

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

VISIONING 2012 - WHERE DO YOU FIT IN ?

**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.**

As a congregation, we have proposed to undertake with Gods’ help, eight unique ideas that will fulfill our new outreach vision for the future. After two years of praying and searching for Gods will for our church, and sitting through several brain-storming sessions with most of the congregation, we have at last narrowed our list of about 35 solid ideas down to eight doable actions. Many of us have discussed these eight action plans and expressed our support for them. Many of you will recognize some of your own thoughts and ideas in these eight items. Most of us believe these eight plans are right for this congregation at this particular time.

Do you agree that these ideas are Gods’ leading ? Do you agree that we have the proper amount of time, talent and resources available to implement these eight plans? If you do, then it is time for you to think seriously about your ability to participate in the implementation of our vision. There is something here for everyone to work on, whether you are young or old. Don’t sit back and expect all the effort to come from the Pastor, or the staff, or the Church Council, or the overloaded Outreach Team members. This is a vision where we can all get involved in various ways to make this a long lasting vision that changes lives for the better.

While several of the eight vision plans place an emphasis on outreach, mission, and community, several others are directed inward toward spiritual growth and FBC youth activities. So I encourage you to pick a place where you can be helpful by reading each of the eight items carefully and thoughtfully several times through. Then take a few minutes to earnestly pray and ask God for guidance. Next just sit quietly and wait for inspiration. How do you feel God wants you to fit into this new vision ? What will be your role in making all this happen ?

If each of us were to commit to support or get involved in just one of the action plan items, there would soon be six to ten people aligned to implement each action. There is no way we can fail if that happens. I am trusting God that this is our future together and that He will be calling each of you to actively participate. Sometime in the next few weeks, you will be given an opportunity to express your willingness to get involved. Think about it now, and you will be ready for action then.

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, Sandy McMurray, Collin Trask, Jerri Poe, Barbara Wheeler, Lois Blaesing's sister, Eunice

Please also keep in your prayers our homebound friends: Alice Adams, Gwen Bache, Margaret Edgington, Carol Ege, Doug Holliday, Enid Holliday, Easter Hustina, Olive Inman, Kelly Kestel, Phil Lett, Lois Middleditch, Norma Moore, Frances Morse, Evelyn Morrell, Barry Renshaw, Werner Schettling, Ray Sharp, Jackie Sheppard, George Weaver, Tom Phillips

We remain in prayer for our Mission Partners, Dan Buttry and Judy Sutterlin

Congratulations to Paige Moore for being honored at her school for her leadership!

Please keep Larry and Judy Phillips in your prayers a their son, Tom remains hospitalized.

Hazel Boltwood was recently hospitalized. She will be in rehab for the near future.

We keep Lois Blaesing in our prayers as her sister, Eunice enters hospice care.



Happy February Birthdays!

- February 7 Olivia Heugh
- February 8 Angie Willingham

- February 10 Ted Staggers
Ethleon Thomson
Kristen Bennett

- February 12 Adam Bennett
- February 14 Nancy Nabors
- February 16 Andrea McWilliam
- February 17 Carson Arnegard

- February 18 Lisa O'Donohue
- February 19 Audrey Holtz

- February 20 Nick Kelly
Kirk McWilliam

- February 22 Philip Babian
Leslie Jaquez
Brian Jones

- February 24 Jerry Mills

- February 27 Emma Olsen
Will Olsen
Werner Schettling

Supporting Our Youth!

The youth classroom is still in need of the following items:

- Tea kettle
- Adult-size art easel
- Swing Machine
- Arts & Crafts Supplies



A Look at the Financials 1/1/11 through 12/31/11

Pledged Income - Actual	\$184,101
Pledged Income - Budget	\$185,000
Pledged Variance	(\$899)
Income YTD - Actual	\$287,051
Expenses YTD - Actual	\$287,051
Income/Expense Variance	\$0

Mission Fair

On Sunday, February 26 after service. We will meet in Fellowship Hall for the Fair. We are hopeful that you will mark the date and plan to participate!

A Note of Thanks

Dear Friends,

Thank-you for the thoughtful and loving gift you gave to support Collin's care. He has been battling cancer now for over four years and your prayers and concern and words of support have been there for him all along the way. It makes a huge, positive difference to have a community of faith surrounding you and supporting and pulling for you when you face all of the things that cancer brings with it. You constantly remind us that God loves us, cares for us and walks with us through all of this. It is a great source of comfort and strength.

John, Myra, Patty
and Collin Trask

SAVE THIS DATE: 13th ANNUAL MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

For the Men and Boys of the Metro Detroit Association on Saturday, March 3 2012, 8:30 – 10:30am at Covenant Baptist Church, West Bloomfield, Mi. The guest speaker will be Rev. Kevin Turman, Pastor Second Baptist Church Detroit Mi. There's no charge for the meal. A special mission offering will be received.

We will host **South Oakland Shelter** in the first week of February. Sign-up sheets and other information is posted in the Welcome Center. We co-host this travelling shelter program with our friends from St. James Church. Sign up to help next to the church office!

Wednesday, February 22

Ash Wednesday Services

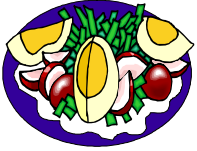
Join together for a light supper 6PM
with Service following

New Telephone Directories Available

New church telephone directories are available at the Annual Meeting. The office can e-mail or mail them if you prefer.

Annual Reports Available Today!

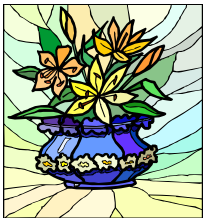
The Church's Annual Report is available today. If you are not attending the meeting, copies will be available in the Welcome Center. These reports contain important information concerning the work of our committees throughout the year, our year-end financial reporting, in addition to staff reports, and Church Council Moderator's report.



ABW Lunch!
Call the office for
details.

South Oakland Shelter: Coming to FBCB in February

We will host this traveling shelter program again next year during the first week in February. There are many opportunities for the congregation to play a part of this important ministry of the church. Breakfast helpers, dinner helpers, building hosts and monitors, laundry duty and drivers are all needed to make this effort a success. Sign up sheets are outside the church office.



Flower Calendar

There are many Sundays available for congregation members to purchase flowers for the year 2012.

Please sign up in the Welcome Center. Make checks payable to FBCB. The church office will call you to confirm type of arrangement you would prefer and the message you want in the bulletin in honor or in memory of a loved one.

A Note from Stewardship

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all of the saints. Ephesians 6:18

We have prayed. We have met. We have spoken. We have listened. We have made and considered and modified lists. We have sought to discern God's will and in the process, we have developed a plan. And now is the time to pray some more.

Those of us who have been able to attend worship these last few weeks, or have read the Sojournal know, that the friends and members of FBCB have a plan for the future mission of our Church. The plan contains eight specific ideas for expanding the programming of FBCB and I confess that I am excited about the possibilities for our congregation that I see within it.

We, as a Church, are now turning to bringing this plan to life. Certainly, as I espoused several weeks ago during our worship service, will require teams of God's servants. Only we can bring to life the ideas embodied in this plan. To that end, we will be conducting a Mission Fair, most likely at the end of February, where we each will have the opportunity to join a team (or perhaps two) and get involved.

But first, as Paul exhorts us, let us pray. Let us pray in the *Spirit*, on *all* occasions, with *all* kinds of prayers and requests. Let us *always* keep on praying for *all* of the saints. Let's build a deep foundation of prayer to support our tangible mission.

Baptist Humor Night @ Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle

With comedian Rocky Laporte

Thursday, February 16

Doors open @ 7PM

Show starts @ 8PM

310 S. Troy Street, Royal Oak

\$25 per person

All proceeds will benefit Camp Lael
& Friendship House
See Dave Brault if you're interested.

**Let's Get A Group
Together & Go!**

MOSES 15th Annual Banquet will be held on March 15th at 7PM. \$40 per person for members. 313-962-5390 to RSVP.

Program on Combating Bullying

The 70th Annual Glazer Institute on Judaism will be held Friday morning, February 10, at Temple Beth El in Bloomfield Hills. The Institute invites clergy of all faiths to attend this year's program on Combating Bullying, Cruelty, Depression and Suicide Among Young People - A Religious Imperative. The program features Rabbi Daniel Syme of Temple Beth El and Heather Irish, founder and CEO of [MINDS](#), a non-profit organization educating high school students about mental illness and suicide. Presentations will be held at 9:30 and 10:45 with lunch provided. RSVP to Tina Crozier (248/865-0602 or tcrozier@tbeonline.org) before February 3. Click [here](#) for brochure. For more information [go to the Temple Bethel website](#). (ref: abc-mi.org/ELink)

The Miracle Well

(A story from Living Water International)

The poor and needy search for water, but there is none; their tongues are parched with thirst. But I the LORD will answer them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them. I will make rivers flow on barren heights, and springs within the valleys. I will turn the desert into pools of water, and the parched ground into springs...so that people may see and know, may consider and understand, that the hand of the LORD has done this... (Isaiah 41: 17-18, 20)

Carlos and Norma Molina have worked for Living Water International for many years, bringing clean water and teaching health and hygiene principles to villages in El Salvador, and celebrating with communities as they experience clean water for the very first time. "In my years of working with Living Water," says Norma, "I've often cried for joy. I never cried for sadness until San Lucas."

San Lucas is a community on a hill—which means that the women (whose work it is to fetch water for their households) had to go up and down the hill, several times a day, just to gather water at the river. Many of the women were older, and the task of hauling 40 pounds of water uphill each day was only becoming more difficult.

The excitement in the community was palpable as the mission team from Highland Baptist Church rolled in. The villagers watched as the team worked on the borehole with a mud rotary drill. There's an element of suspense to mud rotary drilling—unlike air drilling, you don't know if you've hit an aquifer until you develop the well.



Adult Learning Community News

Join Jim Poe as he teaches the Judson Forum materials.



February Communion Offering

We will collect funds this month for One Great Hour of Sharing once again this year.

Note: Ecumenical Taize Service Scheduled

Sunday, March 11
Join us for an
ecumenical Inter-Church
Taize Service – 5PM

Rev. Sue Camaiore will
sponsor a

Community Hospice Memorial Service

in our Sanctuary at 5PM on
March 27th.

All are Welcome to Attend.

Reminder: Ladies of FBCB ~ On Feb. 4th We will be hosting the MDA AB Women's Spiritual Life Experience: In the Potter's Hand: Formed for a Purpose Guest Speaker – Deborah Key, playwright. Registration begins at 9:30 with coffee. The program is from 10:00 – 2:00. The cost is \$10 and includes lunch. This should be a wonderful time together. Please Plan to Attend and Help Welcome our Guests to this Area Wide Event. If you have questions, contact Nancy Nabors

Educational and Informational Webinars for Pastors and Lay Leaders

The American Baptist Churches of Michigan presents a series of free one-hour webinars led by Region pastors. You are welcome to attend any one or all four of the webinars from the convenience of your own PC. However you must register separately for each of the webinars you wish to attend. Each of the webinars consists of 30-45 minutes of presentation on the subject matter, followed by 15-20 minutes of "open mic" so that attendees can ask questions or share in the discussion. Click on button below for information and registration links. Contact Ron Cary for more information (rcary@abc-mi.org).

WHEN SHEEP ATTACK

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16 @ 7:00PM

PRESENTER: Mark Conn, Lead Pastor, First Baptist Church of Mt. Morris

We're called by God to nurture, to feed, and to care for His sheep. But what happens when something goes wrong, and instead of the sheep following the shepherd, they attack? This webinar will address this experience, providing a spiritual perspective on faithful response.

REGISTRATION LINK: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/309820041>

RETOOL REVIEW

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23 @ 7:00PM

PRESENTERS: Danny Langley, Pastor, Crosspointe Meadows Church

Steve Malson, Pastor, Mason Community Church

Tom Roberts, Pastor, West Highland Baptist Church

David Nichols, ABCMI Region Consultant

Ron Cary, ABCMI Region Consultant

The Retool Pathway is an exciting and creative approach to mobilizing a church for purposeful, faith-filled mission. One of our Region churches has completed the two-year journey and another is close to finishing. This webinar explores the Retool plan and includes some of the results and challenges experienced by our Retool churches, pastors and coaches.

REGISTRATION LINK: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/433836408>

PALLIATIVE CARE FOR CONGREGATIONS

TUESDAY, MARCH 6 @ 7:00PM

PRESENTER: Rev. John Landis, Region Staff Consultant, American Baptist Churches of Michigan Interim Pastor, First Baptist Church of Midland

"To everything there is a season..." this is true for congregations as well. Congregations live and thrive and die. We are willing to walk with people through the end of their lives, but we seem hesitant or unwilling to face the death of a congregation. Could it be that we don't know how to provide palliative and pastoral care for a dying congregation? This webinar will explore these issues and more by presenting some of the findings of the research Rev. John Landis did for his doctoral project.

REGISTRATION LINK: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/615266353>



Our next B'Jazz Vespers
 February 19, 2012 Presents:
 Sandra Bomar & Tony Camilletti
 "Cheek to Cheek" Lovesongs for Lovers
 5 to 7PM

Bomar and Camilletti present a selected mix of American Songbook classics popularized by the jazz hipsters from the classy age of jazz.

Composers featured are Berlin, Porter, Rodgers, Howard, Warren and treasured songs from Ella, Frank, Tony, Sarah, Nat, Etta, Dinah and many more. Sandra and Tony, separately, have been performing for many years. Sandra has performed around Detroit and around the world, bringing her sultry style to the finest clubs and stages, including being a favorite of B'Jazz audiences.

Tony has been entertaining Detroit audiences with his velvety baritone for many years, included as a featured soloist for local choirs and church concerts. Together, they have become Detroit's Premier Jazz Duo – bringing back a beautiful style of vocal jazz that has audiences swooning and swaying to the familiar sounds of the classics everyone loves.

Their ensemble of amazing musicians include Roland Hamilton on piano, Takashi Io on bass and Guymon Ensley on brass.



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.

January 29, 2012

Healing God, you call us to follow in the path of the Holy One of God, Jesus, who speaks and acts with authority. May we follow in his footsteps motivated by knowledge of your wonderful deeds. Amen.

February 5, 2012

As we come to recognize meaning in the unfolding drama of our lives, God our Creator, we begin to see the patterns that emerge in the lives of those who serve you. May we live out our calling in ways which balance our worship of you and our busyness. Amen.

February 12, 2012

Restoring God, we thank you for the passion we see in the Christ and for the compassion to which that brings us. As we discern what are our ministries, give us the will to be vigilant in living out the faith of the gospel. Amen.

February 19, 2012

We hear of your divine voice, transforming God, and hope for new and deeper understandings of the ministries to which you call us. As we inherit the mantle of ministry from those who have preceded us, may we experience a broader understanding of what it means to be disciples of the Christ. Amen.

Upcoming Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 AM

January 29, 2012
“With Authority” ~ Mark 1:21-28

February 5, 2012
“Sustaining Ministry” ~ Mark 1:29-39

February 12, 2012
“Healing Presence” ~ Mark 1: 40-45

February 19, 2012
“Thin Places” ~ Mark 9:2-9

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January 29, 2012