

February 2011
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The Spire

Published monthly
except July & August
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The Spire

First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa

Digging Out

This morning we woke up to the tail end of a blizzard. On the news, some were calling it “The Storm of the Century,” but then again, we are only in the 11th or 12th year of the century, depending on how you count, and it has been a lot worse around here. (Of course, if you were stuck in Lake Shore Drive in Chicago you might feel differently.)

Anyway, when I got up this morning the first issue was getting our dog outside. He hadn’t been real keen on doing his business during the blizzard before we went to bed, and when we got up the drift was blocking the front door, so I got the snow shovel. It was -0.4 on our thermometer and the wind chill was probably -20 or so, but it wasn’t as bad as I had thought it would be, so I not only cleared the front step and a place in the yard for Rudy, I fired up the snow blower and cleared the drive and the sidewalks. As long as I was facing south and blowing the snow south, avoiding the wind out of the north, it was manageable. The drifts that were taller than the snow blower and that had a sizeable ice content thanks to city trucks that had cleared the street were tough going, but I got through it. Until I couldn’t see, that is. With a scarf over my face, my breath kept fogging the inside of the lens on my glasses, while snow blown in my face melted on the outside of the lens. When it got to the point where I wasn’t sure if I was clearing the sidewalk or plowing across the yard somewhere, it was time to go inside, regroup, thaw out, and put in my contact lenses.

Digging out is part of life, isn’t it? And now, as you have figured out, I am not just talking about snow. We are all the time digging out – from the mistakes we have made and from the mess that is not our making but that we nevertheless have to deal with. We sometimes talk about digging out of debt. We have to dig out from the backlog of work that has piled up.

Sometimes we can’t go on until we dig out. I couldn’t get the car out of the drive until I had cleared the snow. But it is also important to stop and assess what is really going on. When it got to the point that I didn’t know whether I was on the sidewalk or not, whether I was making things better or worse, it was time to stop and regroup. We are often so busy with the work that has to be done – sometimes so busy with digging out – that we don’t always take time to look at the bigger picture. On Saturday March 5, our church will have a planning mini-retreat. We will meet from 9:30-12:30, ending with lunch. We will do some of the basic planning that needs to be done as we think about the year ahead (I wouldn’t call it digging out, just the usual kind of stuff), but we will also take some time to look at the bigger picture, to ask questions about what is going on around us that may help us as we seek to serve God in this place. All member and friends are invited to join us.

Blessings,
Dave

**Worship Leaders
for January**

February 6

Worship Leader:

Susan Russell

Ushers:

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

February 13

Worship Leader:

Marian Thompson

Ushers:

Howard Johnson*
Pat Johnson
Johnie Hammond

February 20

Worship Leader:

Joyce Davidson

Ushers:

Bob McCarley*
Russ Watson
Tom Logue
Jerilyn Logue

February 27

Worship Leader:

Andrew Perrine

Ushers:

Judy Demarest*
Wilma Robinson
Jere Maddux

Flowers for February:

Rita Parrish



Elaine Anderson	9
Tom Logue	9
Emma Phomvisay	17
Viola Thomas	17
Michelle Logue	22
Russ Watson	25
Michele Anderson	27
Rosemarie & David Starrett	23



We are delighted to have a number of college students in our congregation and to help everyone get to know them, we will be featuring a different student each month in the Spire.

Meet Andrew Perrine, this month's student of the month. Andrew is a second year veterinary student from Keokuk, Iowa. He earned his undergraduate degree at ISU in Animal Science and Dairy Science. Andrew has attended First Baptist since his freshman year and has been an enthusiastic participant in both student events and church activities in general. You will often find him welcoming a newcomer at church.

He has served on the Christian Education committee and now serves as a deacon.

Andrew will be going to Africa this summer for five weeks. He will take a course in animal pharmacology in South Africa, focusing on large African wildlife. He will also go on a safari in Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Zambia and work at a children's home in Nairobi, Kenya that serves orphaned children, many of whom have AIDS. Among other things he will provide medical care and vaccinations for livestock at the children's home.

Andrew's brother Brandon is a recent seminary graduate and is associate pastor at Falcon Heights UCC in the Twin Cities. His sister Lyndee is a special education teacher in Quincy, Illinois. Andrew's father died the summer before he started at ISU; his mother recently moved from Keokuk to nearby northeast Missouri.

Andrew's interests include gardening, movies, and most anything having to do with animals. He has a rabbit and a lot of tropical fish in his apartment. We are glad that Andrew is a part of our First Baptist family!



Andrew Perrine

February 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Men's breakfast Perkins 8am	2 Choir 6:30 pm	3	4	5
6 Epiphany 5 Worship/Communion 9:45am Church School 11am Annual Meeting 12pm Super Bowl Party 5:15pm	7	8 Trustees 7pm	9 Choir 6:30pm Deacons 7:35pm	10	11	12
13 Epiphany 6 Worship 9:45am Fellowship 10:45am Church School 11am Student Supper 6pm	14 Valentines Day  Valentine's Day	15 Men's Breakfast Perkins 8am	16 Choir 6:30pm	17 FBC Book Group-6:30pm Northcrest	18	19
20 Epiphany 7 Worship 9am Church School 11am Prayer Shawl Circle 2-4pm Student Supper 6pm	21 President's Day	22	23 Choir 6:30pm	24	25	26 Women's Luncheon Northcrest 12pm
27 Epiphany 8 Worship 9:45am Church School 11am Annual Cook-Off 6pm	28					

Looking ahead to March...

- 5 Planning Mini-Retreat
- 4 Trivia Night
- 14-18 ISU Spring Break

Food Shelf



Food Shelf Month at FBC!

Mid Iowa Community Action, Inc. (MICA) serves a variety of families in many different ways—all their families have their own unique needs. First Baptist has a strong tradition of supporting the work the food shelf does. We collect items and money twice a year in February and September. MICA is seeing an AVERAGE of 300 FAMILIES each month needing help. When I spoke to them they were completely out of or almost out of the following items:

Most Needed Items

Toilet paper
Kleenex
Paper Towels
Peanut Butter
Tuna
Canned Beans—this provides protein for some families

Other Items Needed

Non-perishable, unopened, and unexpired food items—please bring things that YOU would enjoy eating.

Rice	Pancake Mix
Flour	Syrup
Sugar	Tomato Paste
Jell-O	Canned Tomatos
Hot-cocoa packets	Coffee
Juice	Tea
Pasta	Canned Chicken

Personal Hygiene Items

Bath Soap	Shampoo
Women's supplies	Shaving Crème
Deoderant	Toothpaste

Household Items

Dish Soap	Cleaning
Products	

Infant Needs

Diapers of all sizes	
Baby Wipes	Baby Food

Money—MICA likes to be able to give food vouchers to be used for milk, eggs, meat and fresh vegetables and fruit.

MICA's food pantry is entirely community funded. With financial aid they are able to shop for items that they are out of, often at reduced prices that are given to food shelves across the country.

If you would like your gift to appear on your church statement, write the check to our church (FBC) and write MICA in the memo area.

Look for the donation display in the Narthex!

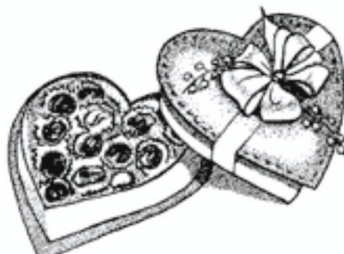


New in the Library Happy Valentine's Day!

For a romance book about love to read or share with your children, check the display near the Lounge. There are many good books there and many more in the Library.

New in Fiction

Deeper Water by Robert Whitlow
Leaving the farm and her Bible-believing family behind, Tami Taylor accepts a job with a prestigious Savannah, Georgia, law firm. She's challenged by her first case and flattered by the attention of two attorneys. But when the charges against Moses Jones escalate from trespassing to murder, Tami's concerned not just about her client's crime—but a company cover-up!



The Preacher's Bride by Jody Hedlund
In 1650s England, a young puritan maiden is on a mission to save the baby of her newly widowed preacher—weather her assistance is wanted or not. Always ready to help those in need, Elizabeth ignores John's protests of her aid. She's even willing to risk her lone marriage prospect to help the little family. Yet Elizabeth's new role as nanny takes a dangerous turn when John's boldness from the pulpit makes him a target of political and religious leaders. As the preacher's enemies become desperate to silence him, they draw Elizabeth into a deadly web of deception. Finding herself in more danger than she ever bargained for, she's more determined than ever to save the child—and man—she's come to love.

A Historical Series –

by Francine Rivers
Rivers wrote the *Lineage of Grace* series, which tell a fictional story of each of the five women in the Bible named in Jesus' ancestors. This is another of her series in historical Rome.

Mark of the Lion

Book 1 – A Voice in the Wind

Set in Rome about 100 C.E., this is the story of Hadassah, a steadfastly Christian slave girl and sole survivor of her family, who is sold into slavery to the Valerian family. She serves as a maid to Julia, a young woman who makes several unfortunate and unhappy marriages. Simultaneously, Artretes, a captured soldier from Germania, is forced to become a gladiator. This is the time of Rome's decline; the decadence is well described as Christians are fed to lions while large crowds watch and cheer. Hadassah attempts to use her faith to influence events around her and her family, even though they worship Roman gods and are skeptical about Christianity. The story continues in two more books.

Book 2 – An Echo on the Darkness

Book 3 – As Sure as the Dawn



Join us for a **Super Bowl Party** the evening of Sunday, February 6. The festivities will start at 5:15pm with kick-off at 5:30pm. Feel free to bring a snack to share (not required). If you are not a big football fan, there will also be board games!

New Choir-chimes in Honor and Memory of John and Elaine Anderson



Elaine Anderson will turn 90 on February 9. John, who died in 2006, would have been 99 on February 2. In honor of Elaine's birthday and in memory of John, their children have purchased a set of choirchimes (similar to handbells). We have just received the choirchimes and plan to use them in worship on February 13.

The Anderson family will host the fellowship time following worship that day. John and Elaine have been such a blessing to our church, and we thank their family for this wonderful gift!



You are invited to join us! We'll discuss the book on February 17 at 6:30pm at Northcrest in Elaine Anderson's apartment. Contact Catherine Parrish for more information. Moonlight on Mill Pond by Lori Wick Jace Randall leaves his childhood home to help his Uncle Woody Randall run the saw mill in Token Creek. Jace diligently focuses on work until he meets the visiting niece of local storekeepers. Before the relationship has a strong foundation, the couple separates because of gossip fueled by Jace's sister. Later, when she admits her wrongdoing and shares her testimony of a new faith, the couple must decide whether to try again.



Women's Luncheon

A Women's Luncheon will be held Saturday, February 26, 12:00 noon at Northcrest. Call or email the church office to sign up!



This year's annual **First Baptist Cook-Off** will be held February 27 at 6pm. The theme will be "Childhood Favorites" and can be any food you especially enjoyed as a child. Money raised at the event will be donated to our local MICA Food Shelf.

Latest Address:
Whitaker, Gabriel
2/34th BSTB ETT
TF Red Bulls
FOB Gamberi
APO, AE 09310



First Baptist Church participated in Heartland Senior Services Trivia Night on January 28. It was a lot of fun and if there is enough interest, we will do it again on March 4! A sign up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board outside the library in the coming weeks.

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. 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.



The Spire

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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

IRMS Resources Available

Our church is a subscriber to Iowa Religious Media Service, which makes the 8000+ resources of IRMS available to groups and individuals in our church. This past year we made good use of our subscription with video courses from IRMS for the Theology class, NOOMA videos used with our college group, and a parachute that we used at our Music Camp. The full catalog of books, videos, DVDs, and other items is available on the IRMS website at www.irms.org.



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