



The Visitor

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

No. 2 January 22, 2018 Vol. 61

Dear Friends:

It is all your fault. Because of you I will be out of the office next week. You are entirely to blame for me having to fly to Orlando on Saturday and miss this fine Wisconsin winter. You are the culprits for my being beachside while enjoying rich theological discussions and networking with other ministers whom I count as friends. So, I want to make clear to all where the blame lies. Simply put it is your fault.

The reason I am attending this event as a member of what is known as the “Colloquium” is that I have the privilege of pastoring this church which is considered one of the top 25 leading churches in the denomination, with special consideration given to mission giving.

When you pick up your annual report for the year you will see what you have done to get me into all this. In 2017 you contributed \$125,827 to mission. That is a fine sum of money by any account. But that this sum is contributed by a church of our size is striking.

If you remember the children’s story The Little Engine that Could you know that larger engines refused to make the climb to bring rescue to the other side. It was simply too much for them and they couldn’t be bothered. Well I want to tell you there are many “big engine churches” whose resources never climb the mountain to the other side.

We are a “little engine that could” kind of church. You see the mountain clearly. You know the challenges it presents and the demands it places upon us. But you are, time and again, determined to get to the other side. To carry the freight which will bring delight to those “other side” people. You think you can and you think you can and you think you can and you do, time after time.

Long ago I came to believe that generosity is a hallmark of this church. It is a virtue which Jesus has inspired in you and which the Holy Spirit keeps alive in you. You understand the need for the train to leave the station and be on with its mission.

So, because of you I must go to Florida. The theme this year’s colloquium is reconciliation. Given the climate of our nation it is most apropos. Papers will be presented and discussed. We are also reading a book on reconciliation in preparation and this too will be reviewed. And yes, time is set aside for us to settle on the beach. There I will remember just who is to blame for all this. Thank you!

In peace,

Pastor Mark

***The Visitor* Publication Schedule**

February 5, 2018

February 19, 2018

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

Email to: fboffice@firstbaptistmadison.org

Worship With Us

January 28, 2018

11:00 a.m. – Traditional Worship Service,
Sanctuary, Rev. Mallory Moore, Executive Director
at The Crossing

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

February 4, 2018

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

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

*If you would like to make a confession of faith in Christ
and be baptized into his body, to become a member of*

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

E-mail: fboffice@firstbaptistmadison.org

Web Page: www.firstbaptistmadison.org

Prayer Concerns

Church Family: Brenna Kersten's friend; Beverly Pizzingrilli; Beverly St. Clair; Julie Blankenburg; Wynn Davies & family; Ken & Jan Arneson; Joanne Berg; Kathryn Hill; Wayne Bischel's father, Jack; Ann Nelson & family; Art Hebblewhite family; Bill Lutter; Paul Brynelson; Katy Marty; Atlee Wilson; Lance Dockter; Jeff & Jeanette Kersten & family, and Jeanette's father; Ruth L. Parfrey; Paul Husting's friend, David Baer; Sheila Donald; and Linda Stamm's sister, Karen Coleman.

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

Expecting Parents: Renally & Joab Dorea and Andy & Nikki Borchardt (May 2).

Others: Those whose names and needs are unspoken.

Fresh News

Thank you First Baptist!

- **World Mission Offering:** You contributed \$1,450 to our denominational World Mission Offering which supports the work of our International Ministries throughout the world. To learn more about this work, visit their website at www.internationalministries.org.
- **Hurricane and Disaster Relief:** You contributed \$4,061.50 to our denomination in special offerings following recent hurricanes in Puerto Rico and Texas. More information about how they have used this money is at www.abhms.org.
- **Christmas Offering:** As of the end of December, you have contributed \$6,096 in our Christmas Offering. These funds will enable Madison Urban Ministry to open and operate Healing House which will provide hospital follow-up care to homeless persons who would otherwise be released to the streets. www.mum.org. Our Christmas Offering will also help Mentoring Positives help kids throughout Dane County. You can learn more about their organization on the Web at www.mentoringpositives.org
- **Church World Service Christmas gifts:** Our youth raised \$1,388 for Church World Service during December. Learn how these gifts will be used at website www.cwsglobal.org.
- **For preparing and serving evening meals for 120 men at the Porchlight Men's Homeless Shelter on a cold 21 December:** Thanks to Claire Rider, Ann Paulen, Joyce Laugen, Lynette Miller, Joan Turner,

who prepared and Victor Crentsel and friends from Epic who served the meal. First Baptist people do this every month on the third Thursday evening. Please considering helping.

- **For delivering noon Meals on Wheels during December Saturdays and Sundays:** Thanks to Lynette and Bob Miller, Mary and Bill Fiore, Bill Hausler and grandkids, Gwen and Jeff Abramson, Marianne and Steve Daggett, Susan Donahoe and Friends, and Wynn Davies. We will be doing it again in June. Our goal will be to deliver two routes each Saturday in June. Can you help?
Your Board of Outreach

Pastor Jason Is Out of the Office

Pastor Jason will be out of the office from Monday, January 15 through Tuesday, January 23. He and Tara will be in Florida at the Strategic Pastoral Excellence Program hosted by MMBB.

Mark's Absence and The Rev. Mallory Moore's Presence

Mark will be at the ABC Minister's Colloquium, leaving the morning of January 28 and returning on Saturday afternoon, February 3. He will in the pulpit on February 4. In his absence, we are pleased to have the new Executive Director of The Crossing. The Rev. Mallory Moore will be preaching for the Traditional Worship. We were pleased to have her lead worship at Common Table last Sunday. As she enjoyed meeting those worshippers, she looks forward to meeting the rest of the congregation this coming Sunday.

Baptism Classes to Begin

While our known candidates for baptism are already being notified, baptismal classes will begin shortly. If you have not received a letter and are considering baptism, please speak to me immediately.

Servant Keeper Software Conversion

The current software that First Baptist Church is using will no longer be supported in 2018. After reviewing numerous software packages, the Board of Trustees has made the decision to purchase Servant Keeper software for maintaining membership and contribution information. The software conversion will begin on Tuesday, January 30, at 12:30 p.m. Although the church secretary will be at her desk on Tuesday afternoon, Linda will be working over the phone with Servant Keeper staff and unavailable to answer phones. If you need immediate assistance, you may contact Rev. Mark or Rev. Jason. If it is not an emergency, please leave a message for Linda and she will get back to you as soon as possible.

Online Giving at First Baptist

Online giving to First Baptist is now operational; you can contribute financially using a donation form on our two websites or using a smart phone app. What features does this method of giving to the church allow? (1) You can specify the fund (or funds) to which you wish to contribute. (2) You can specify whether this is a one-time gift, or is to be recurring (weekly, biweekly, monthly, or semi-monthly) and specify the start and stop dates. (3) If you later change your mind about a recurring donation, you can edit or delete it. (4) You can have the donation come from either your credit card or your checking or savings account. (5) You can create a profile containing your address, e-mail address, and your credit card or bank account information, so you don't need to reenter it each time you make a gift. (6) You will automatically receive by e-mail an acknowledgment of your gift.

Donate Using the Website

To donate using the church website, using your browser go to the church website (firstbaptistmadison.org) and place your cursor on the "Members" entry on the menu bar. You will then see a drop-down menu with "Donate Online" at the bottom; click on that. (On the Common Table website, you will find "Donate Online" at the bottom of the menu list on the right.) You will then see the webpage below:

The screenshot shows the "Online Donation" webpage. At the top right, there are links for "View Mobile Site" and "Return to our Home Page". The main content is divided into two columns. The left column is titled "Donations" and contains a message: "If you've already created a profile, please 'Log In' on the right, otherwise continue." Below this are several donation categories with input fields and a "Total" section. The categories are: General Fund (0.00), Building for Ministry Debt Retirement (0.00), Communion Fund (0.00), Memorial Gift (0.00) with a sub-field "In memory of : Enter name", and Other (0.00) with a sub-field "Describe purpose of gift". The total is \$0.00. Below the total are fields for "Donation Frequency" (Choose One), "Donation Start Date" (01/20/18), and "Donation End Date" (optional). A red asterisk indicates required fields. A "Continue" button is at the bottom left. The right column is titled "Log In" and contains fields for "Email Address" and "Password", a "Log In" button, and a link for "Forgot your Email Address or Password?". Below this is a "Create Your Online Profile" section with a "Create Profile" button.

At this point, I suggest you create a profile containing your name, address, e-mail address, and a log in password. On this form, you will see the various funds to which you can contribute. For memorial gifts, enter the name of the person being remembered in the box. The last entry, "Other", is for donations to specific projects, such as the youth mission trip or vacation bible school; enter the purpose of the gift in the box. Our church also receives donations for special offerings (e.g. Christmas, Easter, Retired Ministers and Missionaries, etc.); these will appear on the donation webpage during the time those offerings are being received. Once this webpage is completed, clicking "Continue" will take you to the next webpage, which asks how you want to make the donation (credit card, checking account, savings account). That information will then be stored on your profile. The final webpage summarizes the donation, which you can print for your records. You will also get an e-mail receipt with the same information.

Donate Using a Smart Phone App

The same basic process as above can be done using a smart phone app. Go to the Apple app store or to Google Play and search for "GivePlus Church" to download it for free. The same app is used for other churches receiving online donations, so you must set the app for our church. Rather than typing in the church name, I found it easier to enter 53705 for the zip code and then select First Baptist from the list of churches that appears. After that, the process is pretty much the same as for the website.

Security and Privacy Considerations

Online giving uses a financial company, Vanco Payment Solutions, which maintains the same security and privacy controls as credit card companies and banks. Your credit card and bank information is not stored on the church website or in the church office. If you have questions about online giving, or need help, please feel free to contact me. Gil Emmert

End Child Poverty Wisconsin Seeks 10,000 Signatures

End Child Poverty Wisconsin is a campaign to cut child poverty in Wisconsin in half in the next 10 years, led by the Wisconsin Council of Churches, WISDOM, Citizen Action of WI, and Kids Forward. Children are among the most vulnerable people in Wisconsin – 1 in 6 of them live in poverty. Racial disparities in child poverty rates mean that children of color face an even steeper climb for equity. When any of our children are hungry, thirsty, poorly housed or clothed, or without appropriate medical care, it means we have abandoned our responsibility to care for the most vulnerable. If we seek a future of wholeness, of justice and righteousness, then we must attend to the well-being of Wisconsin's children. End Child Poverty WI seeks 10,000 signatures to build public pressure to adopt the goal of cutting child poverty and racial disparities in half. With evidence-based policies that can find support across political divides, we can transform the lives of children and their families. Similar efforts in other countries have had massive success in transforming the conditions that trap people in poverty beginning in childhood. Add your signature, and join the campaign for a whole and healthy future for *all* of Wisconsin's children at endchildpovertywi.org.

The Crossing Has a New Executive Director

The Crossing Board of Directors is very pleased to announce that the Rev. Mallory Moore has been hired as the Executive Director at The Crossing campus ministry. She began her position in November 2017. Prior to this, she was the Campus Minister at ISU Wesley, a United Methodist campus ministry at Illinois State University in Bloomington-Normal. Mallory received her Masters of Divinity from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois. She is excited to be living in Madison and to be a Badger! Mallory is passionate about ministry with youth, college students, and young adults and is eager to create space for those age groups in communities of faith.



New Phone Number for Paul Husting

Paul Husting can be reached at his new phone number at 608-520-5840

Art for a New Beginning

The New Testament Gospels move rather quickly from the stories of Jesus' birth to the beginning of his public ministry soon after his baptism. In our Gathering Space, we have two paintings of the moment when Jesus met, and challenged some companions to join him in sharing with others the good news that God is a God of Love who calls all his children to live, share and walk in the path of His love.

One of the major occupations in the area where Jesus lived was that of fishing, and it was among the fishermen on the Sea (or lake) of Galilee that he turned for companions to share his ministry of proclaiming God's love for all people. The two paintings currently hanging in the Gathering Space portray Jesus' calling of the disciples in two very different artistic styles.

On the outside wall is a well-known oil painting of Jesus and three fishermen on the shore of the Sea of Galilee by the famous late 20th century artist Ernst Zimmermann. The older, gray-bearded man may be Peter, and the two behind him younger brothers, James and John. They are pulling their nets ashore, while another man waits in his boat. The strong red robe immediately calls your eye to Jesus, where the fishermen's eyes are focused, as they listen intently. You can feel the tension in Jesus' body as he grabs Peter's arm, as he seeks to convince the men that the message of God's love for all people is worth giving up their daily lives for one focused on spreading the gospel of love.

On the interior wall is a very different depiction of Jesus calling two disciples by the Sea of Galilee to come and follow him. The artist is the well-known Japanese Christian artist, Sadeo Watanabe. The boat behind them and the fish in front of them tell us the story, but the very formal posture of the figures and the vivid colors are typical of Japanese art. Watanabe is a master of the ancient craft of Katasome, "dying through a pattern" or stencil printing. This piece is on loan from Bob and Lynette Miller.

Scholarships

American Baptist Women of Wisconsin offer three types of scholarships: one for females graduating from high school this year and attending a secondary school, college or university in the fall; a second one for continuing education for any female attending a secondary school, college or university; and the third for any female attending an American Baptist associated seminary. If you would like to know more about these scholarships, contact Lynette Miller at 238-4155 or lynetteam103@gmail.com. The deadline for applying is March 31, 2018.

Porchlight Shelter Volunteer Brunch Saturday, April 28



Reminders



**FBC Annual Meeting
February 4, 2018, Fellowship Hall**

**Light Lunch at 12:15 p.m. with Meeting
to Follow**



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adult Sunday School Schedule

The following is the adult Sunday school schedule through February 18, 2018.

9:30 a.m.

- **Board of Outreach**, Wynn Davies, **Room 302** (note room change...again)
- **Kitchen Talk**, Carolyn Cross, Kitchen
- ***Hour Glass Bible Study**, Conference Room

*The **Hour Glass Bible Study** schedule will follow this timetable:

January 21-February 4

Rev. Clinger will explore different ways of reading and viewing scripture.

February 11-March 11

James Evans will share how the New Testament cannon was developed, including discussions of books that were rejected as well as those chosen.

March 18-April 15

Mary Ray will lead the discussion in an exploration of what the Bible says about work.

March 22-28

No Hour Glass Bible Study due to Palm Sunday and Easter.

The rest of the Hour Glass Bible study semester will be announced later.

Items Needed for White Cross Work

If you have old sheets, cotton or cotton polyester blend, white or pastel only, and are willing to part with them, they are needed for the bandages that are rolled and sent to the Baptist hospital in the Congo. Please contact Sally Dockter saldel@tds.net or 608-271-2097. Rips and torn areas are not a problem!

White Cross Volunteers Needed

Depending on the amount of work to be done, we will be gathering in Fellowship Hall on the first three Mondays of February 5, 12, and 19 at 9:30 a.m. to work on the overseas White Cross projects. Please contact Sally Dockter 608-271-2097 or saldel@tds.net by January 29 if you can help with this mission work.



Pick up your 2018 Offering Envelopes in the Gathering Space.

Seeking Social and Economic Justice in Our Community

First Baptist's Board of Outreach will be hosting a series of "Conversations" to which we have invited representatives of organizations that are seeking to make our community a more just place for all our people to live and work. These "Conversations" will be held during the Adult Education Hour from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings ending February 25. Scheduled speakers are:

January 28 - Michael Koval
Madison Police Department, Chief of Police

February 4 - Linda Ketcham
Executive Director of MUM
(Christmas Offering Recipient)

February 11 - Will Green, Members & Representatives
Founder, Mentoring Positives Program, Allied Partners, Allied Community
(Christmas Offering Recipient)

February 18 - Paul Soglin
Mayor, City of Madison

February 25
Ruben Anthony
President, Urban League of Greater Madison

Karen Menéndez Coller
Executive Director, Centro Hispanico

We invite you to participate in these "Conversations" and invite your friends!



Recycle the Warmth Blanket Drive Is Approaching!

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul's Recycle the Warmth Blanket Drive is approaching! This year will mark their drive's 26th year of collecting warm blankets and bedding to be distributed throughout the year to families who visit their service center seeking assistance. The 26th Annual Recycle the Warmth Blanket Drive will take place the weekend of January 26-28, 2018. Watch for the collection box for the bedding donations in the Gathering Space.



"I Can Only Imagine"

Opening in theatres March 16, 2018.

The inspiring and unknown true story behind MercyMe's beloved, chart-topping song that brings ultimate hope to so many is a gripping reminder of the power of true forgiveness.



January Birthdays

1 Coral Bishop
3 Jan Arneson
4 Victor Crentsil
4 Ann Nelson
5 Brenda Lempp
5 Dianne McCaughey
8 Sarah Jane Wilson
9 Judy Sutterlin
11 Aaron Clinger
14 Bobby Day
14 James Wm Evans
17 Phyllis Reisdorf
18 Doris Fuelle
19 Matt Miller
22 Connie Smith
23 Alice Day
23 Paul Chotlos
23 Mary Ray
25 Virginia Evans
26 Amanda Cadorette
26 Herman Torosian
27 Bert Adams
29 Dennis Ray
29 Jeff Moen
31 Bryn Abramson

February Birthdays

2 Amy McAbee
2 Shirley Morelock
2 Monica Jo Vlasak
2 Fred Robinson
5 Nathaniel Chotlos
5 Mark Werner
6 Scott Mack
6 Lynette Miller
7 Debbie Erwin
7 Paul Husting, Jr.
7 Evan Ziegler
8 Diane Blythe
9 Barbara Eggleston
14 JungJa Haynes Lee
14 Vanessa Kersten
19 Susan Dean
19 Virginia Henderson
19 Harley Young
21 Robert Nelson
21 Marilyn Hurst
22 Katie Dean
23 Lenore Coberly
23 Joyce Tardrew
25 Marianne Daggett
26 John Mueller
27 Glenn Fuguitt
27 Kristin Hegley
27 Ellie Miller
27 Suzanne Vlasak

The Visitor

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

518 N Franklin Ave, Madison WI 53705-3699

(608-233-1880)

(Affiliated with the American Baptist Churches, USA)

<p>Worship Schedule</p> <p>11:00 a.m. - Traditional Worship</p> <p>11:00 a.m. - Contemporary "Common Table" Worship</p>
--

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME VALUE: DATED MATERIAL -

MAILED - 1/22/18