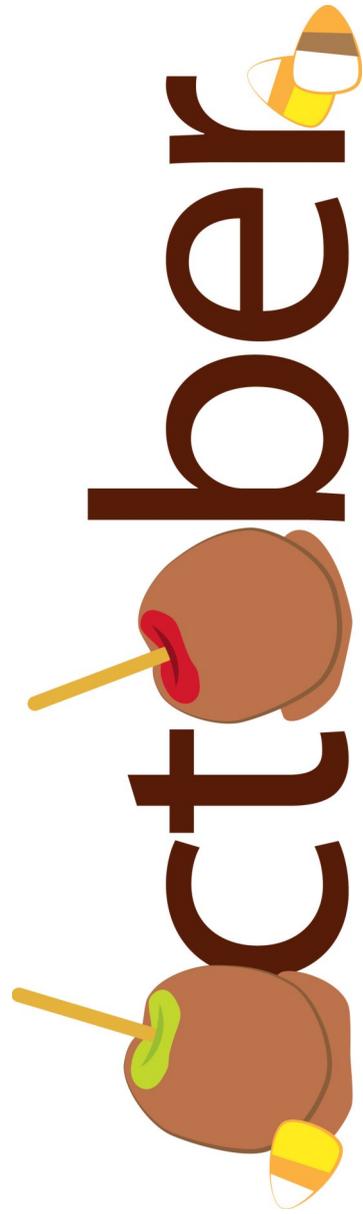


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
515 N. LADD STREET
PONTIAC, IL 61764



Growing the Family of God

Telling the Story

Serving the Community

Nurturing Believers

Coffee with Jim



THAT FIRST STEP IS A DOOZY

"Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So, Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt? (Matthew 14:28-31)

Peter. Always impetuous. Always wanting to be first. Defiantly proclaiming his allegiance only to fail the test by denying the Lord he professed to love unconditionally. Rising from defeat to become the rock on which the kingdom of God is built (Matthew 16:18).

Peter. The first one out of the boat. Peter. Taking a few tentative steps before realizing that he is in the midst of a violent storm and suddenly remembering that human beings can't walk on water. Oooops!!! Watch that first step. It's a doozy!

Peter. "Lord, save me!" Jesus raising him from the certainty of death. Jesus. Helping him back into the boat and challenging the depth of his faith.

First Baptist Church. Facing the storms of declining participation, rigid attitudes, and commitment to traditions above dedication to the Lord of the Church.

Jesus. Calling us to step out of the boat. Jesus. Defying at least one of us to take those first tentative steps into the storms of change.

When Jesus called the first disciples he did not explain himself or guarantee their future. Rather, he said simply, "follow me." To a person they abandoned their jobs, families, and the security they knew for the yet unknown, cost of discipleship.

The boat is rocking on tumultuous seas. The Church no longer enjoys popularity and public affirmation. The Church is subject to the enormous pressures of society which encourage us to abandon faith on the altar of cultural norms. It is clearly much easier to stay in the boat. That sadly, is the choice most of us make. The winds of change blow and we cling even more tenaciously to the safety of the boat. The boat may be floundering, but it is still the security we

From the Pastor (cont.)

know. In the boat, we have the lifejackets of tradition to bolster our objections to the frightening forces of change that attack us. Even when the boat breaks up around us we cling stubbornly to small pieces of driftwood, trusting that we will be able to make landfall and survive the viciousness of the storm.

Where there is no risk there is no vision. Where there is no risk there is no growth. Our call is to build the kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven. We cannot accomplish that task sitting safely in the boat, swathed in the comfort of our life jackets, waiting for the storm to pass by.

Stop nitpicking about the details of change. Names, times for worship, and the color of paint have nothing whatsoever to do with the content of the message. The message is always about Jesus! Jesus. Calls us and equips us! Jesus. Died for us and lives again for us. It's about eternal life.

Beloved, it is time to step out of the boat. That first step will be a doozy. We will have many moments of fear and failure. Often, we will call out, "Lord, save me!" Each time the compassionate hand of our Lord will bring us once again to safety.

Peace be with you,

Jim

Drive and Treat!



On October 31st we will be hosting 'Drive and Treat' on the circle drive in front of the church. Between the hours of 4:30 pm and 8:00 pm, come by and take a slow drive around the circle and 'trick or treat' without even having to get your little goblins out of the car!

If you would like to donate bags of candy or volunteer to help with this event, please see Harlin Dean for more information or drop your candy donations in the box in the Narthex.

You Are the Branches...



Name: Kay Birch

If you could change your first name, what would it be? Marie. I had a favorite cousin by that name and I used it when playing house as a child.

Favorite carnival food? Lemon shake ups. Not lemon Kool-aid with a lemon floating in it.

What is your earliest memory? I remember moving to Illinois when I was 2. My brother and I kept running around the empty house and yelling so we could hear the echo.

Favorite way to spend time off? Doing counted cross stitch or reading.

Have you ever been in the ocean? Yes. Both the Atlantic and the Pacific. My husband and I had set a goal to visit all 50 states. We made it to 45.

Favorite meal? Fried chicken and potato salad

Have you seen a falling star? Yes. You can see these more often by living in the country which I have done for the majority of my life.

What's worse, snakes or spiders? Snakes by far.

What makes you happy? Spending time with family and friends, especially my great-grandson Aiden, and helping others.

Favorite church/Jim Wolfe memory? I will always remember the good times I've had helping at the food pantry. All the laughter, sharing, the good times with my friends, helping with the sad times too. They are my extended family.

A NOTE OF THANKS

Thank you to everyone who blessed our church family with special music this summer. We have a great deal of talent in our family, and it was nice to hear from so many. Please keep singing!

Jan Jolynn Staley



Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the November newsletter must be submitted to the church office no later than Friday, Oct. 20

You may submit your items by phone (815.842.4321), fax (815.844.6943), e-mail (Rhonda@fbcpontiac.org), or by leaving them in the black box outside the church office door.



Peoria Friendship House



The Esther and Ruth Circles will be collecting items for the Peoria Friendship House again this year. There will be a listing of items needed on the table in the Narthex. If you would like to donate an item, put your name in the blank beside it on the list. The items can be put in the box by the table.

If you would like to help but don't have the time to shop, you may also donate money to be used to purchase any items that are not donated with any remaining cash to be donated to The Peoria Friendship House.

Donations must be brought to the church no later than October 30th. Thank you all for your help.

Did You Know?



Donations to the church and her specific ministries can make wonderful gifts for those hard to shop for people on your gift lists! Have a friend with a birthday and a heart for children? Make a donation on their behalf to the ABK or ABY programs. A relative with an anniversary and a heart for helping the needy? A donation in their name to the Food Pantry or Jubilee Christmas might be the perfect gift. Also, don't forget about those hard to shop for people on your Christmas list! It's coming up faster than you think!

When you make a gift donation to the church in a loved one's name the church will acknowledge your gift by sending a lovely thank you note letting your loved one know of the gift you made on their behalf.

If you would like to honor a friend or family member by making a gift to the church, please be sure to include the person's name and address as well as the specific ministry to which you'd like your gift applied.

A Shiny New Website!



For convenient access to the latest church news and schedule information, don't forget to visit us on-line at ww.fbcpontiac.org. We have an entirely new look that we hope you will find more user friendly, including an integrated Google Calendar that allows you to add events to your own Google Calendars so you never miss an event! Also, don't forget to follow us on Facebook and receive all the latest church updates!

You Are the Branches

Name: Mary Ann Hise

Favorite Color? Blue

Favorite Foods? I must confess that I'm addicted to sweets.

How many states have you lived in? I was born in Kentucky but lived there only a few months before my parents moved us to Illinois to be closer to other family members.

Have you traveled abroad? Yes. I lived in Frankfort, Germany just over 2.5 years when Bill was in the military.

Who made the most impact on my life and why? My parents. When I was born my sister was married and had 2 sons older than me. My brothers were either in the military, working outside the home, etc. so I pretty much had my parent's attention to myself. The three of us spent evening in front of the fireplace, telling our stories and playing games.

If you could talk to anyone from the Bible (other than Jesus) who would it be and why? I think it would be Daniel. Can you imagine hearing his stories in person of his companions

being delivered from the fiery furnace and of his being delivered from the lion's den and other stories where he survived because of God's power? It seemed that no position, no matter how hard, found Daniel without trust in God.

Favorite Bible Story? It's hard to pick a "favorite". Sitting in front of that old fireplace, we had time for many stories. As a young kid, I had a little book about the life of Joseph. That book was special to me, and being the hoarder of books that I am, I might be able to find that worn-out book in my old cedar chest.

How long have you been coming to First Baptist? Bill and I moved our membership to this church on April 28, 1965.

What is the first word or thought that comes to me when I enter the Church? To best reveal my feelings when I enter church, just read *all the words* to the hymn (I believe it's page 136 in our Praise Hymnal), "There's A Sweet, Sweet Feeling in This Place". I could not say it better!

ATTENTION ALL LADIES – FALL INTO AUTUMN WITH US AT THE NEXT LADIES NIGHT OUT!

Thursday, October 19, 2017, 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm, in the Vineyard Room. We'd like to have a "costume" party from the neck on up; i.e., wigs, hats, painted faces, jewelry, scarves, etc. Instead trying to figure out a whole costume, we thought just dressing up with hats, scarves, make-up, etc. would be a better idea. (A nurse's cap; set of bunny ears with whiskers penciled in on the face; a clown nose and face painted; etc.) All those attending will judge and the best one gets a prize! Food, Fun, & Fellowship!!

Questions? Please feel free to contact either Jan Jolynn or Janice Staley.



October

- 1 Roman Battleson
- 1 Kara Thomas
- 2 Dorley Dodd
- 2 Bernice Childers
- 3 Phylis Bowman
- 4 Darlene Garrett
- 5 Christian Waggoner
- 6 Nickey Gruen
- 6 Gary and Peggy Boldt ♥
- 7 Kay Birch
- 9 Maggie Crawford
- 9 Jay Hurd ♥
- 9 Darrell and Patricia Shoop
- 11 Brenda Dodd ♥
- 11 Eric and Missy Hoover
- 11 Gary Wykes ♥
- 11 Edward and Julia Bonnevier
- 14 Todd Henderson
- 16 Dean Easton
- 17 Gordie Frobish ♥
- 19 Rob and Jeana Boase
- 21 Joe Stanton
- 22 Julie Amdor
- 22 Ken Ferguson
- 23 Jackson Harder
- 23 Terry Stanton
- 24 Kelly Sullivan ♥
- 25 Rick Golliday
- 26 Nicholas and Brittney Lundeen
- 27 Judy Leach
- 28 Skip Jones
- 28 Emily Miller
- 29 Teri Newsome ♥
- 30 Bill and Gwen Battice
- 30 Shirley Carroll
- 30 Gary Boldt

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 am SMC 10:00 am Worship 4:00 pm Jr. ABY 5:00 pm ABK 5:30 pm Sr. ABY 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee	2	3 5:45 pm Sm. Group Book Study	4 9:00 am ROMEO Club 9:00 am Ruth Circle 10:30 am Grief Group 1:00 pm Esther Circle	5 6:30 pm Book of John Study 6:30 pm A Case for Faith	6	7 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
8 9:00 am SMC 10:00 am Worship 4:00 pm Jr. ABY 5:00 pm ABK 5:30 pm Sr. ABY 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee	9 1:00 pm Single Women of Faith	10 5:45 pm Sm. Group Book Study	11 9:00 am ROMEO Club 6:00 pm Jesus Calling	12 6:30 pm Book of John Study 6:30 pm A Case for Faith 6:00 pm Joint Board/Diaconate Meeting 7:00 pm Covered with Prayers	13	14 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
15 9:00 am SMC 10:00 am Worship 4:00 pm Jr. ABY 5:00 pm ABK 5:30 pm Sr. ABY 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee	16	17 5:45 pm Sm. Group Book Study	18 9:00 am ROMEO Club 6:00 pm Jesus Calling	19 6:30 pm Book of John Study 6:30 pm A Case for Faith 6:30 pm Girl's Night Out	20 Newsletter Deadline	21 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
22 9:00 am SMC 10:00 am Worship 4:00 pm Jr. ABY 5:00 pm ABK 5:30 pm Sr. ABY 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee	23 1:00 pm Single Women of Faith	24 5:45 pm Sm. Group Book Study	25 9:00 am ROMEO Club 11:00 am - 5:00 pm Red Cross Bloodmobile @ VFW 6:00 pm Jesus Calling	26 6:30 pm Book of John Study 6:30 pm A Case for Faith	27	28 7:30 am PK Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am PK Study at FBC
29 9:00 am SMC 10:00 am Worship 4:00 pm Jr. ABY 5:00 pm ABK 5:30 pm Sr. ABY 5:00 pm Koinonia Koffee	30	31 All Hallows Eve 5:45 pm Sm. Group Book Study 4:30 pm - 8:00 pm Drive and Treat				