

“SoJourn in this land, and I will be with you, and bless you!” (Gen. 26:3)

A Word from Wes

In trying times, it is tempting to take matters in one’s “own hands”. There is a problem there, so get it fixed!

We are all facing trying times whether in our personal circumstances, in the difficulties presented by the economy, in the challenges that congregations like ours are confronting, or in...well, you name it. These are trying times.

Recently, I have found myself meditating on the passage found in Proverbs 3: 5-7 which reads, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and turn away from evil. It will be healing for your flesh and a refreshment for your body.” (NRSV)

This is not an invitation to passivity. However, it is an invitation to gain perspective and to draw on wisdom beyond one’s own before grasping for what might merely be expedient for the moment.

I am responsible for my life and I do have decisions and choices to make. However, this passage offers a measuring stick for those decisions which will bring into view the acknowledgement of God’s “Rightness” of justice/love, compassion, and humility. (Micah 6: 6-8)

The Scriptures that have helped me to consider these matters were learned when I was a much younger person. Now, they come back to me in ways that are not just a comfort, but a real and engaging challenge. This is one manifestation of the disciplines of faith.

One of my tasks as your pastor is to encourage you to be familiar enough with the scriptures so that they come alive for you in trying times that are the inevitable for us all.

The “fix” to trying times is not in solving problems by taking matters into our “own hands”. It is rather in being led and guided by the One in whose Hands we can place all that we are or hope to be and to do.

And, then, to act as a person of faith!

SENDING PRAYERS TO OUR FAMILY OF **FAITH**

Please remain in prayer for these people who are or have recently been under doctor's care: Patty Babian, Ray Sharp, Collin Trask, Kelly Kestel, Vicki Schettling, Sandra Paran.

Please also keep in your prayers our homebound friends: Alice Adams, Enid Holliday, Norma Moore, Ray Sharp, Evelyn Morrell, Phil Lett, Frances Bramblett, Patty Babian, Margaret Edgington.

Leta Renshaw is home after a brief stay at Woodward Hills. We keep Leta in our prayers.

George Weaver is at home after a brief stay at Woodward Hills. Continue to keep him in your prayers.

We keep Patty and Pastor Babian in our prayers as Patty continues to struggle with illness. Patty is currently at Franklin House, a transitional care facility. Cards may be sent to 30850 Franklin Road, Franklin, Michigan, 48025 or to the Parsonage. No visits at this time, please.

Congratulations to Evelyn Morrell who celebrated her 96th birthday on June 21!



Happy August Birthdays!

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| August 4 | Donald Betlam
Sandra Paran |
| August 5 | Frances Morse |
| August 11 | Jack Ellis |
| August 14 | Alan Cantrell |
| August 15 | Terri Cannon |
| August 16 | Suzi Michael
Sue Ellen Bennett
Sarah Clarkson |
| August 18 | Jackie Erhardt |
| August 21 | Brian Blaesing |
| August 26 | Sally Casement |
| August 27 | Gwen Bache
Edith Henderson |
| August 28 | Dorothy Bermingham
Keiko Horikawa |
| August 29 | Dave Brault |
| August 30 | Doug Klipfel
Wes Babian |

2009 Officers: Moderator: Joan Trusty Moore; Vice Moderator: Dave Brault; Financial Secretary: Glenn Craig; Treasurer: Carol Olsen; Recording Clerk: Harriet Stewart; Membership Clerk: Kathy Charbeneau
 2009 Ministry Team Chairs: Jerri Poet (Deacons); Jodi Bly (Educational); Larry Phillips (Human Resources); Carol McWilliam (Physical Resources); Myra Trask (Stewardship); Robert Washburn (Outreach)

Published on the last day of the month by First Baptist Church, 300 Willits, Birmingham, Michigan 48009-3300. (248) 644-0550
 Second Class Postage paid in Birmingham, Michigan.
 Notices for the SoJournal should be in writing to the Church Office.

Ministers All Members of this Church
 PastorRev. Dr. J. Wesley Babian
 Office Manager/PublicistLeslie Eldh Jaquez, M.P.A.
 Director of Music & OrganistJack E. Ellis, M.M.

Summer Vacation Trip

Call the Church Office to note your interest in going to Cedar Point on August 18 &/or 19. We need hard numbers to start planning!



A Look at the Financials

As of June 30, 2009

Pledged Income Actual	\$91,681
Pledged Income Budget	\$93,690
Pledged Variance	(\$ 2,009)

Please continue to keep current with your pledges.



Wonderful News!

Jonathan and Emily Nabors have a New Baby Girl - Charlotte Winslow Nabors.

She was born on Wed. 7/15 at 2:30 pm. She was 8.06 lbs and 20" long.

All are doing fine. Blessings!



Larry and Judy Phillips Provide Leadership at Green Lake

The annual summer conference at Green Lake Conference Center in Green Lake Wisconsin. Judy was responsible for planning and preparing the Taize Service. Our Taize cross and icons spiritually set the stage for the moving and emotional service created by Judy. Larry was once again the coordinator for the instrumental groups. This is a demanding job setting up for five different groups rehearsing and performing in widely spread areas. We are thankful that Judy and Larry Phillips provide leadership not just at FBCB but in our denomination as well! "How often making music, we have found A new dimension to the world of sound. And my God give us faith to sing aloud,. Alleluia!"

Organ Project Update

While funding is not in hand to complete the Organ Project, it is promised but delayed by market condition. This is an amount of about \$25 - \$30,000.

However, if we were to subscribe that amount by renewed gifts, the Project could be completed. This would free up the promised capital gifts, when received, to be redirected to other capital projects preliminarily under discussion that will strengthen the mission of the congregation. A mix of 20 gifts and/or pledges of \$1,000 - \$1,500 would make it possible to accomplish this goal. We are talking with Holden Organ Co. about what we could accomplish with the cash we have on-hand (about) \$40,000. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.



**Remember to Save the Date for CROP WALK:
October 4, 2009**

On the first Sunday in October, we will walk together as a church family to raise funds to help fight poverty. You can walk one of three different routes, ranging from 1.5 mile to five miles. All proceeds raised will go to support of Church World Service as well as local facilities, such as South Oakland Shelter, Baldwin House, Lighthouse Emergency Services and Gleaners Food Bank.



August Communion Offering

Our August Communion offering will go to support the ABC ministries on the campuses of Michigan State university and University of Michigan. Please give generously on August 2 to help support young adults at these campuses.



Camp Lake Louise Announces New Programming!

Camp Lake Louise is in full swing, if you haven't registered yet, you are missing out. In addition to children and youth programs there are several family camp offerings. If you just want to get away for a day or two, we have added Leisure Time August 24 through September 7, Labor Day; come for a day or a week. Also there is a Men's Fishing Weekend, fathers and sons included, September 11-13, Beans and Bass, a time for fishing and fellowship at Camp Lake Louise. Call the camp at 800-440-1238 for more information or to reserve your spot.

Community Program

The Race Relations and Diversity Taskforce invites the community to its August program entitled: "This We Believe" on Thursday, August 20 at 8AM. Join us as we address the issue of: *What do we mean when we say we want an inclusive community?*



IM Missionary Dan Buttry's Journal Entry of July 13, 2009

"So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up." (Galatians 6.9)

This verse from Galatians is one of the great words of encouragement to me, for most serious peacemaking work takes a lot of time and is characterized by moments of frustration and discouragement. We labor intensely for what we believe is right, for what we believe is God's will, only to find our work crumble like a sandcastle before the assaults of violence and war.

This June all of the top leaders of the Naga insurgent factions have signed a "Covenant of Reconciliation." For over thirty years these groups have split Naga society, and the warfare between the factions has left thousands of Nagas dead and deep divisions within the Naga people. In 2008 a process of reconciliation was launched that brought people from the factions face-to-face, developing momentum that couldn't even be halted by violent outbursts. Thanks to the persistence of Naga peacemakers and the moving of the Holy Spirit, all the major leaders have publicly committed themselves to the reconciliation process.

To read more of this entry or Dan's journal from the past year go to internationalministries.com

Please Note:



Summer office hours have begun. Hours are Monday through Thursday, 9AM to 2PM.



Join the Sunday Morning Bible Study Group!

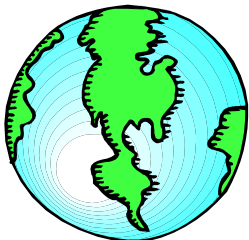
We invite all to attend the Bible study, led by Phyllis Bourgois, that meets in Fellowship Hall following the worship (11:45 AM) service concluding by 12:30. The current study is The Epistle of James.



Let's Go Golfing for a Good Cause!

4th Annual Friendship House Golf Outing: Saturday, September 26, 2009 at Fox Creek Golf Club, located at Seven Mile and Newburgh Road, Livonia, Michigan ~

Cost: \$85 per golfer (\$340 per foursome) Includes continental breakfast, greens fees, lunch at the turn and dinner.



Shop with Social Justice In Mind

FBCB church member Leona Frost recommends reading The Better World Shopping Guide. According to the Baptist Peace fellowship magazine, "The Guide is simple. In categories such as

"Toys and Games" and "Fruit and Vegetables", it rates companies from A to F based on their corporate record on human rights, the environment, animal protection, community involvement and social justice. The website suggests that the book costs \$10 per copy. See more at betterworldshopper.com

*The Global Gifts and Craft Shop
is open for business!*



Help Camp Lael make needed repairs and upgrades, build a reserve fund, and strengthen the camp into the future. Attend the Joyful Noise Encounter on August 1 at Chilson Hills Church, Brighton. Ongoing, throughout the event, Praise Bands, Vocal groups, Christian Rock/Alternative/Jazz/HipHop bands, Christian Soloists, Bell choirs, comedians, etc. will be sharing their talents at two venues: Chilson Hills Church's Outdoor Memorial Gardens Worship space and Indoor Community Worship Center. Randy Pouliot, with years of youth leadership experience, will offer a Youth Leaders' TuneUp workshop. This is a great opportunity to get re-energized for your fall programs.

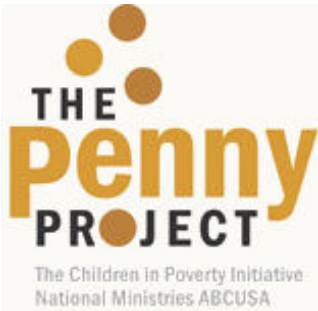


ABCUSA News

At the ABCUSA Biennial held in Pasadena, California in late June, the structural changes that have been proposed did not get the necessary votes to pass. To read Dr. Williams' summary of the meeting, go to abc-mi.org and click on ELink.

V.B.S.

Vacation Bible School has a new date! Join our Educational Ministries Team as they host this years program on August 1 at the home of Micky and Jodi Bly. Call the church office or seek out Jodi for more details .



ABC-USA National Ministries launched its national *Penny Project* —aimed at addressing the needs of children in poverty—at the annual meeting of American Baptist Churches of Vermont and New Hampshire on June 6. The project seeks to engage American Baptist congregations and youth groups across the country in collecting 14 million pennies to

represent that same number of children, newborn to age 18, in the United States and Puerto Rico who struggle with issues related to poverty. Ultimately, the pennies will be used to raise awareness of child poverty and to aid programs that address the issue. Go to nationalministries.com for more information.



The ABC-MI Metro Area website has provided a long list of recommendations as to how to live a GREENER Life. These are posted on the bulletin board in the Welcome Center. Check it Out!



M.O.S.E.S. Working on Two Initiatives

- The M.O.S.E.S. Supermarket Task Force, a partnership among neighborhood groups, churches and a union, among others, is designed to give residents greater access to healthy food through community-owned and run grocery stores.
- City Council President Pro Tem JoAnn Watson launched the "Bank On Detroit" task force in a meeting Friday afternoon with area banking officials and community organization heads. The campaign is part of a nationwide National League of Cities campaign to forge relationships among city residents and mainstream financial services and banks, and to help people avoid using predatory lenders and check cashers. Representatives from the United Way, Detroit Alliance for Banking and Metropolitan Organizing Strategy Enabling Strength attended the event.

Camp Lael Run/Walk

Saturday, September 19th

11:00am-3:00pm

Early Registration Fee: \$25

Late Registration: \$50 (after 9/12)

Registration Begins at 10:00 am

Kid Run (12 and under) at 11:00 am

Adult Run at 12:00 pm

Prizes Given for: Total Donations, Single Highest Donation, Most Sponsors, Fastest Runner Times

Family Fair: bounce houses, games, fun!

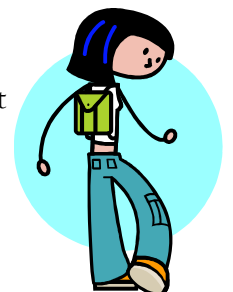
Family Picnic Lunch: \$5 for non-participants

Pre-Register at: www.campael.com



Friendship House Request: Children's Backpacks Needed for School Supply Give-away Day

We are blessed with nearly all of the items that are needed to get kids ready for school—except backpacks. Is this a project you can do as an individual, a family, a class, an alumni group, a congregation, a fraternity/sorority, a golf league.....? We need backpacks by August 17. (Backpacks will be distributed August 21.) Call 313-871-7443 for more information. (ref: FH newsletter)



FBCB Downtown Readers Group Just Began: American Gospel by John Mecham

randomhouse.com says...

The American Gospel—literally, the good news about America—is that religion shapes our public life without controlling it. In this vivid book, New York Times best-selling author Jon Meacham tells the human story of how the Founding Fathers viewed faith, and how they ultimately created a nation in which belief in God is a matter of choice.

At a time when our country seems divided by extremism, American Gospel draws on the past to offer a new perspective. Meacham re-creates the fascinating history of a nation grappling with religion and politics—from John Winthrop’s “city on a hill” sermon to Thomas Jefferson’s Declaration of Independence; from the Revolution to the Civil War; from a proposed nineteenth-century Christian Amendment to the Constitution to Martin Luther King, Jr.’s call for civil rights; from George Washington to Ronald Reagan....

Debates about religion and politics are often more divisive than illuminating. Secularists point to a “wall of separation between church and state,” while many conservatives act as though the Founding Fathers were apostles in knee britches. As Meacham shows in this brisk narrative, neither extreme has it right. At the heart of the American experiment lies the God of what Benjamin Franklin called “public religion,” a God who invests all human beings with inalienable rights while protecting private religion from government interference. It is a great American balancing act, and it has served us well.

Meacham has written and spoken extensively about religion and politics, and he brings historical authority and a sense of hope to the issue. American Gospel makes it compellingly clear that the nation’s best chance of summoning what Lincoln called “the better angels of our nature” lies in recovering the spirit and sense of the Founding. In looking back, we may find the light to lead us forward.

Join us on August 7th!



Daily Prayers For This Month

Each morning when you get up, take a brief moment to say the prayer written below. See if, by the end of the week, having made this time for God’s word, somehow, your life has changed for the better, your outlook has become brighter, your spirit, stronger. These prayers are taken from the “Seasons of the Spirit” lectionary materials.

Sunday, July 26, 2009

For the gifts you shower upon us, and all creation, thank you God. For Christ to lead us, thank you God. For wisdom to share generously until all your children have what they need for wholeness of life, thank you God. Amen.

Sunday, August 2, 2009

Giver of manna, feed our deepest hungers. Break the bread that nourishes relationship. Break the bread that heals our fracturing. Break the bread that nourishes life in your presence. We seek you, for you are our life. Amen.

Sunday, August 9, 2009

Leading Spirit, open our lives to your presence and guide us in your new paths. Transform us, and give us the courage to shape our community according to your grace-filled, challenging, and exhilarating ways. Amen.

Sunday, August 16, 2009

God of all hope, make us bold to ask in faith for what we need, and to trust you accordingly. Send us wisdom,, that we might follow in your paths, doing what is right and just. In Christ Jesus. Amen.

Sunday, August 23, 2009

Journey with us, O God, and lead us to our true home, in and with you. Lead us with others, with whom we share that home’s grace and presence. Lead us with Spirit, who gives us strength and hope on the way. Lead us in Christ, who shows us the way. Amen.

Upcoming Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 AM

July 26, 2009

“God’s Abundant Presence” ~ John 6:1-21

August 2, 2009

“Bread of Life” ~ John 6:24-35

August 9, 2009

“Shaping Community” ~ Ephesians 4:25-5:2

August 16, 2009

“Wisdom Quest” ~ I Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14

August 23, 2009

“At Home with God” ~ Psalm 84

SoJournal
First Baptist Church
300 Willits
Birmingham, MI 48009-3300
(USPS 528-560)

*Postmaster: Address correction requested within
30 days of mailing.*

Periodical

July 26, 2009