



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

Visioning @ FBCB

“As God has been faithful to us in the past, we trust God to help us become a people of vision for today and tomorrow.” (FBCB Covenant – 1998)

PROPOSED VISION STATEMENT – 2011

The First Baptist Church of Birmingham will be a disciplined, focused and prayerful congregation that is energized and mobilized by the spirit of God, to change lives through sharing our love of Jesus Christ and our resources in our community and around the world.

Supportive Scripture – Hebrews 12: 1 – 3 (NIV)

Over the past 14 months we have narrowed our selections for a future church outreach and vision from the original 35 down to three. These were discussed with an interested group after church worship on September 17th. It was decided that all three had value for us, so none were eliminated, and all three are being moved forward for your consideration at the November 13th Loyalty Dinner. You are urged to be at that dinner and take part in the discussion and commitment to move forward with our outreach vision starting in January 2012. We have identified and discussed the following three priorities, or activities, to be pursued in the coming years.

- Religious and Secular Center for Arts, Dialog and Culture (Item 4)
- Focus on Spiritual Growth and Development to deepen our Spiritual Gifts (Item 2)
- Include elements of Contemporary Music in our worship services, hire a part time Youth Pastor and expand & enhance programs for youth and families (Items 3 & 5)

Your daily prayers and thoughts on these items are urgently needed. If action is needed, then commitment and focus will be required by all in the congregation. How will we know if this is what God would have us to do, unless we have earnestly prayed and sought His direction? Please pray about this as the Pastor and members of Church Council also pray and search for the will of God regarding this matter.

- Brian Blaesing, Vice Moderator

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, Barbara Diederich and Esther Houstina.

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.

We continue for the Trask Family.

We keep Patty Babian and her family in our prayers.

Phyllis Bourgois will soon be traveling to Florida for the winter month. We keep her in our prayers.

Jack and Sally Casement are in Texas for the winter. Keep them in your prayers.

Dear Friends,

Thank you so very much for all of the wonderful birthday cards and kind notes you sent to me.

Sincerely, Esther Houstina



Happy November Birthdays!

- November 5 Ray Sharp
- November 6 Chris Olsen
- November 7 Marjorie Chartier
- November 8 Shelley Olsen
- November 9 Paige Moore
- November 13 Lisa Horikawa
- November 14 Griffin Sharp
- November 15 Tom McCandlish
- November 16 Hazel Boltwood
John Voepel
- November 21 Thelma Black
- November 23 Paul Lin
- November 24 Patty Trask
- November 25 B.J. Benda
- November 29 Scott Michael

9th Annual Fall Dinner

All are invited to attend this 9th annual event on Saturday, November 12, 2011, at First Baptist Church in Southfield, for the Men and Women of Metro Detroit Association, as well as other welcomed guests. Dinner begins at 7PM. \$10 per person. Call 248-443-6888 to RSVP. Doors open at 6:30PM.



A Look at the Financials

As of September 30, 2011

Pledged Income Actual	\$ 130,074
Pledged Income Budget	<u>\$ 136,491</u>
Pledged Variance	(\$ 6,417)

YTD Total Actual Income	\$ 205,253
YTD Total Actual Expenses	<u>\$ 219,076</u>
Variance	(\$13,823)

FBCB: A Great Community Resource

On the weekend of October 15, 16, 17 First Baptist Church was a very busy place. Saturday morning we hosted an AA group; then a film student from Grand Valley State University used the sanctuary to film a wedding for his Senior thesis; then at 6:30PM another AA group met in Fellowship Hall. Sunday morning we had worship, and at 1PM the Michigan Orchid Society met from 1 to 5PM in Fellowship Hall, after which we hosted the community for our October B'Jazz Vespers program in the Sanctuary and Parlor, finally, first thing Monday morning The League of Women Voters met for their annual meeting in Fellowship Hall and presented a program on Human Trafficking.

The point is this. First Baptist Church is a blessing to the Birmingham community. Each week, literally hundreds of people from the community are being served in one way or another due to the generous and steadfast stewardship of the people who are First Baptist Church.



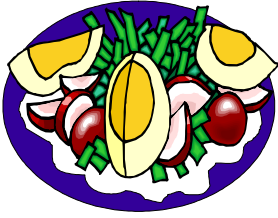
The Youth Art Room Needs...

- Sewing machine (good/working condition)
- Tea kettle
- Art supplies / Craft supplies
- Adult size artist's easel

Global Gift Shop

Find soup mixes from the Women's Bean Project and other items of worth at the Global Gift Shop opening to the public on Wednesday November 9th. "The Women's Bean Project does not hire women to make and sell bean products. We make and sell bean products to hire women." Jossy Eyre Founder
The Women's Bean Project is a non-profit organization based in Denver...created to help at-risk women break the cycle of chronic poverty and unemployment. Since 1989 they have been providing skills training, raising self-confidence, and inspiring hope in place of the demoralizing effects of poverty....between 18 and 25 women are in training, learning marketable skills for use in the workplace...The women learn skills that allow them to govern their own lives, empowering them to create better lives for themselves, provide their families with hope, and contribute to a stronger community.

(From the Women's Bean Project) womensbeanproject.com



ABW Lunch!

Join us for a great meal and fellowship at Omara's Restaurant (12 Mile and Coolidge) on November 8 at noon.

Youth News ...

The next Youth Movie Night will be at the church on November 11 at 6:30PM. We will have dinner together and share a movie in the Lounge! Join Us!

Wanted: Used Ink Cartridges

Used ink cartridges can be turned into the church office. We will get a \$2 per cartridge credit at Staples, where we buy our office supplies. Also, this effort makes for a better, more environmentally-friendly way to recycle these items, rather than just tossing them in the trash.



The Giving Tree

The Outreach Team is again seeking donations for their special needs clients. For Christmastime. Please see the Giving Tree in the Welcome Center and place your financial gift in the envelope. You can then place the envelope in the offering. Checks to be made out to the church. To give staff plenty of time to shop this year, we will be collecting these gifts through the month of November. Thanking you in advance for your generosity.

Fall Work Day

Fall work-day is scheduled for November 12 @ 9AM.

Hot Picks!

Check out the terrific books from our church library that are available for you to take home from the Welcome Center. Be sure to sign-out the book you decide on.

Congregational Meeting Materials Available for Review

Did you miss the Congregation Meeting on October 23rd? No worries, materials from the October 23rd Congregational Meeting are available for your review. Contact Leslie in the church office to receive a copy of the PowerPoint presentation.

Have You Heard?

We have recently re-purposed the upstairs Pastoral office and it is now the home to our new **e-ministry on-line store** designed to help fund our youth's mission work projects by reselling your treasures. We need donations! Among the better sellers are: fine & costume jewelry, musical instruments, designer clothes and shoes, signed/marked items, antiques and collectibles. Clean out your closets! Check your attics! Search your overstuffed garage! Use the marked box in the Welcome Center for your drop-offs. Large items can simply be photographed, posted on-line and moved once sold, or we can pick-ups items from your home. Call Keely Tyson (248-591-0458) who is the store's manager. (70 percent of sales proceeds will go to youth ministry)

Start today to help fund our youth's missions!

News from Friendship House

MI Department of Human Services Eliminates Food Grant

For the last 12 years, the Michigan Department of Human Services gave Friendship House a \$12,240 annual grant to purchase food for the food pantry program. Without warning, without written notice, without one word, DHS cut off our grant effective October 1 (beginning of the state's fiscal year). We called our contact at DHS and discovered that the category of funding was eliminated. This is devastating news to Friendship House because it will have a strong impact on what we can buy through Gleaners for the pantry program.

Given the draconian cuts to individuals in Michigan effective October 1, we expect to see an increase in the number of families needing help to feed their families. Forgotten Harvest, our wonderful partner that provides free food, can only do so much for pantries like ours. We hope we will not have to ration our clients either in terms of how often they can pick up food, or in the amounts that they can receive.

Your donations to Friendship House are needed more now than ever. (ELink)



Youth December Event Set

The youth December event will be on December 3rd. We will have a Christmas Tea Party, White Elephant Gift Exchange and rehearsal for the Christmas Eve service that the youth will participate in. Time of the meeting is to be determined. Watch for more details in church publications.

Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer: "In Step with the Spirit of Kindness" Monday, November 7, 11AM. See flyer in the Welcome Center for more details. 11AM.

Our Annual Loyalty Dinner is scheduled for November 13, after church service. Main course, beverages, dessert will be provided. Attendees are asked to bring a side dish to pass. A \$3 per person to cover costs.

A **Community Thanksgiving Service** will be held on November 22 at the Congregational Church of Birmingham. Call the church office for more details.



Adult Learning Community News

Scott Moore will be teaching the Christian Forum class for three weeks in November, after Phyllis Bourgois leaves for Florida. We thank her for her excellent leadership of this group over many weeks.



Will Olsen In-Gathering: A Wonderful FBCB Tradition!

Scheduled for Sunday, November 20, the congregation is invited to support this annual outreach effort. Each year, we gathering food and pantry items to assist families at the Judson Center. Please bring your gifts to church on November 20. Items needed include: canned goods, canned meats, coffee, tea, juices, oatmeal, peanut butter and jelly, spaghetti sauce, soups and dessert mixes. All food items must be non-perishable & have a valid expiration date.



“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” Ever Blessing, Ever Blest

2011 Stewardship Campaign

The great hymn, “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”, with words by Henry Van Dyke, contains the following verse:

*“Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou, our Father, Christ, our Brother -
all who live in love are thine;
Teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.”*

The entire hymn sings of God’s gift of creation and of the fitting response by people of faith to that gift.

In I Peter 4:10, we read, “Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.” These words challenge us to consider the depth of such stewardship. The hymn declares, that by our giving and forgiving, God blesses us.

Our stewardship encompasses the offering of ourselves to God’s redeeming purpose which touches our lives on every level and in every relationship.

We are planning for the coming year and the support, financially, of our life together. Be aware of how our response of giving and forgiving is empowered by the steadfast love and mercy made known to us in Jesus Christ.

We have made a covenant together and your commitment of giving is vitally important. Together we extend God’s grace to others in our words and deeds.

Eight Days of Words and Deeds of Blessedness

The Beatitudes found in Matthew’s Gospel presents our blessings in surprising ways. God’s blessings in our lives, can create blessedness for others. This is a part of the “Stewardship of God’s Grace”.

For eight days prayerfully consider these verses. (NEB*) One day at a time plan a way of acting in response to each of the blessings.

Day One: *How blest are those who know their need of God; the kingdom of heaven is theirs.*

Suggested Response: Be present in the worship life of the church and develop your own daily times of prayer, reflection and inspiration.

Day Two: *How blest are the sorrowful; they shall find consolation.*

Suggested Response: Be aware of your own grief and loss. Encourage others who face times of need. Open your eyes to the greater matters in the world that grieve the heart of God.

Day Three: *How blest are those of gentle spirit; they shall have the earth for their possession.*

Suggested Response: Be balanced in the ways that you are powerful and your need to bring that power under the leading of God’s Spirit and Purpose.

Day Four: *How blest are those who hunger and thirst to see the right prevail; they shall be satisfied.*

Suggested Response: Be hungry and thirsty for God’s ways of rightness in life.

Day Five: *How blest are those who show mercy; mercy shall be shown to them.*

Suggested Response: Be in touch with the times of greatest need in your own life and bring the lessons of those times to compassionate responses to others.

Day Six: *How blest are those whose hearts are pure; they shall see God.*

Suggested Response: Be the real person God created you to be and invest your true self in every time, place and circumstance.

Day Seven: *How blest are the peacemakers: God shall call them his sons and daughters.*

Suggested Response: Be steady in mind, heart, and hand, as bridges over troubled waters are built.

Day Eight: *How blest are those who have suffered persecution for the cause of right; the kingdom of heaven is theirs.*

Suggested Response: Be open to the truth that, whenever you stand with and for others, you make a witness to the Ways of God; and you are not alone.

* The New English Version of the Bible

League of Women Voters of Oakland County

On October 17th, the League of Women Voters of Oakland County held its fall luncheon at our church. Hazel Boltwood, Nancy Nabors, and Leona Frost attended. The topic was Human Trafficking, the speaker; Nicole McGee, an employee of the FBI in charge of domestic trafficking. The group was presented with an abundance of information to consider. We were surprised to find that Detroit is a high traffic area. Nicole had never met someone who had been trafficked as an adult. Most victims are coerced about the age of 13, they tend to be shy, uncertain of themselves and have low self esteem. They are found through Facebook and other social media. With high school jackets, colors and fields their locations are easy to find, and they are easy prey. The average lifespan of a girl who is being trafficked is 5 years. One of the highest growth areas in domestic human trafficking is the profession of women as "pimps". It seems girls trust women and are more willing to go with them. This topic although difficult to talk about is something that everyone who knows a young person should be concerned about. If you would like to learn more about this troubling topic, please speak with Nancy, Hazel, and Leona.

Sending Thanks

Thanks to the congregation for their acknowledgement of my 40th anniversary of my Ordination that was made on Sunday, October 2nd. Your love and support is deeply appreciated.

Pastor Babian

Dear Friends,

I very much appreciate your prayerful support regarding my current mission trip. I will return to Michigan tomorrow. International Science on Wheels medical Peace mission service has been productive and successful.

We were active participants in their vision, goals and master plan for preventive care, and health education.

ISOW was able to serve as a catalyst to help transform their goals and passion for the Ministry of Health into reality.

We taught, learned from the health ministry team and expand our energies and resources into preventive medicine and optimal health.

Desiring to serve,
Jennifer Nixon

Friendship House News

Thanksgiving Gift

ACS Company has pledged to donate 90 turkeys to Friendship House for families for Thanksgiving. Friendship House is hoping to receive boxed and canned good donations from the American Baptist Churches in the region in order to provide complete meals for these 90 families. If you would like to donate please bring items to church and place in the Welcome Center. Dave Brault will deliver to Friendship House.

Christmas Gift

Friendship House will be offering an Adopt A Family program for Christmas this year. Details will be coming to member churches shortly. Please consider adopting a family at Friendship House this Christmas season.

News from Living Water International

"A special thank you note from Living Water International was received this week, thanking all of us who have been praying for the last 21 days that clean water would reach everyone in the world. Their note is printed here for us."

Greetings,

God bless you for joining us for 21 Days of Prayer for the World Water Crisis.

In the past 21 days we have seen children's lives saved. We have seen kids stay in school, and schools and churches work together to maintain wells and reinforce hygiene lessons. We have seen mothers spend less time walking for water and more time with their kids, and we've seen economies improve.

Most importantly, we believe your prayers have stirred hearts, bringing them closer to God's. Now, we have one last prayer request, and we would like to count on you to include them in your prayers for the rest of this year:

Please pray for our work serving drought and famine victims in Ethiopia. The situation is dire there, and people need your prayers—both victims of famine, and our crews who serve them. For more on the situation, see www.water.cc/famine

*"The poor and needy search for water, but there is none; their tongues are parched with thirst.
But I the LORD will answer them." Isaiah 41:17*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2011 FROM 7:30 AM TO 5:00 PM (ET), HOLLAND, MI
HELPING WITHOUT HURTING SEMINAR FROM LIVING WATER INTERNATIONAL
 Central Wesleyan Church, 446 W. 40th Street, Holland, MI

The paradigm-shifting book—When Helping Hurts—has caused many churches and ministry leaders to ask: What do we do next in our efforts to help people who are poor at home and abroad? How can we shift our efforts from dependency to empowerment? How can we get our entire ministry network on the same page? In response, the co-authors of the book—Dr. Brian Fikkert and Steve Corbett of the Chalmers Center for Economic Development—are offering a one-day, regional training seminar entitled: Helping Without Hurting: The Next Step.

What to Expect

This one-day event is divided into two sessions. The morning session gives an overview of the core principles of When Helping Hurts and is designed to get the entire ministry network (churches, ministries, board members, financial partners, and volunteers) thinking out of the same framework. The afternoon session applies the concepts from the morning session, empowering your church or ministry with the knowledge and tools to take the first steps in using Asset-Based Development (ABD) at home or abroad.



Our next B'Jazz Vespers will be held on Sunday, November 20, from 5 to 7PM
G Q JAZZ ENSEMBLE presenting the music of Reed Kotler and others.

MOSES Equity Summit: Connecting the Dots of Equity

Thursday, November 10, 2011 6:30pm-8:30pm
Central United Methodist Church on 23 East Adams @ Woodward in Detroit

MOSES' Equity Summit is designed to rally people of faith and values to work together on issues of equity that improve the quality of life for our city, county and state. MOSES works toward building healthy communities and a healthy region. Many Southeast Michigan residents are concerned about jobs, healthcare, education and their overall well being. These concerns connect us all and we aim for solutions that connect us all.

All of MOSES' issue work including, workforce development, education & healthy neighborhoods are based on the abiding values of the community. We hope you can join us as a sign of unity and commitment to a spirit that expresses our values together.



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.

October 30, 2011

Ark-borne God, we hold you in the sanctuary of our own hearts, through wilderness and water into every new moment. Psalm-sung God, we hold you in the stories of your people through age upon age, in every new generation. Hold us always. Amen.

November 6, 2011

Help us this day, O God, to receive the gift of your word with joy; make our hearts long for closeness with you. Be our ever-present guide as we live toward your purpose and shine as witnesses to your grace and justice. Amen.

November 13, 2011

Amazing God, when we are perplexed and challenged by scripture, open our hearts and minds to your abundant possibilities. Help us listen for your voice and give us courage to be bold in our response. Amen.

November 20, 2011

Reign in our hearts, O God, and shape us as your people. Help us celebrate all the ways you reveal Christ to us—through our giving, our receiving, our serving, our witness, and our worship. Amen.

Upcoming Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 AM

October 30, 2011
“God With Us” ~ Joshua 3:7-17

November 6, 2011
“Ready to Shine” ~ Matthew 25:1-13

November 13, 2011
“Abundant Possibilities” ~ Matthew 25:14-30

November 20, 2011
“Reign of Christ” ~ Matthew 25:31-46

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