



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
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# Growing the Family of God

Telling the Story

Serving the Community

Nurturing Believers

You will have noticed that the phrase, “Growing the Family of God” appears on our newsletter, bulletin, website, church van, and is even painted on the side of the tool shed. In fact, it appears on so many things that you may have simply overlooked it. I want to encourage you to take a look at that phrase in light of what it means for the ministry of our church.

“Growing the Family of God” is in fact the first line of our church’s mission statement. By definition a mission statement is a statement of the purpose of a company, organization or person; its reason for existing; a written declaration of an organization's core purpose and focus that normally remains unchanged over time.

Hence, the First Baptist Church of Pontiac declares that our reason for existing is to “Grow the Family of God.” In an effort to fulfill that statement we have identified three steps: Telling the Story, Nurturing Believers, and Serving the Community. These points are not mutually exclusive; they are in fact, mutually supportive and each one overlaps with the other two.

“Telling the Story” includes, but is not limited to the Gospel narratives; it is also our personal story of how the Jesus of the Gospel interacts with our lives on a daily basis. Most of us came to faith because someone shared their personal story with us. You and I are the world’s foremost authority on what Christ has done in our lives. Your story is worth sharing and someone needs to hear about your relationship with Christ.

“Nurturing Believers” is “to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,” (Ephesians 4:12). We do not engage in ministry without preparation and we do not engage in ministry by ourselves. We are called to be in community. It is not acceptable to habitually absent ourselves from worship. It is a fallacy to say that I can worship just as well fishing or on the golf course as I can in church. We need the fellowship of like-minded believers to be strengthened and encouraged; to experience prayer and mutual support. “Nurturing Believers” includes corporate worship, Sunday church school, ABK, ABY, small groups and service opportunities. If we expect to be spiritually nourished we need to be present when the table is set.

“Serving the Community” means precisely what it says. We open our hearts and our resources to the hungry in our community. We open the doors of our facility to deserving groups in the community who need space to conduct community-based functions. Those groups include but are not limited to the Cursambri Center, pre-school screening, girl scouts, Life Line Screening, and others.

## From the Pastor (cont.)

The call of Christ is to “make disciples . . . baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit . . . teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20).

“Growing the Family of God” is our core purpose and reason for existing. We will never fully realize our mission as there will always be those who need to hear our story. We however, fully commit ourselves to “Tell the Story,” “Nurture Believers,” and “Serve the Community.” That is our call and unwavering commitment.

## News and Notes From Jay

Hello Church!

I cannot tell you how excited I am to be writing to greet you in Jesus' name as your Youth/Worship Leader and Choir Director. I am honored that you would invite myself and my family to come join you and share your walk with Jesus. I am excited to join you on whatever adventure that Jesus invites on us, helping one another and those God puts in our lives along the way.

It has been a great experience for me to get to know each and every one of our young men and women in youth group (what a great group!). Our young people face so many challenges in today's society and I want to encourage the church family to continue to pray for them and to serve as a foundation for them on their journey. We have a lot of exciting things planned for the future and I look forward to sharing with you all soon.

Last Sunday the adult choir sang for the first time this year and let me tell you I was blessed to be a part of it. If you would like to join us we meet every other Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to drop me an e-mail at: [jay@fbcpontiac.org](mailto:jay@fbcpontiac.org).

“Therefore Encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.”  
— 1 Thessalonians 5:11

In Christ,  
Jay

## Thanksgiving Feast



FBC's Thanksgiving Family Feast will be held this year on Sunday, November 22 at 4:30 p.m. Table service and drinks will be provided, but we do ask that you bring two dishes to share so that there will be plenty to go around. We will need donations of 5 turkeys and 3 hams. We are also looking for volunteers to cook the turkeys and hams at home to bring to the feast.

Watch upcoming bulletins for opportunities to reserve your place or you may call the church office to make your reservations. Mark your calendars and plan to come and join us in giving thanks for all of our wonderful blessings here at FBC!

## Newsletter Deadline



All articles for inclusion in the December edition of the church newsletter must be submitted to the church office no later than Wednesday, November 18.

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

## Office Notes

In honor of the Thanksgiving Day holiday our church office will be closed on Thursday, November 26th and Friday, November 27th. *We wish our entire church family a happy and healthy holiday weekend!*

## New Sunday School Opportunity

We are excited to announce the formation of a new Adult Sunday School class! Beginning on Sunday, November 8th a new class will be meeting in the old Junior High Sunday School room with Pastor Jim serving as the teacher. The first study will be on the book *Discovering Jesus* by William Barclay.

## 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

**Nov. 1:** Michelle Bohm

**Nov. 15:** Shirley and Bob Carroll

**Nov. 22:** Shirley and Bob Carroll

**Nov. 29:** Rick Golliday

# Thank You

We wish to thank Reverend Wolfe, Ron McBeath, Clyde Francis, Gordon Frobish, Jr., and all the wonderful people who provided the dinner and everyone for their thoughts and prayers and support during this difficult time. You are appreciated more than you could know.

The family of Lois Good

## Congregational Meeting

The November Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 29th immediately following morning worship services. There will be a light lunch served following the meeting and we encourage everyone to participate in this important meeting.

## World Mission Offering

God is doing new and surprising things in once Communist Hungary! For decades under repressive Communist rule, schools in this country were controlled by the government. But today, Hungarian churches have been given the opportunity to run schools, where they can teach the Bible, nurture students in their faith and open new doors through courses in conversational English.

Your support through the World Mission Offering will enable International Ministries to provide much needed support to partner organizations like Hungarian Baptist Aid, which is now managing forty-nine schools in Hungary. Students and teachers alike are blossoming in grace-filled environments. After-school clubs are reaching students with the gospel, practical Bible teaching and the joy of the Lord!

Be a part of the surprising things God is doing through International Ministries Baptist partners and the nearly 1,800 missionaries around the world when we receive the World Mission Offering at the close of worship on Sunday, November 22.

# Jubilee Christmas



It's beginning to look a lot like Jubilee Christmas! For those of you who are not familiar with our Jubilee Christmas program, it is an outreach ministry that helps provide a Christmas celebration to children and families who may otherwise be unable to afford one.

This year's Jubilee Christmas event will be hosted by First Presbyterian Church on December 12. If you would like to help with this wonderful Christmas ministry, you may make a donation by marking your check "Jubilee Christmas" and dropping it into the offering plate or you may contact Patty Gray or Barb Tholen to volunteer to serve as a host, wrapper or loader during our Jubilee Christmas event!

# Board of Ministries

The Board of Ministries met on Thursday, October 8 at 7:15 pm.

**Youth Ministries:** The youth have now met with Jay Hurd twice. They have watched the movie "Do You Believe?".

**Senior Pastor:** Jubilee Christmas will be held on

December 12th at First Presbyterian Church.

World Mission Offering will be received on Sunday, November 22nd.

ABK has an average attendance of 24 children and they use the van to provide transportation for children.

Nursery help is needed.

## Men's Night Out

It's time for another night of fun, food, and fellowship with a Men's Night Out here at the church!

All men in the church are invited to join in the pre-holiday fun

**6:30 pm**  
On

**Thursday, November 19th**

## 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.

## 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.*

## Daylight Saving Time

Just a reminder that Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00 am on Sunday, November 1st so don't forget to change your clocks back before going to bed on Saturday night!

