

March 2011
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The Spire

Published monthly
except July & August
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The Spire

First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa

Pastor's Word

It is coming late this year – about as late as it can be – but the season of Lent finally arrives with Ash Wednesday on March 9. We will have an Ash Wednesday service of Taize prayer that will include beautiful meditative music, scripture, prayer, silence, and imposition of ashes as a sign of our mortality. The church I grew up in did not pay a great deal of attention to Lent, but it has come to be a very meaningful time of reflection and renewal for me, and has made the joy of Easter all the greater.

Frederick Buechner, one of my favorite writers, speaks of Lent in his book *Wishful Thinking*:

In many cultures there is an ancient custom of giving a tenth of each year's income to some holy use. For Christians to observe the forty days of Lent is to do the same thing with roughly a tenth of each year's days. After being baptized by John in the river Jordan, Jesus went off alone into the wilderness where he spent forty days asking himself the question what it meant to be Jesus. During Lent, Christians are supposed to ask one way or another what it means to be themselves.

If you had to bet everything you have on whether there is a God or whether there isn't, which side would get your money and why?

When you look at your face in the mirror, what do you see in it that you most like and what do you see in it that you most deplore?

If you had only one last message to leave to the handful of people who are most important to you, what would it be in twenty-five words or less?

Of all the things you have done in your life, which is the one you most like to undo? Which is the one that makes you happiest to remember?

Is there any person in the world, or any cause, that, if circumstances called for it, you would be willing to die for?

To hear yourself try to answer questions like these is to begin to hear something not only of who you are but of both what you are becoming and what you are failing to become. It can be a pretty depressing business all in all, but if sackcloth and ashes are at the start of it, something like Easter may be at the end.

I invite you to join us at 7 pm on Ash Wednesday, March 9, as we begin our journey through Lent.

Blessings,
Dave

Worship Leaders for March

March 6

Worship Leader:

Jan Thompson

Ushers:

Bob Parrish*

Wallace Sanders

Marian/Jan Thompson

Ngairé West-Johnson

March 13

Worship Leader:

Michael Thompson

Ushers:

Howard Johnson*

Pat Johnson

Johnie Hammond

March 20

Worship Leader:

Jere Maddux

Ushers:

Bob McCarley*

Russ Watson

Tom Logue

Jerilyn Logue

March 27

Worship Leader:

Susan Russell

Ushers:

Judy Demarest*

Wilma Robinson

Jere Maddux

Flowers for March:

Jan Thompson



Jack Cleasby	1
Dorothy Lagomarcino	2
Michelle Leininger	8
Joseph Core	9
Terri Miller	15
Pat Johnson	17
Gretchen Anderson	18
Lois Macken	22

Student News

Student Suppers

Thank you to Wayne and Irene Shireman, Joe and Catherine Parrish, Jeanine Cole, and Roberta Ridley for providing Student Suppers in February. ISU Spring Break will be March 14-18, so there will be no student supper on March 13 and 20. Enjoy your break!

VEISHEA Stash the Trash Day

ISU students and community members can work together March 26 from 8-4pm to beautify the Iowa State University and Ames community by picking up litter and participating in a variety of other projects. You can work alone, with an organization, or with your family. Trash bags and gloves are available on the day of the event in the Reiman Gardens parking lot. A free lunch is provided and Reiman Gardens offers free admission to volunteers.

Sign up for a shift online at

www.veishea.iastate.edu/service



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. The student of the month for March is Becca Whitaker. Becca hails from Hillsboro, Iowa, near Fairfield in the southeast part of the

state. She graduated from Harmony High School and Southeastern Community College, coming to Iowa State in the fall of 2009. Becca is not the first of her family to come to Iowa State – or First Baptist. Her parents John and Lorrie and brothers Gabe and Dan are all ISU graduates and all attended First Baptist while at ISU. Gabe is home from Afghanistan for two weeks and last Sunday the whole family, including Gabe’s fiancé Lyndsay Boock, packed a pew in church.

Becca is an accounting major. She enjoys reading, knitting, and crafts. She works at ISU at the Courtyard Café and the Design Café. Becca said she has no idea what she will be doing this summer but is looking for an internship; otherwise she will be working either in Ames or back home.





Becca has been very involved at First Baptist since she came to Ames. She is a regular at the Sunday night Student Suppers and other activities and this year she is serving on the Christian Education committee.

When asked what she liked about First Baptist, Becca gave an enthusiastic response. “The church feels like I’ve been here all my life and everyone has been just amazing. The people have been so welcoming – First Baptist has been one of the best parts of Ames... I like ISU, but it has been hard at times. The church has just been wonderful.”



Rebecca Whitaker

March 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Men's breakfast Perkins 8am	2 Deacons 7:35 pm	3	4 Trivia Night 6pm	5 Church-wide Planning Retreat 9:30-12:30 Lunch 12:30
6 Epiphany 9 Worship/Communion 9:45am Church School 11am Student Supper-6pm	7	8 Trustees 7pm	9  Worship 7pm Ash Wednesday	10	11	12 
13 Lent 1 Daylight Svgs Begins Worship 9:45am Fellowship 10:45am Church School 11am No Student Supper	14	15 Men's Breakfast Perkins 8am	16 Choir 6:30pm	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18	19
<i>ISU Spring Break</i>						
20 Lent 2 Worship 9am Church School 11am Prayer Shawl Circle 2-4pm No Student Supper	21	22	23 Choir 6:30pm	24	25	26
27 Lent 3 Worship 9:45am Church School 11am Student Supper 6pm	28	29	30 Choir 6:30pm Deacons 7:35 pm	31		

Looking ahead to April...

- 5 CCJ Pancake/French Toast Supper
- 11-17 VIESHA Week at ISU
- 21 Maundy Thursday
- 24 Easter



New in the Library

Bethany House Publishing has a new program that we have joined. Every few weeks they send us a free book from one of their authors. This has greatly increased the kinds of books in our Library. These two books recently arrived:

The Girl in the Gatehouse

by Julie Klassen

Miss Mariah Aubrey, banished after a scandal, hides herself away in a long-abandoned gatehouse on the far edge of a distant relative's estate. There, she supports herself and her loyal servant the only way she knows how-by writing novels in secret.

Captain Matthew Bryant, returning to England successful and wealthy after the Napoleonic wars, leases an impressive estate from a cash-poor nobleman, determined to show the society beauty who once rejected him what a colossal mistake she made. When he discovers an old gatehouse on the property, he is immediately intrigued by its striking young inhabitant and sets out to uncover her identity, and her past.

Paradise Valley

Daughters of Caleb Bender Series #1
by Dale Cramer

An Amish settlement in Ohio has run afoul of a law requiring their children to attend public school. Caleb Bender and his neighbors are arrested for neglect, with the state ordering the children be placed in an institution. Among them are Caleb's teenage daughter, Rachel, and the boy she has her eye on, Jake Weaver. Romance blooms between the two when Rachel helps Jake escape the children's home. Searching for a place to relocate his family where no such laws apply, Caleb learns there's inexpensive land for sale in Mexico,

a place called Paradise Valley. Despite rumors of instability in the wake of the Mexican revolution, the Amish community decides this is their answer. And since it was Caleb's idea, he and his family will be the pioneers. They will send for the others once he's established a foothold and assessed the situation. While Paradise Valley is everything they'd hoped it would be, it isn't long before the bandits start giving them trouble, threatening to upset the fledgling Amish settlement, even putting their lives in danger. Thankfully no one has been harmed so far, anyway. Based on a true story, the author's great-grandfather was the elder statesman of the colony. Cramer's grandparents lived in Paradise Valley, and his father was born there.

Many of our readers really like the books by Mindy Starns Clark, the most recent one is the first of a new series:

The Amish Midwife

Women of Lancaster County Series #1
A carved box with two locks of hair, the title to property in Switzerland, and a burning desire to learn about her biological family lead nurse midwife Lexie Jaeger from Oregon to Pennsylvania. There Lexie pledges to help her biological Aunt Melia, a lay midwife who has been charged with manslaughter after an Amish client and her baby die. Lexie always knew she was adopted, and when she finally meets her birth grandmother, she feels she has come home-until secrets begin to unravel, secrets that could tear her birth family apart.



The **FBC Book Group** will meet on March 31st at Northcrest at 6:30 pm. We're reading The Priest, Book 1 of The Sons of Encouragement series by Francine Rivers. The story of Aaron, brother of Moses. Everyone is always invited to join us for our book discussions.

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.



The Secret Place

Spring 2011 copies of the Secret Place are in. They can be found on the south table in the Narthex. Past issues can be dropped off in the library for donation.





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. There are two fund raising events coming up that hopefully will be of interest to members, as follows:

1-Saturday, March 5, 2011, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, a fund raiser will occur at Dublin Bay on South 16th Street. The band, Holy Ground, will provide entertainment.

2-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.



Touching Lives, Transforming People
America for Christ gifts support Christ-centered ministries that touch lives and transform people across the United States and Puerto Rico-through evangelism training, church renewal and discipleship resources, volunteer disaster response plus initiatives that fight poverty and so much more. Our church will be contributing to America for Christ throughout the month of March.

www.abhms.org/GIVE/Serve

Cook-off Winners!

The First Baptist Church Cook-off was held February 27 with a "Childhood Favorites" theme. \$275.91 was raised for the MICA food shelf. Lee Davidson was our first place winner with his chocolate wafer dessert. Other winners were Johnie Hammond, Barb Woods, Joyce Davidson and Marilyn Peterson with their banana pudding, lemon meringue pie, Indian Pilau, and Dressing Bundles. There was a lot of delicious food and we had a great time. Stay tuned for next year's theme, and congratulations to this year's winners!



2011 Cook-off winners

Community Events

There are so many wonderful opportunities in our community to support the arts, educate, meet new people and serve...too many to list in the weekly bulletin! Don't forget to regularly check the bulletin boards in the hallway for the latest happenings.

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.



Latest Address:



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

In Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Carolyn Gibson and family in the loss of Reverend Duane Gibson. Duane was the long-time pastor of First Baptist in Des Moines and preached here at our church for several Sundays during the pastors' sabbatical in 2008. Duane died February 27 and the funeral service was March 2 at First Baptist Des Moines/Johnston.

Thank you to
Catherine Parrish for
keeping things
running smoothly
while Jen was on
vacation in February!



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.fbcomes.org

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