



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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The Family Tree

First Baptist Church of Pontiac
—Growing the Family of God

Pastor: James O. Wolfe III

How's Your Prayer Life . . . ?

That question has been placed in front of us for the last four years. In a quest to strengthen our personal and corporate prayer life we have read books and written prayer journals; we have conducted prayer vigils and joined in prayer partnership teams. We have read it on the screen in worship and even had it printed on tee shirts.

I remain totally committed to the conviction that prayer is essential to our life in Christ. As such I will continue to ask the question and push us to ever-deeper experiences in prayer, both personal and corporate. I would like to suggest that it is now time to ask a second question: **What Am I Doing for the Kingdom of God?**

As vital as prayer is to our spiritual development there comes a time to rise from our knees, roll up our sleeves, and become actively engaged in ministry. If our prayers are to have power in the church and in the world at large they must become incarnational; that means that what we pray for must become flesh and blood in our daily lives. Prayer should inform and shape our lives, but our lives do not end with prayer—rather our life as disciples begins with prayer and moves into the realm of a broken world.

Let's briefly take a look at some biblical examples of Jesus in prayer.

In Mark nine the disciples of Jesus tried and failed to heal a child with a seizure disorder. When they asked Jesus why they had failed he responded, "This kind can come out only through prayer" (Mark 9:29).

Luke 6:12-13 records that Jesus spent a night in prayer prior to selecting the twelve disciples, whom he also named apostles.

On the night of his betrayal and arrest Jesus prayed fervently to be spared the cup that was to be set before him. His prayer was so intense that Luke records his sweat fell like drops of blood (Luke 22:40-46; cf. Matthew 26:36-44; Mark 14:32-39).

Mark 1:35-39 narrates that "In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed." When the disciples found Jesus and informed him that everyone was looking for him Jesus' response was "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so

From the Pastor... (cont.)

that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do."

The point is this: *Jesus' actions were preceded and informed by prayer.* The child could not be healed without prayer, the selection of the Twelve was informed by a night in prayer; the ordeal of the cross was not accomplished without an anguished night of prayer; the inaugural preaching tour was launched following a quiet morning of personal prayer.

Having asked "**How's Your Prayer Life**"; it is now time to ask how we are going to incarnate our prayers into our daily life and ministry. Our church's website declares that First Baptist Church is "Growing the Family of God" by... Telling the Story, Nurturing Believers and Serving the Community.

Telling the Story refers to the evangelistic piece of sharing with other people the story of what God has done and is continuing to do in our lives. Telling the Story is about inviting people into a living, vital relationship with a loving, forgiving, nurturing Savior.

Nurturing believers is that portion of our ministry that provides opportunities for spiritual development through Bible study, small group activities, Sunday church school, daily vacation Bible school, youth and children's ministries, worship, prayer meetings, and other activities designed to promote personal spiritual development.

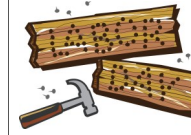
Serving the Community includes the food pantry, but it is much more than that. Serving the Community is discerning ministries that will promote social justice, feed the hungry, house the homeless and seek equality for all persons. Serving the Community includes many of the same activities that nurture believers such as children's and youth ministries and Bible school.

Each of these ministries needs to be preceded by and informed by prayer. *Prayer requires a corresponding and related action.* As we have seen in the examples of Jesus. Prayer preceded action. Action was empowered by prayer.

It is time for our prayers to go into action. The Word must become flesh in our lives, in our church, and in our community. Otherwise we are of all people to be most pitied.

Therefore, I ask each of us again: ***What Am I Doing for the Kingdom of God?***

Schedule Notes - Labor Day



In honor of the Labor Day holiday, there will be no evening activities on Sunday, September 6th and the church office will be closed on Monday, September 7.

We wish our entire church family a safe and happy holiday weekend!

Newsletter Deadline



All articles for inclusion in the September edition of the church newsletter must be submitted to the church office no later than Monday, August 17.

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.

Single Women of Faith



Single Women of Faith is a social group of single women who meet once a month to chat, play games and have fun! We have had two outings thus far and plan on having more.

We meet on the second Sunday of the month at the church at 1:00 pm and we invite all single women in the church to come and join us for an afternoon of fellowship and fun!

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.



Children's Church

Aug. 2: Shirley and Bob Carroll

Aug. 9: Rick Golliday

Aug. 16: Rick Golliday

Aug. 23: Janet Halford

Aug. 30: Janet Halford

“The Best Yes”



Are you living with the stress of an overwhelmed schedule and aching with the sadness of an underwhelmed soul? Join me in a book club reading of *The Best Yes* by Lysa TerKeurst. In this book you will learn there is a BIG difference between saying “yes” to everyone and saying “yes” to God. This book deals with the ‘disease to please’ in a very practical way. I have found this book to be life-changing. I have read it twice and feel the Spirit calling me to read it again and share it with you.

Sincerely,
Missy Hoover.

BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION:

The Best Yes by Lysa TerKeurst

First discussion: August 25 at 6:30 p.m. (and every two weeks after that)
The Hoover Home: 803 E. McKinley St., Pontiac

Purchase your copy from www.proverbs31.org (under bookstore) or anywhere books are available. Begin reading *The Best Yes* as soon as you get your copy. If you need assistance, contact Missy Hoover or the church office.

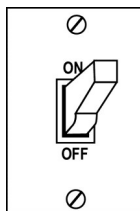
GRR Annual Assembly



The 48th Annual ABC - GRR Assembly is scheduled for October 2 - 3 and will be held at The Chateau Hotel and Conference Center in Bloomington! Registration for this event will be \$30 per person and childcare will not be available.

The Reverend Glynis LaBarre will be preaching Friday night and Saturday morning. Reverend LaBarre is an engaging preacher, a certified coach, and the Transformation Specialist for the American Baptist Home Mission Societies. To register for this event please contact the church office for a registration form.

Reminder...



If you are among the last people to leave following a church event, please take a moment to ensure that lights and the window air conditioners are switched off and that the doors are securely locked before leaving the building.

Let's work together to be good stewards of our resources!

FROM THE OFFICE...

Our Church Directory

Our church directory has not undergone a serious overhaul in many years and, as a result, is not as accurate or up to date as we would like it to be. In an effort to remedy this situation and ensure that our directory contains the most accurate information possible, we are going to start over with a blank slate.

To that end, we ask **EVERYONE** who wishes to be listed in the church directory to complete an information form and return it to the church office as soon as possible.

*****YOU MUST FILL OUT A FORM*****

⇒ *Even if you are currently listed in the directory,*

⇒ *Even if your information is correct*

⇒ *Even if you've already filled out a form in the past*

YOU MUST COMPLETE A NEW FORM IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION LISTED IN THE 2016 EDITION OF OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Like our church directory, our birthday and anniversary lists have become outdated and inaccurate. On the information form for the church directory are spaces for you to list the birthdays and anniversaries in your household. If you want your family's birthdays and anniversaries listed on the church calendar you **MUST** add them to your information card and return it to the church office. **If you neglect to add this information to your information card your birthdays and anniversaries will NOT be listed on the church calendar.**

We appreciate your cooperation and hope that these efforts will result in more accurate and timely information being made available in our church publications.



August



- 5-Mike Toon
- 5-Gordon Frobish Sr.
- 6-JoAnn Bockman
- 7-Richard and Janet Halford
- 9-Deb Golliday
- 10-Steve Baron
- 10-Brittany Bohm
- 11-Dylan Borders
- 12-Bob Carroll
- 12-Joe and Pam Lind
- 15-Judy Judd
- 16-Eva Schiff
- 16-Carol Stanton
- 17-Carol Brill
- 17-Pam Lind
- 18-Rita Watson
- 23-Jose Serna
- 24-Joy Henderson
- 24-Jaime Wykes
- 24-Carol Jones
- 24-Michelle Bohm
- 26-Crystal Wade
- 26-Mike and Carol Toon
- 27-Tim and Keri Lewis
- 28-Robert Carroll
- 29-Marilyn Gould

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	3	4	5 9:00 am ROMEO Club 9:00 am Ruth Circle 1:00 pm Esther Circle	6	7	8 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
9 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School	10 1:00 pm Single Women of Faith	11	12 9:00 am ROMEO Club	13 6:00 pm Vision and Planning 7:15 pm Board of Ministries	14	15 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
16 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School	17	18	19 9:00 am ROMEO Club	20	21	22 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
23 Regular Sunday Activities	24	25	26 9:00 am ROMEO Club	27	28	29 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
30 Regular Sunday Activities	31					

