The Spire

First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa

June 2011
Volume 57, No. 6

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The Spire
Published monthly
except July & August
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Later this month, Susan, Zoe and I will be going to San Juan, Puerto Rico for the American Baptist Biennial meeting. About 1500 delegates from all over the US and Puerto Rico will attend. Puerto Rico is actually one of our stronger regions – you might not have guessed it, but there are more ABC churches in Puerto Rico than in Iowa.

For me, the Biennial is always is a reminder of the diversity of our denomination, a diversity that isn't always seen in individual congregations or even in our regional gatherings. American Baptist Churches USA is the most racially and ethnically diverse denomination in the U.S.; no ethnic or racial group makes up a majority of our members. This diversity can be a great strength, and in some ways our diversity is a reflection of American society. Diversity is also a challenge – keeping a collection of very different churches together can be difficult at times. Interestingly, the racial and ethnic diversity has not been the biggest challenge in this regard; theological differences are generally where the problems come.

We don't conduct a great deal of business at the Biennial – the gathering is primarily for information and inspiration and celebration. For me, one of the highlights is to reconnect with friends and colleagues from all over the country. Business is usually fairly routine, but we do have an important item of business this time around. We will be voting on whether to adopt a new organizational structure for the denomination. We voted on a similar plan at the 2009 Biennial in Pasadena, and the motion fell about 20 votes short of the needed 2/3 majority.

The purpose of the proposed restructuring is to streamline the way we operate, reduce the size of boards, and promote a stronger focus on our mission together. The proposed structure is also designed to make our structure more decentralized, partly in attempt to better accommodate for our diversity. The proposal will also save money and allow us to operate more efficiently, with more of our resources going to direct ministry.

I'll be there for the business meetings. But I will also be there for worship and workshops and concerts and conversations and exhibits and food and laughter and celebration. The Biennial is kind of a family reunion for American Baptists. We have a big, diverse family, and I'm looking forward to it. (And meeting in San Juan doesn't hurt!)

Blessings,
Dave

Worship Leaders for May

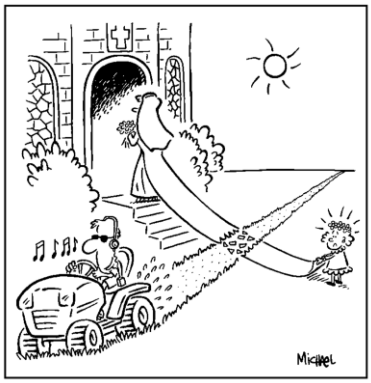
June 5
Worship Leader:
Joe Parrish
Ushers:
Bob Parrish*
Wallace Sanders
Marian/Jan Thompson
Ngaire West-Johnson

June 12
Worship Leader:
Jan Thompson
Ushers:
Howard Johnson*
Pat Johnson
Becca Whitaker
Andrew Perrine

June 19
Worship Leader:
Susan Russell
Ushers:
Bob McCarley*
Dianne Borgen
Tom Logue
Jerilyn Logue

June 26
Worship Leader:
Aiddy Phomvisay
Ushers:
Martha Gleason*
Beth Douglass/
Rosemarie Starrett
Scott Anderson
Jere Maddux

Flowers for June:
Barbara Woods



Tom Gleason	1
Teri Ochiltree	5
Sandra Englehart	8
Dianne Borgen	9
Ethan Ross	9
Kay Lambert	10
Lyndsey McCarley	10
Andrew Perrine	10
Bianca Bakley	14
Susan Russell	15
Tyler Anderson	23
Wallace Sanders	24
Wilma Robinson	26
Tom & Jerilyn Logue	9
Wallace & Julia Sanders	9
Harris & Katy Seidel	9

Church Library News

The Church Library has many wonderful books for your summer reading enjoyment! Watch for new books and selections of books to be available in the Fellowship Hall each Sunday during Fellowship Time.

Andrew Perrine in Africa

Andrew Perrine will be in Africa for five weeks this summer. His trip will include a veterinary course in South Africa and a wildlife safari. He will also spend a week doing mission work at Gathiga Children's Hope Home, an orphanage serving about 100 children in Nairobi, Kenya. Andrew will make a presentation about the orphanage following worship on June 5, and there will be an opportunity to make contributions toward the orphanage's ministry. Please join us to hear about Andrew's trip and support this work.

Work Day

There will be a Church Work Day on Saturday, June 11 beginning at 9am.There will be plenty of yard work and other projects to do in preparation for Music Camp the next week. All hands needed!

Summer Fellowship

A sign-up sheet has been posted in the Fellowship Hall for summer Fellowship Times. Each Sunday during the summer, beginning June 5 through September 4, we enjoy refreshments and fellowship after worship. Also, please join us for 3rd Sunday Lunch at CoCost (Chinese) on June 19 at 12 pm after Worship and Fellowship Time!

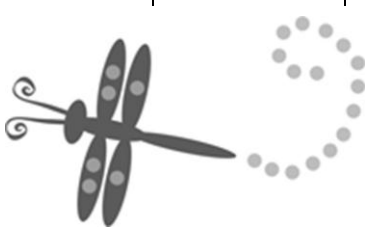
Ah! The joy that comes from giving someone just the perfect gift! Their utter delight is a gift right back.

Joy motivates us to share our resources with a hurting world through One Great Hour of Sharing. Where does joy come from? From God! Sharing invites God more fully into our lives: As we reach out in love, we open the way for God to reach more deeply into us. As one contributor said, "Giving just feeds my soul! This is what life is about-not collecting things, but helping people."

Giving from our abundance helps build clean water and sewage facilities in villages devastated by poverty; nurtures self-sufficiency through health care, education, and job training; and brings safety, shelter, and food after a natural disaster or violent circumstances have made towns uninhabitable.

Sharing brings joy to us, to others, to God. Let sharing transform you as you help transform the world through One Great Hour of Sharing.

June 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Deacons Meeting 7:00	2	3	4
5 9:45am-Worship/ Communion 10:45am- Fellowship Time	6	7	8	9	10	11 Church Work Day 9am
12 Pentecost 9:45am-Worship 10:45am- Fellowship Time 1 pm - Music Camp Staff Meeting	13	14 Planet Passengers Concert-7pm	15	16	17	18
19 9:45am-Worship 10:45am- Fellowhip Time 12pm- 3rd Sunday Lunch at CoCost Fathers Day	20	21 Trustees Meeting-7pm	22	23	24 ABCUSA Biennial Meeting-Puerto Rico	25
26 9:45am-Worship 10:45am- Fellowship Time	27	28	29 Deacon's Meeting-7pm	30		

Music Camp 9:00-11:30am

The Spire

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
200 Lynn Ave.
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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

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200 Lynn Avenue
Ames, IA 50014-7188

ABW Ministries

The American Baptist Women's Ministries Summer Conference will be held on July 8-9 at Wartburg College in Waverly, IA. The conference theme this year is "Women in the Potter's Hand". Further information and online registration is available at www.mid-abc.org.

Dayton Oaks/Forest Lake

It's not too late to register for summer camp at Dayton Oaks or Forest Lake. Registration materials are available online at the Region website – www.mid-abc.org.

Linda Hanson to Preach

Linda Hanson will be our guest preacher on Sunday, June 26. Linda is the daughter of Earl and Johnie Hammond and grew up in our church. She is an ordained UCC pastor and served as a missionary in Honduras, and most recently as a pastor of the UCC congregation in Madrid. We look forward to Linda being with us!

Nicaragua Trip 2012

It is not too early to think about taking part in our church's mission trip to Nicaragua over Spring Break, March 10-18, 2012. We will be working with AMOS, a medical mission to remote villages led by ABC missionaries David and Laura Parajon. A major fundraising effort will begin soon with a goal of $7500, half of which will go to build a clinic. For more information, go to http://amoshealthandhope.org.

Our 12th annual Music Camp will be June 13-17, from 9-11:30 each morning. Music camp features choir groups, hands-on learning with instruments, crafts, dances, and games, wonderful musical guests, great food, an awesome Campers' Talent Show, and lots of fun! The week ends with a mini-concert performed by the campers. We will also have an outdoor community concert at the church on Thursday evening.

The camp is for grades K-6 (completed). Cost is $20, which includes a T-shirt, and scholarships are available for all who request one. Brochures and registration forms are available at church and may also be accessed on the church website.

You can help and participate by:
1) Registering your child or grandchild
2) Inviting friends to Music Camp
3) Help us get ready at the Work Day June 11
4) Attending the Concert June 14
5) Attending the Closing Program on June 17 at 10:30 AM

PLANET PASSENGERS

in concert

Tuesday, June 14, 7 pm

First Baptist Church of Ames
200 Lynn Avenue
(1 block south of ISU Memorial Union)

benefit concert for
Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance

Planet Passengers is a band of seasoned musicians, (including our own Kent Johnson!) who play a fun, eclectic mix of blues, jazz, rock, Latin, bluegrass, country and more. The concert will be geared toward all ages and is held in conjunction with First Baptist's Music Camp.

Admission is free; an offering will be received for Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance, which provides help to families in need in Story County.

A concession stand (hot dogs, popcorn, drinks, etc.) will open at 6:15 with all proceeds going to Good Neighbor. "Becca the Balloon Lady" will also be on hand making balloon creations for kids.

The concert will be on the front lawn – bring lawn chairs or a blanket (inside in case of rain).

Please join us for a fun evening of music and help support Good Neighbor!