

## *The Visitor*

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

No. 3

February 5, 2018

Vol. 61



(Jason and Tara Drozdenko Mack)

Greetings from sunny Ft. Lauderdale! Ok, we are not really still in Florida, just wishful thinking I guess as I huddle over my cup of hot chocolate in my office while it is all of 6 degrees outside! As many of you know I spent the third week of January with Tara in Florida on a continuing education trip. It was the first installment of a 3-year program called the Strategic Pastoral Excellence Program (SPEP) and it was hosted (and paid for) by the Ministers and Missionaries Benefits Board (MMBB).

The Mission and purpose of SPEP is to educate pastors and churches on financial health in the family and in the church. During this first session, we learned about general financial concepts such as budgeting and the difference between “bad” and “good” debt. We also learned about clergy specific issues such as clergy tax and the changes caused by the tax bill that just went through congress.

As is often the case with these things, as helpful as the material was, the time spent with other clergy families was equally rewarding. About 15 clergy and their spouses from across the country were present and the discussions in the meetings as well as over meals were a joy.

And finally, it was a real joy to have some time away with Tara. As all of you who are parents will no doubt understand we don’t get away just the two of us very often. And we enjoyed Ft. Lauderdale – it’s not a place we would have ever chosen to go, but it had its charms. We took a “water-taxi” into town and it drove us by some amazing homes and even more amazing ships – including Stephen Spielberg’s 400-foot vessel. Wow.

And finally, I want to let you know about an opportunity to help the next generation of clergy. One of the representatives of MMBB told us of an initiative they have begun to establish a fund to help clergy get out from under their student loan debt. For many young clergy, this is one of their major struggles and stressors and is something that all too often pressures them out of the ministry all together. MMBB has secured a matching grant for every dollar contributed to this fund, another dollar will be added. If you are interested in contributing to such a fund, please send me an email and I will get you the information.

All in all, it was a good and inspiring trip. Tara and I return with renewed dedication to be careful with our finances and stick to a budget! And I look forward to continuing to learn from the program over the coming two years.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Jason

**See ACT NOW! article on  
the following page!**

***The Visitor* Publication Schedule**

February 19, 2018

March 5, 2018

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

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## Worship With Us

### February 11, 2018

11:00 a.m. – Traditional Worship Service,  
Sanctuary, Rev. Jason Mack

11:00 a.m. – Common Table Worship Service,  
Fellowship Hall, Rev. Mark Clinger

### February 18, 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  
this congregation, or renew your Christian commitment,*

## Prayer Concerns

**Church Family:** James Evans, Brenna Kersten's friend; Beverly Pizzigrilli; 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

### Act Now!

It was fifty years ago this coming April 4 that The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated while standing outside of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee. It is an event to be remembered for he was a national treasure, transforming our nation. Yet while we remember Dr. King, we cannot simply look back. We must look forward. In so many of his writings and speeches, it is clear that forward was Dr. King's favored direction. Dr. King once said "Justice too long delayed is justice denied." Fifty years later, that justice is still

delayed and denied. It is unfinished business, not only for Dr. King but for this nation.

"Unite to End Racism" is a national rally planned by the National Council of Churches, in partnership with the National African American Clergy Network, Conference of National Black Churches, Sojourners, Franciscan Action Network, Churches Uniting in Christ, and Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism and its member congregation.

This will be both a rally and a call to action on April 4 at the Lincoln Memorial and the National Mall, in Washington DC. There is also an option for those attending to extend their stay and participate on April 5 in a Lobby Day on Capitol Hill for legislative advocacy.

Buses are already chartered to leave in the afternoon of April 3, returning the morning of April 5. The cost of bus fare and attendance is \$250 with individuals providing their own meals.

For those wishing to attend Lobby Day on April 5, departure times remain the same, however, buses will return on the morning of April 6. The cost of this extended stay is \$450 including hotel lodging with individuals again providing their own meals.

The DEADLINE for RESERVATIONS is MARCH 1. Bus reservations are already filling up so your own registration is urgent as seats are assigned on a first-come basis.

If you would like to attend but find the cost prohibitive, there are persons within our congregations who will generously sponsor you as needed. Contact Mark Clinger.

Register through [wcoc@wichurches.org](mailto:wcoc@wichurches.org). For additional information go to #Rally2EndRacism.

Our church was represented in the original March on Washington led by Dr. King in 1963. We must be represented again. Act Now! Make your bus reservations and contact Mark Clinger to let him know of your planned representation of our church.

--Mark Clinger

**ACT NOW**

## Men/Women's Breakfast Seeks New Location

As we seek a new "home" for the Men's and Women's Breakfasts, reservations have been made at My Sister's Kitchen, 2227 Parmenter St. in Middleton (north of University Avenue) for February 7 at 8:30. **My Sister's Kitchen takes CASH ONLY, but has an ATM.** On March 7, at 8:30, we will meet at the Pancake Café, 724 South Gammon Road (south of Watts Road) in Madison. Call Gene Dewey at (230-3373) with any questions.

## The Spiritual Sharing Group

Some members and attendees of First Baptist are launching a new prayer/support group to meet on Wednesday nights at the church. The group is called The Spiritual Sharing Group and we will be meeting once a week in the Gathering Space at 6:30 p.m., starting on Wednesday, February 7.

The format and tone will be informal and fun but the gathering will normally be comprised of the following activities:

- We will often have some stimulating, spiritual discussions.
- Every week, we will share our highs and lows for the week and our God-sightings.
- We will share our joys, concerns and prayer requests during every meeting.
- Then we will always conclude by praying for one another.

The group is starting out with a core of about eight or nine people, but we would love to see this weekly gathering grow. So, please pass the word on, and check us out. Contact Rhiannon Tibbetts with questions. Email: [rhian.nah@live.com](mailto:rhian.nah@live.com)

## Third Tuesday Lunch, February 20

On Tuesday, February 20, Kristin Rucinski, Executive Director of The Road Home (TRH), will discuss the programs of the agency, the discontinuation of the IHN family shelter program, ways First Baptist volunteers can still be involved with TRH and plans for future growth. Kristin will begin her presentation at 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. There will be a potluck lunch at noon. The main dish, soup, will be provided as well as bread. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Reservations are necessary by Sunday, February 18. Call the church office, 233-1880, or sign the pew pad. Come and learn about the important work of The Road Home.



## We Have Your Valentine's Day Covered

The FBC Youth Annual Valentine's Day bake sale will occur February 11 after church. We'll have plenty of treats for you and your sweetie (or friend, family, neighbor). This bake sale will support the youth as they fundraise for their 2018 Summer Mission Trip to Milwaukee.

Julia Voss, Youth Director



## LTE Part-Time Administrative Secretary Position Opening at FBC

Linda Lindley, FBC's Administrative Secretary will be on medical leave starting Monday, April 2. FBC is looking for a limited-term, part-time office support staff person to work approximately 20 hours/week. The start date would be March 26 (training week) through June 30 (employment could possibly be extended after that date). Excellent part-time pay is offered.

Skills needed include telephone answering, computer savvy, experience in preparing church bulletins and informational materials. Send resume and letter of interest to: [personnel@firstbaptistmadison.org](mailto:personnel@firstbaptistmadison.org) or call 233-1880 for more information, no later than February 27, 2018.



## Road Home Interfaith Hospitality Network Sends Note of Thanks

The Road Home's Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) which provides an emergency shelter for homeless families is ending its program. First Baptist was a "buddy" congregation to Covenant Presbyterian which housed the homeless families for four weeks over the course of the year. Over the life of this buddy relationship, a lot of First Baptist members helped with providing meals, leading activities for children, and staying overnight. Here is a thank you note from Nan Schaefer, one of the IHN coordinators at Covenant.

*Dear Dennis (Ray),  
On behalf of all of us in the Covenant Road Home group, I wish to thank you and your faithful volunteers for being one of our buddy churches for so many years. I think we managed the task well over the years, and for sure Covenant could not have done it without all the assistance of our buddies. It truly takes a village to care for others, and you and yours were certainly part of our village. Please let all your volunteers know how much they were appreciated over our eighteen years of service. Again, thank you all so much! In God's peace,  
Nan Schaefer*

## Reminders

### 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. We invite you to participate in these "Conversations" and invite your friends! Scheduled speakers are:

#### 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



### 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
- Kitchen Talk, Carolyn Cross, Kitchen
- \*Hour Glass Bible Study, Conference Room

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

#### 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

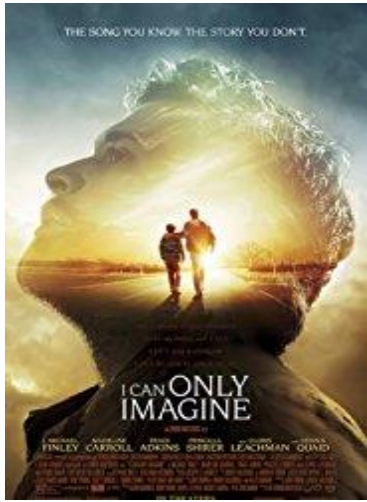
No Hour Glass Bible Study due to Palm Sunday and Easter.

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

### Scholarships Offered by American Baptist Women of Wisconsin

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](mailto:lynetteam103@gmail.com). The deadline for applying is March 31, 2018.





### “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.

### Porchlight Shelter Volunteer Brunch Saturday, April 28



### 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)

**Worship Schedule**

11:00 a.m. - Traditional Worship

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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**TIME VALUE: DATED MATERIAL -**

**MAILED - 2/5/18**