



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

*From the
Pastor*



In 1993 work on our present sanctuary was completed and we anxiously awaited worshipping in our new facility. In the midst of the excitement and anticipation which accompanies such a joyous occasion the question was posed, “Is the vision big enough?”

I recently worshipped in a very large metropolitan church with a long and majestic history. Wandering through the sanctuary prior to the service I was struck with the notion that our vision is not big enough. Let’s first of all understand that when we speak of vision we mean seeking God’s preferred outcome. When we write or discuss vision we are trying to discern God’s will and purpose. What does God want to occur in our lives and in our church?

This is both personal and corporate. On the personal level God prefers that God’s beloved children live lives of abundance. That does not mean financial prosperity; rather it means lives that rely on the presence of God for peace, joy, and security. Sadly we often look for abundant life in people and things that are ultimately going to let us down. When Jesus said that he came to give life in abundance he meant a life that is filled with living water which continues to well up within us providing us with spiritual nourishment that does not rely on external circumstances. Eternal life is not about quantity, but quality and is measured in terms of our relationship to God which is reflected in our relationships with one another.

At the corporate level it is too easy to become mired in taking care of the building, worrying about the utility bills, and paying the salaries to remember that those are secondary considerations. The purpose of the building is to facilitate ministry; the building is not ministry itself. It is not God’s preferred outcome that we have a bigger building or a larger budget. It is however, God’s vision that we Tell the Story, Nurture Believers, and Serve the Community. To the extent that we accomplish these goals we are fulfilling God’s vision (preferred outcome) for the ministries of our church.

It is true that our vision is not big enough. We are content to allow the status quo rather than be pushed from our comfort zone into the future that God wants for us. God’s vi-

From the Pastor (cont.)

sion is not about numbers, but is rather about lives that are transformed, relationships that are healed, forgiveness practiced, hungry people fed, homeless people housed. The gospel is not my personal possession; a badge of personal accomplishment to be worn as though I have achieved some special status. "You will be my witnesses," Jesus declared (Acts 1:8.) God's vision for us is that we will use the gift of the Holy Spirit in our lives to give witness, in both word and action, to the presence of God in our lives. God's vision for us is that people will see our lives and want to experience the presence of God for themselves.

It is a difficult time to be in the church. Everything pulls us away from participation in the church and commitment to life in Christ is often sneered at by the world around us. God's vision is that we love those who reject us and pray in thanksgiving for every opportunity to witness to the new life in Christ; not because we want a reward in heaven or because we fear hell, but because this life is the richest, fullest, and sweetest life we can ever know.

Pictures Needed!



We want to keep our website and Facebook pages current and we need your help! With smart phones and digital cameras every one of us is photojournalist ready to document our family life here at FBC! If you attend a church event snap some pictures and send them to us via e-mail at: rhonda@fbcpontiac.org and we'll choose some to share on our website and via our social networking pages. Let's work together to share the awesome things that are happening here at FBC Pontiac!

Visit Us on the Web



For convenient access to the latest church news and schedule information, don't forget to visit us on-line at:

www.fbcpontiac.org

While there, you also have the opportunity to download recent services in MP3 format or browse our picture gallery and see just what we've been up to lately here at FBC! Also, don't forget to follow us on Facebook and receive all the latest church updates!

Newsletter Deadline



All articles for inclusion in the June edition of the church newsletter must be submitted to the church office no later than Friday, May 20.

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.

You're Invited

Rick and Deb Golliday, along with Tyler Lind, are hosting a "Graduation/Marine Send Off" Open House for Tyler and they would like to extend an invitation to the entire church family to attend. Tyler graduates from Pontiac Township High School on May 22, 2016 and leaves for the United States Marine Corp on June 27, 2016. You are invited to join them for the celebration on:



Sunday, June 5, 2016
2:00 - 5:00 pm
At First Baptist Church



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

May 1: Lynn Battice / Vicki McBeath

May 8: Lynn Battice / Vicki McBeath

May 15: Patty Gray / Mary Frobish

May 22: Patty Gray / Mary Frobish

Important Radio Ministry Changes



Local radio station WJEZ will no longer broadcast our worship services live. Effective Sunday, April 3rd our worship service will be broadcast one week behind.

This was not a decision made by the church and we apologize for any inconvenience.



Prayer Chain Number:
815.419.4454

VBS 2016: Cave Quest



Vacation Bible School is coming!! You might need hiking boots this year as we journey into *Cave Quest: Following Jesus, The Light of the World!* *Cave Quest* will have kids spelunking through dark caves, learning that Jesus is the One who lights our way and gives each one of us hope for every new day. *Cave Quest* will encourage us all to follow Jesus wherever He leads!

Cave Quest is a small group oriented program with sections for preschoolers (for kids ages 3 to 5) and elementary aged children (kindergarten through fifth grade). We will meet Sal, Mawtha, Radar, Olivia, and Ray as they help us learn how Jesus gives us hope, courage, direction, love, and power!

Join us Wednesday, June 15 through Saturday, June 18th as we explore CAVE QUEST!

Adults, Teens, and Tweens—we need your help!!! There is room for ANY-ONE who is willing to help us as we follow this “over the top, underground adventure!”

Please contact Kelly Miller 815-510-8530 or Jan Jolynn Staley 815-210-3721 and help us ground our kids in the “rock-solid foundation of Jesus’ love!”

Graduate Recognition Sunday



Graduate recognition Sunday will be held this year on Sunday, June 12th.

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 Friday, May 13th**, so that we may properly acknowledge their achievements.

Board of Ministries

The Board of Ministries met on Thursday, April 14 at 7:15 pm.

Adult Ministries: Mary Frobish is leading a grief support class “Beyond the Broken Heart”.

Prayer shawl group has begun meeting again and is being coordinated by Virginia Asper.

Church Clerk: We have welcomed five new members to our church. Two by baptism - Karen Goodman, Roger Christianson, and three by transfer - Lois Hoover, Karen Christianson, and Jeana Boase.

Youth Ministries: The Fellowship of Christian Athletes met on April 2nd.

Children’s Ministries: VBS is planned for the week of June 15th through the 18th.

Sunday School: Average attendance for March was 73 with an average offering of \$41.00.

Fellowship: Harlin Dean and Ken Ferguson are leading a small group study titled “It’s Not About Me” on Wednesday evenings.

Men’s Night Out was held on March 17th with

ten men attending.

ROMEO continues meeting on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 a.m.

Facilities: The church trailer was donated by Bob and Shirley Carroll and the painting was donated by Jim and Joanne Perkins with new tires being donated by Mike and Carol Toon.

Ed and Diana Rich have donated three red maple trees.

Senior Pastor: Planning continues for the Mississippi mission trip scheduled for July 9 - 17.

Schedule Notes



In honor of the Memorial Day holiday there will be no evening activities on Sunday, May 24th and the church office will be closed on Monday, May 25th.

We wish everyone a blessed and happy holiday weekend.

Covered in Prayers



The Covered in Prayers prayer shawl ministry team will meet on Monday, May 9th at 7:00 pm in the Koinonia Koffee room.



May



- 2 Josh Chehak
- 2 Mark Verdun
- 5 Alex Beck
- 5 Reid Cole
- 5 John and Judy Pohanka ♥
- 5 Myles Gilliam
- 6 Joyce Wilson
- 10 Gordie and Mary Frobish ♥
- 10 Keith Battleson
- 11 Mark Highland
- 12 Michael Schiff
- 13 Joe Lind
- 16 Linda Gruen
- 17 Dan and Patty Gray ♥
- 18 Doris Williams
- 19 Payton Borders
- 21 Kenny Crawford
- 21 Ruth Ann Peck
- 22 Linda Green
- 22 Judy Shepherd
- 23 Todd and Jan Miller ♥
- 23 Lori Pemberton
- 24 Dan Gray
- 25 Amy Levin
- 26 Steve Walters
- 26 Gavin Wykes
- 27 Jan Miller
- 29 Vickie Nicol
- 30 Karen Christianson

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee 5:00 pm ABY	2	3	4 9:00 am Ruth Circle 9:00 am ROMEO Club 10:15 am Grief Support Group	5	6	7 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
8 Mothers Day 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee 5:00 pm ABY	9 1:00 pm Single Women of Faith 7:00 pm Covered in Prayers	10	11 9:00 am ROMEO Club 1:00 pm Esther Circle 10:15 am Grief Support Group	12 6:00 pm Diaconate Council 7:15 pm Board of Ministries	13	14 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
15 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee 5:00 pm ABY	16	17	18 9:00 am ROMEO Club 10:15 am Grief Support Group	19	20 Newsletter Deadline	21 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
22 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee 5:00 pm ABY	23 1:00 pm Single Women of Faith	24	25 9:00 am ROMEO Club 10:15 am Grief Support Group	26	27	28 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
29 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School No Evening Activities	30 Memorial Day Church Office Closed	31				

