



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

A Word from Wes

As I child, I learned the verse, “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee.” (Psalm 119: 11 KJV) In reading in this 119th Psalm today, I was reminded of those days when we memorized Scripture. Over the years, such discipline has served me well in the exercise of my own faith and as I have carried out the tasks of my calling.

Other translations of the verse read: “I treasure your word in my heart, so that I might not sin against you.” (NRSV) That rendering, brings color and texture to the text that reminds the reader of the gift that God’s living Word and Law are. By being those who follow those precepts and ways, we are blessed with the inheritance of enduring life.

There is a counter-cultural theme in these words. In times of economic distress and pre-occupation, the message is that our treasure is calculated in terms different from materialism or dollars and cents. These are values beyond worldly measuring.

I write this because we are approaching the beginning of new the school year and restarting our Learning Community activities. Learning together, young and old alike, makes it possible to

gain the perspective and the insight essential to infuse our ministry and mission with something more than our best guesses, wishes, and intentions. We are opened to the leading of God’s Spirit and God’s purpose in what we would do and be as a congregation.

You are invited to participate in the Sunday Learning Community offerings as well as those groups that meet throughout the week and month. I would hope that we might see some additional opportunities developed as well. Should you be interested in initiating a new group, let me know. If you have not recently been involved in these settings, the responses have been quite positive to those times of sharing and growth.

My hope is that the children and youth of this congregation will see and experience in the lives of their parents and their elders the kind of commitment to worship, learning, and service that will be formative for them. As they experience us to be a people who treasure God’s living word, they will be challenged and encouraged to be the same.

-Wes

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.

We keep Andy Pflaum and Sarah Clarkson in our prayers as they mourn the passing of Andy's grandmother.

Mark Sackett had successful back surgery.

Dorothy Bermingham was recently under doctor's care.

Judy Phillips had surgery at St. Joseph Hospital earlier this month. She is home now recovering.

Congratulations to Arthur Kaczmarek who will be celebrating his 90th birthday on 9-25.

Congratulations to Ray and Nancy Sharp on the birth of their new granddaughter, Adelaide Reigh Sharp, born to Greg and Colleen Sharp, on Aug. 13. Blessings!

Doreen Feldpausch was hospitalized briefly. She is now home recuperating.



Happy September Birthdays!

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| September 2 | Jerri Poe |
| September 4 | Glenn Craig |
| September 5 | Ralph Charlick
Laura Burleigh
Katherine Stewart |
| September 6 | Caryn Craig
Patty Babian |
| September 18 | Margery Dennis |
| September 21 | Doris Myers |
| September 23 | Esther Houstina |
| September 25 | Art Kaczmarek |
| September 26 | Elizabeth Lin |
| September 27 | Tyler Black |

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.

FBCB Continues Its Mission and Ministry With Gusto!

FBCB'ers have been busy putting their hands and hearts to work in the name of Jesus Christ.

- We hosted the "Green Cruise" (as opposed to the "Dream Cruise") on Saturday, Aug. 8. The "Green Cruisers ride bicycles instead of cars. FBCB was a rest stop for this group.
- Again our church is opening its doors to the public by allowing an additional 12-Step group to use our space for their meetings. A new Alcoholic Anonymous group will begin meeting in Fellowship Hall on Saturday mornings starting on September 5, from 8AM to 10:30AM.
- Our efforts to raise mission dollars are becoming fruitful! The Accidental Bakers, a small catering business with whom we have made arrangements to use our wonderful kitchen facility on a part time basis for fees have given the church a total of \$250 which is slated to go directly to outside mission projects. This relationship is an outcome of the Future Missions Taskforce.
- Church Council has approved a new policy to allow non-member weddings at FBCB, with a large portion of the Building Use Fee dollars (\$500 per wedding) being set aside to be given directly to mission. Sharing God's blessings!



A Look at the Financials

As of July 31, 2009

Pledged Income Actual	\$106,933
Pledged Income Budget	\$116,027
Pledged Variance	(\$ 9,094)

Please continue to keep current with your pledges.

CROP WALK IS COMING!

Save **October 4th** for the annual CROP Walk. For 27 years this community has responded in the fight against poverty by raising funds through this walk. Please be a part of it. Using the Millennium Development Goals set by the United Nations, Church World Service and the CROP Walk, are tackling some of the most crucial issues facing our planet and its people. Funds raised support programs in many areas of the world concentrating on Hunger and Poverty, Education, Health, Environment and Water, Partnerships in Development such as Micro Business loans. In addition to relief around the world 25 percent of what is raised will stay here at the local level to support Friendship House, Pontiac Lighthouse, The Baldwin Center, South Oakland Shelter, Grace Center of Hope (formerly Pontiac Rescue Mission), and Cass Community Social Services. Please don't think your contribution and ability to raise funds is not needed. In today's economic climate we may have less than before but we have so much more than many. See Leona or Robert for more information.



Thanks to My Church Family...

Dear Church Family: During my hospitalization from Church these past several months I wish to Thank You for all the wonderful cards, phone calls and visits. It has been a long stretch during my illness. I have been in hospitals, The Woodward Center Nursing Home and finally in my own home receiving nursing care from my five daughters daily as needed. My health is improving daily and I hope to return to normal activities when my health permits. I miss my church family and wish them well.

—George Weaver



September Communion Offering Designated to Bacone College

Bacone College is a four year Liberal arts College that is associated with, and had its beginnings with the American Baptist Church. Founded in 1880 as a college for Native Americans it serves students from all regions and nations. This historic college has the distinction of being the oldest college practicing continuous education in the State of Oklahoma. Founded by Almon C. Bacone for the "education of Native Americans according to Christian principles" the college retains its Christian heritage and connection today.

Volunteer Opportunity

Friendship House in Hamtramck needs a volunteer consultant in accounting to work with our bookkeeper about once or twice a month. We need help developing a solid undergirding of our ministries to "the least of these" in the Detroit area. Perhaps there is a retired person in your congregation who could offer their skills in this area to work with us as needed. Contact FH Director Linnea Berg for more information (313-871-7443). Friendship House is also looking for a new board member with expertise in accounting. Contact Linnea as above.

Important Note:

Three volumes (#9, 11, 12) of the Church's New Interpreter's Bible set are missing from the church library. Does anyone have any information as to the whereabouts of these books? Please call the church office.

Please Note These New (Corrected) Addresses

- Please note the full, and corrected address for Carol Ege: Carol Ege, #235484, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility, 3201 Bemis Road, Unit #4 B Side 309-U, Ypsilanti, MI 48197-0911
- Patty Babian can receive letters and cards at 30850 Franklin Rd. Franklin, MI 48025 and can be reached by phone at 248-497-4287

FBCB September Fellowship Opportunities:

- **Village Players Offers Up Christie's "Mousetrap"**
The local Birmingham Theater, The Village Players, is Presenting Agatha Christie's "Mousetrap" in September. The play is directed by our old friend, Dale Feldpausch. See the poster on the wall in the Welcome Center for more information. \$15 per person.
- **A Documentary: "Pray the Devil Back to Hell"**
Coming for three showings, the critically acclaimed documentary, "Pray The Devil Back To Hell" will be shown at Beverly Hills United Methodist Church on September 25, 26 and 27. This is a gripping account of how a group of "brave and visionary" Christian and Muslim women joined together to fight for peace. Fed up with the way things were they set out to make a difference and, according to one review, quite possibly changed the government of Liberia. This documentary won the 2008 Tribeca Film Festival Award and the 2008 Traverse City Film Festival Award among others. Tickets are \$10.00 with a discount for groups of 10 or more. See Leona if you would like to go. Dates and Times: Friday September 25 at 7:30; Saturday September 26 at 2:P.M. and Sunday September 27 at 3:00 P.M.

Camp Events Continue to Draw Participants!
Check out the bulletin board for more details.



Bible Study Begins Again

Scripture Discussion Classes led by Pastor Babian will begin again. Tuesday mornings at 10AM begin on Sept. 15 (note change of date!) and the Thursday evening class (7PM) will begin Sept. 17. Please plan to join us! These are wonderful opportunities for learning and friendship!



ABC-MI Metro Area Annual Meeting
 “Renewable Energy...that which sustains us”
 “But now, O God, strengthen my hands.”
 (Neh. 6:9)

- When: October 18 & 19, Register by October 1, 2009
- Where: Covenant Baptist Church, West Bloomfield, Michigan
- Special Guests: Rev. Dr. Trinette V. McCray & Curville Concert (Children’s) Choir
- Focus: MINISTRY

We will need delegate representation at this meeting. Registration and information packages are available in the Welcome Center.

Fun Trip to Ohio!

A group of FBCB’ers had a terrific time at Cedar Point Amusement Park this earlier this month. Among attendees were Bly’s, Babian’s, Tyson’s and friends! It was a good day spending time together with church friends!

**American Baptist Women’s Ministries:
 Women’s Day 2009**



All women are invited to attend on Saturday, Sept. 19 at Northside Community Baptist Church in Ann Arbor will host this year’s event. Panel Discussion: Your Area and Regional Development Coordinators. Fee \$10 pp, includes lunch. Make reservations by September 1st. Registration forms are available in the Welcome Center.

Attention Out-of-State SoJournal Recipients

Email Vs Snail Mail

If you are receiving this newsletter in the regular mail but you have email and would like to receive the newsletter that way, please contact the church office. Email versus snail mail saves money and is more ecologically friendly.



FBCB Deacon Team Sponsored Trip

For all you M*A*S*H fans, Father Mulcahy (William Christopher) has switched denominations! He is now a Lutheran Minister in Minnesota. The FBC Deacon Ministry Team is sponsoring a trip to see the HILARIOUS “Church Basement Ladies”, a musical comedy, starring William Christopher. We will travel to Dearborn on September 18, Friday evening. Please see Jerri Poe for further information on tickets and carpooling. Tickets are \$24 and \$28.

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



Back-Pack Donation Update

Over the past few weeks the youth have been very busy baking cookies, holding a bake sale and shopping for backpacks and school supplies to donate to Friendship House. A Saturday saw a very energetic group of young people baking 33 dozen cookies with help from Leona, Harriet and Clementine. (Dave and Pastor Wes were very good at cookie tasting!) After baking and packaging the cookies on Saturday they were brought to church on Sunday and sold after worship. With-in twenty minutes all 33 dozen were taken. Thank you to the congregation for your delicious support!! What a joy when the youth raised \$180.00! Paige, Alana, and Eve purchased 40 backpacks and 5 packages of pencils. With additional donations from the church we had 50 backpacks and assorted school supplies. Katherine, Emily and a friend of hers made the trip to Friendship House and presented the school supplies to Linnea Berg and her co-workers. It was a great experience, and someone asked for a rain-check. We might even find a reason to do this again!!!!

FBCB Marching Into the Future With A Fresh Southside Facade!

Church Council has approved a plan presented by Gateway Montessori School to design and build a new (additional) playground in our lower courtyard on the south side of the educational building. The design will incorporate a very "green" approach to the area, including a tricycle path, children's vegetable and flower gardens, a grassy footpath, water/table work bench and a 'rock dragon' for climbing. Present tress and shrubs on the west wall of the space will remain intact. The vast majority of costs for the project will be incurred by the School. The Church will need to move the fountain, concrete benches and concrete tree planters to elsewhere on the Church grounds. A final plan for these items has yet to be determined. The children and youth of the Church will be allowed to play in the area as well. We are pleased to be going forward with new plans and an enriched purpose of our wonderful outdoor space.

There is a schematic of the planned playground posted in the Welcome Center.



Camp News...

Saturday, September 19, 11AM to 3PM. Early registration \$25, late registration \$30 after

9/12. Also at the event, a family fair, bounce house, games and a family picnic lunch! Let us continue to help support the mission of Christian Camps!



South Oakland Shelter Update

The Ferndale Zoning Board and Ferndale City Council have both agreed that First Baptist Church Ferndale and South Oakland Shelter may work together to house SOS in the future. Some guidelines exist, and certain conditions need to be met beforehand. Changes need to be made to the church parking lot, and grounds among other items. Please keep both SOS and the First Baptist Ferndale congregation in your prayers as they assume the financial burden placed on them from the litigation over this vital local mission. Also, see a news article posted in the Welcome Center for more details.

Please Note These Important Dates

Congregational Meetings:
September 20
October 25



Come celebrate the 14th season of B'Jazz Vespers
on Sunday, September 20, 2009, 6 to 8PM

"The Mood Swings of Jazz Singer
Steve Blackwood
and The Cliff Monear Trio"

- Steve, vocals • Cliff, piano
- Nick Calandro, bass
- Scott Kretzer, drums



All-Church Picnic!

Bring a dish to pass and your place setting for this annual fellowshiping event at Springdale Park on Sunday, September 13th! Always fun!



LUCK

Mark your calendars for an all-church potluck supper and learning program after church on October 11. More details to follow.



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, August 30, 2009

You have called us in love, O God, to be your children. May we remember this love when we feel unloved. May we practice this love when others rely on us. You, O God, are love. So may we be love in you. Amen.

September 6, 2009

Hear us when we call you, O God. For if we cannot turn to you, where can hope be found? Sharpen us to hear when you call, especially in the voice of a vulnerable one. For if others cannot turn to us, where will faith be found and lived? Amen.

September 13, 2009

Teach us your names, O God, spoken in acts of mercy and justice and grace. May we learn your names, O Jesus, by trusting who you are for us and for all. May we recognize your names, Holy Spirit, in the renewing of our lives and communities. Amen.

September 20, 2009

Loving God, hold us close when we fear or do not understand the way before us. Open us to the ones who await your welcome through us. May our own frailty make us more gracious—and may we rejoice that in caring for others, we welcome you. Amen.

September 27, 2009

Strengthen us, O God, to choose to live faithfully in all the situations we face. Make us bold and courageous advocates for facing danger or risk. Help us be wise, persistent stewards of all that you entrust into our care. Amen.

Upcoming Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 AM

August 30, 2009

Be Love ~ James 1:17-27

September 6, 2009

Be Opened ~ Mark 7:24-37

September 13, 2009

Who Are You, Jesus? ~ Mark 8:27-38

September 20, 2009

First in Caring ~ Mark 9:30-37

September 27, 2009

Courage for Community ~ Esther 7:1-6, 9-10 ; 9:20-22

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

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

Periodical

August 30, 2009