

December, 2010

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The Spire

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The Spire

First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa

Pastor's Word

The first week of September, I received a birthday card from my mother-in-law. This was nothing out of the ordinary except that my birthday is September 22. I think Maxine knew it would be difficult for her to send a card by the time my birthday rolled around.

After a long and difficult battle with cancer, Susan's mother died November 10. After mid-September, Susan spent 8 of 10 weeks in Arkansas. It has been a long, hard journey for all of us.

I have always known that the holidays are difficult for those who have suffered loss, and now I am experiencing some of this firsthand. In a way, this sense of sorrow can actually help us to connect with what Christ's coming is all about. Jesus did not arrive in the midst of joyful celebration. He was born in the midst of pain and crisis, to unmarried parents in an occupied territory. Joseph and Mary were away from home and at the time of birth, and they had no place to stay but an animal shed. Hardship continued as they were forced to flee for their lives to Egypt after Jesus' birth.

This is a great season for celebration, and I love all of the seasonal festivities. I love the music, the get-togethers, the parties, the food. But it can be helpful to go through the minor keys of Advent before getting to Christmas. We can often resonate with the message of the prophets: the longing, the waiting, the hope for God to break into our troubled lives and set things right, and the assurance that God is with us. Experiencing Christ's presence even in the hard times of life indeed brings us "comfort and joy."

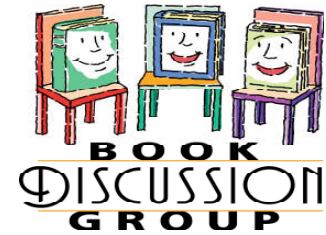
May God's blessings be with you in the Advent season. I look forward to worshipping and celebrating with you this month!

Peace,
Dave



Christmas Dinner

The Christmas Dinner is a long-held tradition at First Baptist with good food and warm fellowship with church family and guests and the Christmas Program after the meal. We will have a Christmas buffet again this year. The meat, dressing, rolls, beverages and table service will be furnished by the church. Please bring a dish to share. If your name starts with A-E, bring a vegetable. F-L will bring a salad, M-P will bring a potato dish, R-W please bring a dessert. Please tell us if you can/cannot come by marking the number who will attend next to your name in the space for Event #1 on the friendship pads. Students, you do not need to bring a dish. We want you to be our invited guests. If you can help in the kitchen or with table set-up, please indicate on the friendship pad, or call the church office at 292-9612



Worship Leaders for December

December 5

Worship Leader:

Aiddy Phomvisay

Ushers:

Bob Parrish*
Wallace Sanders
Marian/Jan Thompson
Ngairé West-Johnson

December 12

Worship Leader:

Susan Russell

Ushers:

Howard Johnson*
Pat Johnson
Johnie Hammond

December 19

Worship Leader:

Johnie Hammond

Ushers:

Bob McCarley*
Russ Watson
Tom Logue
Jerilyn Logue

December 26

Worship Leader:

Zoe Russell

Ushers:

Judy Demarest*
Wilma Robinson
Jere Maddux

Flowers for December:

Lois Macken, Barbara
Woods, & Donna Cleasby



Irene Shireman	2
Walter Fehr	4
Todd Smith	7
Jim Demarest	8
Meyer Smith	9
Tonia McCarley	12
Aubrey Mendonca	13
Lee Macdonald	16
Chrissy Amaya	24
Michael Mendonca	25
Jill Leininger	28
Ike Robinson	29
Dave and Susan Russell	20
Lee and Joyce Davidson	27

Christian Sympathy

Our love and prayers are with Susan Russell and her family in the loss of her mother, Maxine Bogy, on November 10. Pastor Susan spent much of the fall in Arkansas and was on leave from October 15 to the end of November. She returned to work on Dec 1.

Thank You

Ames FBC,
Just wanted to take a moment to say thank you for your donation to Dayton Oaks. We are grateful for your generosity. We look forward to what God has in store for us here in the future. Blessing to your church family. In Christ,
Matt & Dani

New Address

Gabriel Whitaker
HHC, 2-34th BSTB
Bagram Airfield
APO, AE 09354

Book Group met on Dec 2 at Northcrest at 6:30 and we're getting ready for Christmas by reading *The Shepherds' Prayer* by Richard M. Barry.

"A young man, orphaned as a baby sets off to discover the truth about the circumstances of his birth, the fate of his parents, and his heritage. Having been raised in a culture where bloodlines mean everything, he seems forever condemned to live as an outsider on the fringes of society until he discovers his true heritage. His only clue is a cryptic message on a lambskin blanket about a child born in a stable in Bethlehem. Who is this mysterious child? And what could such a child have to do with his own birth and destiny?"

Church Photo Board

The church photo board is a great way to help new members connect names to faces, and for long-time members to learn the names of newer members and friends. We are getting behind on updating the board, however, and Ngairé West-Johnson will be taking photos at the Christmas Dinner. If we do not have your photo or you would like to update your photo, this is your chance!

Church Basketball

Key players from our 2010 team graduated, and unless he pulls another Bret Favre, Dave Russell is retiring from the league as the First Baptist Dunkers career leader in games played and flagrant fouls. As a result, the First Baptist Dunkers roster has been somewhat depleted and we need to know if we have enough players for the upcoming season. If you would like to play, please contact Coach Russell ASAP. The season begins in January.



Student Meals

Thanks to all who have provided student meals this semester: Andrew Perrine, Rita Parrish, Barbara Woods, Dave Russell, Beth Douglass, Fred & Dianne Borgen, Joe & Catherine Parrish, Joyce Davidson, Jeanine Cole, Wallace and Julia Sanders, and Buck & Marilyn Peterson.

Upcoming student events:

- December 5-Student Christmas Party at FBC
- December 18-ISU Graduation
- December 20-ISU break

Student Christmas Party

The annual college student Christmas Party will be December 5 at 6 pm, in the student lounge. All students are invited; we ask everyone to bring a wrapped gift for the gift exchange. Bring something you already have, or if you have to buy something, don't spend more than \$3. Goofy gifts are good! You can also bring your favorite snack or appetizer to share.



Missions

Special Offerings in December

Our church receives two special offerings in the month of December. The **Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO)** is highlighted on December 5. The offering is used to send "thank you" checks for retired ministers and missionaries and their widowed spouses, and to provide emergency assistance to retired ministers with special needs. Our church has been blessed by excellent leadership over the years, and this is a way to say Thank you to those who have served both in this church and our wider American Baptist family.



SPECIAL OFFERING

The **Christmas Offering** is highlighted on December 12. This offering goes toward helping those in greatest need in our community. Half of the offering goes to support the Emergency Residence Project in Ames, a wonderful ministry that serves the needs of homeless individuals and families. The other half will go to our church's Benevolence Fund, which assists persons with emergency needs who come to our church for help.

You may give to either of these offerings throughout the month.



Stewardship Update

To date, we have received 34 pledges of financial support for 2011 totaling \$151,640. Thanks to all of you for your generous support of God's work through First Baptist Church! If you have not yet returned your pledge card, we invite you to do so as soon as possible, as this assists us in setting our final budget to be adopted at the Business Meeting on December 12.

New Office Manager

We are delighted to welcome our new office manager, Jen Matthews. Jen began work on November 11 and had the chance to work with Gayle for two days before Gayle's retirement.

Jen is an ISU graduate and a member of our neighbor congregation, St. John's Episcopal Church, where she teaches Sunday School. Jen and her husband Pete are parents of five children ages 6-14. Jen also teaches Tae Kwon Do, is a school bus driver for the Ballard school district, and leads the summer swim club in Slater, Iowa. She has a busy life! Jen's office hours are 8:30am-2:00pm Tuesday-Friday. If you haven't already, stop by to meet her!



New in the Library

A romance- thriller by Robin Caroll titled Deliver Us From Evil Brannon Callahan is a search and rescue helicopter pilot for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Strong faith and a decorated history of service have kept her one step ahead of on-the-job dangers, but there's no precedent for what's about to happen. After a blizzard takes down a small plane carrying U.S. Marshal Roark Holland, Brannon must save him in more ways than one and safeguard the donor heart he's transporting to a government witness on the edge of death. Otherwise the largest child trafficking ring in history- with shocking links from Thailand to Tennessee- will slip further away into darkness along the Appalachian Trail.

Time Lottery by Nancy Moser
Who hasn't wished they could change something in their past?
This Christy Award-winning story follows the experiences of three people who win an opportunity to travel back into their own alternate reality-their Alternity-where they can relive one pivotal moment in their history. What would they change? Will they stay in their past, or return to the present with a new perspective? With such a powerful opportunity at hand, some people view the Time Lottery as a tool to be manipulated. . . even something they'd murder to obtain. Where is God in this entire process?

Be sure to take a look at the display in the hallway for a **Christmas themed book** to read on these cold days leading to Christmas!
The **Book Group** will begin their 5th year in January! Join for a year of reading and discussing Christian themed books! Everyone is welcome, watch the bulletin for details!

Advent & Christmas Worship

December 5 2nd Sunday in Advent
9:45 Worship: "All I want for Christmas is Peace"

December 12 3rd Sunday in Advent
9:45 Worship: "All I Want for Christmas is Joy"
Yuletide Orchestra plays during worship
Christmas Dinner & Program-6pm

December 19 4th Sunday in Advent
9:45 Worship: Cantata, "Journey of Faith"
Northcrest Vespers service-5pm

December 24 Christmas Eve
5pm-Social Hour
6pm-Candlelight Service

December 26 1st Sunday After Christmas
9:45 Worship: Informal worship with carols and a fun congregational-participation retelling of the Christmas story

Former Pastor Ron Wells Dies at Age 95

We have received word that Dr. Ronald V. Wells, former pastor of First Baptist, died November 1 at age 95.

Born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1913, Dr. Wells initially prepared for a career in farming at Iowa State. Early on in his studies, however, he experienced a call to ministry and after two years, transferred to Denison University, graduating in 1935. He went on to Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, Pennsylvania where he married his wife Patricia, daughter of a Crozer faculty member, in 1938. Upon graduation from Crozer, he was called to his first full time pastorate at First Baptist Church in Somerville, New Jersey where he simultaneously completed a Ph.D. in Philosophy at Columbia University. In 1942, he moved his family to Bridgeport, Connecticut where he served at First Baptist Church for five years. His time in Bridgeport was marked by his efforts to sponsor Japanese-Americans, allowing them to move out of the internment camps in the West.

In 1947, Dr. Wells was called to pastor First Baptist Church of Ames. He oversaw the building of our current church building and led a thriving ministry with students in the Roger Williams Club. Some of our current members were here at that time and Howard Johnson remembers that about the last thing Dr. Wells did here was to marry Howard and Pat. While here he also served on the faculty of Iowa State University. In 1952, he left Ames to become the Associate Director of the American Baptist Board of Education and Publication.

Just as he had returned to Ames as pastor, in 1962 Dr. Wells returned to Crozer to serve as president of the seminary and led the school during the tumultuous 60's. In 1970 Crozer merged with Colgate Rochester Divinity School. Shortly after that, Dr. Wells became the president of Sioux Falls College.

In retirement, Dr. Wells and Patricia lived in Bridgeport, Connecticut. He would call our church from time to time to chat and keep up with things at First Baptist, and when we mentioned in the *Spire* that we were ordering First Baptist polo shirts, he called from Connecticut to order one before the post office had even delivered our newsletters in Ames. He fairly recently wrote a series of articles for the *Spire* on the move to our new church building and the saga of the pipe organ.

Dr. Wells was the author of two books, including *Spiritual Disciplines for Every Day Living*, available in our library.

He was preceded in death in 2009 by Patricia. His son Paul wrote, "He was a tall, handsome man whose hair remained dark until the end. He was blessed with vision to see the opportunities for innovation his work brought him. Fortunately his energy and enthusiasm matched his vision, a fact demonstrated not only by his innovations, but also by five honorary degrees from Brown and Colby among others. He was a man of few hobbies, satisfied by his work and his family. He died well-beloved by family and friends."

Cards of condolence may be sent to: Robert V. Wells
1769 Randolph Road
Schenectady, NY 12308

(Some of the information here was provided by Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School.)

The Spire

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Worship Sundays 9:45am

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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.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.fbcames.org



MAY GOD'S BLESSING BE WITH
YOU IN THIS HOLY SEASON

THE FIRST BAPTIST STAFF

PASTOR DAVE	PASTOR SUSAN
MINDY	STEVE
JEN	TERRI
KELSEY	KRISTIN

First Baptist Church

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