

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

As a part of our 140th celebration, these words were used in worship today and seemed appropriate for consideration in the coming month.

Since June 28, 1870 the First Regular Baptist Church and Society has been formed as a covenanting community of faith dedicated to worship, discipleship, and service in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ.

Ten men and women joined together in Birmingham to establish this congregation. They cooperated with other Baptist folk from surrounding towns to find support for leadership and in the expression of their commitments of faith.

The congregation has been a spiritual home for many souls through the great events of history, the development and growth of the wider community, and the engagements in ministry shared with sister Baptist congregations.

There has been an ebb and flow in the life of the church. Yet, there has been a consistent theme of solid faith and responsiveness to the societal and cultural challenges of the times.

The church has been unapologetically Baptist recognizing the ways in which we are often viewed by others. Still, to this day, the congregation has claimed that heritage with humility and joy.

The American Baptist Churches USA have served as an outstanding conduit for our mission outreach and an important resource in the exercise of our ministry.

Soul Liberty, Religious Liberty, Church Liberty, Scriptural Liberty, and Priestly Liberty are freedoms our congregation has embraced.

It is our intention to make our witness known in the spirit of Jesus Christ who commissioned his followers to do so in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8) Birmingham Michigan is the focus of local mission. However, that mission is not there limited. We, in our own commitments and in cooperation with many others, seek to be obedient to the One who has called us to tell the Good News here and around the world.

We rejoice to stand in this heritage being grateful for those who have gone before us and hopeful for the future in ministry that is present with us.

In the words of the writer of Hebrews:

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12: 1-2)

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.

The congregation is invited to the wedding ceremony of Calin McKelvey and Jeremy Davis on August 7th (corrected date) at 4PM in the FBCB sanctuary. Calin and Jeremy are new members of our church. We wish them well. Congratulations!

Long-time church member Charles (Chuck) Morse passed away earlier this month in Florida. We keep our friend Frances, his wife, in our prayers.

We keep the family of Ben Kowalski in our prayers as they mourn his loss. His memorial service was held in our sanctuary. He was married to FBCB member Louise French who predeceased him.

Jackie Erhardt underwent successful knee surgery on June 21. Please keep her in your prayers.



Happy July Birthdays!

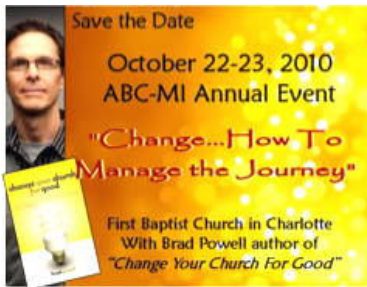
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|-------------------------------|---|
| July 1 | Phyllis Bourgois |
| July 2 | Greg Sharp
Susan Cavender |
| July 9 | Tesia Kaczmarek
Christian Kaczmarek |
| July 11 | Lois Middleditch
Doreen Feldpausch |
| July 20
July 21 | Margaret DeMerchant
Jodi Bly |
| July 23 | Dillon Horn
David McEwen |
| July 26
July 27
July 28 | Ron Michael
Ed Willingham
Barry Stewart |
| July 29 | Hiro Horikawa
Fran McEvoy
Patty Darin |

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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Director of Music & OrganistJack E. Ellis, M.M.

Save the Date ~ 2010 Annual
Equipping Event/Annual Meeting



Save the date for this year's Annual Equipping Event and Annual Meeting: October 22-23 at the First Baptist Church in Charlotte.

Joining us will be the Rev. Brad Powell, Pastor of NorthRidge Church in Plymouth, Michigan. Under his leadership, NorthRidge has emerged from a dying church to an exciting, contemporary church communicating God's Word, and Brad communicates his message of "Change Without Compromise."

Don't miss out on this opportunity to be challenged, encouraged and equipped to go to the next level of ministry. Registration materials will be available soon.



A Look at the Financials

As of May 31, 2010

Pledged Income Actual	\$72,900
Pledged Income Budget	<u>\$78,872</u>
Pledged Variance	(\$ 5,972)
YTD Total Income	\$114,003
YTD Total Expenses	<u>\$123,404</u>
Variance	(\$ 9,401)

Our spending is exceeding our income.



Vacation Bible School Plans In Place

VBS will be held from 9-noon, July 27, 28, and 29. The theme will be Build a Better World:Water. It will be geared for first through seventh grade. On Thursday after we wrap up we will have lunch and then go to a water park for the afternoon!

Sign up in the Welcome Center!

Please Note:

The materials from the June Congregational Meeting are available for review in the Welcome Center.



The Ladies of the Church got together for lunch and fellowship on June 21. We hope to plan monthly gatherings like this throughout the year. We will also collect for mission support. Be sure to watch for announcements and plan to join in the wonderful opportunity to share time together, get to know each other and make new friends!

*Please remember
to lift up in prayer ...*

the Youth Group from First Baptist Church, Midland, Michigan as they stay in our facility and travel to Detroit for mission projects.



Still Time to Register for Camp Lake Louise ...

Now is the time to register for camp at Lake Louise this summer. Registration has never been easier - go to www.camplakelouise.com, a few clicks, and you're ready for the best week of the summer. Call or email Ryan Madis for more information - ryan.madis@lakelouiserocks.com or 800-440-1238. There are scholarships available, based on need and "first come first served". We want everyone to have the opportunity to experience this wonderful place this summer. See you on our gorgeous beach soon.

Camp Lael is Waiting....

Camp Lael is waiting...and camp starts soon! There is still time to register and space available in all our camp sessions. Scholarship assistance is available by contacting jimdavis@camplael.com. Visit the Lael website at www.camplael.com to register online. The summer theme is "store up your treasure" based on Matthew 6:21. Contact Jim Davis with any questions. We welcome visitors to check us out before deciding to come to camp.

EBAY Fund raising:

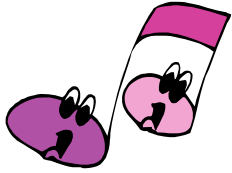
Do you have items to donate to the Friendship House EBAY fund raising program? We are looking for items like jewelry (costume or fine), coins, stamps, memorabilia, interesting artifacts, antique toys, etc. Items should have a value of at least \$20.00. Please bring your items on Sundays and put them in the office in the box marked "Friendship House EBAY". Thanks!
Keely Tyson

SAVE THE DATE!!!

The annual CROP Walk date has been set for Sunday, October 3. The first organizational meeting, led by Sandra Nicholls, the new director of the Birmingham Bloomfield CROP Walk was held May 17th. Some of you may recognize her name. She was a member of First Baptist Dearborn for many years before moving to Birmingham and joining with the First Presbyterian Church.

If you would like to get a head start on fund-raising our church is set up on the CROP Walk website. You may access it at www.cropwalkonline.org. Once there click on Michigan and then the Birmingham Bloomfield walk. Look for join a team and select First Baptist Birmingham. If you would like help setting up your site please see Leona Frost, I will be glad to help you get started :) Maybe we can beat Dave this year!

Last year First Baptist raised \$2454. This was down from a previous high of \$3100 set in 2007. We hope to meet or top that this year. More information will follow in the coming months. Please save this date and plan to walk with us. This is a great community event. Twenty-five percent of all funds raised remain here locally to support various local non profits, including our own Friendship House.



SUMMER CHOIR

All are invited to join with the Choir on July 4 and July 11 as we sing well known anthems. This invitation is for all who are members and visitors at First Baptist Church. This group is very informal. On the 4th Of July, the Choir will lead the congregation in a celebration of "Christian Citizenship" and on July 11th will sing "Praise We Sing To Thee."

CHOIRS AND WORSHIP LEADERS RECOGNIZED ON JUNE 13

The Bell Choir, Chancel Choir, and worship leaders were recognized in church on Sunday, June 13th. We appreciate the leadership show by individuals to take the time to do spiritual and committed leading our Sunday worship. The Bell Choir has grown into a superb group-great performances this year. The Chancel Choir is an amazing group. Where else could there be such a small, yet such an amazing church choir in America? Thank you again for your commitment!!



Brian Blaesing invites the congregation to share with him their thoughts and ideas about the vision of our church. Seek him out. In his last month's SoJournal article he asks, "Do you know God's will for this congregation? God wants us to seek out His will and find a congregational Vision and Mission worthy of our God given talents, skills and abilities."

Mark Your Calendars!

- Wednesday, June 30, Summer Shorts with Pastor Babian, 7PM—worship and visioning
- Wednesday, July 28, Summer Shorts with Pastor Babian, 7PM—worship and visioning
- Sunday, August 1, Taize Service—evening
- Sunday, September 12, All Church Picnic
- Sunday, September 18, First B'Jazz Vespers of the Season
- Sunday, October 3—CROP WALK

Staff Vacations....

- Pastor Babian will be on vacation from Monday, July 5th through Monday, July 19th. Marcia Bonds and Donnise Reese will be our guest preachers.
- Leslie Jaquez will be out of the office on Monday July 5th. She will also take some time off in August.
- Jack Ellis will be away on Sunday July 18, 25, August 8, 15, 22. Myra Trask will be our organist on these Sundays.

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 5/24/10)—Since launching “Break the Chains: Slavery in the 21st Century” in July, 2007, American Baptist women have raised over \$470,000, far exceeding the initial fundraising goal of \$250,000.

Through workshops, preaching, community events, a “virtual mission encounter” (online mission experience), online discussions, and a variety of other methods, AB Women’s Ministries has inspired women across the U.S. and Puerto Rico to support ministries with trafficking victims, survivors, and at-risk women and children. The national mission project “Break the Chains” was originally scheduled to end in July, 2009, but women were so passionate about the project that it continues through 2010 with new awareness-raising activities, events, and fundraising projects planned throughout the remainder of the year.

In 2008 and 2009, six grants were awarded each year: three nationally (U.S. and Puerto Rico), and three internationally. A percentage was also set aside each year to provide funding for “year three grants”; that percentage was combined with new funds received to provide over \$110,000 towards grants in 2010 for new and emerging ministries around the issue of human trafficking. Due to the success of the fundraising efforts, AB Women’s Ministries was able to provide grants to four national and four international projects in 2010.

"When AB Women's Ministries first planned its "Break the Chains" mission project and grant program, it was our hope and dream that American Baptists would be inspired and motivated to learn about the issue of human trafficking and hear God's call to respond in a variety of ways, perhaps by even starting a ministry to trafficked survivors or at-risk populations," said Virginia Holmstrom, executive director for American Baptist Women's Ministries. "Indeed, this has happened. Break the Chains grants this year are providing start-up funds for new ministries that have emerged since Break the Chains was launched."

AB Women’s Ministries announces the recipients of these year three grants. Nationally, the projects receiving funding in 2010 are: “All Hands In,” creating a safe house for survivors in Boston, MA; “Bethel Educate & Equip to Prevent Human/Sex Trafficking” project for adolescent girls at Bethel Neighborhood Center in Kansas City, KS; “Metamorphosis” project focused on family resiliency at Corporación Milagros del Amor in San Juan, PR; and the “Readers are Succeeders” project for disadvantaged children through First Baptist Church, Olympia, WA.

Internationally, the projects receiving funding in 2010 are: “Shelter Expansion/Sewing Cooperative” project to provide economic opportunity for at-risk women at Deborah’s House, Tijuana, Mexico; HOPE (“Health, Opportunity, Protection and Education”) project for at-risk street children, Southeast Asia; “Sex Workers” project to provide alternative means of income-generation in the Copperbelt region of Zambia; and the “Temple Prostitutes” project providing economic opportunity, health and educational services for Yanadi tribal peoples in India.

For information about year one and year two grants, as well as further information about year three grants, visit www.abwmbreakthechains.org.

American Baptist Churches is one of the most diverse Christian denominations today, with 5,500 local congregations comprised of 1.3 million members, across the United States and Puerto Rico, all engaged in God’s mission around the world. (ref: abc-mi.org)



The B'Jazz Vespers Team called a meeting on June 17 to review the 14 year long mission. The team discussed volunteer support, program impact, databases, pros and cons, scheduling, developing and operating to a budget to assure that B'Jazz does not negatively impact the church's budget. Further, to assure that B'Jazz proceeds are used to help fund maintenance of technical equipment used to facilitate the performances.

It was decided for this next program year the B'Jazz Vespers will be held on a monthly basis, September through May, on the third Sunday of the month. But we have changed to time to 4 to 6PM.

Also, we are looking for more volunteers to support the sound tech team in the vent that the current volunteers are unavailable for a Vespers. Volunteers will need training. If you are interested in this mission support opportunity please speak to Bill Olsen, Scott Ritchie, Tim Olsen or Will Olsen. If you can be a back up volunteer for the reception, greeting gift shop and CD sales, please see Robert Washburn.

We hope all FBCB'ers plan to attend at least one of these Vespers this next season. It is a real treat! And we are well-known in our community for a quality program. Come, and lend your hospitality!



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.

June 27, 2010

God of all creation, be our strength and hope. Give us courage to pick up the mantle of discipleship. Embolden us to speak the truth, confront evil, and work to bring about your reign on earth. Amen.

July 4, 2010

God, you speak to us in surprising ways, through unexpected and unlikely people. Help us to listen for your voice and teach us to serve others with kindness and love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who send us out to love and to serve. Amen.

July 11, 2010

O God of justice and mercy, give us hearts of faithfulness that lead our hands in works of compassion. From your great love for us, inspire us to love our neighbors, so that your reign might flourish. Amen.

July 18, 2010

Wise God, open our lives to know your word and do the work to which it calls us. We live in thankfulness for Christ, who holds all things together. Amen.

Upcoming Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 AM

June 27, 2010
“Pick Up The Mantle” ~ II Kings 2:1-2, 6-14

July 4, 2020
“Surprising Prophets” ~ II Kings 5:1-14

July 11, 2010
“Caring Neighbors” ~ Luke 10:25-37

July 18, 2010
“Work and Work” ~ Luke 10:38-42

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