

*April 2011*  
*Volume 57, No. 4*

# *The Spire*

*First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa*

## Pastor's Word

A good group of members and friends gathered recently on a Saturday morning to think about our life and ministry together as a church and work on plans for the future. It was both a fun and productive morning.

One of the first things we did was to each share something we had particularly enjoyed or found meaningful at church in the past year. There were many enthusiastic responses, and then we took time to further brainstorm reasons we had for celebration as a church. We came up with a good list and certainly could have mentioned many other things. What about you? What do you enjoy find meaningful or especially appreciate about our church? The list we came up with is [posted on our website](#) (and on the bulletin board for those not online.) It is good to share what is good and positive and uplifting, and we don't do this often enough.

We were also asked to share things we would like to see happen in our congregation, with a focus on specific ideas. (These are also posted.) We categorized responses into four areas, and then divided into those four groups: Worship/Education, Fellowship/Caring, Facilities/Administration, and Mission/Outreach. Each of these groups chose the "best" (or easiest to implement) idea in their area, refined and reworked the idea as needed, and made preliminary plans to carry it out.

One of the ideas was to have one Sunday a month where after Church School everyone who would like to go meets at a restaurant for lunch. It is very informal and we may sometimes overrun the place, but we have started doing this on the third Sunday of each month (we'll go to Panera Bread this month.) Another idea is name tags to wear during worship. This will make it easier for newcomers to put together names and faces, and easier for longtime members to connect with newcomers. A group is working on logistics for this. Other projects include taking inventory and updating the kitchen, and an Adopt-A-Student program where families in the church ("family" includes single people, couples, and folks with children) would be paired with students and have them over for a meal, provide a place to get away from campus from time to time, etc. and generally be caring and supportive friends – kind of a "home away from home."

The list of ideas will serve as "grist for the mill" for our board and committees and staff. Thank you to all who participated in our Planning Retreat. And in case you were wondering: no, you don't have to wait until we have a planning meeting to share good ideas!

Blessings,  
Dave

### ***Individual Highlights:***

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### *The Spire*

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except July & August  
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## Worship Leaders for April

### April 3

Worship Leader:

Wayne Shireman

Ushers:

Bob Parrish\*

Wallace Sanders

Marian/Jan Thompson

Ngaire West-Johnson

### April 10

Worship Leader:

Kevin Peters

Ushers:

Howard Johnson\*

Pat Johnson

Becca Whitaker

Andrew Perrine

### April 17

Worship Leader:

Andrew Perrine

Ushers:

Bob McCarley\*

Dianne Borgen

Tom Logue

Jerilyn Logue

### April 24

Worship Leader:

Susan Russell

Ushers:

Martha Gleason\*

Beth Douglass/

Rosemarie Starrett

Scott Anderson

Jere Maddux

### Flowers for April:

Jenna McCarley

Zoe Russell	2
Lorene Hoover	5
Becca Whitaker	7
Regan Smith	9
Elijah Phomvisay	20
Pollie Malone	21
Neil Logue	22
Jessica Amaya	26
Alissa Parrish	26

Fred and Dianne Borgen	4
Kent and Ngaire West-Johnson	29



## Volunteer Opportunities

The Heartland Senior Center at 205 S. Walnut in Ames will host a Bingo Fundraiser on Friday, April 8 at 7pm to support the **Volunteer Center of Story County**. Cards are \$1 and there are many fabulous prizes!

Applications are still being accepted for the position of Volunteer Supervisor with the **Service Patch Community Garden**, an organization facilitated by the Volunteer Center of Story County. This position offers minimal flexible hours, a chance to serve the community, gain experience managing volunteers, gain knowledge of gardening and food production, work with community resources such as food pantries and shelters, and connect with a diverse group of people. This would be a great leadership opportunity for students or anyone age 18 or older. Details and applications can be found on the bulletin board just outside Pastor Susan's office.

**Sabrina Jurrens** is a junior at Iowa State. Estherville is home for her and this is her first year at ISU. She received AA and AS degrees last spring from Iowa Lakes College in Estherville. She is an Animal Science/pre-veterinary major and would like to attend vet school here at ISU.

Sabrina has an older brother and sister – she is the youngest by 13 years. She works at Fareway downtown (and worked at Fareway back in Estherville.) This summer she will do an internship at a veterinary clinic in Ft. Dodge. She will stay with her sister in Ft. Dodge during the internship.

Sabrina is a member of Grandview Baptist Church in Estherville. She took part in her church's mission trip to Ecuador a couple of years ago. Sabrina came to First Baptist because we are close to campus and she says that she really likes the friendliness of the people here. She is here most Sunday mornings and is a regular at our Sunday evening Student Suppers. When she is not studying, Sabrina enjoys sports and other activities. She is pictured with her Airedale terrier.

We are delighted to have Sabrina with us at First Baptist. If you haven't met her yet, introduce yourself to her!



**Sabrina Jurrens**



## Holy Week Services

April 17 - Palm Sunday-9:45am  
Worship with Palm Procession

April 21 - Maundy Thursday  
7:00pm Communion Service

April 24 - Easter Sunday  
8:30am Easter Breakfast  
9:45am Worship Celebration

# April 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
<p>3 4 Lent Worship/Communion- 9:45am Church School-11am</p> <p>6pm-Student Supper</p>	4	<p>5 Mens breakfast 8am-Perkins</p> <p>CCJ French Toast Supper 5-7pm</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Music Camp meeting-5:45pm</p> <p>Choir rehearsal- 6:30pm</p>	7	8	9
<p>10 5 Lent Worship-9:45am Fellowship time- 10:45am Church School-11am</p> <p>6pm-Student Supper</p>	11	12	13	14	15	16
-VEISHA WEEK-						
		Trustees-7pm	Choir rehearsal- 6:30pm			
<p>17 Palm Sunday Worship/Procession 9:45am Church School-11am 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Lunch- Panera Bread</p> <p>Prayer Shawl Circle- 2-4pm</p> <p>6pm-Student Supper- eat out (TBA)</p>	18	<p>19 Men's breakfast- 8am-Perkins</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Holy Week</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Choir rehearsal- 6:30pm</p>	<p>21 Maundy Thursday</p> <p>Communion Service-7:00pm</p>	22 Good Friday	23 Holy Saturday
<p>24 Easter Sunday</p> <p>Easter Breakfast-8:30am Worship-9:45am No Church School</p> <p>No Student Supper</p>	25	26	<p>27</p> <p>Choir rehearsal- 6:30pm Deacons-7:35pm</p>	28	29	30

Looking ahead to May...

- May 8 Mother's Day
- May ISU Graduation
- May 29 Ice Cream Social

## News from Dan Buttry

Dan is an ABC missionary who works as a global consultant for peace and justice. He was the speaker for our Fall Renewal Weekend last October. This recent news comes from Dan:

I've written a new book which is due to be released before the end of April. *Blessed Are the Peacemakers* is a collection of 62 mini-bios of peacemakers organized in areas of peace work: prophets/visionaries, martyrs, organizers, theorists, teachers/trainers, mediators, advocates, nonviolent activists and artists... I've had more fun writing this book than any other. Some of these folks are Baptists: Martin Luther King, Jr., Bernard Lafayette, Lucius Walker, Jimmy Carter, Ken Sehested, Carl Upchurch and Wati Aier (who will be given the next Baptist World Alliance's human rights award). I get incredibly inspired reading about these ordinary folks who did extraordinary things in their time and place. I'm hoping they will inspire us to do the extraordinary work for peace in our time and place.

The book will be released sometime in April. It will retail for \$16.95, and we are planning to release it as an e-book for much less. If you want to place an advance order for the print edition at a special discount, send a check made out to "Dan Buttry" for \$15. My mailing address is 2300 Neibel St., Hamtramck, MI 48212. I'll send you a signed copy. This offer is good only through the end of April 2011.

Publishing a book is a lot like having a baby--except I'm sure my wife will swear that my labor pains were nothing like hers!

In peace and hope,  
Dan



## Music Camp 2011 June 13-17, 9:00-11:30am

Our 12<sup>th</sup> annual Music Camp will be June 13-17, from 9-11:30 each morning. Music camp features choir groups, hands-on learning with instruments, crafts, dances, and games, wonderful musical guests, great food, an awesome Campers' Talent Show, and lots of fun! The week ends with a mini-concert performed by the campers. We also hope to have an outdoor concert at the church on one of the evenings of Music Camp week.

The camp is for grades K-6 (completed). Cost is \$20, which includes a T-shirt, and scholarships are available for all who request one. Brochures and registration forms are available at church and may also be accessed [on the church website](#). Registration deadline is June 3 and registering early helps us with the T-shirt order. We have had around 30-50 campers each year and Music Camp is a major undertaking. We always need folks to help out as counselors, craft leaders, kitchen helpers, etc. Please see Mindy or Dave if you would like to help. You can also help by inviting children to attend, spreading the word, and posting fliers around town.



2011



### **Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance, Inc.**

One of the ways our church helps with funding for Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance is by individual participation in fund raising events.

The annual Lucallan's Good Neighbor Fund Raiser will take place on Sunday, April 10, 2011, starting at 5:30 pm. This will occur at Lucallan's downtown. Tickets are \$35.00 and all proceeds go to support Good Neighbor. Jere Maddux has tickets available and you can either call him at home at 292-4272, or he will have them with him at church.

Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance provides emergency rental and utility assistance as well as healthy food vouchers for those in need in Story County.



### **Latest Address:**

Whitaker, Gabriel  
2/34<sup>th</sup> BSTB ETT  
TF Red Bulls  
FOB Gamberi  
APO, AE 09310



### **Touching Lives, Transforming People**

Thank you to all who contributed to the America for Christ offering, which supports American Baptist mission efforts throughout the U.S. and Puerto Rico. Through the month of March we received \$831.99.

[www.abhms.org/GIVE/Serve](http://www.abhms.org/GIVE/Serve)

### **Japan Earthquake/Tsunami Relief**

Ten churches in the Japan Baptist Union, our sister convention, have been completely destroyed, and other churches have suffered damage. And of course the loss of lives as well as destruction and damage caused as a result of the earthquake and tsunami is staggering. American Baptists are providing relief assistance through One Great Hour of Sharing. If you wish to contribute to the relief effort, you may make a check payable to First Baptist with the notation OGHS-Japan.

### **CCJ French Toast Feast**

An All-You-Can-Eat French Toast Feast to support the Center for Creative Justice will be held Tuesday, April 5 from 5-7pm in the Fellowship Hall here at First Baptist Church. The cost is \$5/person with children under 5 free. Tickets are available in advance from Pastor Dave, who is a member of the CCJ Board.

### **Student Suppers**

Thank you to Becca Whitaker and Joyce and Lee Davidson for providing Student Suppers in March. Student Suppers will be at the church as usual on April 3 and 10, we will go out to eat on April 17 (location TBA), and there will be no Student Supper on April 24 (Easter Sunday).

### **Biennial in Puerto Rico**

The American Baptist Churches USA Biennial meeting is set for June 24-26 at the Puerto Rico Convention Center in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The Baptist Convention of Puerto Rico will open its arms to American Baptists everywhere to celebrate our common mission and ministry for Jesus Christ in all the rich diversity that makes the American Baptist Churches unique in the world wide Baptist family.

More information is available on the ABC website at [www.abc-usa.org](http://www.abc-usa.org). Pastors Dave and Susan will be attending, and if you would like to go as a delegate from our church, you may see them for more information.

### **In Sympathy**

Dr. Gustavo Parajon, former ABC missionary who served in Nicaragua, died March 13, 2011 at the age of 75 in Managua, Nicaragua. A celebration of Gustavo's life was held at the First Baptist Church of Managua on March 15. So many wanted to attend that six services were held; one was broadcast on national television in Nicaragua.

He was founding pastor of the First Baptist Church of Managua. While ministering in rural areas, he saw a great need for medical care. He returned to the US and received an MD from Case Western Reserve as well as an MPH from Harvard before returning to Nicaragua to continue not only as pastor of the church but as a groundbreaking medical missionary who brought health care to many previously unserved rural areas.

Dr. Parajon was an integral part of more than 25 mission teams from our region that have visited Nicaragua during the past 12 years. Gustavo Parajon's son David and David's wife Laura spoke at our church a couple of years ago. They are both physicians who serve ABC missionaries in Nicaragua. Next year over spring break we will send a group of students and others to assist the Parajons in their health ministry.

Please remember the Parajon family in prayer.

*The Spire*

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
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First Baptist Church is an open and caring family of faith where worship is central and faith engages both heart and mind. We are warmly ecumenical, delight in our diversity, and cherish our Baptist heritage of freedom. We are called by Christ to share God's love with the campus, community, and the world.

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We're on the Web!

*See us at:*

**[www.fbcames.org](http://www.fbcames.org)**

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**Music Camp 2011**  
**June 13-17**  
**9:00-11:30am**

First Baptist Church  
200 Lynn Avenue  
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