



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
*A community for all people*

## *The Visitor*

A newsletter for members and friends  
of First Baptist Church, Madison, Wisconsin

No. 16                      September 5, 2017                      Vol. 60

Dear Friends:

With the turning of a calendar page, we begin a new year of ministry, mission and worship. While some activities continued through the summer, others now make their “fresh start.” We also welcome Jason’s return from his sabbatical. We are confident that his time away gives him a “refreshed” start. As everything slips into gear, I encourage you to consider your own participation in this the Body of Christ.

Years ago, I came across a phrase used by Martin Thornton from the Church of England. While he did not coin the words, his was my introduction to the notion. He wrote of the importance of our having a “life pattern” in our faith. I knew at once he was on to something.

How easily the practice and exercises of following Jesus (such as worship, prayer, participation in the beloved community of one’s own church, engagement in mission and so forth) are on a rather casual schedule. These things happen when they do and they don’t happen when they don’t. The reason for this sporadic schedule seems to lie elsewhere in our larger lives.

Yet when I examine my larger life, I seem to have a “life pattern” in other areas. Things happen not so much by choice but habit. From brushing my teeth onward, much of my day follows a pattern.

Jesus, as a first century Jew, grew up with a life pattern—attending synagogue, making the pilgrimage for holy observances in Jerusalem as well as several set times of daily prayer. These practices were simply part of his daily, weekly and yearly life.

What if we were to have a daily pattern for our participation in this faith community? What if we did not allow worship and other events to fall to happenstance? What if we were to say, “As a rule, I . . .”

Think about the opportunities which are yours. Traditional worship or Common Table. Choir or hand bell choir. Sunday adult education, midweek Bible study, or spiritual renewal. Wednesday dinners or Tuesday luncheons. And so much more.

One of the beauties of a “life pattern” is that it frees us from making decisions. I don’t waste time, when I get up in the morning, trying to figure out if I will brush my teeth and when. So also in the life of faith. Be it your personal devotional life or your sharing in church life, a “life pattern” is freeing.

And there is one other benefit. My “life pattern” for brushing my teeth leaves me healthier. In similar fashion, a “life pattern” in faith enhances the vitality of our soul.

In peace,

Rev. Mark Clinger



Phone (608) 233-1880 \* FAX (608) 233-2814

E-mail: [fbcoffice@firstbaptistmadison.org](mailto:fbcoffice@firstbaptistmadison.org)

Web Page: [www.firstbaptistmadison.org](http://www.firstbaptistmadison.org)

### *Worship With Us*

#### **September 10, 2017**

11:00 a.m. – Traditional Worship Service,  
Sanctuary, Rev. Mark Clinger

11:00 a.m. – Common Table Worship Service,  
Fellowship Hall, Rev. Jason Mack

12:00 Noon – Light Lunch

#### **September 17, 2017**

11:00 a.m. – Traditional Worship Service,  
Sanctuary, Rev. Mark Clinger

11:00 a.m. – Common Table Worship Service,  
Fellowship Hall, Rev. Jason Mack

12:00 Noon – Light Lunch

*If you would like to make a confession of faith in Christ and be baptized into his body, to become a member of this congregation, or renew your Christian commitment, you are warmly invited to call Rev. Mark Clinger or Rev. Jason Mack (233-1880).*

### **The Visitor Publication Schedule**

September 18, 2017

October 2, 2017

**Article deadline is 9 a.m.  
on day of publication.**

Email to: [fbcoffice@firstbaptistmadison.org](mailto:fbcoffice@firstbaptistmadison.org)



### **Are You Interested in Joining the Chancel Choir?**

Come join the Chancel Choir as we enter a new year of making music together! Our first rehearsal will be Thursday, September 7, at 7:45 p.m. in the choir room downstairs. No audition required, we just want you to come help us make beautiful music together. If you regularly attend Common Table, but are still interested, talk to Chris about how you can sing. Questions? E-mail [music@firstbaptistmadison.org](mailto:music@firstbaptistmadison.org).

### **Third Tuesday Lunch Welcomes Rev. Jason as He Returns from His Sabbatical**

On September 15, we will welcome Rev. Jason back from his sabbatical. He will share with us what he envisions for his ministry at First Baptist and how we can support this vision. His program will begin at 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Our lunch will start at noon in Fellowship Hall. The main dish will be provided so you are invited to bring a dish to share. Everyone is invited to share in this warm fellowship, delicious meal and interesting program. Reservations may be made by signing the pew pad or by calling the church office at 233-1880.

### **Spiritual Renewal Group**

The Tuesday evening spiritual renewal group will commence on September 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 in the Gathering Space. The renewal group meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month for a period of about an hour and a half. The format is that we read a book on Christian spirituality in advance and then share our personal reflections and dialogue.

This fall kicks off with an extraordinary book by two extraordinary living saints, both recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize and deep friends. One is a practicing Buddhist and the other a practicing Christian. The book is entitled The Book of Joy and grows out of a conversation between His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. All you need to do to attend is to read the Introduction and "Arrival: We are Fragile Creatures"

## **Prayer Concerns**

**Church Family:** Loree Davies; Julie Blankenburg; Jody Lara; Paul Brynelson; Katy Marty; Atlee Wilson; The Rev. Manny Santiago; Lance Dockter; Jeff & Jeanette Kersten & family, and Jeanette's father; Ruth L. Parfrey; Paul Husting's friend, David Baer; Linda Stamm's sister, Karen Coleman and brother-in-law, Joe Coleman; and Carol Skala, Jill Thomas' daughter-in-law's mother.

**Our Shut-ins:** Pat Young; Phyllis Reisdorf; Mercile Lee; Jeanne Maruska; Linda Olson; and Joyce Tardrew.

**Others:** Those whose names and needs are unspoken.

## **Fresh News**

### **Hurricane Harvey**

Our church continues to receive your gifts towards hurricane relief. To date, we have received \$797.00 in direct contributions. We also recognize that some may have made their gifts electronically through the national website [www.abc-usa.org](http://www.abc-usa.org) and clicking "Give Online." All gifts will be administered through One Great Hour of Sharing. One hundred percent of your donation will go to direct aid. If you have already given, thank you. If you have not yet given and would like to simply send your check to the church with "Hurricane" clearly marked in the memo section. If you have already given and would like to do more, you are welcome to do so!

**Don't Forget – Spaghetti Dinner  
September 11  
6:00 p.m.  
Fellowship Hall**



## Youth News from Julia Voss

OWL: We will engage in the Our Whole Lives (OWL) curriculum. OWL is a sex, sexuality and relationship course developed by the United Church of Christ. While some have already engaged in this course, I am committed to changing it up to make it applicable to all. And, it's always good to have a refresher. Mandatory attendance will not be required but please remember this curriculum builds on itself and attendance is important. For more information: <http://www.uua.org/re/owl>

Echo: Those who are not participating in OWL will engage in the Spark House curriculum "Echo the Story." They will journey through the Bible with this fun and comprehensive curriculum. For more information: <https://www.wearsparkhouse.org/teens/echothestory/12/>

Our first class on September 10th will be the whole group. During this time we will discuss the year, activities, and other topics. If you haven't received an email about which group your middle or high schooler is assigned to, please contact Julia ([julia.mueller06@gmail.com](mailto:julia.mueller06@gmail.com)).

I will be calling a parent's meeting on September 24th promptly after church. Please save the date!

Looking forward to another year of fun with the youth!

## Our Outreach Budget in Human Terms

As we consider the amounts of money we will allocate to the various "lines" of our operating budget each year - and consider how much money to pledge to its support -- it is important that we look beyond the dollars and consider what those dollars are achieving in human terms here in our community.

For example, our 2017 operating budget allocated \$550 to Allied Partners -- a coalition of fifteen churches that work together to help the residents of the Allied Drive community make that community a better place in which to live and raise their families. These dollars from First Baptist, in combination with the contributions from the other partner congregations have accomplished the following so far this year -- in human rather than dollar terms:

## Eviction and Utility cut offs

So far this year, 38 residents of the Allied Community avoided eviction or shut off of utilities when circumstances caught up with the thin financial margins on which they are living. Here are some of the human stories that those dollars addressed:

-- A homeless woman who, with her children, was in the Domestic Abuse Shelter found an apartment in the Allied Drive community but didn't have enough for the deposit. Allied Partners provided the deposit from its "Eviction Prevention Fund."

-- A woman whose job doing senior care wasn't generating enough income, fell behind with her rent. Allied Partners helped her get caught up until she could get more hours.

-- A woman's car died and she had to pay \$1,000 to get it fixed so she could get to work. As a result, she fell behind with her rent. Allied Partners stepped in and helped her get caught up and avoid eviction.

-- A couple whose only income is from disability insurance were forced to leave their apartment when the landlord raised the rent. They found another less expensive apartment but needed help from Allied Partners for the deposit.

-- A woman lost her job when the daycare where she worked went out of business and she fell behind with her utility payments. Allied Partners was able to intervene with MG&E to avoid shut off.

**Note: The community social worker from Joining Forces for Families reviews each situation and makes recommendations for each use of the Eviction Prevention Fund.**

**Allied Scholarships:** Funding from First Baptist in 2015 enabled Allied Partners to establish a scholarship fund to enable residents of the Allied Community to pursue post high school education and vocational training. Among those we helped was a woman who obtained the training she needed at MATC to obtain day-care certification. This semester scholarships are helping two young men from the Allied Community attend MATC as well as a third who has enrolled in a four-year program at the University of Dubuque. Few young people from the Allied Community continue their education beyond high school.

**Thank you, the people of First Baptist, for these human impacts of your pledge and operating budget dollars!**

**Your Board of Outreach**

## **Public Dane Sanctuary Coalition Meeting on September 17**

The Dane Sanctuary Coalition is having its first Coalition-wide meeting from 7-9 pm on Sunday, September 17. The agenda includes an introduction to the New Sanctuary Movement to aid the immigrant and refugee communities. There will also be an orientation to the Dane Sanctuary Coalition with specific information about the role of supporting congregations such as First Baptist in making it possible for host congregations to house people in sanctuary. The various needs for volunteers will be described. The meeting will be held at the Madison Christian Center, 7118 Old Sauk Rd. As many people from First Baptist who would like to attend are strongly encouraged to do so. See you there!

Dennis Ray and Gil Emmert

## **American Baptist Housing Ministry of Wisconsin**

The "Christian Science Monitor" recently published a feature article on the Northport and Packers communities. The emphasis was upon the learning centers in each apartment complex—including the computer centers offering the most up-to-date technology. Beyond the bricks and mortar as well as the microchips, there was a strong focus upon people—resident's graduating from high school at a rate above the MMSD average, residents attending and graduating from college, as well as the practice of hiring residents as employees. So much for the stereotype of "poor people"! Our own Rev. Dr. Carmen Porco says, "People see that people like them are running the show. For once, they own the institutional base. And that makes a difference." Throughout the piece, there is the theme of a culture of "high expectations." An institution's culture cannot be written into contracts, codes or policies. In the end, it is a matter of the way in which the human spirit is expressed. Carmen models that spirit daily and its contagion infects the staff. They in turn inspire residents to reach ever higher.



### **Thank you!**

Garrett and I would like to thank our First Baptist family for our outpouring of love, support and encouragement as we entered holy matrimony on August 12. We thank everyone who stopped by our shower and the wedding to participate in this joyous time in our lives.

Julia & Garrett Voss

## **Vietnam: Looking Back to Look Forward**

As many remember from their own personal experiences, and as others learned in U.S. History classes, the Vietnam War was a traumatic and divisive event for our country. Madison itself was an epicenter of anti-war protests, both peaceful and violent. Our church was deeply engaged in these events with members on both sides of the issue. Most importantly a member of our church was killed by "friendly fire" in 1969. He was United State Marine Charles Richard LeBosquet, age 21 at time of his death.

Public Television will broadcast a ten-part documentary on the war produced by the renowned Ken Burns. The series will air from September 17-21 and continuing September 24-28 at 7:00 p.m. Please mark those dates for viewing or recording.

As Vietnam holds deep and powerful memories for so many, continuing to share our perspectives as a nation, and offering urgent lessons for our future, we will gather for a cross generational discussion on a date yet to be determined in early October.



## **Thanks for Men's Shelter Volunteers**

Thank you to Lynette Miller and the Hand Bell Choir for preparing and serving food for the Men's Shelter on July 20. Several people volunteered to help prepare the meal. Robert and TJ Miller also helped serve. A huge thank you to the Bell Choir and everyone that came to support Lynette.

Thanks also to Lydia Haynes for preparing the food for the Men's Shelter on August 17. Everything was extremely organized and went well. Thanks to Tom and Erica Kersten and family for serving.

The September 21 slot for volunteering for the Men's Shelter meal has been filled by the Hour Glass Bible Study group with Lynette Miller coordinating. Thank you for all your volunteer efforts. God bless everyone!

Sheila Donald, Men's Shelter Chairperson



## September Forum The Sikh Faith and Belief

September 8, 2017

Speaker, Balwinder Singh Seerha  
(Bob Seerha)

9:00 a.m. Gathering and Tea

9:30 a.m. Business Meeting

10:00 a.m. Program

Sikh Society of Wisconsin—Madison  
6970 Century Avenue, Middleton

On Friday morning, **September 8**, meeting at the Sikh Society of Wisconsin—Madison, 6970 Century Avenue, Middleton. We will be learning about the Sikh religion. Their priest will welcome us. Our speaker, Balwinder Singh Seerha (Bob Seerha) will speak to us on **The Sikh Faith and Belief**. The society will be serving us tea as well as hosting our meeting. A very special way to begin our 2017-18 program year. So, do join us Friday morning, September 8.

### Update on Human Trafficking in Wisconsin

Sex trafficking is a \$150 billion+ per year industry, and if you read the local paper, you know that it is alive in our community. The average age a child is coerced into the sex trade is 8-14 years of age. It occurs both in urban and rural areas and the main route through Wisconsin is through Milwaukee, the Fox Cities/Green Bay, Wausau and Minneapolis. Victims are recruited through the internet, social media, school, the mall, or on the street or in parks. It is imperative that we all, and especially parents, have an awareness of this issue, know the signs and what can be done. Our church has been very generous, in its willingness to learn about this issue and in donating funds to assist those who have been affected or are vulnerable to human trafficking. To continue to provide education to our community, SlaveFree Madison is sponsoring the following free events.

*I am Jane Doe*, a documentary chronicling the legal battle that several American mothers are waging on behalf of their middle-school daughters, who were trafficked for commercial sex

on [Backpage.com](#), Tuesday, 10/17, 6:30 p.m.,  
Central Library/Madison

*Chosen*, a documentary of two girls who became victims of trafficking, 18-year old Brianna, a star student and cheerleader, and 13-year old Lacy who enjoyed church and volunteering in her community, **Sunday, 11/19, 2-4 p.m. Waunakee Village Center**. Film will be followed by an open discussion led by Tyler Schueffner of Briarpatch and Joann Gruber-Hagen of SlaveFree Madison.

These films are appropriate for teens, although contain sexual content and would be best viewed and discussed with a parent. For further information, contact Mary Fiore, [fiore@charter.net](mailto:fiore@charter.net).

## Reminders



### Sunday School for All Ages Begins September 10, 9:30 a.m.

The Board of Education is working hard to bring high quality educational experiences for all ages. As a reminder, the Sunday morning schedule will look like this beginning on September 10.

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| 9:30 a.m.  | Sunday School for All Ages                |
| 10:30 a.m. | Fellowship Time, Gathering Space          |
| 11:00 a.m. | Traditional Worship, Sanctuary            |
| 11:00 a.m. | Common Table Worship, Fellowship Hall     |
| 12:00 Noon | Lunch (all are welcome!), Fellowship Hall |

### Adult Sunday School Class

Revelation Revisited:  
The Politics of Faith  
Starting September 10,  
9:30 a.m., Room 302

Starting Sunday, September 10, Rev. Mark Clinger will be leading an adult Sunday school class entitled **Revelation Revisited: The Politics of Faith**. This will be an 8-week class held in Room 302. We will notify you of other adult classes as they become available.



## Green Lake All-Church Retreat Update

The First Baptist All-Church Retreat will be held simultaneously with the American Baptist Church of Wisconsin Annual Meeting this year. **The dates are Friday, October 13-Sunday, October 15.** Your options for the weekend are plentiful.

- You may attend the ABC Annual Meeting from Friday, October 13-Saturday, October 14 only.
- You may attend the ABC Annual Meeting from Friday, October 13-Saturday October 14 and then stay on one more night to participate with the First Baptist Church group activities. Be sure to specify this when making your hotel/meal reservations.
- You may attend the First Baptist All-Church Retreat Friday, October 13-Sunday, October 15 only.
- Or, you may mix it up...register under the ABC Annual Meeting and attend the sessions that interest you and participate in FBC activities that interest you as well.

The goal is providing flexibility and multiple options for First Baptist Church to maximize their all-church retreat experience.

FBC will host a pizza and salad dinner on-site at the C. Oscar Johnson building on Friday, October 13, at 5:30 p.m. This should give people who have registered for the ABC meeting time to eat and make the ABC evening program at 7:00 p.m. The cost of the pizza dinner has yet to be determined.

FBC will begin their programming after the ABC meeting has ended on Saturday around 4:30 p.m. and then we will go right into the Saturday night potluck dinner in the C. Oscar Johnson building. To top the evening off, we will play outside games and cook s'mores around an open fire pit.

The FBC retreat will end after the Sunday worship service in the morning. And yes, there will be a fishing tournament on Saturday!

### Registration

**To register for the ABC Annual Meeting go to: [www.abcofwi.org](http://www.abcofwi.org).** Brochure and registration forms for

the ABC Annual Meeting are also in the Gathering Space.

**To register for the FBC All-Church Retreat, contact Linda Lindley, church secretary, at [fbcoffice@firstbaptistmadison.org](mailto:fbcoffice@firstbaptistmadison.org) or call 233-1880.**

### Retreat/Conference Cost

See ABC of Wisconsin registration form for conference, housing and meal fees.

There will be no conference fees for the First Baptist All Church retreat.

### Rooms

Whether you participate as a conference attendee at American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin conference or First Baptist All-Church Retreat, **you must make your own room and meal arrangements with the Green Lake Conference Center at 920-294-3323.** Mention you are with ABC Wisconsin and/or FBC All-Church Retreat.

ABC has a block of rooms at the Kern and Bauer Lodges at the rate of \$94/night. If you register as an ABC conference attendee and wish to stay until Sunday just ask the Green Lake Conference Center for an extension to stay through Sunday.

FBC has a block of rooms at the Kern Lodge for \$94/night and the Moore cabin for \$100/night and Sunshine cabin for \$125/night. **Room rates are guaranteed until August 22 (extended cut-off date).**

**Alternative Accommodations:** Cedarwood (private owners) has 4-5 available rooms for FBC folks. At this point, only Davies and Nelsons have reserved rooms. Cost will be \$40 per room per night. Contact Wynn Davies at 238-1817.

### Meals

Saturday breakfast and lunch and Sunday breakfast are added to every overnight stay: \$21.50 ages 12 & older/\$15 ages 6 thru 11 (plus tax).

There will be a charge for the pizza and salad dinner on Friday evening. We have not determined the Friday night pizza cost yet. It will depend on the number of pizzas ordered. To plan for food needed for the Friday pizza night, please let Linda know if you will be attending. Pizzas will be delivered directly to the C. Oscar Johnson building at 5:30 p.m.

If you have any questions, please call Linda in the church office at 233-1880 or email Linda at [fbcoffice@firstbaptistmadison.org](mailto:fbcoffice@firstbaptistmadison.org).

## Jon and Amanda Good Family to Join in FBC Green Lake Pizza Party

The American Baptist Women have invited Jon and Amanda Good and their four children to speak at the Women's Meeting during the annual meeting and they will also be part of a worship service. International Ministries is no longer assigning special interest missionaries and so the women are choosing the Good Family as missionaries to be interested in this year. They will be working with the Baptist Union of Hungary in evangelism, discipleship, and education

We have invited the Good family to come to the pizza dinner hoping that we can develop a relationship with the whole family, including the children, that will continue when they are in Hungary.

### Do You Have a Laptop to Donate?

The Triangle Community Ministry is looking for someone who has a functioning laptop they no longer use and would like to donate it to Triangle Community Ministry to loan to a Triangle resident involved in helping coordinate pet food drives and pet transport for hurricane victims in TX? If so, please contact Katy Marty at 608 230-5922 or Chaplain Judy Nolde at 608 219-4556. Thanks. Katy Marty

### Dates to Remember

- September 6: Men's Breakfast, The Egg and I,  
8:30 a.m., 2501 W. Beltline Hwy
- September 7: Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal Begins  
6:30 p.m., Room 303  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal Begins  
7:45 p.m., Choir Room
- September 10: Sunday School for All Ages Begins, 9:30  
a.m.
- September 11: Spaghetti Dinner, 6:00 p.m.,  
Fellowship Hall
- September 18: Spiritual Renewal Group Begins,  
7:00 p.m., Gathering Space
- September 24: Youth (MS & HS) Parent Meeting  
12:00 Noon
- October 13-15: ABC of Wisconsin Conference/FBC All  
Church Retreat, Green Lake Conference  
Center



- 3 Brett Turner  
5 Alan Ferguson  
6 Christopher Evans  
7 Nikki Borchardt  
7 Christy Carter  
8 Heather Ziegler  
8 Palmer Haynes  
8 Ann Miller  
8 Pihra Pizzingrilli  
9 Cheryl Castillo  
9 Jeff Kersten  
10 Andy Borchardt  
10 Linda Lindley  
12 Charlotte Evans  
13 Debbie Johnson  
14 Judy Craig  
14 Tyler Mack  
16 Claire Rider  
16 Nelson Dresser  
20 Ashley Bischel  
20 Phyllis Helmer  
20 Rachel Evans  
24 Jeanette Kersten  
25 Bob Martens  
25 Rhiannon Tibbetts  
27 David Hegley  
27 Moira Kersten  
29 Linda Mintener  
29 Ginger Henderson  
30 Sara Strain

The Visitor

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

518 N Franklin Ave, Madison WI 53705-3699

(608-233-1880)

(Affiliated with the American Baptist Churches, USA)

## Worship Schedule

11:00 a.m. - Traditional Worship

11:00 a.m. - Contemporary "Common  
Table" Worship

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**TIME VALUE: DATED MATERIAL -**

**MAILED - 9/5/17**