



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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PONTIAC, IL 61764

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Growing the Family of God

Telling the Story

Serving the Community

Nurturing Believers



Oswald Chambers wrote: “When God gets us alone through suffering, heartbreak, temptation, disappointment, sickness, or by thwarted desires, a broken friendship, or a new friendship - when He gets us absolutely alone, and we are totally speechless, unable to ask even one question, then He begins to teach us” (My Utmost for His Highest; January 13).

As difficult as it is for many of us to accept and practice we need to learn the truth that God works most effectively in silence. We are a culture that is overwhelmed with busyness and muchness. We cannot abide the sound of silence - it is alien to that lifestyle to which we have become accustomed. Telephones and television demand all our attention and there is little or no room for the “gentle whisper” of God’s voice.

When Jesus was training the Twelve for their mission he did so by creating times of quiet to allow for teaching and reflection. Following the presentation of the parable of the sower and the seed in Mark four (see also Matthew 13:36) Jesus was only able to explain the parable when he got the disciples alone.

Not only did Jesus need solitude to teach, but Jesus also needed times of seclusion with the Father to strengthen himself for the task at hand. “...he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone” (Matthew 14:23). “Once when Jesus was praying alone...” (Luke 9:18).

When is the last time that you were alone with God? We find ourselves frustrated over what appears to be God’s distance. We quickly become disenchanted and disappointed when we don’t receive an immediate answer to our prayers. We may have become so disillusioned by God’s lack of response that we have given up on prayer altogether.

Here’s a suggestion: rather than “give up” something for Lent add something each of the forty days of Lent. Add some “alone” time with God. We find time to do other things; how about a few minutes at the start or close of the day to sit with God. It’s okay to turn off the cell phone or the television and quietly say, “Speak, for your servant is listening” (1 Samuel 3:10). Give yourself permission to “do nothing” but sit quietly in the presence of God. Close your eyes take a few deep breaths and shut out the sounds around

From the Pastor (cont.)

you. God has something to share with you and God will only speak when we allow Him the opportunity. There is a time to speak and a time to be silent. God speaks loudest when we are quiet.

TeenServe 2016

Until recently I hadn't even heard of Fairmount, Illinois but that's where we will be heading for TeenServe 2016! I see the passion our youth group has when talking about this event and we all know that it would not be possible for us to participate in this mission and ministry opportunity without the help and support of our church family. Throughout the upcoming months you will be given information on how you can help us make TeenServe 2016 a reality for the First Baptist Youth!

Have you ever wondered what a typical day looks like for the youth of a TeenServe work camp? TeenServe work campers are housed in schools prawhich serve as a 'home base' for all group activities. The campers are divided into groups of six which are called 'crews'. Every morning after breakfast each teen meets with his or her crew and travels to the home where they will be working. After a day spent blessing a family in need with their time, talents and service, the teens will head back to the school where each night there is a youth conference style program in the school gym. The evening begins with viewing pictures taken throughout the day and sharing stories of the day's events and then a rocking worship band and a national youth speaker round off the evening in praise and worship. It's difficult to say which part of the day is most impactful!

Galatians 5 :13 You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh ; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

In His Love
Jay



Ash Wednesday



We are pleased to announce that we will offer three Ash Wednesday services again this year. In addition to our traditional Ash Wednesday service at 6:30 p.m., we will also be offering a brief service of Ashes at 6:30 a.m. and at 12:00 Noon.

We encourage everyone to join us at one of these services for a time of meaningful reflection as we make our way into the Lenten Season.

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.

Office Notes

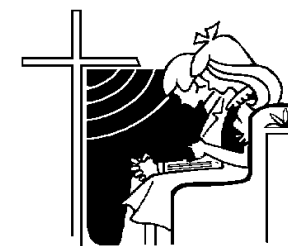
Our church office will be closed on Monday, February 15th in honor of President's Day.

Newsletter Deadline



All articles for inclusion in the February edition of the church newsletter must be submitted to the church office no later than Tuesday, February 16th.

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.



Children's Church

Feb. 7: Juanita James

Feb. 14: Juanita James

Feb. 21: Michelle Bohm

Feb. 28: Michelle Bohm



Prayer Chain Number:
815.419.4454

Thank You!



We would very much like to thank the church family for the thoughtful expressions of sympathy on the passing of Gary's dad, Grant Boldt, shortly before Christmas. Your cards and kind words have meant a lot. We also wish to thank the faithful participants of the prayer chain for your prayers for Grant several times last year. We feel blessed to be part of this loving church family and we're very touched by your response in our time of need.

Gary and Peggie Boldt

Our Financial Report

General Fund 1/1/2015	(\$2,304)
General Fund Receipts	\$238,143
Interest Received	\$252
General Fund Expense	(\$241,919)
General Fund 12/31/2015	(\$5,829)

The general fund finished 2015 with a slight deficit of \$5,829 after starting the year with a \$2,304 deficit. The deficit increase (\$3,525) reflects a weekly shortfall of only \$67 and just small increase in giving of \$125/week in 2016 would eliminate the total 2015 deficit.

While the general fund may have struggle a little in 2015, through your generous support the Church had another strong year supporting various missions and ministries. For 2015, approximately \$65,000, or 17.8%, of all giving received went to support general missions and other ministries such as One Great Hour of Sharing, the World Mission Offing, America for Christ, Jubilee Christmas, ABK, Teen Serve, and the Food Pantry.

As we move into the New Year I encourage everyone to reflect on the previous year and look to 2016 with renewed enthusiasm and excitement for the great things God has in store for us this year. Through your continued giving and support I am sure that 2016 will be just as successful as 2015.

Blessings,
Eric Hoover

Board of Ministries

The Board of Ministries met on Thursday, January 14.

Children's Ministries: We have an average attendance of 25 kids at ABK. Brenda Dodd has organized a list of workers for the nursery and volunteers have been found for Children's Church.

Jan JoLynn Staley has ordered a packet for VBS.

Fellowship: The food pantry served 82 families repre-

senting 278 individuals in the month of December.

The Food Pantry closed out the year having served a total of 1, 275 families representing 3,980 individuals. This number represents a slight decrease from 2014.

Moderator: Rooms have been reserved for the Mississippi Mission Trip in July. The cost is \$500 per worker and the number of attendees is capped at 14.

Senior Pastor: Bob and Sharon Matteson have tendered their resignations from the Board.

Easter Sunday is on March 27th and a baptism service is planned for worship that morning. Karen Meister has the curriculum for young people who would like to be baptized and classes will take place during the Sunday School hour.



Winter Weather



A reminder as we make our way through a season of unpredictable winter weather, ***if Pontiac schools are closed or close early due to inclement weather, all church activities scheduled for that day will also be cancelled.***

To the best of our ability, church cancellation notices will be broadcast on 98.9 FM (WJEZ) and Pontiac Channel 13, posted on our website (www.fbcpontiac.org), our Facebook page and made available on our voicemail system.

WE ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO USE THEIR BEST JUDGMENT AND BE SAFE DURING HAZARDOUS WEATHER!

Small Group Opportunity

A new small group opportunity will be available starting on Wednesday, February 17th at 6:30 pm. This small group will be facilitated by Harlin Dean and Ken Ferguson and will be studying the Max Lucado book, ***It's Not About Me.***




February


- 1 Michael Poshard
- 2 Mason Christianson
- 2 Jan Jolynn Staley
- 2 John and Michelle Bohm
- 3 Trinity Miller
- 3 Neisha Hibbs
- 4 Tyler Lind
- 4 Gary Brill
- 6 Bill Battice
- 9 Aiden Hurd
- 9 Barbara Sancken
- 10 Patty Gray
- 10 Leon Gray
- 10 Peggie Boldt
- 11 Caiti Henson
- 12 Maxine Zytniowski
- 13 Claire Nyi
- 13 Joanne Perkins
- 13 Margaret Turner
- 14 Barry and Barbara Highland
- 15 Cheyle Herman
- 17 Lisa Hurd
- 19 Calvin Krueger
- 19 Dean and Kay Sidfrids
- 20 Karen Gilmoure
- 20 Alana Christianson
- 20 John Bohm
- 22 Marcia Harder
- 27 Bob and Sharon Matteson
- 28 Skip and Carol Jones

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 9:00 am Ruth Circle 1:00 pm Esther Circle 7:00 pm Adult Choir	4	5	6 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
7 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee 5:00 pm ABK 5:00 pm ABY	8 1:00 pm Single Women of Faith	9 	10 Ash Wednesday 6:30 am Service of Ashes 9:00 am ROMEO Club 12:00 pm Service of Ashes 6:30 pm Service of Ashes 	11 7:15 pm Board of Ministries	12	13 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
14 Valentine's Day 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee 5:00 pm ABK 5:00 pm ABY 	15 President's Day Church Office Closed	16 Newsletter Deadline	17 9:00 am ROMEO Club 7:00 pm Adult Choir	18	19	20 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
21 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee 5:00 pm ABK 5:00 pm ABY	22 1:00 pm Single Women of Faith	23	24 9:00 am ROMEO Club	25	26 	27 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
28 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee 5:00 pm ABK 5:00 pm ABY	29					

