

The Spire

First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa



February 2012

Volume 58, No. 2

Inside:

2	Birthdays
2	Coming Events
2	Cook-off
2	Easter Cantata
3	Calendar
4	Soozi Ford

Pastor's Word

Susan and I have just returned from an ABC Pastors Conference, held in Orlando, Florida. The theme was "Go to a New Land," and there is no question that it was a new land! We drove through snow to get to the Des Moines airport, had a delay because of conditions in Minneapolis, but arrived in Orlando to 82 sunny degrees. It was a busy week, but we drove over to Cocoa Beach one afternoon and walked along the ocean, and after the conference we went to Disney's Animal Kingdom and saw the Lion King show, where Bob Pritchard is Stage Manager. With the flowers and green grass and warm weather, it was definitely a "New Land."

This was not the New Land the conference was about, of course. Our world is changing rapidly, and the Church finds itself in a different place socially and culturally. The theme had to do with the new place God is leading us – the New Land to which we are called. Susan and I participated with around 500 pastors and seminarians in plenary sessions focusing on change and leadership and getting at the deep questions we face for which there are no easy answers. We were part of a daily gathering/conversation with about 40 pastors that reflected on the theme of each day's plenary session. We also enjoyed moving worship and great music.

In the last evening worship session the preacher, a young Hispanic minister from Philadelphia, said that we would soon be leaving for a New Land – and that New Land was called "home." I liked that. God is up to new things right in the midst of where we are. Alan Roxburgh noted that it is not in big leaders and splashy programs but in the ordinary and the local, in the lives of everyday people that the Spirit of God is doing the work of transformation. He was talking about places like First Baptist Church of Ames. While there was a clear sense of challenge, there is something freeing about facing challenges head-on, and I left Orlando feeling hopeful and energized.

We appreciated the chance to get away. It has been an unusually warm January here in Iowa, but unusually warm January weather in Florida is even nicer! It was good to connect with colleagues and hear inspiring speakers, and we came away with a lot to think about. I am grateful for such opportunities to take time for continuing education.

And I must say that I can understand better now the attraction of being a "snowbird."

Blessings,

Dave

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Published monthly

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Worship Leaders For February

February 5

Worship Leader:

Jere Maddux

Ushers:

Bob Parrish*

Wallace Sanders

Marian/Jan Thompson

Ngairé West-Johnson

February 12

Worship Leader:

Michael Thompson

Ushers:

Howard Johnson*

Pat Johnson

Becca Whitaker

Andrew Perrine

February 19

Worship Leader:

Joyce Davidson

Ushers:

Bob McCarley*

Dianne Borgen

Tom Logue

Jerilyn Logue

February 26

Worship Leader:

Andrew Perrine

Ushers:

Martha Gleason*

Beth Douglass/

Rosemarie Starrett

Scott Anderson

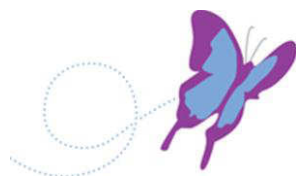
Jere Maddux

Flowers for February:

Donna Cleasby

Secret Place

New editions of The Secret Place, a seasonal devotional, have arrived, and may be picked up on the south table in the Narthex.



Ken Windom	2
Elaine Anderson	9
Anastasia Lee	9
Tom Logue	9
Yanira McShay	14
Emma Phomvisay	17
Viola Thomas	17
Michelle Logue	22
Russ Watson	25
Michele Anderson	27

Anniversary

Rosemarie & David Starrett 23

Annual Meeting Time

Our annual congregational meeting is this Sunday, February 5 at 12 noon. We will receive annual reports from our various areas of ministry and conduct other items of business.



Super Bowl Party

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!

Easter Cantata

We would love to have you join us in singing our Easter Cantata – There Stands A Cross. We will be starting rehearsals on Wednesday, February 8. “Regular” choir rehearsal will be from 6:30-7pm, and the cantata rehearsal will be from 7:00-7:45 pm. We will perform on Palm Sunday, April 1. We welcome you in joining us for this special musical worship! -Mindy

Thank you

Thank you to Emily Slade, John & Lorrie Whitaker, Jill and Michael Leininger, and Earl and Johnie Hammond for providing the Student Suppers during the month of January.



Fifth Annual Cookoff

On February 26th we will hold our 5th annual cook-off at 6pm in the church fellowship hall. Voting will be done by donating money to your favorite dish. Everyone is encouraged to enter a dish and we need lots of people to eat and vote. Come join us for great food and support our mission trip to Appalachia. The theme of this year’s cook-off will be announced this Sunday morning, February 5th.

Music Camp Dates Announced

Our 13th Annual Music Camp is set for June 18-22. More details will come later, but for now save the dates for this great week for children grades K-6 (completed).

Mission Breakfast a Success

Thank you to all who attended the Mission Breakfast held on January 22. A great meal was served and those dining contributed \$667 toward our spring break mission trip to Appalachia. Those who served the meal include head cook Barbara Woods along with Andrew Perrine, Buck and Marilyn Peterson, Dave and Susan Russell, and Michelle Leininger. Our trip to work at the [Morgan-Scott Project](#) in Deer Lodge, Tennessee will be March 10-17.

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 1:30pm ISU Religious Leaders Meeting 6:30pm-Choir	2  5:30pm- Financial Literacy Class	3	4 3:30 pm- Deacons Meeting
5 9:45-Worship/ Communion 11:00-Church School 12:00-Annual Meeting 5:15pm-Super Bowl Party	6	7 8am-Men's Breakfast- Perkins	8 6:30pm-Choir 7pm-Cantata Rehearsal	9 10:00am- AARLA 5:30pm- Financial Literacy Class	10	11
12 9:45am-Worship 11:00 Fellowship 11:15-Church School 6:00pm-Student Supper	13 7:00 pm- Trustees	14 	15 6:30pm-Choir 7:00 pm-Cantata Rehearsal	16 5:30pm- Financial Literacy Class	17	18
19 9:45 -Worship 11:00-Church School 12:00-3 rd Sunday Lunch-Valentino's 2-4pm-Prayer Shawl Circle 6:00pm-Student Supper	20 8:00pm- ISU Sunroom: Speaker Shane Claiborne	21 8am-Men's Breakfast- Perkins	22 Ash Wednesday 6:30pm-Worship 7:15 pm-Choir Rehearsal	23	24	25 Reception for Soozi Ford
26 9:45 Worship 11:00 Church School 6:00pm-Annual Cook-off	27	28	29 6:30 pm-Choir 7:00 pm-Cantata Rehearsal 7:45-Deacons			
Looking ahead to March... 11-17 Spring Break						

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.

Shane Claiborne to Speak at ISU

Shane Claiborne is a founding partner of The Simple Way, a new monastic community in inner-city Philadelphia. He has become something of a revolutionary role model for those disillusioned with today's materialistic, "pop Christianity." He is the author of the several books, including *The Irresistible Revolution*, *Jesus for President*, and *Becoming the Answer to Our Prayers*. Claiborne is a graduate of Eastern University, one of our American Baptist colleges. His varied ministry experience has included a ten-week stint working alongside Mother Teresa in Calcutta, a year spent serving a wealthy mega-congregation outside Chicago as well as three weeks in Baghdad with the Iraq Peace Team. He will speak on Monday, February 21 at 8 pm in the Sun Room at ISU. First Baptist is among many groups sponsoring this event that is part of the ISU Lecture Series.

Soozi Ford Named Executive Minister for Indiana-Kentucky

Rev. Soozie Ford, associate Executive Minister for Mid-American Baptist Churches, has been called to serve as Executive Minister for the American Baptist Churches of Indiana-Kentucky. She will conclude her service in our region at the end of February and begin her new position in mid-March.

Soozi has served our region for 13 years and also serves as the Stewardship Facilitator for ABC/USA. She is a good friend of First Baptist who has preached in our church on numerous occasions and served as our Fall Renewal Weekend speaker in 2009.

We will miss Soozie's skilled and caring leadership in our region and her support for our church, and we pray for God's blessings on her as she begins her new ministry. There will be a reception held for Soozie on Saturday, February 25 in Des Moines with place and time to be announced later.

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