

The Spire

First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa



January 2012
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The Spire

Published monthly

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Pastor's Word

One of the groups at First Baptist that kind of flies under the radar is our Men's Breakfast. The group meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month at Perkins Restaurant at 8 am, as they have for many years. (It was already a long-established group when I joined them in 1999.)

Basically, anybody who wants joins us for breakfast. That is about it as far as structure. There is no program; we just eat and talk. The conversation involves sports, travel, politics, health, faith and theology, family, and whatever the great issues of the day might happen to be. Pretty much anything goes. It's a little bit like the old TV show "Cheers," except that instead of sitting around the bar drinking beer and eating peanuts, we sit around a big table drinking coffee and eating pancakes.

There is something special about sharing meals with a group of friends over time. Without meaning to, important things are shared. Almost accidentally, bonds are built. It is not a prayer group, there is no program, and there is no stated purpose outside of eating together, but it works.

There have been memorable moments, both humorous and deeply meaningful. There are a lot of laughs and a lot of good-natured ribbing. And on one occasion several years ago, the group went to pay for their meals and found that an unknown man had picked up the check for the entire party. The mystery person left a note saying that he was a former student of Ross Talbot, and it was through Dr. Talbot that he had learned to love books. Out of appreciation, he wanted to buy breakfast for Dr. Talbot and his friends.

Sometimes, when you may not be expecting it, church happens, even in places like Perkins.

Where is all this leading? I simply want to share a mundane exchange from our Men's Breakfast this week. Those who attend get in the habit of ordering the same thing, to the point where most of us could order for each other. I generally order the Pigs in a Blanket for \$3.99, but this week I decided to get the Eye Opener (half a waffle, bacon and eggs). Wallace Sanders was incredulous and wondered what was the matter - why didn't I get my usual Pigs in a Blanket? My short answer was, "It's a New Year."

And it is. A New Year, a new opportunity, and we do not have to be constrained by the patterns and choices of the past. Whether it is changing your breakfast order or something far more important, this is a good time for making a change. Perhaps that change involves greater participation in church - which happens when we gather together each Sunday morning in worship, not to mention those other times when we aren't expecting it.

I hope to see you as the church gathers this Sunday. And if you'd care to join us, the next Men's Breakfast is on January 17.

Blessings,

Dave

Worship Leaders For December

January 1

Worship Leader:

Catherine Parrish

Ushers:

Bob Parrish*

Wallace Sanders

Marian/Jan Thompson

Ngairé West-Johnson

January 8

Worship Leader:

Susan Russell

Ushers:

Howard Johnson*

Pat Johnson

Becca Whitaker

Andrew Perrine

January 15

Worship Leader:

Emily Slade

Ushers:

Bob McCarley*

Dianne Borgen

Tom Logue

Jerilyn Logue

January 22

Worship Leader:

Mike Slade

Ushers:

Martha Gleason*

Beth Douglass/

Rosemarie Starrett

Scott Anderson

Jere Maddux

January 29

Worship Leader:

Jere Maddux

Ushers:

Jeanine Cole*

Barbara Woods

Lee Davidson

Mark Reuber

Flowers for January:

Donna Cleasby

Thank You!

Thank you to those who provided items for the Christmas Baskets in December, and to the Church School classes for assembling them. Those who received the baskets were very appreciative.



Alex Parrish	19
Bill Malone	19
Jere Maddux	20
Alice Clemons	22
Howard Johnson	27
Stacy Starrett	29

Annual Report Time

Our annual congregational meeting is set for Sunday, February 5 at 12 noon. We will receive annual reports from our various areas of ministry and conduct other items of business. We are asking board and committee chairs, representatives to community organizations, officers and staff to submit reports to the church office by Wednesday, January 25 to allow time to put together the Book of Reports.



Benefit Breakfast

A pancake breakfast will be held on Sunday, January 22 to raise funds for the spring break mission trip. Join us from 8:15-9:15 for a delicious breakfast support our mission trip to Appalachia.



Game Night



Come join us Friday, January 13 at 6:30 in the church lounge for game night. Bring a favorite game and a snack to share.

Super Bowl Party

Mark your calendars and join us for a Super Bowl Party on the evening of Sunday, February 5. The festivities will start at 5:15pm with kick-off at 5:30pm. Feel free to bring a snack to share. If you are not a big football fan, there will also be board games!

Christian Education

2011-2012 classes will resume on January 8 following worship. A variety of curriculum materials are used, and all child care workers and teachers for youth and children's classes have undergone a background screening.

Grades K-5 meet on the lower level in the southeast classroom with Jan Thompson and assistants.

Adult Bible Study, led by Earl Hammond and class members meets in the library following worship.

Theology Class meets in the first floor lounge with leader Michael Thompson. The class is discussing the book Thank God for Evolution by Michael Dowd.

Student Suppers



Student Suppers will resume on January 15 for college

students and young adults. Student Suppers are offered most Sunday evenings in the College Lounge (second floor) at 6pm when ISU is in session, followed by Bible study and fellowship. Leaders are Emily Slade, and Pastors Dave and Susan Russell. A sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board outside the library. Please sign up to bring all or part of a meal for around 10 students and leaders. The students really appreciate all of the great food shared!



Baby Announcement

Killian Patrick Murphy was born to Alissa and Joe Murphy on Monday, December 26, weighing in at 6 lbs, 7 oz and measuring 19 inches. This is the first grandchild for Catherine and Joe Parrish, and Irene and Wayne Shireman's first great grandchild. Congratulations!

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 	2	3 8am-Men's Breakfast- Perkins	4 6:30pm-Choir 7:35pm-Deacons	5	6	7
8 9:45-Worship/ Communion 11:00- Fellowship 11:15-Church School Choir Appreciation Sunday	9 ISU Classes Resume	10 7:00pm-Trustees	11 6:30pm-Choir	12 AARLA-10am	13 6:30pm- Game Night	14
15 9:45am-Worship 11:00-Church School 12:00-3 rd Sunday Lunch-CoCost 2-4pm-Prayer Shawl Circle 5:15pm-Mission Trip Meeting 6:00pm-Student Supper	16 	17 8am-Men's Breakfast- Perkins	18 6:30pm-Choir	19 6:30pm- Christian Ed.	20	21 9:00am- Deacon Retreat
22 8:15-9:15-Mission Fundraiser Breakfast 9:45 -Worship 11:00-Church School 6:00pm-Student Supper	23	24	25 6:30pm-Choir	26 6:30pm-FBC Book Group	27	28
29 9:45 Worship 11:00 Church School 6:00pm-Student Supper	30	31			 Winter	
Looking ahead to February... Annual Meeting 5 Super Bowl Party 5 Ash Wednesday 22						

Spring Break Mission Trip Re-routed to Appalachia

For some months we have looked forward to a spring break trip to work with the AMOS medical Ministry in Nicaragua. Because of several fixed costs while in Nicaragua (truck, fuel, etc.) we needed a minimum number of team members to make the trip viable. At the end of the fall semester, we did not have a sufficient number of team members, and with airfare costs rising and a need for those going to have passports and immunizations, the difficult decision was made to cancel the trip.

Instead, we have made plans for a mission trip to work in Appalachia. We will travel to work at the [Morgan-Scott Project](#) in Deer Lodge, Tennessee. Serving Morgan and Scott counties, the Morgan-Scott Project is a small ecumenical organization that works to identify and meet needs and help break the cycle of poverty in that area. Volunteer work groups play a big part in its ministry. Thirty percent of residents live in substandard or overcrowded housing. Our mission team will work on home repair projects for low-income families and also assist in a food pantry, thrift store, and other ministries as needed. The trip is an opportunity to learn, to experience a different culture, and to serve. We will also have some time for sightseeing.

Plans are to leave on Saturday, March 10 and return on Saturday, March 17. There will be a meeting at 5:15 pm on Sunday, January 15 for all interested in going or in learning more. In the meantime, please see Pastor Dave for more information.

Although we had not yet started major fundraising, several members had given generously toward the planned Nicaragua trip. These funds will go toward the spring break trip to Appalachia. If you have given funds and prefer they be sent to the AMOS ministry in Nicaragua, please see Pastor Dave.

FBC Book Club

You might also be interested in joining the FBC Book Group. We meet once a month on a Thursday. The Thursdays vary depending on everyone's schedule. You can find the information in the monthly Spire or Sunday Bulletin. In January we're meeting at Northcrest on January 26 at 6:30. We are reading [Magic Hour](#) by Kristin Hannah.

From the back of the book – “In the rugged Pacific Northwest lies the Olympic National Forest—nearly a million acres of impenetrable darkness and impossible beauty. From deep within this old growth forest, a six-year-old girl appears. Speechless and alone, she offers no clue as to her identity, no hint of her past. Having retreated to her western Washington hometown after a scandal left her career in ruins psychiatrist Dr. Julia Cates is determined to free the extraordinary little girl she calls Alice from a prison of unimaginable fear and isolation. The shocking facts of Alice's life test the limits of Julia's faith and strength, even as she struggles to make a home for Alice—and for herself.”



Your Church Library

Exciting news for the Church Library! The books will soon be on a computer using a program call BookCat. It will catalog the books and they will be searchable in many different ways, by title, author, subject and so on. Over the next couple of months we will be entering the books into this program. Books will continue to be checked out as they have always been.

The Library has an excellent selection of Christian books in the fiction area. Ranging from mystery, thrillers, romance, general and many more. Wikipedia states, “A Christian novel is any novel that expounds and illustrates a Christian world view in its plot, its characters, or both, or which deals with Christian themes in a positive way.”

We get books from several places-some are donated, and we scour websites such as Christianbook.com. We sometimes find gently used books at Firehouse Books in downtown Ames. If we see a book that we think might be interesting, we research it on Amazon.com and other sites. Some books are suggestions from one of the pastors or someone in our congregation. We keep our eyes open for topics we don't have and try to fill in gaps. Our Library isn't meant to replace the Public Library but to provide a resource when teaching a class or for your enjoyment.

Keep an eye on the display case near the Lounge. We change the display every month or so. It may contain the newest books or we may put a theme of books in there. Most recently we have had a good selection of Christmas reading available. Ask us, we can help you find something to read.

Enjoy your Church Library and let us know if you see a book we should consider adding.

Your Library Committee,
Catherine Parrish and Jeanine Cole

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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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National Choir Appreciation Sunday

One of the great strengths of our church is our music ministry. We appreciate so much the leadership of our Music Director Mindy Phomvisay and Music Associate Cindy Lin. But our ministry of music would not be what it is without so many volunteers who give of their time and talent to lead us each Sunday in offering praise to God.

Sunday, January 8 is National Choir Appreciation Sunday. We will honor our choir on that day and celebrate their ministry during the Fellowship Time following worship. We invite you to join us and use this occasion as an opportunity to say Thank You to our choir members for their dedicated service.

Members of our choir include Mary Anderson, Susan Russell, Zoe Russell, Lorene Hoover, Jan Thompson, Marian Thompson, Marilyn Peterson, Roberta Ridley, Joyce Davidson, Emily Slade, Rita Parrish, John Anderson, Michael Thompson, Russ Watson, Joe Parrish, Jon Pritchard, Dick Gee, David Russell, Kevin Elias, and Jack Cleasby.

