

The Spire

First Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa



October 2011

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The Spire

Published monthly

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Six members of our church recently attended a conference in Des Moines sponsored by [Iowa Religious Media Services](#). The keynote speaker was Paul Nixon, a United Methodist who consults with churches of many denominations from all around the country. It turned out that Paul was in seminary with Susan and me, lo those many years ago.

Paul has written several books, including [I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church](#). His keynote focused on research for an upcoming book on innovation in mainline churches. There are plenty of studies of churches that have experienced renewal and revitalization, but in a lot of cases these are churches that grew from, say, 350 to 4000 members. Most of this material is difficult for me to relate to (and I'm probably not the only one). Paul wanted to study churches that were on the brink of closure – they had declined to the point where survival seemed unlikely - yet still found a way to make a comeback and to have a significant ministry. He shared some of those stories – a onetime 3000 member ABC church that was down to 40 in attendance, a historic Methodist church in Maine that was down to 13 members, a small town Florida Presbyterian church that consisted of about 35 senior adults. Each church made changes and has found new life, and the stories of these churches gave us a lot to think about.

As Paul noted in one session, because of changes in our society, every neighborhood is now a changing neighborhood – which means that every church exists in the midst of change. First Baptist has shifted gears, weathered challenges, and moved in new directions throughout its history. The take-home message for me was the reminder that this is a constant process; change is always happening. The conference gave us a chance to reflect on who we are and where we are going and where God is leading us as a church. Nixon likened the changes churches make to changes in one's home. A home might need renewal (a little paint, new furniture, new curtains), remodeling (making bigger changes, tearing down walls, building additions) or innovation (dreaming up a completely new way of being a home – maybe traveling the country living in an RV, or two or three families sharing a large home, for example).

Those who attended found the conference very engaging, and we will continue to think about our mission and vision and future and meeting the challenges of change. The whole prospect can be a bit scary, but through God's grace, life can come forth in ways we may have never imagined.

Blessings,
Pastor Dave



Student Suppers

Thank you to Joyce Davidson and the Whitaker family for providing meals during the month of September. We need your help providing for our weekly 6pm Student Suppers. If you can provide a meal or part of a meal, please sign up on the bulletin board outside the library. The students really enjoyed all the great food shared last year! Talk to Pastor Susan if you have questions!



Student Cookout

October 9 at Parrish's

Catherine and Joe Parrish will host a cookout for college students at their home-24271 670th Ave, Nevada-on October 9. Meet at the church at 6pm if you need a ride or would like to carpool. Invite a friend and join us!

Thank you

to all who helped with the September 25 **Work Day**. Lots of projects were tackled, inside and out. Those who participated included Bob Parrish, Joe Parrish, Jack Cleasby, Lee Davidson, Dave Russell, Becca Whitaker, Dianne Borgen, Jere Maddux, and Jon Pritchard.

New chairs in sanctuary

Some attending worship may find it difficult to get in and out of the pews. We have purchased arm chairs that sit a bit higher and offer arms to push on to get up. These chairs will be located along the center aisle beside the shortened pew, and can also be placed at the back of the sanctuary if preferred. Please make use of these chairs if you find them helpful!

Worship Leaders For October

October 2

Worship Leader:

Jere Maddux

Ushers:

Bob Parrish*

Wallace Sanders

Marian/Jan Thompson

Ngairé West-Johnson

October 9

Worship Leader:

Susan Russell

Ushers:

Howard Johnson*

Pat Johnson

Becca Whitaker

Andrew Perrine

October 16

Worship Leader:

Barbara Woods

Ushers:

Bob McCarley*

Dianne Borgen

Tom Logue

Jerilyn Logue

October 23

Worship Leader:

Joe Parrish

Ushers:

Martha Gleason*

Beth Douglass/

Rosemarie Starrett

Scott Anderson

Jere Maddux

October 30

Worship Leader:

Jan Thompson

Ushers:

Jeanine Cole*

Barbara Woods

Lee Davidson

Mark Reuber

Flowers for October:

Julia Sanders

Douglas Thomas	3
Marian Thompson	9
Fred Borgen	10
Elinor Fehr	11
Joe Parrish	12
Dorothy Ewing	16
Julia Sanders	22
Martha Gleason	26
Lucas Anderson	29

Fellowship Time Sign Up

We have resumed monthly fellowship (every second Sunday of the month).

There are still many opportunities to sign up to provide light refreshments following the service. Please look for the sign up sheet on the bulletin board outside the library, and contact Barbara Woods with questions.

NAME TAGS ARE HERE!

Name tags for worship can be found on the new magnetic display board in the narthex. If you would prefer a lanyard instead of a magnet, please feel free to make an exchange. If we missed your name, or (misspelled it!) please write a note on the registration pad, and Jen will have it ready for next Sunday.

Blank cards are also available and newcomers are invited to use them!

After the service, name tags may be placed in baskets provided at sanctuary exits and in the fellowship hall, or returned to the display board.

Hayride October 30

A hayride is set for October 30 at Flowers Farm, near Zearing. Clydesdale horses will pull our wagon and we will return to the farm to roast hot dogs and marshmallows. We will leave from the church at 2:30, more details to come!

LET'S GO ON
A HAYRIDE



October

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

<p>2 9:45am-Worship/ Communion 11am-Church School 6pm-Student Supper</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 8am-Men's Breakfast- Perkins</p>	<p>5 6:30-Choir</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 5:30pm Wedding Rehearsal</p>	<p>8 3:30pm Gabe Whitaker/ Lyndsay Boock Wedding</p>
<p>9 9:45am-Worship 10:45-Fellowship/ Nicaragua Meeting 11:15-Church School 1pm-CROP Walk 6pm-Student Cookout at Parrish's</p>	<p>10 </p>	<p>11 7pm-Trustees meeting</p>	<p>12 6:30-Choir</p>	<p>13 10am- AARLA-First Christian Church 4pm-Alpha Chi Omega Initiation</p>	<p>iLead Regional Meeting...</p>	
<p>16 9:45am-Worship 11am-Church School 12pm-3rd Sunday Lunch-Culvers ...iLead Meeting</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 8am-Men's Breakfast Perkins</p>	<p>19 6:30-Choir</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>1pm-Executive Council Meeting 2-4pm-Prayer Shawl Circle 6pm-Student Supper</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 6:30-Choir</p>	<p>27 10am-3pm Region Women in Ministry Mtg.</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 Fall Renewal with Brent Walker 5pm-Session 1 6:16-Soup Supper 7:15-Session 2</p>
<p>9:45 Worship 11am-Church School 6pm-Student Supper</p>	<p>31</p>					
<p>9:45 Worship 11am-Church School Fall Renewal with Brent Walker 2:30pm-All Church Hayride!!</p>						



Looking ahead to November...

- November 2-Deacons Meeting
- November 6-Daylight Savings Time
- November 8-Trustees Meeting
- November 24-Thanksgiving Day
- November 30-Deacons Meeting

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF AMES • OCTOBER 29-30

Fall Renewal Weekend with Brent Walker

“The Intersection of Church and State”



A member of the Supreme Court Bar and an ordained minister, J. Brent Walker serves as Executive Director of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty, an education and advocacy organization in our nation's capital. Walker is an adjunct professor at Georgetown University Law Center and the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond. He speaks at churches, universities, and seminaries around the country and is frequently sought for commentary and expertise on church-state matters, appearing on programs including “Hardball with Chris Matthews” (MSNBC), “NewsHour” (PBS), “The Today Show” (NBC), “The O’Reilly Factor” (Fox), and “All Things Considered” (National Public Radio). Walker is a regular writer for the *Washington Post’s* “On Faith” blog.



Saturday, October 29

5:00 - “Exploding Myths about the Separation of Church and State”

6:15 - Soup Supper

7:15 - “The Use and Abuse of Religion in Politics”

Sunday, October 30

9:45 worship – sermon, “Christians: Fight Like Heaven!”

11:00 – “Baptists: A Biblical People Committed to Religious Liberty for All”

Presentations are free of charge, and everyone is invited.

First Baptist Church of Ames
200 Lynn Avenue (one block south of ISU Union)
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Student of the Month



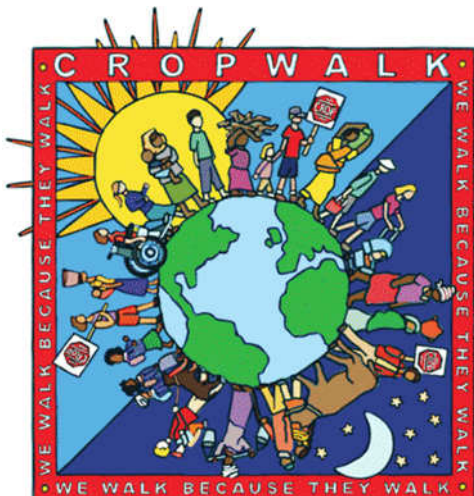
As we take time to highlight a college student each month, we are not forgetting those who attend school away from Ames. This month's Student of the Month is Zoe Russell.

Zoe has attended First Baptist since she was in second grade; she is now a sophomore at the University of Northern Iowa majoring in communications

and religion. She loves UNI and competes on the UNI Speech team, spending many of her weekends traveling to speech tournaments. In two weekends of competition this fall, she has already received a first place in Impromptu and third place in Persuasive Speaking at the University of Wisconsin-Stout tournament and a second place in After Dinner Speaking at the Illinois State University tournament.

At First Baptist, Zoe is a member of the choir when she is in town and frequently sings solos in worship. She serves as a worship leader and is planning to take part in the Nicaragua Mission Trip. Zoe enjoys hanging out with the younger kids at church. She is a big Harry Potter fan and says she enjoys a cup of coffee on a nice autumn day. When she is in Cedar Falls on the weekend she attends First Baptist in Waterloo. Zoe's parents are Dave and Susan Russell, and when she is at school Zoe's dog Rudy and cat Jambo miss her. When you see her, make sure you say hi to October's Student of the Month.

Crop Walk October 9, 1pm Brookside Park



WORLD MISSION OFFERING

American Baptist International Ministries (IM) is a Christian mission that works with more than 200 partner organizations globally—primarily churches, hospitals, schools/seminaries and other mission agencies. These efforts are accomplished by longterm missionaries and thousands of volunteers to help people come to Christ, grow in Christ and change their worlds with Christ. Support for IM's missionaries and the work of partner organizations comes from gifts to the World Mission Offering, designated contributions and income from some endowments. World Mission Offering gifts from churches and individuals are accepted by IM at any time. To give online for the support of IM's global mission, go to: www.internationalministries.org/give and choose World Mission Offering.

**Heal the sick who are there and tell them,
“The kingdom of God is near you.” LUKE 10:9**

Your gifts to World Mission Offering help women like Gorma... Making ends meet is a daily struggle for mothers like Gorma living in poverty in the state of Nagaland in North East India. In this dusty place by the tracks, women sell their bodies to buy rice for the day or to pay tuition for a week. Often prostitution is forced on them by their husbands to feed their drug or alcohol addiction. Today, many women who were once without options are finding a new way to live, thanks to the ministry of the Miqlat Center. The Center is an important ministry of the Nagaland Baptist Church Council (NBCC) Women's Department, which is supported by your gifts to the World Mission Offering. Gorma, a former drug trafficker and prostitute, learned of God's love at the Miqlat Center. Today, she is a strong worker for the Lord. She is leading her sisters out of misery through the life-changing vocational opportunities and spiritual support offered by the Miqlat Center. “I didn't know of any other way, until I met the Lord.” International Ministries relies on vital Christian partnerships like this one to embrace a world in need. Thank you for your gifts to the World Mission Offering.

www.internationalministries.org
www.miqlatnagaland.org

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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.fbcomes.org

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Nicaragua Mission Trip

Our church will go on a mission trip to Nicaragua March 10-17, 2012 (ISU and Ames High spring break). We are particularly encouraging college students to be a part of the trip, but all church members are welcome. We will work in a remote village on a project with [AMOS](#), a health ministry led by ABC missionaries David and Laura Parajon.

For those interested in going on the trip, or learning more, there will be a brief meeting following worship (during the Fellowship Time) on Sunday, October 9. If you are interested in the trip but cannot make the meeting, please see Pastor Dave or Barbara Woods.

Thank you to those who have contributed to this project. Fundraisers will be coming soon; in the meantime, you may contribute to the project through the weekly offering by designating your gift "Nicaragua Trip 2012."