



# The Spire

First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa

May 2011

Volume 57, No. 5

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I always love Easter, and this year was no exception. It was a fabulous day. We got off to a good start, as always, with grits and biscuits and sausage and eggs. Worship was wonderful, filled with beautiful music and ending with the Hallelujah chorus. I left feeling much joy and hope. Easter evening, there was a religious musical marathon on cable. I watched Jesus Christ Superstar, which I had not seen in some time, and was moved.

I am writing this on Easter Monday. It's my day off, and I am at the car dealer in Des Moines, typing away on my netbook. Basking in the joy of resurrection, I am now hoping for new life, under warranty, for the rear suspension on our car.

That is the way life is, isn't it? The beautiful and inspiring and moving and deeply meaningful mixed with the mundane and maddening and everyday.

The thing is, Easter speaks to both. Easter speaks to the mundane and the everyday. Writing about the meaning of Easter, Pastor James Evans said,

By raising Jesus from the dead God has defeated death and secured for all who have faith the gift of eternal life.

Unfortunately, that's where it ends for many. Jesus is their Savior and provider of eternal life. The purpose of their faith is to secure a place in heaven. The Gospel story is simply a series of acts carried out by God to solve the problem of our death and subsequent judgment.

When we see Easter as simply solving our death problem, we are missing the bigger picture. Easter doesn't just address our death problem, it addresses our life problem. If we read the gospels honestly, it would be very hard to argue that the Christian faith is only, or even primarily, about getting a ticket to heaven. It is about living life here and now with joy and freedom and hope. It is about living in community with love and care and compassion. It is about working for peace and justice and equity and fairness for all the human family. And yes, it is about the mundane and day-to-day: relating to difficult people, managing stressful situations, making daily choices, working with integrity - all of those places where life and joy and fullness are needed. This means that Easter might even have something to do with how we approach a frustrating automobile issue.

The point of Easter is not simply to believe that we will have life after death. It is to live as though that life begins right now.

Blessings,  
Pastor Dave

### The Spire

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except July & August  
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**Worship Leaders  
for May**

**May 1**

Worship Leader:

Aiddy Phomvisay

Ushers:

Bob Parrish\*

Wallace Sanders

Marian/Jan Thompson

Ngairé West-Johnson

**May 8**

Worship Leader:

Michael Thompson

Ushers:

Howard Johnson\*

Pat Johnson

Becca Whitaker

Andrew Perrine

**May 15**

Worship Leader:

Joyce Davidson

Ushers:

Bob McCarley\*

Dianne Borgen

Tom Logue

Jerilyn Logue

**May 22**

Worship Leader:

Zoe Russell

Ushers:

Martha Gleason\*

Beth Douglass/

Rosemarie Starrett

Scott Anderson

Jere Maddux

**May 29**

Worship Leader:

Rita Parrish

Ushers:

Jeanine Cole\*

Barbara Woods

Lee Davidson

Mark Reuber

**Flowers for May:**

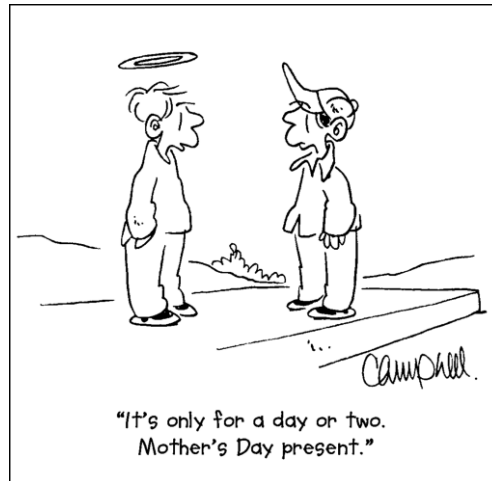
Mary Anderson and

Dorothy Lagomarcino



Laura Amaya	5
Catherine Parrish	6
Antorniece Lee	9
Rena Talbot	10
Crystina McShay	14
Jose Amaya	15
Michael Thompson	28
Beth Douglass	29

Stephenie and Brian Keat	5
Jessica and Andrew Beougher	5
Jim and Judy Demarest	21
Tom and Martha Gleason	29
Bob and Rita Parrish	29
Jose and Laura Amaya	31



**Student Suppers**

Thank you Marilyn and Buckley Peterson, Katy Seidel, Rosemarie Starrett and Dave and Susan Russell for providing Student Suppers in April and on May 1.

**Work Day**

There will be a Church Work Day on May 21 from 9am -1pm to clean up the church and grounds. We'll be doing the usual weed pulling, trimming, minor repairs and cleaning. Everyone is welcome to help!



**Congratulations 2011  
Graduates!**

**Lacey Gray** will graduate from ISU with a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing. After graduation, she will begin an internship at Hawthorne Direct in Fairfield, Iowa.

**Roy Lycke** will graduate from Iowa State with a BS in Computer Engineering, with minors in Psychology and BioEngineering. He will stay in Ames to work on a Masters degree and plans to pursue a Ph.D.

**Kristen Obbink** will receive her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Iowa State. She just returned from a three-week trip to Nepal, where she participated in a humanitarian effort to de-worm yaks in the valley surrounding Mount Everest! Kristen and Matt hope to move to the Twin Cities area, where she is interviewing for a position at a veterinary clinic.


**Marian Thompson** will graduate this month from Ames High School. Marian has been accepted to study at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

**Chrissy Amaya** will graduate from Ames High School. She will be attending Iowa State University in the fall.

If you know of other graduates in the church or would like to share news of graduates in your family, please contact the church office and we will have more graduate news in next month's Spire.



# May 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Easter 2 High School & College Graduation Sunday Worship 9:45am Church School 11am Student Supper 6pm	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Men's Breakfast Perkins 8am	<b>4</b> Choir 6:30pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> ISU Graduation
<b>8</b> Easter 3 Worship 9:45am Fellowship Time 10:45am Church School 11am Mother's Day	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Trustees 7pm	<b>11</b> Choir 6:30pm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Easter 4 Worship 9:45am Music Sunday  Church School 11am 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday Lunch Arby's 12pm	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Men's Breakfast Perkins 8am	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Work Day 9am-1pm Pixley Wedding 2pm
<b>22</b> Easter 5 Worship 9:45 Church School 11am Last Day of Church School Classes & Christian Ed Worker Appreciation Day Prayer Shawl Circle 2-4pm AHS Graduation	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Easter 6 Worship 9:45am Ice Cream Social	<b>30</b> Memorial Day	<b>31</b>	Looking ahead to June... June 3 Music Camp Registration Deadline June 13-17 Music Camp June 24-26 ABCUSA Biennial Meeting Puerto Rico			



On the Tuesday of Music Camp Week (June 14), we will have a concert on the front lawn. The Planet Passengers will play a fun, eclectic mix of blues, jazz, and rock and roll geared toward all ages. We will receive an offering for Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance. A concession stand will open at 6:15 with hot dogs, popcorn, and more, and Becca the Balloon Lady will be on hand to make balloon animals for children. The concert will start at 7pm.

We had around 200 people at our community concert last year. Plan to join us on June 14 for a great time, and to raise money for an important cause.



## Music News

Thank you to Mindy, Steve, musicians, choir, and everyone for all of the wonderful music during Holy Week and on Easter Sunday!

Our Spring Music Sunday will be May 15. The service will be filled with choir anthems, instrumental music, smaller group pieces, and congregational song. Plan to join us – and bring a friend!



## Music Camp 2011 June 13-17, 9:00-11:30am

Our 12<sup>th</sup> 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](#). Registration deadline is June 3 and registering early helps us with the T-shirt order. We have had around 30-50 campers each year and Music Camp is a major undertaking. We always need folks to help out as counselors, craft leaders, kitchen helpers, etc. Please see Mindy or Dave if you would like to help. You can also help by inviting children to attend, spreading the word, and posting fliers around town.





I've added some great books for your summer reading! Too many to write very much about each book. Take look for yourself and find something to enjoy.

Heartland Heroes by Andrea Boeshaar

Three stories in one book.  
Three independent women encounter unexpected heroes in Iowa's heartland.

Ozark Weddings by Anita Higman and Janice Thompson

Three stories in one book.  
"Will these three women find their true loves" in the hills of the Ozark Mountains?

Wild Prairie Roses by Lena Nelson Dooley

Three stories in one book.  
"In the decade following the Civil War, rumors of gold lost near Browning City, Iowa, lead three couples on quests for treasure."

Home To Blessing by Lauraine Snelling

Book One – A Measure of Mercy

Eighteen-year-old Astrid Bjorklund has always dreamed of becoming a doctor. She had intended to study medicine in Chicago or Grand Forks, but when a disaster wiped out a major portion of her family's income, Astrid stayed home instead, receiving hands-on training from Dr. Elizabeth.

Book Two – No Distance Too Far  
Astrid Bjorklund wants to use her medical training to serve God and feels that He might be leading her in the direction of missionary work. She heads east to a missionary training school, hoping to eventually use her skills in some remote outpost in Africa.

Book Three – A Heart for Home  
Astrid Bjorklund is on the Red Bud Indian Reservation in South Dakota trying to stop the horrific epidemic that is ravaging the tribe. She is overwhelmed by this need so close to home and wonders if this is the mission field God has planned for her.

*The Sisters Suspense Series* by Debra White Smith

Book One – Second Chances  
Marilyn Douglas Thatcher supported her husband's calling as a pastor until the day he walked out on her and their daughter for another woman. His breach of faith with Marilyn has caused her to reject God as uncaring. Marilyn feels herself coming to life again, however, when she meets her new neighbor, Joshua Langham. Then she discovers his calling: Josh is a minister.

Book Two – Picture Perfect  
Supermodel Kim Lan has beauty, wealth, an engagement to heartthrob Ted Curry, and a budding faith that seldom interferes with her plans. When a secret admirer sends flowers and notes, Kim is flattered. But as the letters become possessive, warning signals flash.

In Non-fiction take a look at The Complete Visual Bible by Stephan M. Miller

““See” the Bible in a whole new way in this eye-catching visual tour. Hundreds of photos, paintings and illustrated maps”

## Secret Place

Check the table in the narthex for the newest edition of *The Secret Place*, a daily devotional from Judson Press.

## Japan Earthquake/Tsunami Relief

American Baptists are providing relief assistance to victims of the earthquake and tsunami through One Great Hour of Sharing. If you wish to contribute to the relief effort, you may make a check payable to First Baptist with the notation OGHs-Japan. Thank you to those who have already given generously!

## 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](http://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.

## Directory Updates

There have been a few changes to the new directory. You may pick up a copy of the updates in the narthex and on the table outside the Southeast sanctuary door.

*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.

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We're on the Web!

*See us at:*

**[www.fbcames.org](http://www.fbcames.org)**

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**Music Camp 2011**  
**June 13-17**  
**9:00-11:30am**

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200 Lynn Avenue  
Ames, IA 50014-7188