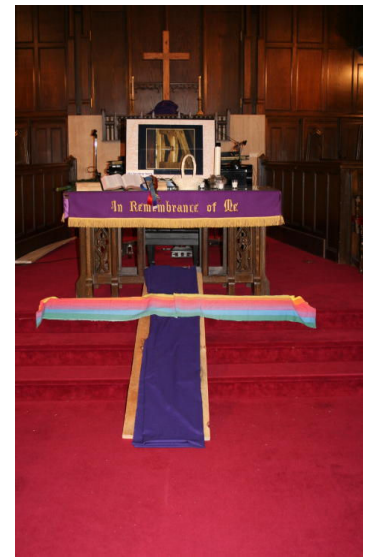


First Baptist Church of Birmingham, Michigan April 25, 2010

SoJournals

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

Palm Sunday and Easter at FBCB



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, Patty Babian, Margaret Edgington.

Oops! Happy belated birthday wishes to Edgar Streten who celebrated his birthday on April 8.

To our friends at FBCB ~ We send our thanks for the wonderful love and concern for us. We hope to keep in touch with all of you. In Christian Love, Chuck and Frances Morse

John Trask's brother passed away unexpectedly earlier this month. We keep the Trask family in our prayers.

Vicki Schettling father passed away after a long illness.

Vicki Schettling was briefly hospitalized earlier this month. Continue to keep her in your prayers.

Happy May Birthdays!

- May 1 Cole Schaffer
- May 3 Joan Moore, Nancy Sharp
- May 6 John Howard
- May 7 Katie Woodford
- May 8 Marilyn Bird
- May 10 Mike McCandlish, Danielle Swaim
- May 11 Jim Poe
- May 12 Diane Fleming
- May 14 Steve McEwen, Vicki Schettling
- May 15 Matt Cannon, Jeremy Nabors
- May 16 Jonathan Olsen
- May 17 Kikuko McCandlish
- May 18 Kyle O'Donohue
- May 21 Jackie Sheppard
- May 22 Kate O'Donohue, John Schettling
- May 24 Greg Bennett
- May 25 Enid Holliday, Emma Ritchie
- May 27 Doug Holliday
- May 28 George Weaver
- May 31 Alana Tyson

2010 Officers: Moderator: Dave Brault; Vice Moderator: Brian Blaesing; Financial Secretary: Glenn Craig; Treasurer: Carol Olsen; Recording Clerk: Harriet Stewart; Membership Clerk: Kathy Charbeneau
 2010 Ministry Team Chairs: Judy Phillips (Deacons); Harriet Stewart (Educational); Sarah Clarkson (Human Resources); Carol McWilliam (Physical Resources); Myra Trask (Stewardship); Robert Washburn (Outreach)

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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.



A Look at the Financials

As of March 31, 2010

Pledged Income Actual	\$42,173
Pledged Income Budget	<u>\$40,616</u>
Pledged Variance	\$ 1,557

YTD Total Income	\$66,534
YTD Total Expenses	<u>\$76,127</u>
Variance	(\$9,593)

Our spending is exceeding our income.

Tonight! A Haitian Benefit Concert To Help All Who Are Suffering We are planning a special concert in April to help raise funds for Haitian Relief. Save the date April 25. Minimum admission fee is \$20.

The Paul Keller Trio presenting an afternoon with a toast to The Nat "King" Cole Trio • Paul, bass • Steve Richko, piano • Ralph Tope, guitar 4 to 6PM. All fund collected at this benefit concert will be for Haitian Relief, Recovery and Rebuilding, and will be proceeded through Church World Service (CWS). Your contribution is tax deductible.



Youth Events at FBCB: Friday, April 30, 2010 ~ Camp night/lock-in/overnight at church ~ Bring gently used stuffed animals for donation to Friendship House ~ Fun and games ~ Saturday, May 15, 2010 ~ Help church seniors with yard work ~ Friday, June 4, 2010 ~ Go to IMAX movie ~ June 2010 ~ Do project with Greening of Detroit.

Also, please note that we are collecting new and gently used stuffed animals. A collection box is in the Welcome Center.

Thank you for your support!

Maundy Thursday: A Day of Service and Commitment

As we shared a thoughtful service and meal with our friends from Second Baptist Church of Detroit on Maundy Thursday, we collected and packaged nearly 100 hygiene kits that are to be sent to Haiti through Church World Service.

A blessing for givers and recipients alike!

CHANGE OF DATE FOR WORKDAY!

We will have an all-church workday on May 1. Many hands make light work!
9AM.

Women and Faith

"Friends, I'm delighted to announce the publication of a new book "Friendship & Faith: The WISDOM of women creating alliances for peace." Sharon Buttry has a chapter in the book. It is stories of building friendship across lines of religious difference."

~ Missionary Dan Buttry

(Call the FBC Birmingham church office for more details)

South Oakland Shelter: A Review From the Clients

In February, we hosted the SOS program. Participants of the program specifically held at our church were interviewed and here are some of the responses:

- “Excellent. All of the sleeping areas were nice and I felt that I had enough privacy.”
- “I really like the sleeping arrangements at this congregation. I felt very comfortable and my room was pretty private.”
- “Good enough. There was enough to eat. The food just kept getting better every day.”
- The food was tasty. I enjoyed the desserts that were served with the meals.”
- “The volunteers were unbelievably friendly.”
- “I appreciated how they let me set up lunches for the next day.”
- “Offered services above and beyond expectations.”
- “They talked with us a lot and made me feel very welcomed.”
- “They made me feel comfortable”
- 19 out of the 20 surveys indicated favorable to the transportation services.

“Truly I tell you, just as you did to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” (Mt. 25:40)

M.O.S.E.S.’s Detroit Town Hall Meeting on Public Defense and Potluck Saturday, May 8 2010 @ 1:00pm- 4:00pm ~ Come join the Campaign for Justice, the National Lawyers Guild, HOPE and others to share stories about experiences with Michigan's failing public defense system and discuss the growing movement for reform ~ Location: to be determined ~ Contact Person: Amit Weitzer, Consultant/Organizer Michigan Campaign For Justice 403 Seymore Ste 201, Lansing MI 48933 (517)372-3050



What Wonderful New Choir Robes!

Debuted on Easter Sunday, our Chancel and Bell Choirs looked simply wonderful in their new robes! Monies from the memorial gift funds of Eloise Wells, Chuck Holtz and others were instrumental in making this purchase possible. Our old robes were nearly twenty years old, so this purchase was much needed for our very deserving choir. Fresh looks for a new season and breath into the life of First Baptist Birmingham! Thanks to Kathy Charbeneau, Jo Ellis and Judy Phillips for their wonderful leadership on this project.

In Support of Friendship House

The Friendship House annual Walkathon will be held Saturday, May 22, from 9am to noon. Pledges to walkers help support Hamtramck's only food pantry. This year all funds raised will be matched dollar for dollar by the Royal Oak Mission Fund. Help support the food pantry by joining the Walkathon. It's "Friend-raising" and "fund-raising" at its best.



Camp information is available for Camp Lael and Camp Lake Louise is in the Welcome Center. Scholarships available. Call the church office for details.



Look Out New York!

Here She Comes!

On Tuesday, April 13, we said a heartfelt farewell to long-time church member Audrey Holtz who is moving to upstate New York to be nearer to her daughter Carol who is Pastor of First Baptist Church in Macedon, NY. She will be staying in a lovely independent living home. She has a group of friends there as well, people she has made relationships over the years of her many visits. Her new address is: 1290 Parkwood Drive, Macedon, New York 14502. Her new telephone number is not yet in place. Her bright and loving spirit will be missed. We wish you well, dear friend!

Pastor Babian invites you to *ASK*.

Ask, Seek, Knock is what Jesus instructed his followers to do in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 11 on prayer. As we are beginning, again, to look to our mission and ministry for the next few years, you are encouraged to be in prayer about this crucial concern.

We are not merely seeking our own agenda but to know what it is God has for us to do and be. Therefore, especially in the month of May you are asked to spend time on Thursdays May 6, 13, 20, and 27 in listening and prayer for God's leading in your own life and the life of FBCB.

You should take the time on those Thursdays that works best for you. You might keep a record or journal of your thoughts and of the sense of God's leading as you pray. If you would like, you could share those written responses with Brian Blaesing as he provides leadership to the visioning and planning efforts that we will seek to accomplish.

Pastor Babian will be at the church building and in the sanctuary from 7:30-8:00 a.m. each of those Thursdays in May. You are welcome to join him there at that time.

It is always the right time to ASK: Ask, Seek, Knock. Let us endeavor to do so in special ways in the month of May.

Organ Project Update

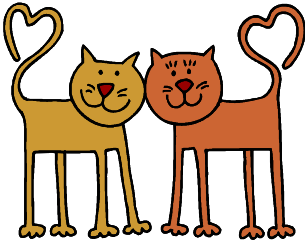
The Organ Committee met late in March and reported to both Stewardship Team and Council regarding progress on the Organ Project. Issues regarding its financial status were also presented.

Work on the current phase which is the Choir section of the pipes is in progress which was funded and approved. There are now in place sufficient funds to go forward with the Great section of the Pipes. There will, likely, be action proposed at the June Congregational Meeting to do so. That leaves the work on what is called the Swell section to be underwritten and finished.

As you may know, this project was fully subscribed. However, due to the financial downturn, there were some of the sources of funding that did not materialize. This is the challenge that we face to complete the Organ Project. As of this writing there is an approximate shortfall of \$27,000. There is a clear desire to meet our goal.

There are those who have newly attended our services who have expressed great appreciation for how our music and, specifically, the organ contribute to worship. Further, there have already been requests from those who attend B'Jazz that we present a variety of concerts with the new organ. These represent possibilities for the ministry and mission through our congregation and in our community with the completion of the Organ Project.

Please keep the project in your thoughts and prayers.



Friends Will Be Missed But New Hopes Abound!

Friends and long-time church members Charles and Frances Morse have moved to the sunny state of Florida! They will enjoy

a wonderful new apartment near their children. They are happy and have high hopes of making new friends and staying active with the many wonderful opportunities the move will afford them! Our blessings and love go with them as they begin a new chapter in lives! They new contact information is: 20480 Veterans Blvd., #222, Fort Charlotte, FL. Tel: 941-235-4866.

Sunday Morning Learning Opportunities

Nancy Nabors has temporarily taken the reigns for the Christian Forum class which follows the Judson Journey's Bible Study curriculum. Class begins after worship. Also, Pastor Babian continues his study group in the Parlor. All are encouraged to make learning a part of your dedication to your spiritual journey.



ABC Metro Detroit Area News

The MDA has a The MDA has a NEW website! Please take a moment to look over www.abc-mda.org and make any suggestions or comments

you think will improve the site!

This new site and web host should load faster, the security on our page is better, the links will WORK, and the actual web address is easier to remember and more in-line with ABC/MI(abc-mi.org) and ABC/USA (abc-usa.org). We also have a new e-mail address (office@abc-mda.org) please save this new address as of May 1st.

(ref. via email)

May Communion Offering will go in support of Habitat for Humanity.



Fellowship Group Continues to Meet



All are welcome to join a FBCB group on Wednesdays at 8AM at The Avenue Restaurant on Woodward Ave. just north of 13 Mile Road. A fellowship gathering with Pastor Babian. A great opportunity to stay connected!

Youth To Lend A Hand To Seniors

Our youth will be available to help our Senior Citizens with yard work on May 15th. Please call the church office to let us know of your need/interest.



Race Relations & Diversity Task Force



Our own Brian Blaesing is being honored as a Diversity Champion by the Race Relations and Diversity taskforce this year. He will be honored at a community-wide breakfast on Thursday, April 29, 8AM at The Community House. Cost: \$25.



“One Beat Back”
Big Swing Jazz Band
Sunday, May 16 ~ 4 to 6PM

Bring A Friend!

Haiti Earthquake Up-To-Date News

Go to internationalministries.org to get the latest news from American Baptist missionaries serving to assist with the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in Haiti. Read blogs from several people on the ground who are sharing first-hand information on the relief effort



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.

April 25, 2010

Fill us with the presence of your Spirit, God, and help us grow as disciples. Help us seek those who show us how to serve neighbors through life-giving words and deeds, and make us bold to follow their example. Amen.

May 2, 2010

Creator of all that has been, all that is, and all that shall be, come to us today. Wipe every tear from our eyes, that we might behold all things made new by your saving love. Amen.

May 9, 2010

Ever-guiding Spirit, open us to the paths you call us to travel. Open us to the ones with whom you would have us minister. May we welcome one another with hearts of grace, that together we may be hospitable to your purposes. Amen.

May 19, 2010

Free us, O God, from chains that stifle the free flow of your Spirit in our lives and out into your creation. Form us with worship and prayer that bind us to you and to one another. Lead us to rejoice in your presence, wherever your path may lead. Amen.

May 23, 2010

Come, Spirit, gather us as one. Gather us for worship and praise; gather us to be formed in your word and your ways. Come, Spirit, scatter us, one for all. Scatter us as your Body of Christ for the sake of this God-loved world. Amen.

Upcoming Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 AM

April 25, 2010

“Life-giving Acts” ~ Acts 9:36-43

May 2, 2010

“Imagine” ~ Revelation 21:1-6

May 9, 2010

“Disciples Together” ~ Acts 16:9-15

May 16, 2010

“Breaking Chains” ~ Acts 16:16-34

May 23, 2010

“Gathered and Scattered” ~ Acts 2:1-21

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