



September 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

Our church has typically followed in the footsteps of our nation by having the annual "State of the Union" address presented at our annual business meeting in the winter. During this early February, meeting we have asked the leaders to share what has happened over the past year and to vision for what they see coming in the next year. In an effort to better communicate and to have shorter meetings, Team Network agreed to try a new system in which the leaders of the different teams would share the past years' experiences and coming year's hopes and dreams at four different meetings over the course of the entire year. The annual



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.

meeting in February, then, becomes a check-in to hold teams accountable for what they said they would be doing and to offer the congregation an opportunity to voice concerns and successes they have arisen over the past year.

The schedule for these meetings is as follows:

September

Pastor Visioning and Christian Ed

December

Stewardship & Finance and Property Mgt Team

February

Official Annual Report with Q&A Congregation

May

Missions Team and Leadership Development Team

This means that this September 11th, Rally Day, during the business meeting immediately after worship, I will be taking a look back at what I said in February at the annual meeting and talking about how we have accomplished the goals that we set out then for ourselves. If you remember, I spent a lot of time talking about changes and fear in that annual report and how we were going to address those things in 2016. Part of the promise I made was to allow time for the church to grieve the losses that we had faced; yet, to discern when the time would be right to begin looking at how to best move forward together into what God has next for our church.

Prayer Partners

For the health needs of many of our church family:

Thayer Bradish, Pastor Lara and the Heise Family, Kathy Burch, Dale Green, Chuck McCourt, Amy Meilink, Ruthie O'Dell, Elaine Parsons, Jeff and Joyce Phillips, Anne Poindexter, Andrea Ross, Dick Seamster, Jan Sutherland and Family, Rena Walker, Marcia Williams and Denny & Judy Zeiss.

And the needs of loved

ones: Acacia (Walter's granddaughter), Carter (Mary Lou Sperry's nephew), Charlie Breedlove (Liz Smith's nephew), Kim Francisco, Dale Green, Jenn Hitchcock, Isaac Ciluffo (Puckett's grandbaby), Shirley Gagnon (Kathy Burch's Sister-in-law), Mark Parsons, Rebecca (Elaine Parsons' friend), Marcee Simpson (Nate & Joyce Poland's daughter), Marcus Terwillegar, & Wayne (John Williams' friend)

And for those that grieve:

The Bussell family (loss of daughter), The Family of Donna Sweebe (Jenn Hitchcock's aunt), and The Lastovica Family (John's mother).

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.

I would like to invite you to come and join us for worship and the business meeting which will take place on Rally Day. During the service we will honor those who have taught and served in leadership this past year. Then, we will introduce and pray over those who are going to be serving this coming year as teachers, ministry leaders, and team leaders. After worship, I would invite you to stay so that you can hear about the Christian Education programs which will be offered this coming year, followed by the "State of the Union Address" in which I will speak about the ways that I believe we have succeeded in being patient with the changes we have faced. How we have addressed the fear we face in these uncertain times. What we have discerned together about what it means to be First Baptist. Then finally, what that is going to mean for us as we move into the 2016-2017 year. The "business" will then be followed by a potluck luncheon, spear-headed again this year by the Hitt Family.

I do hope that everyone will try to make it to Rally Day. It is always filled with great food, fun and fellowship. But if you won't be able, rest assured that I will do my best to offer the highlights of what was said in next month's newsletter. It is important to keep everyone informed!

~Rev. Lara Heise

RETIREES' PICNIC

**September 23,
2016**

11:30 AM

Attention Retirees!!!
FBC will provide sandwich makings and dessert. Please bring a salad or vegetable to pass.

Contact Kathy Williams or Bob/Jo Clarke for your luncheon reservation.

Special Business Meeting

September 11, 2016

A Special Business Meeting will be held, on September 11, 2016, to vote on candidates for elected positions. At this time, those positions are expected to be Team Network Pro-Tem and the Treasurer. If other positions have a candidate, then they will be voted on as well.



MUSIC NOTES from the MUSIC MINISTER

CALENDAR Take Note! and Youth Choir begin their after school fall season **Monday, September 12**. I am already planning for our Christmas musical, *The Backward Christmas Pageant*, **December 11**, and our spring musical, *O, Jonah*, **May 14**, so put these dates on the calendar!

SUMMER MUSIC REHEARSALS Praise Team continues to rehearse **Sunday mornings at 8:45AM**. Special summer music will be rehearsed as needed.

NEW DAY, NEW REHEARSAL TIME! Chancel Choir rehearsal begins **Thursday, 7:15-8:30PM, on September 1**.

SAME DAY, NEW REHEARSAL TIME! Concert Bells rehearsal begins **Sunday, 6-7:15PM, on September 11**.

MAKING CONTACT: As always, if you ever have any questions or concerns regarding our music in worship, please contact me via email, jant@tm.net, or by phone here at the church. I am in the office all day Monday through Wednesday. You may also reach me at home 835-1962.

~Soli Deo Gloria, Jan Sutherland

NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A communication meeting was held at First Baptist Church after the July 31, 2016 Sunday service. The chapel was nearly full, and we had a wonderful turnout for an inspired discussion that focused on discerning where God is leading us regarding pastoral staffing. Many people shared their thoughts and here are the key themes that emerged from the meeting:

1. There was consensus agreement that the congregation needs to understand what tasks need to get done, and how these tasks are arranged into "umbrella groupings"/ goals; which essentially reflect the goals of the Church. This information is needed to enable people to volunteer, and it was recommended that the congregation be involved to assemble this list. This information is seen as vital in assisting us in discerning how we will move forward in staffing.
2. There was agreement that we need to provide **long-term** support to Lara. The group debated hiring an associate pastor versus providing the support internally with more congregational members carrying the load. We did not reach a consensus on this topic. More discussion is needed

to discern what the church needs at this time and the best road forward to do that.

3. There was agreement that we need to provide **short-term** support to Lara. The group debated hiring an interim person or an intern, on a short term basis, versus providing the support internally with more congregational members carrying the load while the church discerned whether or not to hire another minister. We did not reach a consensus on this topic. More discussion is needed to discern what the church needs at this time and identify the best road forward.

4. There was agreement that Lara can say no to tasks for which we don't have someone to take on, or for which she does not have time.

This meeting forum was generally well received and is it likely there will need to be more of them.

~Allen Ross, Moderator

Opportunities to Serve and Grow in Leadership

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER

Worship Leaders

In the spirit of encouraging more lay participation in our worship times, we would like to involve more people on Sunday mornings as Worship Leaders. No Age requirement! This would involve offering prayers, leading responsive readings, bringing greets, sharing joys and concerns. Training for new leaders will be provided.

Children's Story

Here is a fun way to participate with children during the service. Take scripture or a simple biblical truth and share it with young children. The lesson shouldn't last more than 5 minutes and should be taught at a child's understanding. Doing it a few times will help create a rapport and allow you to grow in knowledge and teaching.

Nursery Volunteer

Have you met Andrea Shumake? She is our new nursery caregiver and is wonderful. As a church we want to provide the best care possible for all. And in the nursery we need another pair of arms and eyes every Sunday to work with Andrea. Volunteers are needed and we ask that you sign up on the list, which can be found on the welcome table.

Leader and Volunteer Sign Up sheets are on the Welcome Table.

FBC YOUTH GROUP CALENDAR



September 11th	Rally Day Picnic Noon
September 11th	First Youth Group 5:45-7:30 Supper & Meeting
September 18 th	5:45-7:30 Supper with Parents Youth Activity
September 25 th	5:45-7:30 Supper, Game Night

Rally Day will be September 11th! Deb Hitt and her team are planning our annual picnic after Sunday School.

The first Youth Group Meeting will be September 11, 5:45-7:00PM.

We will start with a meal in the Harmony Lounge and follow with a time for feedback from our youth. We want to work with our youth in planning activities for the year. **On September 18th we invite you to join the youth and our team for the 5:45PM meal.**

Following the meal parents and members of the youth team will meet together in the Harmony Lounge. (The youth group will meet in another location at the church). We want to hear what your hopes are for the Youth Program at First Baptist. We are going to need everyone's help to provide a fun and meaningful experience for the youth. We expect to include team building games, regular service projects and weave faith building into all aspects of the youth group experience.

Please plan to join us on September 18th, we need you!

FBC Youth Team: John and Vicki Walter, Jim and Deb Hitt, Victor and Linda AO, Barb and Mark Neil, and Chuck and Pat McCourt.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Children will learn from a well-known curriculum this Fall. They will have a time of music together, then various classes with Bible stories, crafts, and take home papers to share with their parents.

Infants, Toddlers, & Young Children

Caregiver: Andrea Shumake - 9:30AM-Noon
~ North Wing, Rooms 17 & 18 ~

Sunday School for Toddlers & Children, 10:45-11:30AM

Led by: Louise & Roger Bergman

Toddlers & Children will learn from the Bible, pray, sing songs, play games, do crafts, and enjoy a snack, as they experience Jesus' love. They have the option to return to Childcare after class, until noon.

Kindergarten - Grade 1

Led by: Sue McCallum
~ South Wing, Rooms 8 & 9 ~

This age will begin in Room 9 for a combined time of singing with the older children, then go to Room 8 for their own learning/activities.

Grades 2nd – 5th

Led by Cindy Kwok-Wong and Yolanda Bone
~ South Wing, Room 9 ~

This age group will combine classes with the younger children for a time of singing, then stay to continue their own learning/activities.

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Led by Chuck McCourt ~ South Wing, Youth Room #1 ~

We will begin with a study of the early church. Looking at the book of Acts. We will use a curriculum from Youth Specialties called Spice Racks. Our hope is to have fun and fellowship as we study the truths of the bible and how they can apply to our lives.

ADULT MINISTRY

“Knit, Pray, Love” - Led by Barb Neil
~ Room 16, North Wing ~

Have you ever thought of knitting as a spiritual art? Have you always wanted to learn how to knit, or improve your knitting skills? This class will provide opportunity for all of these, plus fellowship with others. You can participate in our Prayer Shawl Ministry, Knit for Kids or work on your own projects.

“Sermon Talk Back” - Facilitated by Rev. Karen Walker-Freeburg
~ Chapel ~

Ever wish you had the opportunity to discuss and wrestle with the challenges brought up in the morning’s message? This class is exactly what you have been waiting for! Engage the message by considering and listening to others consider questions like: “In what ways did this morning’s message engage you personally as part of this body? In what areas do you feel led to explore more? What ideas or concepts opened the door to a discussion we need to or could have as a church? How can you engage the topics raised in your own study time?” Come enjoy the time to learn and grow together as we take a closer look at each Sunday’s message and how we can engage it in our own lives.

“The Leadership Journey” - Led by Dave Pellegroni
~ Harmony Room ~

The Leadership Journey by Jim Herrington, Robert Creech & Trisha Taylor, is a recommended companion to Healthy Congregations; both this book and HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS are based on the same two solid foundations of the Bible and Bowen Family Systems.

For those who have experienced the one day Healthy Congregations Course, this ought to be an excellent way to follow up as a review and practice guide. For those unable to have attended Healthy Congregations, this would be a most excellent way to join the 40 or so of us who did attend and learn how the Bible & Bowen Family Systems can work together to help us improve ourselves and FBC.



CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Serving with Love



Vicki Rae Jessup and John David Walter jr were married August 27, 1966, in Indianapolis, IN, in the same church where Vicki's parents were married. John had started his 34 year career, in June of that year, at Dow Corning Corp, having completed his Master's degree. Vicki transferred from Purdue University, where they met, and continued her degree and went on to also receive her MS degree in Elementary Education at Central Michigan University. While working at Dow Corning, John also taught Economics at CMU in night classes for a few years.

That first date certainly wasn't an indication that they would go on to marry and celebrate 50 years later with family in Maui, HI. It was a blind date, set up by their mutual roommates, and it wasn't anything to write home about. Friend's gatherings continued to bring them together and love did soon bring them to plan a wedding. Many of those friends in the ceremony continue to be close friends, also with 50 years plus of celebrating their own marriages.

Elizabeth Brie, their daughter, was born 8 and 1/2 years later. Vicki took Brie to First United Methodist Church from infancy and soon John followed. John did not grow up in the church, but Brie's testimony at age 12, brought John to the Lord and he was later baptized at First Baptist by 2 pastors.

Together Vicki and John have seen God at work in their lives many times over. John started a long run of surgeries at age 32 and they both looked for Jesus in those medical people that cared for him, and he did reveal himself. Some surgeries required much assistance in recovery and this is where God showed up again in the form of many people here at First Baptist.

John and Vicki have shared a passion for children and young people throughout their years and have supported these ministries and the leaders with their talents. They both continue to love learning and appreciate SVSU and their Life Long Learning Program through classes, day trips and extended travels. John treasures many hobbies, so early retirement suited him well. Vicki continued to teach 2 years after John retired and then they both went on to many adventures together.

And then, of course, their daughter, Brie and her two daughters, Mica Clare and Acacia Alexandria, delight them continually. Brie's career as a clinical therapist is demanding, but her parents are so proud of her life skills. Brie is a tremendous mother allowing Mica and Acacia to develop into their own unique selves. Vicki and John have a small, but mighty family that have traveled along side the Lord with a few bumps in the road. Humor, when looking at themselves, has been a good companion as well.



Acacia, Mica, John, Vicki and Brie in Maui



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

October's Newsletter deadline is September 21st at Noon.

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 on Wednesdays at 5:30PM and on Thursdays at 2:00PM.
Church services in video format may also be viewed at <http://www.awincom.com/church-movies/>

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR - 2016

Regular Schedule

		ABIDING SCRIPTURES AUGUST — ACTS 15:1-21
Sundays	9:30 AM	Worship Service - Communion Service is the 1 st Sunday of each month
	11:00 AM	Vision Planning / Sunday School
	5:45-7:30PM	Youth Activity & Meal
	6-7:15PM	Chancel Bells Practice
Mondays	10:00-11:30AM	Staff Meeting (2 nd Monday staff is on Tues. @ 11AM)
	3-5:00PM	Pastoral Connections
	5:45-7PM	Bible Study - Media Room (Sept. 19 & 26)
	6:30 PM	Team Network Meeting - Media Rm - September 12 - <u>All church is invited!</u>
Tuesdays	7:30 AM	Men's Breakfast at M's Café at 5103 Eastman Rd.
	4-5:00PM	Missions Team Meeting - Harmony Room - September 13
	6:30 PM	Leadership Development Team Meeting - Media Room - September 6
Wednesdays	1-2:00PM	Worship Planning Meeting
	5:30 PM	Stewardship & Finance Meeting - Media Room - September 21
	6:15 PM	Property Management Meeting - Media Room - September 7
Thursdays	7-8:30PM	Chancel Choir Practice - Begins September 1
Saturdays	10AM-2PM	FBC Serves at Open Door - September 10 (2 nd Saturday of Every Month)



<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Special Event</u>
Sept. 5	-	Office Closed for Labor Day
Sept. 6	6:45-9:30PM	Annual Back-to-School Continental Breakfast
Sept. 9	5-10:00PM	Chinese Christian Fellowship
Sept. 10	10AM-2PM	FBC Serves at Open Door - See Chuck McCourt
Sept. 11	11:00AM	Rally Day Activities: Sunday School Begins
	12 Noon	Rally Day Potluck Luncheon
	5:45-7:30PM	Youth Activity & Meal
	6-7:15PM	Chancel Bells Practice Begins
Sept. 21	12 Noon	October Newsletter Deadline
Sept. 23	11:30 AM	Retirees' Potluck Picnic at Kathy Williams' home

September Ushers

Etheljean Carroll
Denny Zeiss
Bob Clarke
Jo Clarke

Save the Date!
October 16
Consecration Sunday

September Church Greeters

4 Dave & Sharon Cooper-Bussell
11 Jim & Deb Hitt
18 Lois Crosby & Elaine Poindexter
25 Leona S. & Sue McCallum

Newsletter for Friends and Members

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

Date: September 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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