

The Visitor

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

No. 15 August 14, 2020 Vol. 63

Letter from the Transitional Minister

Grace to you and peace from God and the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 1:7b)

I give thanks to God for much today, first, for my **vacation** last week with my wife Joy, who drove from Maryland to be with me. We had not seen each other since Thanksgiving (although we have been video-chatting almost daily)! We visited various sites in Wisconsin and Minnesota: the U-W Arboretum, Grandad Bluff, Hixon Forest, the Mississippi River, and Great River Bluffs. I enjoyed with Joy the beauty of the Upper Midwest!

I give thanks also for the lives of two people at whose **funerals** I presided recently: Diana Long and Chris Hegley. Diana and Bernie were married at FBC over 54 years ago! Chris was raised at the church, and her brother Jim was ordained here. (He is now retired in New York state.)

Furthermore, I give thanks for the opportunity to proclaim God's Word to you each Sunday. I continue **preaching** on the Gospel lectionary texts from Matthew. Here is the schedule:

August 16, Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost: "A woman matches wits with Jesus" (Matt 15:21-28).

August 23, Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost: "Jesus and Peter call one another names" (Matt 16:13-20)

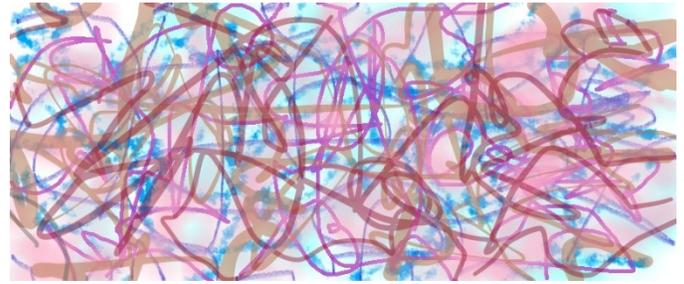
August 30, Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost: "Jesus and Peter continue to call one another names" (Matt 16:21-28)

Finally, I give thanks to God through Jesus Christ for all of you (Rom 1:8a). What do you give thanks for? Let me know (michael@firstbaptistmadison.org).

See you online!

Peace to you,

Pastor Michael Newheart



You are Beloved by Michael Newheart – Meditation on Genesis 22:1-14

ATTENDANCE NUMBERS

July 2020 / August 2020

Date	Worship #
07/05/20	60 (Online)*
7/12/20	59 (Online)*
7/19/20	59 (Online)*
7/26/20	62 (Online)*
8/02/20	62 (Online)*
8/9/20	59 (Online)*

*Online numbers represent the number of devices / households joining in Zoom/FB not the actual number of individuals.

FBC BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Summary of the CHURCH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL.

The members of the Church Council, Victor Crentsil (moderator), Paul Chotlos (vice moderator), Carla Eakins (church secretary), Carolyn Cross (Board of Christian Education), Wynn Davies (Board of Christian Outreach), Mary Fiore (Board of Deacons), and Bill Fiore (Board of Trustees) held our first meeting of the church year on July 29 at 7 PM.

We discussed how church council meetings will be run in the future, some long-range planning for the year, plans related to welcoming a new pastor, assembling a coronavirus task force to advise us and others on gathering safely, and more.

We will continue to meet every 4th Wednesday of the month (currently via Zoom). If you wish to present something to the council, please let the moderator know before the 4th Monday of the month, so we can determine how to include you on the agenda.

- Victor Crentsil, Church Leadership Council

From the **BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMITTEES**

Finance – Pledge giving during this time of virtual worship (and meetings!) has been strong and - on a pro-rated basis – ahead of schedule for the year. THANK YOU!

Building and Grounds – We have a new phone and internet system (AT&T). Phone numbers are the same. Some plumbing and AC work has been done. Also, while the building has been closed, we have worked out an agreement with one of our renters – The Missionary Church – to hold outdoor worship using the parking lot.

Personnel – Dr. Chris Boveroux has given notice that he has a full-time job, gained after moving to Indiana. His last day as Music Director will be August 31. The Trustees Personnel Committee is creating an interim music leader job description and will be announcing that leader soon.

- Bill Hausler, Board of Trustees Co-Chair

Updated Pastoral Personnel Policy.

The **PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE (PRC)** has updated the personnel policy for the pastor. The main changes are an update of the policy manual for a one-pastor church, with relatively minor changes to sick leave, family leave, and sabbatical leave policy and health insurance.

A copy of the revised personnel policy has been posted in the archives section of the church website. The policy is also available from the church office for anyone who wishes to review it.

- Gil Emmert, PRC Chair

The **BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** has met and are trying to ensure that all classes are able to meet on Zoom. Susan Donahoe and Paul Chotlos have agreed to continue to teach.

Two adult classes will continue to meet: the Hourglass Bible Study group led by Mary Ray and a series of discussions on Racial Justice led by the FBC-Madison Racial Justice team.

The board is also looking into doing Sunday school differently and hoping to have input from the new pastor.

- Carolyn Cross, Board of Christian Ed Chair

Update from the **BOARD OF DEACONS.**

The Board of Deacons will soon add an addendum to the newly adopted Communion Fund Policy, listing resources that the pastor and deacon Chair can consider for referrals as well as a short listing for applicants to access on their own. We are reviewing the membership role for the purpose of forming small “shepherd” groups which will allow Deacons to provide monthly “check-ins” for our more isolated and vulnerable members and continuing to offer support for members with ongoing needs.

In light of the current racial justice studies within our church and an increasing awareness of our role in addressing this issue, we are planning to discuss and make suggestions for making our church/services more diverse and welcoming to the minority populations in our community.

- Mary Fiore, Board of Deacons Chair

REPORT FROM NANCY MOORE

The budget year-to-date surplus is \$54,169.72. We are 58.33% through the year, and the budgeted income is at 73.64% of the annual amount, and the expenses only 57.47%. The only item that went over its budgeted amount this month was the Income Tax on Parking Lot Income. This was the first time we actually paid any amount (previous years were offset by credits for putting in the elevator), so we now have a better idea as to how much to budget in the future. 2021 will probably be less, as we have had less parking income due to the pandemic.

From the Designated Fund \$32,200 was paid from the Chinese Orphan Fund to Amity because there was a good exchange rate.

Please let me know if you have any questions, or if you know of someone who should be added to the distribution list.

- Nancy Moore, FBC's Bookkeeper

FBC-MADISON RACIAL JUSTICE

The Racial Justice Team (RJT) has been meeting for several weeks, implementing a long-range plan for racial awareness within our church. The team has created a study plan (in progress) which implements a combination of films, readings, small

group discussions and local speakers, all which are creating a rich experience of new knowledge, questions, self-examination and reflection.

Ultimately, it is the hope of the RJT to provide a means to look deep into the history and causes of systemic racism and White privilege, with the goal of implementing a new self-awareness and openness to examining how we might implement solutions, both personally and as a church family.

More information can be found on the church website and all are invited and encouraged to join in this experience, Sunday mornings at 9 am.

- Mary Fiore for FBC-Madison Racial Justice Team

CHINESE ORPHANS PROJECT UPDATE

The 2019 -20 school year was an unusual one for all our orphans, as it was here. Our college and high school students had returned to their home villages for celebration of the Chinese New Year before the news of the virus broke. So, all of our orphans were in their small and remote rural villages with their grandparents, away from crowds, shopping malls, and other places where large groups might gather. When China locked down, they stayed in their homes, going out only to get food. The Chinese are accustomed to wearing masks due to the air pollution, so everyone wore them without complaint. Little if any COVID reached into their remote areas.

Amity Foundation, the Chinese charity we work through, has told us that, as far as they can determine, all our students and their guardians are healthy and did not contract the virus. That is GOOD NEWS! Our college students were able to continue their 2nd semester studies at home online with the computers we provided them when they started college. The other children did not have that opportunity during the lockdown since they have had no access to computers or the Internet. We know that all our children finished the first semester last year before the virus lockdown, and we think that all finished the 2nd semester with at least a few weeks of in-person classes at the end of the school year. Thus, they all needed and used the funds we gave them last year for their school expenses, test fees, books, pencils, notebooks, proper summer and winter clothing, transportation to school, and a healthy diet. However, during the lockdown, they

missed several months of instruction that the urban children, who generally have access to computers and online learning, had. For that reason, we may see some of our children repeating grades. That is particularly true for those who were hoping to go on to high school or college this fall but may not have passed the competitive entrance exam because they missed several months of virtual exam preparation that the urban students had. The intent is for all schools in China to open in-person this fall. We are expecting all our 107 children, ranging from 2nd grade to college, to be in school for 2020-21. Of course, all of this depends on the virus and any outbreaks that may occur. With all the changes and challenges our students have experienced, we may see some dropouts this year.

The Chinese schools generally start in the fall. However, much in China has been delayed due to the virus, so we are not certain when the various schools will start. It will be awhile before we have all the school information on each of our children this year and get that information back to you. This is our 15th year, and the first when none of us will be able to visit the children and bring back photos and information. China is not allowing any US citizens into China now – our 10-year visas have been temporarily canceled, as have plane flights from the US to China. So, neither Judy Sutterlin nor Bob and I will be able to visit the children, which is always so much fun and the best and fastest way for us to get updated information on each child. In addition, Amity has told us that, due to the Chinese in-country travel restrictions, they also will be unable to visit the children this summer. However, Amity's partners in the village areas will be checking on each child and getting information to Amity and us. But that will take time since their offices and schools were closed for several months putting them behind in collecting the children's grade reports to us and determining where the children are in school this fall.

We celebrate with two of our college students who graduated this summer. There are now 12 of our students who have graduated from college, after many years of our support. They now have jobs such as two who are professional engineers, a preschool teacher, a jade carver, one who started his own computer business, a couple of accountants, and some who work for large manufacturing businesses. We are hoping that 12 of our current students will be in college this fall.

On a very uplifting note, I recently had a WeChat message from one of our first college graduates who works for a large company that manufactures water purifiers – something much needed in China. He told me with great delight that he had just married his college sweetheart. I asked him what he might want me to say to my friends at First Baptist and those who have helped him and so many others get a good education. Here is what he said to me, all written in his own English words:

I am Dong, an orphan who has now graduated from college and had a professional job for 5 years with the help of dear Grandma Linda and Grandpa Bob [which is what he calls me and my husband]. I really enjoy my relationship with them because they have taken care of me in life and work, not seeking anything in return.

To be an orphan is unlucky, and my life was really hard. I had no income to make a living or to get an education. At that time, it seemed that God had closed the door for me, even though I was only 12 years old. There is little chance for the children in poor villages to change their destiny.

At the same time, I think I am now lucky because I had the chance to meet them. This is very important. If I had not met them, I would not have the life I have today, and I would continue to suffer as I had before. So, I want to say thank you, thank you to everyone! You may think it is trivial, but to me it's vital.

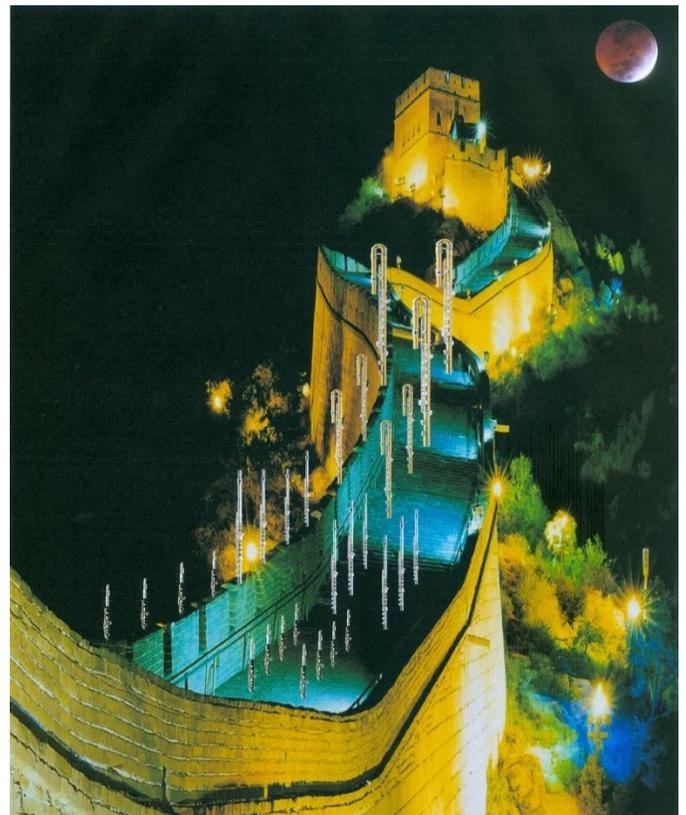
Now with the virus spreading all over the world, people are making great sacrifices, losing jobs and even their lives. But still, you continue to help people in a far-off country, even in such difficult times. You are the hope of children in pain. You are their chance to have a brighter future, and they will appreciate what you have done for them. Just as the butterfly effect, I am changed by what you have done for me many years ago during my hard time. So, thank you all for the help and the love you gave me! I sure am lucky. I hope I can be a person just like you to spread unselfish love. Thank you very much!

Very moving words! It tells you, First Baptist Church, how much your funds and work on the Chinese Orphans Project have meant for the now hundreds of children you have sponsored and enabled to get an education. THANK YOU!

For 15 years, our big fund raiser has been an annual spring flute concert. Our concert last spring was cancelled due to COVID-19, and there is question whether we will be able to hold our 2021 concert. It is a challenge for us to honor our commitment to sponsor the children now in our program. Though we will not be taking any new children, we do hope to be able to continue enabling all the 107 we now have to go as far in school as they are able.

Please consider making a donation to the Chinese Orphans Project by sending a check to the church or by paying through the church website, <http://firstbaptistmadison.org/>. You might consider sponsoring one of our several children who needs a sponsor at the cost of \$250 a year for grade school; \$500/yr for high school; and \$980/yr for college. Contact me at Lmintener@aol.com or 608/231-1680 if you are interested in becoming a sponsor. **Where else can you change a child's destiny for such small amounts?**

- Linda Mintener



REMEMBERING OUR FRIENDS



Diana C. Hillebrand Long, age 80, died on Sunday, July 26, 2020, at Agrace Hospice Care in Fitchburg. She was surrounded by her loving family and friends during her last days. Diana was born Nov. 8, 1939, in Cross Plains, Wis., the daughter of Jerome and Cora Dresen

Hillebrand. Diana's name was inspired by the front cover of LIFE magazine. Diana Barrymore was smiling from that cover and the name fit this beautiful new little girl. Diana grew up on Main Street in Cross Plains. She started first grade in the fall of 1945 in the public school because the Catholic School would not let her start before she turned age six. The following year, fall 1946, she switched to the Catholic School but had to do the first year over again because they would not accept the year in public school. She continued in Catholic School for all eight grades and walked the one and one-half miles to school from Main Street. The years at Saint Francis Xavier School were pleasant with no dramatic happenings. Diana graduated from Middleton High School in 1958. She began her working career in May 1958.

Diana's first marriage was to Philip G. Bell on Sept. 26, 1959. They had three children, Sheila, Jeffery and Sherri. They divorced in 1965. Diana was married to Bernard E. Long on July 21, 1966, at the First Baptist Church in Madison. The Rev. Andy Davison officiated in the private ceremony. Bernie's longtime friend, Ed Phillips, and Diana's social worker, Linda Hisgen, were the witnesses. Bernie adopted Diana's three children. Diana and Bernie had one child, Timothy "Tim" Long. Diana is survived by three of her children, Sheila (friend Paul White), Jeffery and Timothy (Paula) and their two sons, Devin and Connor; Bernie's two sons, Jay Medrano (Andrea), Hilo, Hawaii, and Ben Medrano (Jessica), Fresno, Calif. Diana is also survived by a sister, Judy Sveum (Kenneth, deceased), Waunakee, Kenneth Hillebrand (Janice), Cross Plains and Rev. Randall Hillebrand (Annette), Kiev, Ukraine; four grandchildren, Nicolas "Nick" Retana (Margaret "Maggie" Johnson), Madison, Sarah Buhler (Justin Perinovic), Savage, Minn., Devin and Connor Long, Mt Horeb; and step-granddaughters, Chloe Medrano, Hilo, Hawaii, and Hannah, Allison and

Natalie Medrano, Fresno, Calif.; and three great-grandchildren, Isabel, Rowan and Jack Retana. Diana was preceded in death by a daughter, Sherri Buhler, on Nov. 9, 1998; her parents; and two brothers, Ronald on Jan. 22, 1948, and James "Jim" (Verna) on May 28, 2019.

Diana, along with husband, Bernie, found activities that brought joy, contentment and happiness to life. Many dear, loving and supportive friendships and much learning and personal growth came from fifty years of membership with First Baptist Church. Years of fun, and family togetherness resulted from 15 years of camping and travel with a pop-up camper. In 1980 Diana and Bernie found another way to meet people. The Friendship Force provided a way to travel and make friends around the world. The goal was, "A World of Friends is a World of Peace." Diana and Bernie traveled on 15 International trips and hosted an equal number of times. Fifteen domestic visits (within the U.S.A.) and equal number of hosting visits occurred after 9-11 when visas were difficult to obtain.

Diana's passing is sad, but her life was a joy to her husband, Bernie, and to her family and many friends. Her life has made a difference with her family and with people around the world. We say thank you to the staff at the BeeHive memory care in Mount Horeb and to the staff at Agrace Hospice in Fitchburg for their gentle and loving care.

A very small, private service was held Friday, July 31, 2020, at the Winn-Cress Funeral Home in Waunakee. Burial was at the Oaklawn Cemetery, LaValle, Wis.



Chrysentia (Chris) Jane Hegley passed away July 31, 2020 at Agrace Hospice Center in Fitchburg WI after a several year battle with cancer at age 78. Chris was born on September 27, 1941 in St. Mary's Hospital Madison, Wisconsin to Albert and Lenora (Skellenger)

Hegley. She graduated from Wisconsin High School on the University of Wisconsin campus in 1959. She went on to study for a year and half at University of Wisconsin Madison.

Chris was a mainframe computer programmer in Madison, WI first at Bancroft Dairy, later at Repka & Associates and concluded her career with the Mautz Paint Company. Her most satisfying moments in work was identifying and solving program glitches. Over her life she lived in Montgomery, AL during the height of the Civil Rights movement, Madison, WI for the majority of her life and Fairport, NY for a decade before moving home to Madison for her final years.

Chris had a warm smile and loving personality. She was generous in her care and support of others, both family members and friends. Chris was an accomplished baker and gifted knitter. She loved to host parties and holiday gatherings for family and friends. During her life, she enjoyed swimming, was an avid reader, and loyal Green Bay Packers' fan. She enjoyed making trips to Milwaukee with her son, David, to attend baseball games. She was a long-time season ticket holder and avid fan of Wisconsin Badger football, basketball, and hockey sharing her love of sports with her son David. But her son David, was her greatest love in life, with her two granddaughters Madeline and Ingrid who were a "very close" second!

Chris was greatly loved and appreciated by so many over the years and steady kindness and listening ear provided much needed support for many, especially her friend Kathleen. Likewise, Kathleen was always with Chris and devoted to her to the very end. David was ever present, providing loving care for his mother as she moved through those difficult final weeks before concluding her journey on this earth.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Lenora Alfreda Hegley (Skellenger), and Albert Theodore Hegley, and her brother, Theodore Stephen Hegley. Chris also was preceded in death by her dear friend, Joyce Thormoseth. She is survived by her son, David (Kristin) and their daughters Ingrid and Madeline, of Columbus, Ohio; her brother, James (Debra), and their daughter, Katherine, of Pittsford, New York; nephew, Douglas (Monika) and children, Maxwell, Paavo, and Soren, of Edina, Minnesota; nieces, Jennifer Goolsby (Patrick) and children, Moriah, PJ, and Thomas, of Los Angeles, California; Kristin Penegor (Duane) and children, Riley and Kai, of Madison, Wisconsin; Karin Stake (Sean), and children, Nora and Jackson, of

Stoughton, Wisconsin; her brother Ted's wife, Sarah, also of Stoughton, and numerous other relatives and friends, particularly those from Sherman Glen but especially her life-long best friend, Kathleen Hoover.

A small memorial service was held August 7, 2020 at the Roselawn Memorial Park Chapel in Monona.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Church Family: Jeanette Kersten's father, Paul Husting's friends David and James, Sally, Del, and Lance Dockter, Jill Thomas' sister Carol, Sheila Donald, Jacki Barnes' daughter-in-law, Jane, Katy Marty's mother, Pam Mack's cousin, Michelle Gotwald, Palmer Haynes, Brenda Lempp's niece, Savannah, Bernie Long and family, the Hegley family, Susan Lutter

Our Shut-ins: Pat and Harley Young, Linda Olson, Ruth Parfrey, Martha Fuguitt, Atlee Wilson

Others: Those whose names and needs are unspoken.

BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST

2 Paul Brynelson
 3 Art Hebblewhite
 6 Blanca James
 8 Bea Dewey
 10 William Hurst
 12 Thomas Gunshor
 15 Luis Castillo
 17 Carol Ferge
 17 Rachel Hebblewhite
 18 Gwen Abramson
 22 Phil Daub
 22 Nancy Emmert
 25 Chad Vlasak
 27 Adan Lara
 27 Byron Parfrey
 28 Maddie Frazier
 31 Carys Abramson

SEPTEMBER

5 Alan Ferguson
 6 Christopher Evans
 7 Nikki Borchardt
 8 Palmer Haynes
 8 Ann Miller
 8 Pihra Pizzingrilli
 9 Cheryl Castillo
 9 Jeff Kersten
 14 Judy Craig
 14 Tyler Mack
 16 Claire Rider
 24 Jeanette Kersten
 25 Bob Martens
 25 Rhiannon Tibbetts
 27 Moira Kersten
 29 Ginger Henderson
 29 Linda Mintener
 30 Sara Strain

PROVIDE YOUR NEWS...

If you would like to publish news, events, or updates in *The Visitor*, please email (fboffice@firstbaptistmadison.org) or mail your article by Tuesday, August 25, noon.



ALL ARE WELCOME!

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