



## The Visitor

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

No. 19                      October 8, 2018                      Vol. 61

Dear Friends:

As the turmoil continues in Washington D.C., my mind continues to return to the late William Stringfellow. While I was still in high school, he was my entrée into Christian social ethics when my sister left one of his books at home from her college classes. When the towering figure Karl Barth toured America, he recognized Stringfellow as one of the finest American theologians he met. Stringfellow, an attorney, had a superb ability to understand scripture and to read our nation through that lens. His conviction was that, during the Vietnam Era, he was looking at something more than a poor or dysfunctional government—he was looking directly in the demonic. In one of his books, he listed the strategies and tactics of demonic powers.

I include part of his list here because amidst the turmoil, I see more than dysfunction but an emergence of the demonic. I print the list not to single out any one party, any single office holder, no single branch of government—the Senate, the Supreme Court or the Presidency. I invite you to read through Stringfellow’s list yourself and discover if it shows you any demonic movements in our current government.

Strategy and Tactics of Demonic Powers:

1. **The Denial of Truth:** Truth is usurped and displaced by a self-serving version of events or facts, with whatever selectivity, distortion, falsehood, manipulation exaggeration, evasion concoction necessary. A story is fabricated or prefabricated to suit ideological interests. The premise is that truth is nonexistent, a fiction,

while any handling of facts is ideologically or institutionally tainted.

2. **Secrecy and boasts of expertise:** Political secrecy begets a ruthless paternalism between the regime and its citizens which disallows human participation in government and renders human beings hapless against manipulation by trick or propaganda. It is embellished by claims of expertise. Obviated is the human capacity to be informed, to think, to decide and to act. Persons are relegated to the ranks of spectators, subservient to the requirements of the regime.
3. **Harassment**
4. **Exaggeration and deception: Principalities** act or overact to engender a belief that their conduct is warranted though no empirical justification exists.
5. **Cursing and conjuring:** Those who resist cursed or condemned.

As I watch the developments in so many arenas of government, examining the strategies and tactics used to advance agendas, I am becoming increasingly alarmed about the state of our national government. I fear democracy and our nation is being imperiled by more than dysfunction, but by evil. What do you see and think? Am I becoming paranoid or has Stringfellow helped me see a deep and dangerous truth?

In Peace,

Rev. Mark Clinger

### Attendance Numbers

#### September & October 2018

Date	Worship #
9/02/18	72
9/09/18	73
9/16/18	97
9/23/18	70
9/30/18	75
10/7/18	79

## What's Happening

An update on things of interest to the FBC family and friends:



### Four Cars of the ABC Train

There have been questions about the offerings First Baptist receives for our American Baptist Denomination. There are four yearly offerings that support different parts of our outreach as American Baptists:

1. **America For Christ (AFC)** is the offering that supports our work in USA and Puerto Rico. This offering is taken soon after Easter. Thirty-three percent of the offering from Wisconsin Baptist churches supports the Wisconsin Region. There are three focus areas for national ministries:
  - a. Cultivating Leaders – includes supporting education and scholarships, chaplaincy and specialized ministries, and personnel services.
  - b. Equipping Disciples – includes publishing the justice magazine *The Christian Citizen*, and developing materials and programs for church transformation, evangelism, church life and leadership.
  - c. Healing Communities – exploring ways to be sensitive to and to serve people with disabilities, prisoners, immigrants, and children in poverty; mobilizing volunteers for disaster response and community outreach ministries; leading socially responsible investing.

The part of ABC that serves USA is called Home Mission Society. Materials are published through JUDSON PRESS in English and Spanish. This includes daily devotionals, Sunday School and small group materials, and information on Baptist Identity and beliefs.

2. **One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)** is received in June or July. This offering is received by many denominations. Its goals are to:
  - a. Bring fast emergency relief for disasters such as fires and hurricanes.
  - b. Support development projects and relieve chronic human need.
  - c. Minister to refugees and immigrants.
3. **World Mission Offering (WMO)** is usually taken in September or October. This offering funds our work around the world in the areas of:
  - a. Inviting people to be disciples of Jesus through evangelism, discipleship and theological education.
  - b. Proclaiming God's reign of justice, peace and abundant life through helping immigrants and refugees, working toward peace and justice, abolishing global slavery, education, economic development and health and wellness services.
  - c. Equipping the body of Christ to engage in God's mission.

*International Ministries (IM)* is the ABC group that receives the WMO.
4. **Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO)** is received in January or February. This is a "thank you offering" to retired American Baptist ministers and Missionaries and their surviving spouses. It also responds to emergency needs.

The **ABC Mission** line in the Board of Outreach Budget is the engine that pulls the four offerings in the American Baptist train. It is called **United Mission** and supports all the work of the American Baptist Denomination. Sixty-five percent of the offering from Wisconsin Baptist churches supports the Wisconsin Region. A percentage supports the Office of the General Secretary and the rest is shared by all four missions.

*Lynette Miller, Board of Christian Outreach*

## A Great Honor Bestowed

Our own **Rev. Dr. Carmen Porco** has been honored by The University of Oxford in England with an endowed chair in his name. It was recently announced that the Rev. Dr. Carmen Porco Chair in Sustainable Business was established at the Center on Business and Poverty. John Hoffmire has been the first person named to this chair at the Center on Business and Poverty at the University Wisconsin-Madison.

In the press release it was noted that Carmen established six low incoming housing communities as “strong, stable and vibrant communities that add significant value to the larger communities surrounding them”. It was also recognized that under his leadership, “individuals within these communities (can) access the resources they need to empower them to build their own lives.”

A full copy of this press release is posted on the bulletin board of the kiosk in The Gathering Space.



## Getting to Know Us Brenda Lemmp

My family and I came to First Baptist Church in 1991. We visited all the local Baptist churches and felt most comfortable with First

Baptist. We have attended Baptist churches all over the world in our travels, most recently in Singapore.

Family is very important to us. FBC became our extended family since my family all lived in Indiana and Steffen's family in Germany. Our children, Kiki, Kari, and Kevin, all enjoyed the music groups, classes and youth group over the years. They also had wonderful times performing during church service and in the bell choir. We are empty nesters now, with two married daughters and two grandsons. Steffen continues to work at UW-Madison.

As a family, over the years, we have enjoyed the times we participated in the live Nativity at Christmas, helping with and serving meals at

Grace Episcopal Church with our church, delivering Meals on Wheels, a winter trip to Green Lake, and Christmas caroling with the shut-ins.

Several years ago, FBC had a group going to the Holy Land with Rev. Mark. I really wanted to go, but we were not able to then. This summer, Steffen and I finally made our way to the Holy Land with information and guidance from Rev. Mark. It was a trip of a lifetime -- I felt God's presence when we saw the sites where Jesus was born, was baptized, held the Sermon on the Mount, prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, held the Last Supper and carried the cross to his crucifixion. I connected also with Peter at the site where he denied Jesus, with John the Baptist at Herod's palace where he was beheaded, and the Revelation at the ruins of Megiddo (the site of Armageddon). I am so thankful we had this opportunity, and for earlier trips such as to the sites where Paul preached to the Corinthians and where Thomas was martyred in Chennai.

Last year, I joined Lynette Miller helping with the kids during the Parent & Child Conversation (ESL) Class at the church, which is taught by Barbara Eggleston as part of the Madison Friends of International Students. I have also enjoyed being in the Writing Group led by Lenore Coberly. She and other FBC poets have inspired me to continue writing poetry.



## A Son!

We celebrate that **Shepherd John Voss** was born to Julia (Mueller) and Garrett Voss on September 21. As he was not due until early November, weighing 5 pounds at birth he was at the neonatal intensive care unit at Meriter Hospital, but is now home. He is in stable condition and doing well as he continues to gain in strength.

Shepherd or “Shep” as he is being called, is the first grandchild born to Barbara and John Mueller. The date for his infant dedication should be announced shortly.



## Hurricane Florence Relief

The FBC family and friends so far have contributed a total of \$891 to Hurricane Florence relief. As you read this, your generosity is working to help those in desperate need.

### ABHMS releases One Great Hour of Sharing funds in response to Hurricane Florence

Resources VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 9/20/18)—In response to Hurricane Florence, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) has begun to release One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Emergency Disaster-response funds, on behalf of American Baptist Churches USA. For the complete article, please go to <http://abhms.org/about-us/news/abhms-releases-one-great-hour-of-sharing-funds-in-response-to-hurricane-florence/>

## Update on Pastor Mark's Retirement Celebration



As we continue with preparations for the celebration of Mark Clinger's 28 years of ministry with our church, we are reaching out to let you know that our planning group needs your help, to share with you ways you can participate, and to begin collecting your registrations for the big event on **Friday, November 16th, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m., in the Great Hall of the UW Memorial Union.**

Here are the ways in which we can use your help, and invite you to participate:

- 1) Share pictures or stories about Mark's and Janet's involvement and ministry with FBC. Digital photos can be emailed to Gil Emmert [gaemmert@wisc.edu](mailto:gaemmert@wisc.edu); printed photographs can be dropped off at the church office (please include your names on the backs of the photos so we can return them to you). **The sooner you can get these to us, the better!**
- 2) Make a financial contribution toward a retirement gift for Mark (and Janet!)

- 3) Attend the retirement celebration for Mark and Janet on November 16th. This will include a catered meal, a program, music and fellowship, and the presentation of a gift. Please note that there will be no cost for you to attend this event, and we are hoping for as many people to be there as possible! Contributions to help cover the church's catering costs, which are estimated at \$28 per person, are welcome, but not required, and any amount is appreciated.
- 4) Offer to carpool with FBC members who may need a ride. This will help greatly toward preventing congested parking at the Union and ensure that as many people as possible can attend.  
We will be able to secure a limited number of metered parking spaces in the Helen C. White ramp, for members who need closer parking. Please let us know if you would like us to hold one of these spaces for you. The Lake Street ramp is not far for those who are able to walk a further distance.
- 5) Write a congratulatory note or card. These could be mailed to or dropped off at the church or brought the retirement celebration. Children are encouraged to send their own!

**Items and contributions may be sent to the church:**  
First Baptist Church  
Attention: Mark's Retirement Party  
518 N. Franklin Avenue  
Madison, WI 53705

We hope to make this an event to remember, for Mark, Janet, and our FBC family and friends!

**Please help us by returning the RESERVATION FORM, which can be found on the kiosk at the Gathering Place, to the church office by October 31, 2018.** Thank you very much! *Bill Hausler, Mary Fiore, Gwen Abramson*



## Congratulations!!!

Congratulations to **Matt DeBlas** for winning this year's **Madison Area Music Awards -Instrumentalist/Harp**. Matt is a diverse musician who also sings, plays the mandolin and the guitar.

Best of luck to *Kelsey Miles* who is currently a nominee for 2 **Best of Madison – Local Band/Blues and Singer/Songwriter**. You can vote for Kelsey at [channel3000.com](http://channel3000.com).



## Thanks for Volunteering for the Men's Shelter Meal

Once a month, First Baptist volunteers prepare

and serve a meal at the men's shelter at Grace Episcopal Church. Many thanks go to these volunteers for the meal on September 20: Bethany Cisneros; Aaron, Rebecca, Art, and Olivia Hebblewhite; Dennis and Mary Ray; and Joan Turner. Please let me know if you are interested in helping with a future meal that will certainly be most appreciated by the 70 to 120 men it feeds.  
*Sheila Donald, Shelter Meal Coordinator*

You may review the complete statement of our core values at <http://firstbaptistmadison.org/beliefs-and-values/> or request a copy in the mail by calling the church office at (608) 233-1880.

## Church Survey

Your responses to the church survey will inform the committee and the transitional pastor as we prepare the way for a new senior pastor. The committee is planning four church school classes in November to discuss the survey responses together. Surveys were mailed, are available in the Gathering Space, or may be requested at [fboffice@firstbaptistmadison.org](mailto:fboffice@firstbaptistmadison.org). Completed surveys may be mailed or emailed to the church office or placed in the marked box in the Gathering Space.

Please complete the survey and get it back to us by **October 17**. Surveys may be mailed to the church office or placed in the marked box in the Gathering Space. Surveys will also be available in the Gathering Space or you may request one at [fboffice@firstbaptistmadison.org](mailto:fboffice@firstbaptistmadison.org).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**From the Discernment Committee - Survey Due October 17**

## Church Survey Information

The Discernment Committee was formed to begin the work of clarifying our vision for FBC and to begin to identify our opportunities/challenges. Before completing the survey, you may wish to review our four core values. In summary, they are: Soul Freedom: We have a deep conviction that every person has the ability to enter into their own personal, direct and immediate relationship to God through Jesus Christ. Mission: As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to care for the larger world. This is at the heart of Jesus' command to love others as we do ourselves. Spiritual Growth: As followers of Jesus Christ, we are invited to follow Him on a path of our own spiritual growth. Inclusivity: As a congregation, we strive to fully include all persons within our membership regardless of sex, sexual or gender identity, race or cultural heritage.

## The Jirani Project Harambee & African Drumming Presentation



The non-profit Jirani Project, serving vulnerable

children in Kenya, will have its annual "harambee" (let's all pull together) event on **Sunday, November 4** at Oakwood Village University Woods.

3-4 p.m. African Drumming presentation by Wongai Africa, Ltd.

4-5 p.m. Harambee

Join us at Oakwood Village University Woods, Westmorland Room, 6205 Mineral Point Rd, Madison, Wisconsin (Parking underneath the Heritage Oaks building) - *Diane Adams, Jirani Project board member*

## ? Blended Worship Service Questionnaire Responses are Available

At the request of our pastors, the Church Leadership Council invited members and friends of First Baptist to provide their reactions and suggestions concerning our experience with a “blended worship” during last summer. We have received 31 responses and they have now been summarized in a report. Copies of the report will be available in the Gathering Space and can also be obtained by contacting the church office.

## From the Music Director



### Let's Make Music Together!

We are hard at work crafting a new collection of contemporary songs for our service! It is an exciting process, and one that is teaching us things about how we think about music in the church at large as well as our church in particular.

One of my biggest musical priorities over the last several years has been offering both older established music as well as music that we have been lucky enough to commission for the church. Both the Handbell Choir and the Adult Choir have premiered works written specifically for them over the last several years, and the Adult Choir has led services crafted around masterworks by Fauré, Schubert, and Haydn. I am enjoying exploring a different facet of recent music in our blended worship service.

However, I do not want to have all the fun! I want to hear from the experts - all of you. Is there a song from the hymnal we have not sung in a while that we need to revisit? Is there a contemporary song that we do not have in rotation that we should add? Please e-mail me at [music@firstbaptistmadison.org](mailto:music@firstbaptistmadison.org) and let me know. I cannot guarantee that everything will be

used, but I want to continue helping all of us make music together. *Chris Boveroux, Music Director*



### Did You Know...

As of September 21, a total of 2,654 immigrant children have been separated from their parents this year. Currently, 565 children remain in government custody (of these, 366 children have parents who have been deported, including 6 children under age 5)  
Source: ACLU.org - First Baptist is a member of the Dane Sanctuary Coalition.



### EAT RIGHT WHEN MONEY IS TIGHT!

**FoodShare is a monthly benefit deposited on a debit-like card, the QUEST Card, to help with food purchases, freeing up money for bills, medications and other necessities.**

Did you know...

- Even the minimum benefit would give you \$180 per year!
- Eligibility is based on income and certain expenses, so you can own a home and car and even have a savings account.
- Claiming FoodShare helps your community. The USDA estimates that for every \$5 spent in FoodShare benefits, about \$9 circulates through local businesses and to our farmers.
- Receiving benefits does NOT take away from others. EVERYONE who is eligible and applies will get benefits.

### For more information, call the FoodShare Helpline at 1-877-366-3635 today!

The FoodShare Helpline is a service of Feeding Wisconsin and its member food banks. For information on food pantries you can also contact The United Way 211

<https://www.unitedwaydanecounty.org/get-help/2-1-1/>.



**The Road Home**  
**14<sup>th</sup> Annual Homes for Families Fundraising Breakfast**

Thursday, November 8 - 7:30-8:30 am  
 Alliant Energy Center

If you want to attend, contact Peggy Halloran, Development Director, 608-294-7998, extension 311. If you would like to coordinate a First Baptist Church table at the breakfast, please let Peggy know.

There is no registration fee, but people are encouraged to donate to help The Road Home change the lives of homeless families.

**Reminders**



**Lasagna Lunch with Your Church Family**

On Sunday, October 14, after worship, come down to

Fellowship Hall for lunch and conversation. The Deacons will provide lasagna. You are invited to bring your favorite salad or dessert to share. We hope you can make it!



**THIRD TUESDAY LUNCH – Hobbies and Crafts**

Third Tuesday Lunch will meet on **Tuesday, October 16, at noon for a potluck lunch.** The main dish and drink will be provided. Please bring a dish to share. The Program will be a show and tell of collections, hobbies and skills of some members. Please register on the pew pad if you plan to attend or call the church office, 233-1880. Everyone is invited to this delicious meal, to enjoy warm fellowship and to learn about friends' many interests.



**Volunteer Position**

As the position of Flower Coordinator is now open, we are seeking a volunteer to come forward. This "stems" from Jan Arneson's retirement. Two skills are required: the ability to coordinate and a

knowledge of flowers. Contact the church office at (608) 233-1880 if you want to share your gifts.



**Hourglass Bible Study**

Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., **Conference Room.**

**"Chosen by God"** The Bible is full of stories that reveal God's choice of individuals for vital tasks. We will take up a variety of Bible passages describing people chosen by God - some famous, some lesser known. We will explore how God selected them, how they realized they had been chosen, and how God's people discerned or failed to discern God's will. We'll apply the variety of approaches discussed in Pastor Jason's September class, "What is the Bible?" Everyone is welcome, and advance preparation is not required.

**Adult Sunday School – New Session**

– Sundays, Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28, 9:30 a.m. = "Nuclear Nonproliferation" Led by Dr. Tara Drozdenko. Room 302.

This class will explore our history and personal connection to nuclear weapons. We will quickly review the history of nuclear weapons and how they work. We will also look at our own histories with nuclear weapons, social justice issues surrounding nuclear weapons, and the church's response.



**Children's Sunday School**

**Nursery (0 – 3)**

We have a beautiful, recently remodeled nursery filled with age-appropriate activities for our youngest children. The nursery will be staffed this year by Haley Schoenfelder, returning from last year; and Jamie Wheelock, an incoming Freshmen at UW-Madison. Ava Kersten remains a familiar face that will back up Haley and Jamie when they need a Sunday off.

**Preschool – Kindergarten (3-5/K). Taught by Susan & Anna Donahoe. Room 105**

In the Preschool-Kindergarten Classroom, children explore through play and music how to use the bright shining, spirit of love that is inside

each of us to BE that love, wherever and however we are. The small group, multi-age environment encourages interaction and allows the children to learn at their own pace and from each other. Curriculum generally follows the sequence of Jesus' life, with care taken to understand all stories in the Bible from the perspective of a God of love and an ancient people.

**Intermediate (1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade). Taught by Paul & Deb Chotlos. Room 104**

The Way of the Child helps children, grades 1 – 5, develop an intimate, personal relationship with God, providing an opportunity for them to experience and practice spiritual disciplines that can nurture that relationship for a lifetime.



**Summit by the Sea  
2019 The American  
Baptist Mission**

**Summit (formerly call the Biennial)  
Sponsored by ABC-USA**

The American Baptist Churches USA 2019 Mission Summit will be held **June 21-23, 2019**, at the Virginia Beach Convention Center in Virginia Beach, Va.

VBS-style classes will be offered for elementary, middle, and high school ages. Day care will also be available. For more information go to <http://www.abc-usa.org/2018/04/16/save-the-date-for-a-summit-by-the-sea-at-the-2019-biennial-mission-summit>

**Birthdays**

**October**

- 4 Jim Thompson
- 5 Olivia Hebblewhite
- 5 Leona Moen
- 7 Janet Clinger
- 7 Angela Thomas
- 11 Bill Hausler
- 16 Greg Dean
- 18 Carolyn Cross
- 19 Janet Reinke
- 21 Marci Henderson
- 21 Jason Mack
- 22 Jody Lara
- 25 Richard Bishop
- 28 Ken Arneson

**November**

- 7 Judy Rundell
- 8 Diana Long
- 8 Carla Eakins
- 9 Joy Miller
- 10 Mary Fiore
- 13 Una Torosian
- 13 Laura Clark-Taylor
- 14 Deb Chotlos
- 17 Barbara Mueller
- 20 Mark Clinger
- 20 Jill Thomas
- 21 Ruth Parfrey
- 25 Brooke Siddell

**Prayer Concerns**

**Church Family:** James Evans; Lance Dockter; Jeanette Kersten's father; Paul Husting's friend, David Baer; Sheila Donald; Linda Stamm's sister, Karen Coleman; Susan Donahoe's father, Rev. John Davey; Rhiannon Tibbetts; Bill Hausler; Julie Blankenburg; Rev. William Metzger; and Sylvia Lowell

**Our Shut-ins:** Virginia Henderson; Mercile Lee; Pat Young; Phyllis Reisdorf; Linda Olson; Ruth Parfrey; Martha Fuguitt, Atlee Wilson

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



**Remembrance  
Sunday**

On **Sunday, November 4**, the worship service will include our time of remembrance. At that time, you can come forward with a rose in remembrance of those you've loved and lost.

Please return the reservation form (attached) with your request and payment (\$3.00 per rose). Checks can be made out to First Baptist Church, **by October 28.**

Return to: First Baptist Church  
518 N. Franklin Ave, Madison, WI 53705  
**or email or place in collection plate on  
Sunday**