



June 1, 2016

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

At the Annual Business meeting in February, I committed to gathering information which would be used in the discovery of who we are as FBC and to discern who God is calling us to be. In the past few newsletter articles I have shared findings which I gathered from learning our church’s history. In that same research, there were several studies that the church has done over the past fifty years which have had the same goal of clarifying the church’s identity and goals.

With the help of Dave Pellegrom, Allen Ross, and Rich Williams, the results of the last two visioning discussions (the first done in 2001 and the most recent done in 2013) were reviewed with the goal of determining if the values that the church identified as central in 2001 were the same as the ones expressed



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.

at the 2013 all church retreat/visioning meetings. From what we discerned of the material, the answer to that question was that the church indeed still affirms the same fourteen distinctives and values as central to our identity as we did fifteen years ago (Soul Freedom, Priesthood of All Believers, Authority of Scripture, Separation of Church and State, Church Autonomy, Ordinances, Stewardship, Education, Missions, Prayer, Worship and Music, Christ Centered Caring, and Inclusion---which are defined briefly after the article). Yet, we acknowledged that we are only four members of a much larger body! We believe if these words are going to be used to define ourselves as a church, they should be agreed upon and understood by all those who call FBC their home.

In the hopes of revitalizing (or editing) and reaffirming (or redefining) the core concepts of our identity as FBC, we would like to offer several opportunities for individuals to learn about and discuss each of these concepts this summer. The first opportunity will run weekly from June 5th through August 28th. During those weeks, we will be adding a segment to the worship service called "Visioning, Value, and Guiding Principle Moment." This five minute time period, will offer a member of the church the chance to define and describe one of the concepts from our distinctives and values. After the person speaks, everyone will be invited to take a brief survey, which will be located in the bulletin, that asks to what extent you agree with the definition and have a sense the concept is important. Those surveys will then be used during a weekly discussion time the



Pastor Rich Williams

joined the pastoral staff in June 2004 as the Youth and Young Adult Pastor; in June 2015, he transitioned into the role of

Discipleship Pastor.

Rich's passion is to journey alongside and challenge people of all ages to claim their true identity in Christ and to live that out in the world. Rich is active in the local Youth Ministers' group, Sneakerpalooza, and in the lives of the church youth. He and his wife, Sue Williams, have two children: Ceonni and Isaiah.

Prayer Partners

For those that grieve:

The family of Barbara Anderson and The family of Naomi Collins

For the health needs of many of our church family:

Kathy Burch, David Bussell, Dale Green, Ruthie O'Dell, Elaine Parsons, Jeff and Joyce Phillips, Anne Poindexter, Andrea Ross,

following Sunday (running June 12 through September 4th) at 11am in the Chapel . The video segments containing the descriptions and surveys will be made available online for those who miss. In addition to these discussion times, there will be four other opportunities to discuss the topics over the course of the summer. That schedule can be found after the article as well. In addition, there will be several meetings around the topic of Inclusion, which will tie into the same-gender marriage discussion, during the month of September at a time which will be announced at a later date.

The goal of this project is to use what we learn from the surveys and discussions in order to rework and/or revitalize the guiding principles (values and distinctives) by the end of the year. My hope is that with these principles in hand, we will be able to enter into 2017 with a renewed sense of church identity which can lead us forward. I hope this excites you as much as it excites me. Renewing our sense of identity in this way honors our past, as well as whom we are today. It puts the church's identity into the hands of each and every one of us. We are simply affirming who we believe we are so that we can use that identity to seek God's direction for our church, so that we can build on our strengths and move forward together.

Ashley & Jenny Kalafet-Seamster, Eleanor Stenger, Marcia Williams & Denny Zeiss.

And the needs of loved

ones: Acacia (Walter's granddaughter), Charlie Breedlove (Liz Smith's nephew), Carter (Mary Lou Sperry's nephew), Isaac Ciluffo (Puckett's grandbaby), Beth Hill (Acacia's kidney donor), Shirley Gagnon (Kathy Burch's Sister-in-law), Nancy (John Wms' friend), Rebecca (Elaine Parson's friend), Marcy Simpson (Nate & Joyce Poland's daughter), Marcus Terwillegar, & Sonya (Renna Yuill's aunt)

And for Praises:

Tammy Overly is cancer free!

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.

Date	Vision, Values, and Guiding Principle Moment	Discussion 11am, Chapel
June 5	Soul Freedom	
June 12	Priesthood of All Believers	Soul Freedom
June 19	Authority of Scripture	Priesthood of All Believers
June 26	Separation of Church and State	Authority of Scripture
July 3	Church Autonomy	Separation of Church and State
July 10	Ordinances	Church Autonomy
July 17	Stewardship	Ordinances
July 24	Education	Stewardship
July 31	Missions	Education
August 7	Prayer	Missions
August 14	Worship and Music	Prayer
August 21	Christ Centered Caring	Worship and Music
August 28	Inclusion	Christ Centered Caring
September 4		Inclusion

Additional Discussions:

Wednesday June 29th at Connections
(Soul Freedom, Priesthood of Believers, Authority of Scripture)

Sunday, July 17th from 7-8:30PM in Chapel
(Separation of Church and State, Church Autonomy, Ordinances)

Sunday, August 7th from 7-8:30PM in Chapel (Stewardship, Education, and Missions)

Sunday, August 28th from 7-8:30PM in Chapel
(Prayer, Worship and Music, and Christ Centered Caring)

TBA (Inclusion)

~Rev. Lara Heise

Summer "Connections"

Dates: Wednesdays, June 22-July 27

Time: 6:16PM - 8PM

Location: Plymouth Park, "H" Pavilion - this is by the little league fields

Vision/Purpose of Connections: To have a mid-week family-focused presence for the whole church family, that would encourage tighter bonds and deeper friendships.

Additionally, this is a fun and safe place to invite a friend, co-worker or someone you want to connect to your church family. REMEMBER this is a potluck meal...bring your own drink and a dish to pass...plates, cups, silverware will be provided.

We will have spaces near the walkway for those who need a smooth path. We hope to have a few people available as valets. We want to include as many people as possible. In case of a bad storm, we will meet at the church.

New Orleans Mission Trip

This Trip is schedule for July 30 - Aug 9. We have 6 adults planning to go: Jim & Debbie Hitt, John Williams, Rich and Sue Williams, and Bobbie Baker. We have a few youth attempting to work out the details of the summer in hopes of going: Afua & Kofi Ofori-Darko. We would love for others to join us! Right now the six adults will fly out of Detroit on a non-stop Delta flight. We will work July 31 - Aug 6. We will sightsee on August 7-8. It's not too late to sign up!!! If you are interested, please speak with Rich.

Softball

The Church will once again have a team. Practices and possible scrimmages will be planned and communicated by Brett. We are excited about another fun (and safe) season, plus many trips for Ice Cream!!

2016 FBC SOFTBALL SCHEDULE		
Date	Opponent	Field
6/2/16	Ress. Life	Red Coat
6/7/16	Medilodge	Mills
6/9/16	Gordonville UMC	Red Coat
6/14/16	Midland Reformed	Currie Bennett
6/16/16	Meridian COG	Red Coat
6/21/16	Faith Wesleyan	Mills
6/23/16	Memorial Pres.	Red Coat
6/28/16	Ress. Life	Red Coat
6/30/16	Medilodge	Red Coat
7/5/16	Gordonville UMC	9 Mile
7/7/16	Midland Reformed	Red Coat
7/12/16	Meridian COG	9 Mile
7/14/16	Faith Wesleyan	Red Coat
7/19/16	Memorial Pres.	Currie Bennett
7/21/16	6:15 ^{PM} Potluck & Fellowship Softball Game @ 9 Mile	
All Games are at 7PM, but everyone should plan on being there at 6:30PM for warm up		



U Knighthood Youth News



JUNE YOUTH EVENTS

- **Sunday Night Youth Group - dinner provided**
June 5 - Youth Group - 5:30-7:30PM
- **Sunday Night Youth Discipleship**
June 19 - Youth Discipleship "The Learning Circle" - 6-7:30PM
June 26 - Youth Discipleship "The Learning Circle" - 6-7:30PM
- **Wednesday Buys' Breakfast 6:15AM - Big Boy - June 1**
- **Thursday Girl's Lunch June 2 - Check with Rich for location** (Dow High and Midland High Schools rotate every other week)

GRADUATION SUNDAY

Save the Date - June 5 is graduation Sunday! Our graduating Seniors are: Afua Ofori-Darko, Alan Clark, Andrew Wong, Carley Hitt, Emily Fu, Felicia Overly, Karina Moe, Kofi Ofori-Darko and Matthew Bone.

MISSION TRIPS 2016

Save the Dates and Plan to Go!!! (See the article above about New Orleans)

One Week, One Street revitalization effort on Roberts St., Saginaw **June 20-24, 9AM-4PM**. Work all week or just one day. Lunch provided each day. Work for anyone from 12 years old and up. Monday our project will be running chainsaws to remove brush, limbs and trees. Tuesday - Friday our project will be a porch repair at 3330 Robert St. Volunteers are needed to help with a paint station, vbs and serving lunch. Join Rich, Rick, Jim, Dale, John and others.



MUSIC NOTES from the MUSIC MINISTER

As we walk through this ordinary time after the glory of Easter, 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.

Let me begin by inviting the congregation to consider being a part of summer music. As our choirs take a hiatus, I'd like to encourage you to contact me to sing or play a solo in worship, or to be a part of a small ensemble. You may do this by contacting me personally via email or phone, or by putting your name on the summer music sign-up sheet that is in the narthex. I will help you choose music.

Let me continue by encouraging participation in our many opportunities for music making and music fellowship here at FBC. If you haven't already, please take a minute to review our new **Music Ministry Opportunities** trifold located in the information rack by the chapel. Even if you are not interested in a choir or ensemble, perhaps you have a spouse, a friend, a child or grandchild who has a musical desire or gift to share with the congregation. I have begun planning for more and various instrumentation in worship beginning in September and look to you, the congregation, to help me identify individuals who have instrumental skills to share. All ages and abilities are welcome to take part.

THANK YOU! Thank you to our Adult Concert Bells and Chancel Choir for leading us in worship this spring. June 5 is our last scheduled participation in worship before our summer hiatus. As always, I send a big thank you to our volunteers, our organist John Lastovica, and our Praise and Worship team, all of which lead us with joy in music each Sunday.

Take Note! and Youth Choir finished the year May 8th with our spring musical, The Three Trees. This musical focused on how we dream of being the best we can be in God's kingdom. Our gifts find their right place in ways we can't always want or imagine. On May 9th, we took our voices to Stratford Village and shared the story with the residents.

REHEARSALS! There are no scheduled rehearsals for summer other than Praise and Worship team. Special summer music will be rehearsed as needed.

As always, if you ever have any questions or concerns regarding our music in worship, please feel free to contact me via email, jant@tm.net, jan.sutherland@midlandfbc.com, or by phone, here at the church: 835-6731. I am in the office all day Monday and Thursday afternoons. You may also reach me at home 835-1962.

Let me close by saying that many of you at First Baptist know that we, the pastors, myself and the property management team leaders, are making choices about the best use of our sanctuary space. We are listening and discerning how to better position and thereby equip our music leaders to lead in worship. Please direct your questions and concerns to us. As always, our prayer is simple: Lord, give us the strength to lead and the willingness to be led for your glory.

~Soli Deo Gloria, Jan Sutherland



**First Baptist Church will sponsor a
"Healthy Congregations" Workshop
August 13, 2016 - 8:30AM-5PM**

The Healthy Congregations workshop uses the insights of family systems theory to help church leaders and all members become more effective stewards of their congregation's health. The workshop was developed by Dr. Peter Steinke and is based on the work of Dr. Edwin Friedman, author of *Generation to Generation: Family Process in Church and Synagogue*.

Since the publication of *Generation to Generation*, many pastors have come to recognize the importance of understanding family systems theory as it relates to congregations. The Healthy Congregation workshop helps both leaders and all church members expand their insight into how churches function as emotional systems.

Friedman noted that in many congregations today negative, reactive forces are allowed to set the agenda for the church. What can be done to prevent anxiety from becoming a toxic force in your congregation? The Healthy Congregations workshop is designed to equip leaders to respond to the presence or potential threat of anxiety in a congregational system in ways that prevent destructive conflict and help the church stay focused on its unique mission and purpose.

Early Registration deadline is June 10. Cost: \$95 per person (includes manual and lunch), or \$168 for a couple (sharing on manual; two lunches).

After June 10, the registration fee increases by \$10 per person. Final deadline is July 10.

Registration may be submitted to First Baptist Church, 915 E. Sugnet Road, Midland, MI 48642. Attn: Healthy Congregations
See www.LMPeaceCenter.org for more information on "Healthy Congregations."

MISSIONS

Harlow Fund Requests – 2016

We had three Harlow fund requests that were submitted for 2016. I have given a summary of the three requests below.

~Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church Rev. Dr. Major A Steward and Rev Moses Bingham~ \$1000 was awarded

The first request was submitted by Rich Williams on behalf of our sister church, Mt Olive Missionary Baptist church in Flint, Michigan. He requested the greatest amount of funds the Mission Team would designate. The funds would be used to help provide cases of water, baby wipes and the installation of water filters to the people in the nearby neighborhood of Mt Olive Church. Mt Olive Church has an ongoing ministry to their neighbors with weekly water pick-up and a monthly water distribution to those neighbors unable to come to the church. Many of us know that there is a great need for clean water. His hope is that we will have an active connection with Mt Olive Church as we partner with them in their local ministry.

~ Midland Community Former Offenders Advocacy and Rehabilitation (MCFOAR) ~ \$1,000.00 was awarded

The second request was submitted by Tom Vander Zouwen, on behalf of the MCFOAR. This agency was commenced in 2013 and is under the fiscal sponsorship of Caregiving Network. MCFOAR, a Christ-centered ministry, works specifically with former offenders to get them housed and employed as quickly as possible after they've been released from jail or prison. MCFOAR also helps with transportation to get to medical appointments, employment, etc. With other basic needs (food, clothing, etc.) of the former offenders, MCFOAR helps its clients get connected with other assistance agencies in the area. Our aim is to bring down the recidivism rate of former offenders and thereby making our community a more secure and safe place.

He is requesting a grant of 1,000 for use for purchasing essential documents for it former offender clients. The average cost of providing these documents is \$47 per client, this grant would allow them to serve 21 clients. Though MCFOAR's program emphasis is related to securing immediate client housing and employment, Essential Document acquisition is a pre-requisite to securing such. Therefore, this is a vital concern to MCFOAR and the former offender.

~ Harlow Funds Request on behalf of Rovaughna Richardson, ABC IM Missionary~ \$2,700 was awarded

The Third request was submitted by Victor Atiemo-Obeng, Bobbie Baker, and Louise Bergman. American Baptist Churches International Ministries (ABC IM) in partnership with the Ghana Baptist Convention is sending Rovaughna to the Ghana Baptist Vocational Training Center (BVTC) for 5 years to provide “aftercare and rehabilitation to former trokosi slaves at BVTC in Frankadua”. Her aspirations include “globally promoting the importance of mental health in creating empowered and self-sustaining individuals and families.” She expects to leave as soon as she has raised 100% of her support, now at about 74%.

Since 2010 First Baptist Church (FBC), Midland has developed a very strong bond of ministry with the BVTC. Recall that in 2010 a team of twelve from FBC went on a mission trip to Ghana and spent two very memorable weeks with the students and staff of the BVTC in Frankadua. The following year, 2011, Rev. David Brown and his wife Susan went and spent two months with them. And in 2012, Susan and Bobbie Baker went and spent a month. Rev. Grace Akunor, the manager of the BVTC, in 2014 came and spent a month in the US on a thank you tour of various congregations and organizations that have supported the ministry and work at the BVTC. She spent a week with FBC. So there is a great deal of excitement that Rovaughna Richardson has been “endorsed as an ABC IM global worker” to go to the BVTC. Rovaughna is scheduled to visit FBC during the weekend of May 13-15, 2016, and will share with us her call to and vision for this mission. We have also enclosed an “Introductory Packet” on Rovaughna. We request that First Baptist Church contribute from the Harlow Funds the amount of \$5000.00 to cover her roundtrip transportation between the US and Ghana as well as for transportation whilst in Ghana.

At the April Missions Team meeting, the mission team used the set criteria to discuss the three submissions and came to a recommendation for use of the \$4,700.00 available this year for the Harlow Fund. **The recommendation that was put to the congregation was to give \$1,000.00 to the Mt. Olive submission, \$1,000.00 to the MCFOAR submission, and \$2,700.00 to the Rovaughna Richardson submission.**

~Lacey Schultz, on behalf of the Missions Team



CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Serving with Love



Congregational Care Corner: Service Opportunity

Service Opportunity Corinne Bishop Barnett and her family

Corinne Bishop Barnett and her family had a house fire back in February and now need many hands to help clean up the yard. If you can be of help and or have a vehicle to haul a trailer, please see Dave or Jenn Hitchcock!

This will be taking place on Saturday, June 11. We will gather in the Washington Street parking lot at 8:15 with a leave time of 8:30 a.m. The Midland City dump is only open until Noon!! We will travel to Coleman to their home.

Any questions, please see Dave or Jenn Hitchcock, 832-3822.



GARDENERS

Please take a moment to look at the Gardener's book in the Narthex.

If you worked in the gardens last year and plan to do so again this year, please mark the year "2016" next to your name in the book.

Please, cross your name out if you no longer plan to work in the gardens.

HOPE Luncheon

Jan Smith and the rest of the Mission Team would like to thank the whole church for their support of this mission and for the continuing love and support for the BVTC in Ghana—in particular your loving support of Rovaughna Richardson—and the original FBC “team” that went to Ghana. \$2600 was raised for Rovaughna for her mission at the Baptist Vocational Training Center (BVTC). Thank you to all who served and participated in the luncheon!

Funeral Committee

To Our Church Family,

Thank you for a dish to share. Thank you for your willingness to setup, serve, or clean up. The service we provide could not happen without you.

Once again, "Thank you!"

In Love,

~Anne Poindexter, on behalf of the funeral committee



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

July's Newsletter deadline is June 21st at Noon.

THANK YOU!!!

Dear First Baptist Church,

As the Pastor of Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church, along with the entire membership, we would like to "Thank you" for your generosity. God shows through the warmth and kindness of special people like you.

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for sacrifices are pleasing to God." Hebrews 13:16

Thanks again and God bless you and your family.

Yours in Christ, Rev. Dr. Major A. Stewart, Pastor

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/>

JUNE CALENDAR - 2016

Regular Schedule

		ABIDING SCRIPTURES JUNE — LUKE 17:20-37
Sundays	9:30 AM	Worship Service - Communion Service is the 1 st Sunday of each month
	11:00 AM	Vision Planning - Planning
	5:30-7:30PM	Youth Group Activity - June 5
	6:00-7:30PM	Youth Discipleship "The Learning Circle" June 17 & 24
Mondays	10:00-11:30AM	Staff Meeting
	3-5:00PM	Pastoral Connections
	6:30 PM	Team Network Meeting - Media Room - June 13
Tuesdays	7:30 AM	Men's Breakfast at M's Café at 5103 Eastman Rd.
	6:30 PM	Leadership Development Team Meeting - Media Room - June 7
Wednesdays	1-2:00PM	Worship Planning Meeting
	5:30 PM	Stewardship & Finance Meeting - Media Room - June 15
	6:15 PM	Property Management Meeting - Media Room - June 1
	6:16-8 PM	"Connections" at Plymouth Park - Pavilion "H" - June 22 & 29



<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Special Event</u>
June 5	9:30 AM	Graduation Sunday - Youth Service
June 11	10AM-2PM	FBC Serves @ Open Door - See Chuck McCourt for details
June 19	6-7:30PM	Youth Discipleship - "The Learning Circle"
June 20-24	9AM-4PM	One Week, One Street
June 21	12 Noon	July Newsletter Deadline
June 26	6-7:30PM	Youth Discipleship - "The Learning Circle"
July 4	-	Office Closed for Independence Day

SAVE the DATE!!!

June Ushers

Rick Imhoff
Amy Meilink
Jim Hlitt
Jacque King

"New Orleans
Mission Trip"
July 29 - Aug 8

"Healthy Congregations
Workshop"
August 13

June Church Greeters

5 Gerald & Kim Bruce
12 Mel & Nadine Collins
19 Bob and Jo Clarke
26 Roger & Louise Bergman



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

Newsletter for Friends and Members

First Baptist Church
915 E. Sugnet Road
Midland MI 48642-3772

Date: June 1, 2016

Sunday Schedule

9:30AM Worship Service

11:00AM Sunday School

Communion served 1st 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

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

Lara Heise: Lead Pastor (Cell: 815-690-8476) / Rich Williams: Discipleship Pastor (Cell: 989-859-3332)
Jan Sutherland: Music Minister / Livingston Garland: Praise Team Leader

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