



January 1, 2017

### First Things

A Monthly Newsletter for Members and Friends

Our Vision: *"We are a church partnering with God by intentionally building the Kingdom of God, through abiding in Christ, discerning God's will and discipling others in the power of the Holy Spirit."*

### Lead Pastor

Last December I announced that our focus for 2016, in general as well as for our sermon series, would be "Who We Are." The goal of the series was to emphasize our identity as God's chosen people, while at the same time connecting to the work we would do to discover/reaffirm our identity as a congregation within God's greater kingdom. Within the context of the sermon series, the theme was built upon by looking at the story of Christ, as told within the book of Luke, and the story of the early church, as told through the book of Acts. Together, this give us insight into our Christian identity: *we are those saved by grace, welcomed into the family of God, and called upon to build His kingdom here on earth.*

At the same time as we were going through this series, the leadership of the church began



Rev. Lara Heise joined our pastoral staff, in December 2012, as the Pastor of Preaching and Teaching; in June 2015, Lara transitioned into the role of Lead Pastor. Lara has a passion for preaching and teaching God's word and for walking with people as they discover who God has created them be. Lara is active in the Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force, Mid-Michigan Health Advisory Council, and Faithwalking. She and her husband, David Heise, have two children: Lola and Devin.

to ask the congregation to look to our guiding principles and values so that, together, we could reaffirm our identity as a congregation. Through a series of presentations within the worship service and discussions, the church reaffirmed our guiding principles and values. This work was intended to help us in understanding our identity as a congregation, illuminating how God created First Baptist as unique: just as He has created every church. First Baptist is a church which: *values each person's relationship with God and believes that each of us is a minister; both of these are based on Scripture and our own sense that Scripture is God's truth. We value the church as being separate from the state and separate from other bodies. We practice believer's baptism and the Lord's Supper as the two ordinances commanded by Jesus Himself. We place a high value on stewardship and education, on missions and prayer, on worship and music, and on Christ-centered caring and inclusion.* This is who God designed our church to be!

The work of 2016 will now become the foundation upon which we will build in 2017, which will be the start of a new focus, and corresponding sermon theme: *"Living Out Who We Are."* This year's theme will be the focus of nine sermon series which will be presented throughout the year, each running between three and eight weeks. These series will build upon the work of the last year by helping us think about how we do and can live out our identities as Christians (*those saved by grace, welcomed into the family of God, and called upon to build His kingdom here on earth*) as well as within the context of the church, meaning living out our values, guiding principles, and vision.

## Prayer Partners

### **For those that are grieving:**

The family of Bob Boring

### **For the health needs of many of our church family:**

Thayer Bradish, Sharon Cooper-Bussell, Etheljean Carroll, Shawna Kobel Elmore, Pastor Lara and the Heise Family, Dale Green, Betty King, Emma Mantel, Amy Meilink, Ruthie O'Dell, Elaine Parsons, Jeff and Joyce Phillips, Anne Poindexter, Jim Pope, Andrea Ross, Dick Seamster, Eleanor Stenger, Jan Sutherland and Family, Bob Winchester, and Denny & Judy Zeiss.

### **And the needs of loved ones:**

Acacia (Walter's granddaughter), Scott Carruthers (Jim & Sharon's son), Carter (Mary Lou Sperry's nephew), Jared Engleman (Mary Lou Sperry's nephew), Don Houghton (Mary Lou Sperry's nephew), Jimmy (Rena's brother), Joyce Atkinson (Danny O'Dell's mother-in-law), Shirley Gagnon (Kathy Burch's Sister-in-law), Keith Overly, Steve Pope (Jim's son), Tim Richard & Family (McCourt friends), Marcee Simpson (Nate & Joyce Poland's daughter), Marcus Terwillegar, & Wayne (John Williams' friend).

The first of the series, entitled “Do You Know Him?” will begin on January 8. Part of living out our identity is remembering the God we follow and serve. The focus of this series is on the character of God, which is designed to help us grow in our knowledge of God with the hope that by that growth we will be drawn into that deeper relationship that we were created to have and given again by our faith in Christ. This will be followed by a series entitled “Why Worship?” Worship is a vital part of the Christian life. It is especially relevant as we come out of a series leading us to a greater understanding of who God is. It will be powerful for us to explore the purpose and intention behind our worship. These two series will take us through the first part of the year until Easter. For more information about what comes after, you will have to wait until March!

In addition to this theme being the focus of the sermon series, it will also be the topic of discussion at Team Network and within the various teams of the church. The intention is to have dialogue focused on how successfully we are living out our identity and how can we grow in doing so. Teams and leaders will be challenged to take a closer look at our vision and mission, as well as our guiding principles and values.

I would like to invite everyone to begin praying for our leadership and the leadership teams as we take on this task, asking that God would give us His eyes to see our church and what He is calling us to do. I would also like to invite you to begin looking at the materials which describe our values, guidelines, and vision and to begin to ask God, as well, for wisdom in how we can live more fully as the church that He created us to be.

I am excited about 2017. I believe that God is

If you know of other folks in our church who need special prayer, please contact the church office by phone: 835-6731 or by email: [office@midlandfbc.com](mailto:office@midlandfbc.com).

### THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who sent cards, offered prayers, and gave us words of sympathy after “Mom D” passed away.

Times like this make us grateful for the support of our church family.

~Kerry and Brendon Smith

### NEW ADDRESS

(As of January 1, 2017)  
Beverly Babb  
2428 Morning Dawn Dr.  
Midland, MI 48642

going to do amazing things as we pray and seek His guidance around how to be the people and church He has created us to be. I look forward to seeing God work among us and through us so that His glory will be revealed.

~Rev. Lara Heise



We'd like to send Warm Birthday Wishes  
to all who have birthdays in January!

February's Newsletter deadline is January 21 at Noon.

## YOUTH

We need Youth Meals for Sundays at 5:45PM. Please sign up to prepare a meal for our youth at the Welcome Center. Plan to prepare for 10-12 people.

### JANUARY YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

January 8 & 15 5:45-7:30PM

Regular Youth Group

January 26 - 29

The Youth Group Great Escape Weekend will begin on Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at 4:00PM until 3:00PM on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at the Hitts cottage in Central Lake. Activity choices will include skiing, tubing, the Northern Great Escape Room, snowshoeing, sledding, movies, games and more games! Food cost for the weekend will be \$25. More pricing details to come on the various activities. This is a great opportunity to invite a friend and spend a great weekend enjoying the fun in Northern Michigan.



## MUSIC NOTES from the MUSIC MINISTER

As we enjoy the hush of snow, the soft light of winter, and the slowing down of tasks after Christmas celebrations, we remember and reflect on the many opportunities to praise God through music and give thanks for the many people who offer to God their time and talents by their music participation and leadership in worship.

**TIMES OF THANKS and CHANGE** I take this time after Christmas to recharge my musical batteries and tune up for next year. Without a set schedule for a week I can choose how to use my time at my desk and in the choir room. With the office/church closed, I can make much loud music without fear. I sing in the halls and play all the pianos. I practice solo bell ringing. It is a wonderful time to be thankful, to plan anthems and curriculum, to make calls and leave messages, and to take stock of what has really worked to praise God in worship and relationships. It is a time to sleep in and catch up. It is also a time to consider what skills need to be improved, what talents can be used more effectively and what words can be better said. At this time last year, my life was very different. I had no idea what changes I would experience in 2016. In the midst of change, these things remained consistent- my faith in God and the strength I found leaning on the arms of the church family known as First Baptist. Thank you. I thank God daily for my service to First Baptist and I look forward to 2017.

**CALENDAR Take Note! Children and Youth Choir and Bell Ensemble** continue their after school winter season on **Monday January 9**. As of the most recent count, we have twenty-four K-12 students participating. More than half either do not have a church or attend church elsewhere. This is truly mission work. **Take Note! Children and Youth** participated in worship on **December 11** with our Christmas musical, *The Backward Christmas Pageant*. **Take Note!** will participate in worship **February 19** and Easter morning, **April 16**. Please remember to put our spring musical, *O, Jonah*, **May 14** on your calendar.

**MUSIC REHEARSALS** There are no choirs or praise band in worship December 25 and January 1. Rehearsals are on winter hiatus after Christmas. **Worship Band** rehearses **Sunday mornings at 8:40am** beginning on **January 8**. **Chancel Choir** meets **Sunday mornings at 9:00 am** beginning on **January 9** to warmup and rehearsal begins on **January 5, Thursday, 7:15-8:30**. **Chancel Bells** rehearsal begins on **January 8, Sunday, 6-7:15**.

**MAKING CONTACT** Please contact me via email, [jant@tm.net](mailto:jant@tm.net), or by phone. I am in the office Mondays and throughout the week in the afternoons and evenings. You may also reach me at home 835-1962.

**FINAL NOTE** Just a simple Merry Christmas! ~Soli Deo Gloria, Jan Sutherland

## JANUARY CALENDAR - 2017

### Regular Schedule

		<b>ABIDING SCRIPTURES DECEMBER — JOB 12:9-16</b>
Sundays	9:30 AM	Worship Service - Communion Service is the 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month
	11:00 AM	Sunday School
	5:45-7:30PM	Youth Activity & Meal (Jan. 8, 15)
	6-7:15PM	Chancel Bells Practice
Mondays	10-11:30AM	Staff Meeting (2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday staff meeting is on Tuesday @ 11AM)
	3:45-6:00PM	Take-Note Children & Youth Choirs (Resumes January 9)
	6:30-8PM	Bible Study - Room 16 (Jan. 2, 16, 23)
	6:30 PM	Leadership Development Team Meeting - Media Room - January 2
	6:30 PM	Team Network Meeting - Media Rm - January 9 - <u>All church is invited!</u>
Tuesdays	7:30 AM	Men's Breakfast at M's Café at 5103 Eastman Rd.
	10-11:00AM	Pastoral Connections
	4-5:00PM	Missions Team Meeting - Harmony Room - January 10
Wednesdays	1-2:00PM	Worship Planning Meeting
	6:15 PM	Property Management Meeting - Media Room - January 4
Thursdays	10:30-12Noon	Bible Study - Media Room (Jan. 5, 19, 26, 30)
	5:30 PM	Stewardship & Finance Meeting - Media Room - January 19
	7-8:30PM	Chancel Choir Practice
Saturdays	10AM-2PM	FBC Serves at Open Door - January 14 (2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday of Every Month)



### Date

### Time

### Special Event

Jan. 1	9:30 AM	Casual New Year's Service in the Chapel
Jan. 14	10AM-2PM	FBC Serves at Open Door - See Chuck McCourt for details
Jan. 21	-	February Newsletter Deadline
Jan. 26-29	-	Great Escape Weekend for Youth - See Jim & Deb Hitt for details
Jan. 27/28	9AM-5PM	Scrapbookers in the Hearthside Room

**SAVE THE DATE!!!**

**Annual Business Meeting - February 5**

### January Ushers

Etheljean Carroll

Jo Clarke

Bob Clarke

Denny Zeiss





## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

*Serving with Love*



FBC Folks, Marcia and I visited Bob and Carol at their home in Beaver, OR in May 2013. Bob had arranged for us to go crabbing on Tillamook Bay with his neighbors. They were successful, and we had a superb Dungeness crab dinner that night.

Bob's right foot had been amputated a year earlier, and he had little use of his right arm because of a shoulder injury. Nevertheless, he drove (in his neighborhood) using only his left foot and left arm. After dinner he played piano and sang an original song. He seemed happy and content.

Bob may have been the most talented person I have known. He could play almost any instrument, and he excelled at every sport. I'll never forget when I invited him to play on our volleyball team in Midland's A league. By the end of the season he had become a ferocious spiker and led the team to the city championship. After he moved to Oregon, he built and flew his own plane!

Bob was a great asset to First Baptist in Midland and many other ministries. He will be missed.

Carol's address in 2013 was 24750 River Bend Rd., Beaver OR 97108-9759. I suspect she is still at that address.

Yours, Jim Pierce

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Robert Burton Boring, 83 of Beaver, Ore., passed away on Sept. 14, 2016. He was born on April 13, 1933 in Oil City, Pa. to Harry and Mary (Clark) Boring. He graduated from Oil City High School, received his college education from Slippery Rock University and received his Masters of Divinity from Eastern Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. Bob's ministry extended over New Jersey, Ohio, Michigan and Oregon – where he was instrumental in the development of Camp Arrah Wanna in Wemme, Ore. and was a member of the American Baptists of Oregon.

Bob married Carol Anne Longenecker on June 3, 1984 in Portland, Ore. He enjoyed fishing and hunting, built his own airplane and was an accomplished musician. Bob sang and played piano, guitar and harmonica.

Bob is survived by his wife, Carol Boring of Beaver, Ore.; daughter Cindy Morse (Bret) of Colorado Springs, Colo.; son Tim Boring (Susy) of Beaverton, Ore.; daughters Janice McCarthy (Jim) of Chehalis, Wash. and Deanna Stanton (Rich) of Springfield, Ore.; son Josef Boring of Gresham, Ore.; brother Marvin Boring (Shirley) of Columbus, Ohio; sisters Ruth Dorney of Santa Rosa, Calif. and Janet Greene of Oil City, Pa.; 12 grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Date: January 1, 2017

Newsletter for Friends and Members  
First Baptist Church  
915 E. Sugnet Road  
Midland MI 48642-3772

**Sunday Schedule**

9:30AM Worship Service

11:00AM Sunday School



First Baptist Church  
915 E. Sugnet Rd.  
Midland, MI 48642  
Phone: (989) 835-6731  
Email: [office@midlandfbc.com](mailto:office@midlandfbc.com)  
Website: [www.midlandfbc.com](http://www.midlandfbc.com)

Communion served 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Month

*In the spirit of our compassionate Christ, we are a family of growing believers serving all of God's people in an ever-changing world!*

**If you do not wish to receive this mailing, please contact us to remove your name: 989-835-6731 or Email: [office@midlandfbc.com](mailto:office@midlandfbc.com)**

Website: <http://www.midlandfbc.com>

Lara Heise: Lead Pastor (Cell: 815-690-8476)

Jan Sutherland: Music Minister

FBC Church Services and Functions may be Videotaped for Shut-in distribution and broadcast on MCTV. If you are interested in viewing our services, they will be broadcast on Charter Cable MCTV digital box Channel 191 at 2:00 PM Thursdays, and on digital box Channel 191, at 7:30 PM, Wednesday evening. Church services in video format may also be viewed at <http://www.awincom.com/church-movies/>