



Family Matters

Volume 11 Issue 12

August 2011

“A Community of Faith with Christ at the Heart”

Pastor’s Page

First Baptist Church
901 “F” Street

Inside this issue:

With Our People	2
Rally Day	2
August assignments	3
Birthdays, anniversaries	3
Knowing Pastor Joel	4
Youth news	5
August calendar– insert	

Where Do We Go from Here?

The rock music group, *Talking Heads*, put out a song with interesting perspectives. The song, *Road to Nowhere*, goes like this:

*Well
 we know where we're goin'
 but we don't know where we've been.
 And we know what we're knowin'
 but we can't say what we've seen.
 And we're not little children
 and we know what we want.
 And the future is certain
 give us time to work it out.
 We're on a road to nowhere*

The lyrics cause me to chuckle. As long as we are on the road to nowhere, at least we know where we are going! Now, that’s funny. Hardly comforting, but it is funny! Basically, the musical artists are declaring that we have no real idea of what we have done, accomplished, or experienced, yet we keep moving toward a knowable destination – nowhere. Heaven forbid! Let us not be traveling that road!!

We are entering a new era for First Baptist. This new era offers no negative editorial on the past. We are simply being led by a new pastor, populated by new (as we go alone, that is) people, and equipped with various and new gifts and talents. All of these factors come into considera-

tion as we discern the unique destination God has in store for First Baptist. As we muster energies to pursue the destination set before us, we escape the plight of being headed nowhere. Goals and purposes become wonderful graces from God. We have direction.

We have some ideas about where we are going. For instance, Christians are on the way to heaven. Christians are predestined to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. Christians ought to be traveling toward greater maturity and more faithful obedience. The specific destiny for FBC, however, needs to be carefully, spiritually discerned. We will take some time to flesh it out, and once we have, we will be able to focus and streamline our efforts to do the very will of God scripted for us.

So, what identifies us? What makes us uniquely us? These are tough questions. Churches, generally, struggle to take hold of their identity. We often retreat into all the traditional ministries that our memories control, not necessarily reflecting the many changes that have taken place in our church body with the influx and exodus of various people. Are we the church that prays? Are we the people who love? Are we a self-help, accomplishment, empowerment congregation? .

(continued on page 5)

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Sunday School 9:30 AM
 Worship 10:30 AM
 Radio broadcast 11:00 AM

Wednesday

Youth meeting 7:00 PM

Thursday

Forever 31 10:00 AM
 Prayer meeting 6:00-7:00 PM

Friday

Men’s breakfast 7:00 AM
 (at Griffey’s)

Join us this week!

With Our People



Prayer Requests. . .

Please continue to remember those of our congregation who are homebound or in nursing homes, those who have health and other problems, those who have lost loved ones, as well as friends and family who need our prayers.

Medical. . .

Especially keep in your prayers at this time Larry Huffman, Terry Terrill, Tim Butler, Brandon Thornburg, Helen Vculek, Doyle Kerwood, Sally Markey, Rachel Richardson, Gail Ward's mother, and all those others whose needs we may not know.

If you know of someone who should be on our prayer list, please call the office at 729-6668 or 729-5012, the telephone prayer chain at 729-6511, or contact Melissa Lee for the e-mail chain at tigerlee683@yahoo.com.

Sympathy

We would like to express our sympathy as a church to the Gill family on the death of Max Gill, to Ron and Caroline Smith on the death of Caroline's mother, Daisy Boston, and to the Dayhuff family on the death of Doyle Dayhuff, all in July.

From Our Mailbox...

Thank you all so much for the beautiful birthday cards. It was so thoughtful and very much appreciated. I miss seeing you all at church, but I think of you often while I listen to the church services on the radio. Thanks again.

—**Dodie Bales**

The family of Max Gill acknowledges with deep appreciation your kind expression of sympathy.

Thank you so much for the plant tribute. Your thoughtfulness, love, and caring brought comfort to our hearts. Love,

—**Marilyn, Greg and family**



JULY ATTENDANCE

July 3 -	65
July 10 -	87
July 17 -	NA
July 24 -	76
July 31 -	NA

New Members

We welcome Rev. Joel and Annette Hahn and Abby Hasselbring as new members of First Baptist.



Rally Day—August 28

Come one, come all to Rally Sunday, August 28. What is Rally Sunday? First Baptist Church Sunday School promotion—a party—a fun-filled morning of activities.

All ages are welcome. There will be something for everyone—bounce house, cake walk, Bingo, and FOOD! If you have ever wanted to ride on a fire truck, now is your chance. Ron Southwick will bring his fire truck and give rides.

The activities will begin at 9:30 A.M. Worship services that morning will be held outside on the lawn at 10:30 A.M. Yes, you read that right—OUTSIDE on the lawn. Wear comfortable clothes and come ready to worship and have fun.

Don't miss out. Join us for a great time!

Rest Safely in His Care

**There are many things in life
That we cannot understand,
But we must trust God's judgment
And be guided by His hand,
And all who have God's blessing
Can rest safely in His care,
For He promises safe passage
On the wings of faith and prayer.**

Helen Steiner Rice

August Birthdays

- 3 - Janice Richards
- 5 - Chad Zabokrtsky
- 8 - Marge Lane
- 9 - Jack Robinson, Bill Welch
- 11 - Bettye Reyes, Robin Stoops
- 12 - Keanna Kroeker
- 13 - Jamie Parker
- 16 - Doyle Dayhuff
- 18 - Jenny Mees
- 20 - Heidi Hilligas, Barb Schmidt
- 23 - Jon Immink
- 24 - Jade Davis, John Southwick
- 29 - Connie Schwartz
- 30 - Nina Lugenbeel
- 31 - John Reyes



Church Treasurer's Report

June 2011

Budget Accounts

Balance on Hand, Jan. 1, 2011	\$ 6,117.85
Balance on Hand, June 1, 2011	\$ 5,618.44
General Fund	\$ (-2,058.98)
United Missions	- 0 -
Local Missions	3,591.48
Local Endowment	4,085.94
Income during June	<u>\$ 7,466.96</u>
General Fund	\$ 5,953.36
Budget Missions	1,513.60
Expenses during June	<u>\$ 7,806.29</u>
General Fund	\$ 6,834.29
Wider Missions	921.90
Local Missions	50.10
Balance on Hand, July 1, 2011	<u>\$ 5,279.11</u>
General Fund	\$ (-2,939.91)
Wider Missions	- 0 -
Local Mission Fund	3,725.76
Local Endowment	4,493.26
Non-Budget Current Funds	\$ 14,092.76
Special Savings Funds	\$ 32,379.32

August Anniversaries

- 5 - Bob & Phyllis Stahl, 1952
- 14 - Ron & Becky Hilligas, 1983

NOTE: If we do not have your birthday or anniversary on our list, or if we have incorrect information, please let us know!

August Assignments

- Social Hostesses:** Bonnie Southwick, Vicki Arnold, Jane Zabokrtsky
- Visitor Deliveries:**
- Church Lockup:** Al Kroeker
- Communion Preparation:** Joan White
- Van Driver:**
- Communion Servers:** Tyler Weishahn
- Greeters:** 7 - Bill & Laura W. 14 - Lois Welsh
21 - Virg & Phyllis W. 28 - Melissa Lee
- Ushers:** Tyler Weishahn
- Offering:** Tyler Weishahn
- Dollar Supper:** No dollar supper in August



- **NOTE:** The general fund is the fund that pays all of the church's budgeted expenses. We need to have income of over \$8,000 a month in order to meet our budget.

The complete and detailed monthly and quarterly treasurer's reports are always available from the church office if you wish to examine them in more detail.

Linda Hedges, Treasurer

Women's Retreat Set For September 23-25

Our annual Women's Retreat will be held September 23-25 at Camp Moses Merrill. Cost is \$90 for 2 nights and 5 meals, with a \$25 deposit. Speaker this year will be Sheila Abresch, who has been active in women's ministries in Lincoln for many years. See Melissa Lee at 402-587-5005 or tigerlee683@yahoo.com for information.

Bible Book of the Month

Deuteronomy

Each month we feature a book of the Bible, We urge you to consider that book a focus during the month and spend your time in reading and studying its message.

Our calendar is not currently on the web page. You may pick up a printed copy in the foyer of the church.

Hints for Navigating Pastor Joel

Getting to know someone new to your life is not an easy task. Everybody is different. I'd like to give you a few insights to Joel that might help you get more comfortable and understand why I do what I do.....or something like that, anyway.

I completely and passionately love our God. I am His and am willing to do whatever He requires. I live as if all other Christians are, likewise, sold out to Jesus and ambitious to please Him.

I am really just what I appear to be. I do not pretend. I do not hint. If you don't know what I intended to say, just ask and I will try to get the message across. Please, do not "read between the lines". I neither give nor take hints. This way, we can all sleep at night without wondering what someone meant by what we thought they said.

I am committed to be respectful. I want all of our relationships to be respectful. I will respectfully treat all adults as adults. That means we will be open with one another and responsible to tend the delicacies of our relationship. I'll apologize when I have offended....but I have to be informed when I have taken a misstep. I will assume our relationship is wonderful and healthy until and unless you inform me otherwise. Then, I'll work hard to restore our unity. After all, Jesus prayed that we would remain in unity. I take this seriously.

I find humor in and around almost everything. I particularly find humor in language. If I am inappropriately humorous in some setting, try to settle me down. I enjoy life, love people, and have a big smile in my spirit most times. I never mean to diminish anyone by my humor, but it has happened. So, please, give me some space, but confront me when I am out of line.

I have not an ounce of malice in my spirit. I never mean harm. I never have ulterior motives. I behave as if others are the same way (even though I am often wrong). I will trust and love openly. I will always assume the best of others and ask that you give me the benefit of the doubt, as well.

I am an extrovert. Part of what that means is that I process ideas verbally – out loud. If you are an introvert, you usually process things inside and speak once you have come to a conclusion. Not so with me. You will hear me thinking. Understand, that what you may hear is not yet concluded. I am just processing. I will still be open to input.

I welcome you into my heart. I have already chosen to love you and see the good in you. I am eager to be welcomed into your hearts, as well.

O, and lest I forget.....I really like the creativity and newness of change. It is not an editorial on the value of how things are, but a hunger to see things in new ways, experiencing freshness in life.

I hope this snapshot helps. I am happy to be here and am looking forward to the fabulous future God has in store for us. May God meld us together for all good purposes! Amen.

School Supplies Needed

Blue Valley Community Action is accepting school supply donations in preparation for their back-to-school drive in August. Any and all supplies are needed and will be accepted immediately. The distribution date to local families in need will be the week of August 8.

Please take donations to the BVCA Center at 624 Fifth Street. Let's help kids start the school year off with a bang!

Music Fest and Ice Cream Social At Fairbury Methodist Church Sunday, August 14

The United Methodist Church will hold its annual Music Fest on Sunday, August 14, at 3:00 P.M.

Featured will be organ solos, organ/piano duets, vocal solos, and hymn singing. The "Harmonia" ladies group is planning to take part in the program. Come and enjoy the many talented musicians from the Fairbury area.

A free-will donation will go for local church mission projects.

Pastor's Page (continued from page 1)

Are we missionaries with a message of salvation in Jesus Christ? Are we a fund-raising and fund-consuming, maintenance congregation? Are we a recovery group? Are we upper class? Middle class? Lower class? White collar or Blue collar? Are we newborns in Christ's kingdom or adult saints with much maturity to offer?

We are believers and journeymen in the Christian experience. We are not yet all that we shall be, but we are traveling. We are and will continue to be a people of God's word. We are and will be disciples—followers of the Christ who calls us to deny ourselves, take up our crosses, and follow Him. We are and will be committed to the Great Commandments to love God and one another and the Great Commission to share the good news with the world.

We are and will be a people (in accord with "you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God") Our identity will encompass all whom we welcome into our hearts. We shall become a company of friends, companions in Christ's affection. We shall grow into stronger faith, learning a trust that will

amaze all who witness our walk, learning the confidence in Christ that will enable supernatural living. We shall grow into more abundant generosity, becoming a people of kindly grace that never reaches a limit.

Where are we headed? O, we are NOT headed nowhere! We are going to listen to the Holy Spirit, to the Bible, and to the wisdom granted each other to determine our plans, goals, and strategies. We will be headed right down the center of God's calling and purpose. This we will do with all our energies!

Your Pastor Joel



From Our Youth

BYG has had a busy summer. Before long, our youth will be busy with school activities. I have enjoyed attending their summer sports events.

Brianna, Jessa and I had a great time on our mission trip to Oklahoma. We spent time with local kids from Anadarko during a week of Vacation Bible School, food distribution, and building repair. We are very excited to share our adventure with the church some time this month.

Pastor Joel and Annette have arrived, and I am excited for our youth to spend time with them.

Be sure to mark your calendar for Rally Day on August 28. This is a great morning of fun, food, and fellowship.

Jess



EQUIPPING PLANS

Sunday Morning Bible Messages

Date	Text	Title	Topic
July 24	John 3:16; 17:18	<u><i>The Single Strand</i></u>	<i>As we consider the vision for FBC, we ought to be dominated by the consistent strand of God’s passion for this world.</i>
July 31	John 12:1-8	<u><i>Something About Mary</i></u>	<i>Sometimes people are the best demonstration for behaviors we all need to embrace. Mary makes loving very real.</i>
August 7	John 13:5-38 Communion	<u><i>Deeper than Usual</i></u>	<i>Relationships are complicated, so we often revert to superficiality which offers safety. Walking in Christ does not afford us that security – we enter deeper relationships.</i>
August 14	John 15:12-17	<u><i>Love, Jesus’ Way</i></u>	<i>When we are commanded to love, the standards are very, very high. Jesus wants us to rise to the challenge, not lower the bar.</i>
August 21	Hebrews 12:14-17	<u><i>Still on Trial??</i></u>	<i>Have you grown tired of being on trial? Would you like to be released from your failures and the expectations of others?</i>
August 28	2 Kings 5:1-14 Rally Day!	<u><i>People of Honor</i></u>	<i>Every healthy relationship requires respect. It is crucial to productivity, peace, and unity. We can do anything together if we are respectful.</i>

First Baptist Church
901 F Street
Fairbury, NE 68352

Office Phone: (402)729-6668
 Pastor’s Study: (402) 729-5012
 firstbaptist729@windstream.net
 www.fairburybaptist.com

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**“A Community of Faith
 With Christ at the Heart”**