Cottontail" down the bunny trail.

We'd love to have you join us! (No hard quizzes and nothing physically demanding! Come and be a part of the fun!)

Thank You

Thank you church family for the lovely cards and best wishes to help celebrate my 80th birthday on Feb. 12th. What a nice surprise! Also thank you for your prayers as I underwent the surgical procedure on March 6th. I am doing well and love you all.

God Bless,
Maxine Zytrowski

Thank you to everyone who prayed, sent cards, and called when Bill was in ICU. Special thanks to Jim for praying with us and Ron McBeath.

God bless you all,
Bill and Gwen Battice

Thank you for remembering Chuck and I at Christmas.

Ruth Ann Peck

We would like to thank everyone for the generosity, friendship, and support with the passing of our wife, mother, grandmother, June Oakes. Words cannot express how much it was appreciated.

You Are the Branches...



Name: Rich Halford

The food item you most dislike - I don't care for sweets or desserts.

The food item you love - all vegetables

Your favorite meal - roast beef with potatoes and carrots

Your most embarrassing moment - We were on our way to church on Easter Sunday. However, we got there very, very late. We had forgotten to change our clocks correctly for Daylight Saving Time. OOPS!

Where were you born - Born in Pana, IL and raised on a farm near Ramsey, IL

How many states have you lived in - Illinois

Have you traveled abroad - Courtesy of Uncle Sam, I saw lots of Vietnam, R&R in Japan, Wake & Formosa Island. Went on a mission trip to the Dominican Republic.

What is one thing you want people to know about you - I used to race cars and fly airplanes. I still love cars, especially CORVETTES.

Who made the most impact on your life and why - My parents. They were Christian examples for me.

How long have you been coming to First Baptist - We moved to Pontiac in October of 2000. I've been at FBC ever since.

You Are the Branches...



Name - Brinda Henson

Your favorite meal - Rib Eye/baked potato/Salad

Do you prefer sweet or salty - Sweet

Your most embarrassing moment - Getting on the wrong bus with my then 2 year old son in Germany and not being able to communicate with the bus driver!!

Are you typically a morning person or night person - Night (I work 2nd shift, 3-11pm)

Where were you born - Normal, IL (this is the truth). LOL

How many state have you lived in - 2 Illinois & Colorado

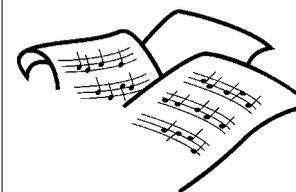
Have you traveled abroad - Yes, lived in Germany for 14 months

What is one thing you would want people to know about you - I like to volunteer-I don't have a lot of money, but I have a little time. Tornado cleanup, Route 66 Il Assoc. member, help with spring clean up, Home Sweet Home Ministries, Bloomington, IL Kitchen volunteer 2nd Saturday of each month.

How long have you been coming to First Baptist - 7 years

What is the first word or thought that comes to you when you enter the Church - Where is Ron? -I'm ready for a hug!

SUMMER SPECIAL MUSIC SIGN-UP



While it's hard to believe, choir season is coming to an end and we will soon be on summer hiatus. That means that our church family would love to hear from YOU! If you have a talent that you would like to share with our church family, OR you would like to hear someone else provide special music for us, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE to contact me.

While I do not have email at home, I have access to email at work: jjstaley@ilstu.edu; or you can call or text: 815-210-3721. We would like to be able to provide special music every week of the choir's summer hiatus, so please contact me. We have A LOT of talented folks in our church family, and several opportunities available! Jan Jolynn Staley



April



- 1 Bob Matteson
- 1 Brianna Meister
- 2 Jenna Battleson ♥
- 3 Dean and JoAnn Miller
- 4 Tom Battice
- 5 James Juanita ♥
- 6 Wayne and Debbie Verdun
- 7 Don and Eva Schiff ♥
- 8 Tyler Hoover
- 9 Lucy Jackson
- 9 James Letsos
- 9 Dean Sidfrids
- 10 Easley Levin
- 11 Bill Bowman
- 12 Sarah Walters
- 13 Carter Wykes
- 15 Gabriella Krueger
- 15 Evelyn Vietti
- 16 Virginia Asper ♥
- 16 Dan and Karen Meister
- 19 Cheryl Stith
- 21 Jim Wolfe ♥
- 24 Danny and Connie Grider
- 25 Marshall Hoover
- 25 Jordan Staley
- 26 Dean and Becky Easton ♥
- 26 Donna Hammond
- 27 Ron McBeath
- 27 JoAnn Miller
- 28 Christina Beck
- 28 DeWayne Beller
- 28 Karen Meister
- 29 Devin Battice
- 29 Michael Cole
- 29 Jill Cole

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
2 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 5:00 pm ABY 5:00 pm ABK 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee	3 1:00 pm Single Women of Faith	4	5 9:00 am ROMEO Club 9:00 am Ruth Circle 10:30 am Grief Group 1:00 pm Esther Circle	6 9:00 am BSF Women's Class 7:00 pm Covered in Prayers	7	8 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
9 Palm Sunday 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 5:00 pm ABY 5:00 pm ABK 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee	10	11	12 9:00 am ROMEO Club	13 Maudy Thursday 9:00 am BSF Women's Class 6:00 pm Soup and Sandwich Dinner 7:00 pm Maudy Thurs. Svc.	14 Good Friday	15 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
16 Easter Sunday 7:00 am Easter Sunrise Svc. 7:30 am Family Breakfast 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School No Evening Activities	17 Easter Monday Church Office Closed 1:00 pm Single Women of Faith	18 Newsletter Deadline	19 9:00 am ROMEO Club	20 9:00 am BSF Women's Class 7:15 pm Board of Ministries	21	22 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
23 Regular Sunday Schedule	24	25	26 9:00 am ROMEO Club 11:00 am - 5:00 pm Red Cross Bloodmobile @ VFW	27 9:00 am BSF Women's Class 6:30 pm Ladies Night Out	28	29 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
30 Regular Sunday Schedule						