

The Visitor

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

No. 23 December 6, 2018 Vol. 61

Greetings,

We have just had what I would call a “November to Remember”:

In the last month, we have said goodbye to Pastor Mark as he headed into retirement. Anyone who was able to participate in his retirement celebration and/or final Sunday farewell can testify to the warmth and love that went out from this congregation to Mark. A special thanks to all who helped, especially Gwen Abramson, Mary Fiore, and Bill Hausler.

A whirlwind of activities regarding our transitional period also fell in November. We held two congregational meetings, one to seek approval to hire a Specialist Transitional Minister; and a second to approve Rev. Dr. Michael Newheart as that minister. Both proposals were unanimously approved by the members in attendance. To further update you on the progress, I can confirm Michael is scheduled to arrive in Madison on the 3rd of January and will be with us for his first Sunday on January 6th (please mark your calendars for that special Sunday). Let’s show him a hearty welcome. We have secured (as is our responsibility within Transitional Ministries) accommodations for his living at “The Monticello” on Sheboygan Ave. (a special thanks to Lynette Miller for her help in this matter).

The second Sunday in November was our pledge Sunday and many of you participated, but we haven’t heard from all

our regular pledgers. I offer a gentle reminder to them to make the effort to complete their pledge cards, as those pledges play a large role in constructing our budget for 2019.

For three November Sundays during normal Sunday School hours, the discernment committee held conversational meetings on our Church profile and ideas for the future. The information gathered is posted in and around the Gathering Space and in its fuller form will be made available to Rev. Newheart as a tool for use in the coming months. A special thanks to Richard Bishop, Beth Gunshor, Jill Thomas, Brooke Siddell and Wynn Davies for their leadership in this effort.

I would be remiss if I failed to thank our administrative secretary, Blanca James, for her contribution to all our efforts this month. Whenever things are so busy in our church life an extra burden falls on her and having her is a blessing.

Blessing to all,

Bill Fiore, Church Moderator



*Advent – a time of
Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace*

Attendance Numbers

November and December 2018

Date	Worship #
11/04/18	78
11/11/18	74
11/18/18	131
11/25/18	69
12/02/18	80

What's Happening

Holiday Church Decoration



Special thanks to all of those who helped with decorating the church and sanctuary. Look around you and enjoy the holiday beauty and joy that comes from their hard work. – *Pastor Jason*

From FBC's Flower Coordinator



I'd like to extend my thanks to Jan Arneson for serving as the church's flower coordinator for so many years. I am honored to now serve the church in that capacity. As I understand the role of the flower coordinator, my focus will be:

- facilitating our church family involvement in providing flowers for Sunday worship
- ordering Palm Sunday palms, Easter lilies, Remembrance Sunday roses and Christmas poinsettias
- ordering dedication roses and flowers for other special occasions

Your first opportunity for ordering flowers is here—poinsettias to fill the Chancel for our services on December 23 and 24, 2018. Let's fill the Chancel! The order form is included (and is also in the Gathering Space) and the cost is \$9.00. Please make checks payable to the church. If you have any questions, please contact Blanca at 608-233-1880 or me at 608-884-3708. You can also reach me via email at lmccarro@wisc.edu Feel free to take the plant home after the last

service you attend or leave it to continue to decorate the Chancel.

I'd also like to encourage you to consider taking a Sunday to provide flowers for Sunday worship. There is a sign-up sheet on the kiosk in the Gathering Space. You can provide a single flower in an arrangement or a bouquet so the cost can fit your budget. There are so many occasions to provide flowers for: in memory of someone, in honor of someone, for a birthday or anniversary, a secret flower pal...use your imagination! In addition to that, you don't have to go it alone.

For example, I "challenge" the Deacons, the Trustees, the Board of Christian Education, the church staff, people born in the same month, people who live in the same complex...all the groups in the church to pool their group resources and select a Sunday. I started us off by providing the flowers for Sunday, December 2, 2018 in honor of all of us born in the month of December. It's a cold month, but one filled with lots of warmhearted people! Please join in on providing beautiful flowers for our worship services.

The steps are:

- sign up yourself or call Blanca and ask her to sign you up (the 2019 sign-up sheet will be available at the end of December on the kiosk in the Gathering Space)
- call the florist of your choice to place your order, making sure the flowers are delivered to the church by noon on the Friday before your selected Sunday (give them the church's phone number as well as yours)
- contact Blanca to let her know how you want the flowers listed in the bulletin

OR

- bring your flowers to church on Sunday and place them on the table in the front of the church (use a "coaster" found on the desk outside the church office for the flowers to protect the table)
- take the flowers home with you after church or take them to one of our sick, shut-ins or bereaved

OR

- you can leave the flowers and if no one is signed up for the following Sunday, the flowers will be put in the cooler and may be used again if they are still fresh

- contact Blanca to let her know how you want the flowers listed in the bulletin

Thanks so much for considering this. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Shalom,
Linda Stamm

Getting to Know Us! Edith Davison



I am a nine-year member of First Baptist. I am a former Methodist, wife of retired American Baptist pastor, Jim Davison, and sister-in-law of Beverly and the late Andy Davison.

At age 81, Jim and I made a final move from our retirement life in Utica, NY, (where we were volunteers helping to resettle 500 Karen Baptist refugees from Burma), to Madison to be near our oldest daughter, Laura Kolden, and husband Greg and their family. Joining FBC was a natural choice, since Laura's family, and Jim's brother, were active here. You welcomed us warmly. We have two other daughters, in Boston and in Evanston, Il, and a son in Indianapolis, each with two children.

Travel is one of my interests. Many family moves as a child made it easy, after marriage, to move from my home in Tennessee six times back and forth between parishes in the north-east and mid-west. Our love of travel has led Jim and me eventually to 50 states and 56 countries.

Music has also been a life-long interest (vocal, piano, organ, and hand bells), even teaching piano. I miss singing in the choir, but delight in the musical offerings that are available to us here.

My family were active Methodists and I grew up deeply involved in church life. One of my life goals was to become a missionary. After college (where friend Bev Corbett introduced me to her fiancé Andy's brother, Jim Davison). I spent three years in the Philippines. I worked in a Methodist neighborhood center in a slum area of Manila and did youth ministry in rural churches.

Upon my return, before marrying Jim, I spent a year at Drew Seminary, earning a Master's Degree in Christian Education. After marriage, I wrote youth program materials for American Baptist publications, and worked part-time as

Christian Education staff person for ABC New York, and, later, Detroit, Michigan. Now, as part of our church's DECO(ration) Team, I supervise the seasonal changes of our banners and paintings, and write Visitor articles interpreting them.

Now, at 90, Jim and I cherish our apartment adjacent to the Oakwood Nature Preserve, and find joy in the loving, supportive friends we found at First Baptist!

ADVENT IS HERE — If you did not look at the calendar, but looked at the walls of the Gathering Space and the lower lobby at First Baptist, you would still know that it is early December and the church season of ADVENT. The word "Advent" means to "start" or to "come", and in the Christian calendar, denotes the four weeks before we celebration the "coming" of our Lord into historical time. For hundreds of years Christians have celebrated this season with special decorations, music and worship events.



In the lower lobby are two pictures by He Qi, a Chinese artist who became a Christian when he compared the story of Jesus with the communist leaders of his county.

In the Gathering Place are two traditional-style paintings from different eras, one, a night scene of the three wise men on their camels (2014) by Douglas Ramsey, and the other a 1519 manger scene by Federico Barocci.



The Deco Team hopes these masterpieces can help us all anticipate Advent --- the "Coming".

Paintings by Doug E. L. Haynes
Life is not always Easy



Life is not always Fair

Reception: Friday, Dec. 7, 6-9 pm
East High School Art Gallery
All of the work is available for purchase. For more information, contact Doug E. L. Haynes at 812-426-1111 or doug@haynesart.com.

Life is Not Always Easy (Fair) Doug

Haynes is exhibiting art in the Ray Edwards Gallery of East High School until Dec. 20. The show can be viewed 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. on days when school is in session or by appointment.

There is an artist's reception from 6 - 9 p.m., Friday, December 7 in the gallery.



Don't Forget to Order Your Christmas Poinsettias!!!

Fill the Chancel with poinsettias for our services on December 23 and 24, 2018. The order form is included (and is also in the Gathering Space) and the cost is \$9.00. **Orders must be received by Noon on Monday, December 17**

If you have any questions, please contact Blanca at 233-1880 or Linda at 608-884-3708. Feel free to take the plant home after the last service you attend or leave it to continue to decorate the Chancel. Cash or Check \$9.00 each. Make checks payable to First Baptist Church



Can you help prepare and serve Homeless Shelter Meals in 2019?

As you may or may not know, FBC has partnered with Porchlight since 1986. Lynette Miller initiated the connection; and we have carried on this tradition ever since and plan to do so again in 2019. Many of our congregation members believe very strongly about FBC continuing to keep doing this. However, many of our members have had to retire from taking on this responsibility, for various reasons. It is one of our major missions. We are in the process of finding individuals to help with this responsibility.

WE NEED YOU!

Some of our members are taking three to four months a year to fill in. There are recipes available and when you save receipts, FBC will reimburse you for the groceries you purchase.

Often, when you say, "I want to help." your family becomes excited from listening to you talk about it; and they too, want to help! It's a great mission outing for growing and grown children and grandchildren too!

There are also church volunteers that help make desserts and bring them on the night you cook. They also make salads and purchase milk, bread, and salad dressing, too. Just let them know if you

need brownies, cookies, cake or something else and you will receive it. The entire church loves to get involved, one way or another. Many just show up that night to lend a helping hand!

Here's a quote from Porchlight:

"In addition to providing housing and case management, Porchlight fulfills its mission to decrease homelessness by operating specialized programs to meet the needs of the homeless population in Dane County. The Men's Drop-In shelter is the only emergency night-time shelter for homeless men in the Madison area. Shelter guests are provided with meals, showers, laundry and outreach services. The shelter serves around 80 men nightly in the summer and expects to serve 160-190 men every night during the colder months. When demand is higher, Porchlight accesses overflow shelters at three locations: Grace Episcopal Church, St John's Lutheran Church, and First United Methodist Church. In 2017 the Drop-In Shelter provided 32,659 nights of emergency shelter to 1,153 men who were experiencing homelessness.

How it works.

The kitchen at First Baptist has the third Thursday of every month "reserved" for cooking the shelter meals. Large pots and casserole pans are all available for use. There is a three-ring notebook in the men's shelter cabinet in the kitchen where the recipes are, plus the large pans for casseroles and some spices. Check it all out when you look up your recipe! Any items stored in the refrigerator must be marked for "Men's shelter."

To sign up for a month in 2019 or for more information, please call Sheila Donald, Men's Shelter Coordinator, at (608) 256-9287.

2019 Men's Homeless Shelter Meals Schedule

January 17	July 18
February 21	August 15
March 21	September 19
April 18	October 17
May 16	November 21
June 20	December 19

We certainly appreciate your help!

– Sheila Donald



Notes from the Board of Trustees

Members of the board have been discussing the **deficit** in the church's operating account. At the time of our November 27 meeting, the deficit was about 43 thousand dollars. We would like to remind members and friends of the church to **make certain that pledges are up to date by the end of December.**

The personnel committee is working with staff to make certain that evaluations are completed. Pastor Mark's exit interview was completed.

Most of the lighting in the church sanctuary is now energy efficient, with LED lamps. We still have to replace the eight lamps in the ceiling above the chancel. The special LED lamps for these fixtures cost \$80 each and we don't currently have funds to cover this cost. We adjusted the "occupied" setting for heat in the sanctuary to 71 degrees (up from 69 degrees) and the feedback we have received has been positive.

The church gardens are all now cleaned up for the winter. **Thanks to our crew of volunteer gardeners.**

– Paul Chotlos for the Board of Trustees



Third Tuesday Lunch will meet at noon on **Tuesday, December 18 in Fellowship Hall.** **Diane Adams** will lead us as

we learn about the importance of carols in the celebration of Christmas through the ages. Due, in part, to the background music found in restaurants, shopping malls, and public spaces around the Christmas holidays, almost everyone in the U.S. hears and can recognize familiar carols. From jazzy blues renditions of "Silent Night" to an off-key singer regaling us with "O Little Town of Bethlehem", it's hard to miss Christmas carols, even if one doesn't go to church!

But, we do go to church! We'll sing or listen to some of the oldest carols, such as "Good King Wenceslas," some carols popularized by Martin Luther during the Reformation, and a few contemporary carols, such as "Mary's Boy Child" in calypso style. Be prepared to learn

about carols from various countries and eras, and to experience again our tradition of singing carols during Advent. Interspersed with carols we will hear the poetic words of Howard Thurman, the renowned African American Baptist preacher, theologian, and poet. Because Howard Thurman had a special relationship with several of our church families, Jim Davison will share their stories and read a few of Thurman's poems from his book, *The Mood of Christmas*. Another book of poems that celebrates Advent and Christmas is by Ann Weems, *Kneeling in Bethlehem*. Beverly Davison will read a few of her poems.

The meal, served at noon, will be a potluck with the main dish provided. Please bring a dish to share. Reservations may be made by signing the pew pads or by calling the church office, 233-1880. Everyone is invited to share a delicious meal followed by the program at 1 pm. Come to sing and rejoice together.



Mystery: Can You Solve It? Missing: The Book of Remembrance

The **Book of Remembrance**, which lists the memorial gifts given to First Baptist Church, usually to beautify the building, enhance worship, or add to our educational life, especially that of our children, **is missing**. It was kept in the glass-covered stand in the narthex. We think that sometime after we finished our church remodeling and the narthex became a spiritual life center, the book was moved. It may even have been moved before that. We have made inquiries of staff and others without success.

Will you be a detective?

Search the rooms you may use regularly to see if you can find it. Search your memories if you recall why it was moved and where its new home is. The **Book of Remembrance** is important not only to the history of our church but it represents our commitments made to those who gave these gifts that we would remember them.

Share your clues with our church historian, Barbara Eggleston at 244-7656 or Blanca James in our church office at 233-1880.

Reminders



2018 Christmas Offering

The two organizations serving our community that will receive your 2018 Christmas offering are:

The Playing Field



The Playing Field
the start every child deserves

Abbi Kruse,
Executive Director, presented

during Sunday, December 2nd's worship service. **The Playing Field** is an early childhood center committed to providing a quality early childhood learning experience for the children of low income parents as well as those from more affluent families. "The first five years create the foundation from which a child will operate throughout their lifetime." This is the statement that catches your eye when you pick up **The Playing Field's** pamphlet.

<https://playingfieldmadison.org>

Community Immigration Law Center



Grant Sovern, Board President,

Community Immigration Law Center (CILC), will have a brief presentation on CILC during the worship service on Sunday, December 16th. CILC provides pro bono legal assistance to low-income immigrants detained at two Wisconsin locations. With the help of volunteers from the community, CILC also provides information and referrals to any immigrant needing assistance with immigration-related issues at a free walk-in clinic held twice each month. CILC's offices are at Christ Presbyterian Church.

Mail your donation to FBC or bring it to worship service and drop it in the donation plate during December. Thank you for contributing to these organizations during this Advent season.



Thank you for your support of First Baptist!

2018 Pledges: December is fast approaching. Please send in your pledged donation to the office or bring it to church to receive 2018 tax credit.

2019 Pledges: Bring your pledge card (yellow) to the office or drop it in the collection basket. Cards are in the Gathering Space kiosk. First Baptist Church



REGISTER NOW!

Austin Channing Brown

Saturday, March 9, 2019 - 9:30 AM
First Baptist Church, Madison

Our next guest speaker for the **Doris Weidemann Memorial Peace Fund** is coming! Her name is **Austin Channing Brown** and she is a widely praised voice on issues of race, faith and culture. She is a leading new voice on racial justice, and the author of the compelling autobiographical book, **I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness**. Austin is committed to exploring the intersections of racial justice, faith and black womanhood. Her talks are one of a kind, infused with justice, pop culture, humor, and truth-telling."

Registration for Austin Channing Brown is now open! Go to:

<https://austinchanningbrowninmadison.eventbrite.com> (or search Austin Channing Brown in Madison) Use promo code: FBCFriend

I hope you'll come (and register soon so I know you're coming!) Feel free to contact the church office, (608) 233-1880, if you need help registering. – *Pastor Jason*

New Volunteer Orientation in

December Agrace Hospice & Palliative

Care is seeking local volunteers. You can meet amazing people and brighten the lives of people with serious illnesses by volunteering.

Orientation for new volunteers is scheduled for Tuesday, December 11, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Agrace's Madison campus. Before prospective volunteers attend orientation, they must complete an application and interview about their skills and interests. Call (608) 327-7163 with questions, or to register for orientation.

Longest Night of the Year



Remembrance for Those Who Died Without Housing

For the 10th year, MUM and our partners will be holding the **Longest Night Homeless Persons' Memorial Service**. We will remember and honor people who died without shelter in Dane County and elsewhere this year. The event will begin at 3:00 p.m. on the Capitol Square at the intersection of East Main/South Pinckney and King Streets.

If you would like to donate warm hats, gloves, socks and long underwear for distribution through the Beacon they may be dropped off at First United Methodist Church the day of the service, Friday December 21st. Thank you.

– Linda Ketcham, Executive Director

Birthdays

December

2 Tyler Heggstad
4 Kyle Arneson
4 Bernie Long
7 Sue Lutter
8 Kathryn Ray
10 Jacki Barnes
11 Linda Conohan
11 James Mulder
13 Rainge Dockter
15 Ryan Blythe
15 Beverly Davison
15 Jeff Miller
17 Anna Chotlos
18 Christopher Hill
18 Linda Stamm
21 Jamie Kolden
22 Julie Blankenburg
23 Laurel Finn
24 Marcia Frazier
24 Geneva Moore
27 Robb Lee
28 Kacia Ferguson
28 Willa Vy McAbee
29 Amira Castillo
30 Lydia Haynes
30 Dianne Hopkins
30 Carl Siddell
31 Joyce Laugen
31 Troy Zimmerman

January

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
9 Tim Ziegler
14 Bobby Day
14 James Wm Evans
17 Phyllis Reisdorf
18 Doris Fuelle
19 Matt Miller
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
31 Sagan Pizzingrilli

Prayer Concerns

Church Family: James Evans; Jeanette Kersten's father; Paul Husting's friend, David Baer; Linda Stamm's sister, Karen Coleman; Bill Hausler; Rev. William Metzger; Lance Dockter; Jason Mack's father, Darrell Mack; Harley Young; the Lutter family; Phil Daub; Cheryl Castillo; Andy Pike and his parents, Jim and Susan; Sheila Donald and her family; and Kathryn Hill and her family

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

Others: Those whose names and needs are unspoken.

Holiday Schedule

Sunday, December 16 – the Third Sunday of Advent
10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time; 11:00 a.m. Worship Service in the Sanctuary

Sunday, December 23 – the Fourth Sunday of Advent
10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time; 11:00 a.m. Worship Service in the Sanctuary

Monday, December 24 – Office Closed During the Day – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 25 – Christmas Day – Office Closed

Sunday, December 30 – 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time; 11:00 a.m. Worship Service in the Sanctuary

Monday, December 31 – New Year's Eve – Office Closed / 5:30 Annual Bunch Tubesteak Roast

Tuesday, January 1 – New Year's Day – Office Closed

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

10:30 am Fellowship Time, Gathering Space

11:00 am Worship Service, Sanctuary

Next Publication: Week of 12/17/18 – Articles for *The Visitor* must be submitted by Monday, 12/17 – 9:00 am

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME VALUE:

DATED MATERIAL - MAILED - 12/6/18