



TOWER TALK

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

A Word From Pastor Brent

A Holiday Marketplace Connection

It is, for First Baptist, the official start of the holiday season – our annual Marketplace (formerly known as the Bazaar), traditionally held on the first Saturday in November. Many women from the church work nearly year round in preparing for the day, creating beautiful crafts and then, as the event draws nearer, collecting jewelry and goodies to help make the Marketplace complete, transforming the Fellowship Hall into a virtual winter wonderland.

One of the main reasons that we host this event is to raise funds for missions. This year over \$4500 was earned at the Marketplace and will be invested in local, state and international mission endeavors. It is fuel for the advancement of God’s word and His kingdom on earth. Good stuff!

But another key purpose for the Marketplace is that it connects us with our community – creates the space for us to meet our neighbors, and you just never know where that may lead...

On the Sunday after the event there was a message on the church answering machine from a woman who’d shopped here the day before. She was calling to apologize because she’d met some folks at the Marketplace who’d invited her to come to church and she’d planned to do just that but then plans changed and she couldn’t make it. She called because they said “they’d be watching for her” and she wanted to explain where she was.

Now why is this significant? Because it reminds us that one of our primary purposes for being is to invite others to join us on our journey with Christ, specifically here at First Baptist. **The number one reason people visit a church is because someone extended a personal invitation.** And in this case, not only was an invitation given, but an important promise came with it – that the visitor would find folks waiting to welcome them, to help them find their way, and to be sure they weren’t alone.

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December 2018

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Homebound & Friends

Our Homebound:

Jerseyville Manor
1251 N. State, Jerseyville

Jerseyville Rehab, 1001 S. State St.,
Jerseyville

Jerseyville Estates, 1210 E.
Fairgrounds, Jerseyville

Blackberry Cottages, Estates Dr.
Jerseyville

Willow Rose Rehab & Healthcare
410 Fletcher, Jerseyville

Ongoing Prayer Concerns:

A Word From Pastor Brent - Continued

Intrigued, I called the woman back and we had a delightful visit. She told me how impressed she was by the fine way the Marketplace was organized. She celebrated how friendly the First Baptist folks were – the spirit of hospitality that permeated the room. She spoke of how much she appreciated the invitation to come and visit us in worship, as she had been looking for a church home for awhile. This led her to check-out our website, watch a sermon online, and read over our latest Tower Talk and church bulletin. All these things made a great impression on her. The challenge, though, is that she lives a half hour away. She was concerned about travel back and forth, especially with winter coming on. But she wants to stay informed about First Baptist, our special events and activities. Why? Because we made a great first impression!

The season of Advent is upon us, preparing us for the celebration of Christmas. It also opens the door for us to invite others to come and join us on the journey. Christmas and Easter are the two main times each year when the person of Jesus Christ is the focus – where questions about who He is and what He did are being raised – when an openness to the gospel message may be more prevalent, with hearts more open to receive the good news. We have several events coming up this month, explored in this edition of the Tower Talk, that provide great opportunities to invite family and friends and neighbors to attend – folks who may not have a church home. They are points of connection that could help lead a person to Christ.

And when you invite someone, be sure to follow it up with a promise—tell them, “I’ll be looking for you.” It truly can make all the difference. Merry Christmas!



Church Office Hours

Tuesday through Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Closed for lunch from 12:00 to 12:30 p.m.



FIND US ON THE WEB AT JERSEYVILLECHURCH.COM

fusion

Fusion continues to meet on Sunday evenings from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Our faithful adult leaders are Mitch and Cathy Reynolds and Kevin and Pamela Weber. The Sunday evening gatherings include a video series, small group discussion, fun and games (and occasionally treats!).



FUSION CHRISTMAS EXTAVAGANZA SET FOR DECEMBER 16th

Calling all Fusionites and their friends!!! The Christmas season is upon us and we are celebrating it in some special ways on Sunday, December 16th. Here is the plan:

- 4:00 p.m. Meet at the church to join others from our congregation for the annual church Caroling Party. It doesn't matter if you're a great vocalist. We just want to make a joyful noise to the shut-ins and others we go to visit. This gives us a great opportunity to be a blessing to folks who are facing some tough challenges in their lives. Don't miss it!
- 6:00 p.m. Regroup in the Teen Center, where we'll be joined by our friends from the Methodist Church, for our annual Christmas party. The big game of the night will be "Minute To Win It" and there'll be lots of snacks and hot chocolate, too! Come join us!

Announcements



KIDS CHRISTMAS MUSICAL SET FOR DECEMBER 8th

You're all invited to the FBC Kids Choir production of "Crazy, Busy, Peaceful, Holy Night" which will be held on Saturday, December 8th @ 6:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary. This is the story of a family running in so many directions that they almost miss the peace of Christ in the midst of Christmas craziness. Don't miss it! You will be blessed! A punch-and-cookie reception will follow the performance in the Fellowship Hall.

MISSIONETTE MEETING DECEMBER 10th

All ladies are invited to join us on our meeting night, Monday, December 10, at 5:30 p.m. for a Delivery to Shut-Ins. Meet at FBC & we will deliver gifts going to Marilyn Bowers for fellowship & food. Hostess for December is Marilyn Bowers, devotions by Elaine Schofield.

COOKIE EXCHANGE DECEMBER 15th

FBC's 3rd Annual Cookie Exchange will take place on Saturday, December 15th beginning at 12:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Participants are asked to bring 6 dozen of "one" type of cookie, candy or bar. Everyone will exchange different types of cookies and take home a variety. A soup, salad and sandwich luncheon will be provided. RSVP to Jenna Busch @ (618) 581-3086 or the church office at (618) 639-3602. This will be a wonderful time of fellowship. Looking forward to seeing you all there!

BUSINESS MEETING DECEMBER 16th

The final business meeting of the year will be held on Sunday, December 16th immediately following the worship service. Reports from the Nominating and Finance Teams will be shared, along with important updates from the Youth and Children's Ministries Director Search Committee. Plan now to attend!



CAROLING PARTY PLANNED FOR DECEMBER 16th

It's that time of year again - time to go forth and sing the songs of the season during our annual Caroling Party, which will take place on Sunday, December 16th. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the birth of Christ with our shut-ins and folks from the church who are experiencing challenges in their lives (health issues, bereavements, etc.). Don't know if you're a tenor or a bass, soprano or alto? No problem! We come to make a joyful noise and would love to have you join us. We'll meet at the church at 4:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome. The Fusion youth group will also be caroling with us this year.

Announcements



CHRISTMAS CANTATA SLATED FOR DECEMBER 23rd

The morning worship service will be filled with joyous anthems from the Chancel Choir, scriptures, and an original drama penned by Pastor Brent, all celebrating the good news of the birth of Jesus—the greatest story ever told!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Bring your family and friends and join us for a candlelight service on Monday, December 24th at 6:00 p.m. The service will feature scripture readings, meditations, soloists, anthems from our Chancel Choir, the singing of our favorite carols and the lighting of the Christ Candle. Don't miss it!

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Search Committee for the Youth and Children's Ministries Director is pleased to announce that they have a candidate to recommend for the position. His name is Tim Thurmond, who hails from the great state of Michigan. Here are some vital statistics on Tim...

- He completed his Bachelor of Arts in Christian Education/Children's Ministries from Indiana Wesleyan University in 2005.
- He has diverse experience in ministry and other service work, having completed Chaplaincy training, including crisis intervention, through the International Fellowship of Chaplains and has been a Chaplain on the Appalachian Trail. He also has experience as a counselor/intern at a Christian summer camp.
- He worked with TEAM Effort Youth Missions to lead several short-term mission trips. He has been trained through Advance into the Nations Missionary Training Program.
- He has been a part of a church's creative arts team to plan music, audio, video, and drama for the purpose of enhancing the Sunday sermon experience.
- He has also worked as a full-time pastor of families with children.

Tim is a certified Emergency Medical Technician and has completed Fire Fighter 1 and 2 training. He has Red Cross certification in C.P.R., lifeguard, water safety instructor, and waterfront. He also has experience working with individuals with special needs.

In addition to all this, Tim has a unique skill base in various creative arts including balloon art, for which he holds 4 world records. He has 10 years of puppetry experience and 20 years of drama performance/writing experience. He has also worked with lighting and sound systems. Tim has a broad range of computer skills. He has experience in various crafts, target sports, and scenery/prop construction. In his free time, Tim enjoys camping, travel, spending time in nature, playing games, watching movies, and relaxing with friends and family. He recently married the love of his life, Michelle.

Plans are now being made to have Tim Thurmond come to Jerseyville early in 2019 to candidate for the position. Stay tuned for further details!

Announcements Continued

NEW HVAC SYSTEM APPROVED FOR CHURCH SANCTUARY

At a recent special called business meeting the church family approved a plan from our Trustee Ministry Team to move forward on replacing the heating and air conditioning system that services the sanctuary (the old boiler is past its prime!). The cost of the new system will be \$55,000. The church must have three-fourths of the funds raised before proceeding with the project. There has been \$25,000 pledged thus far. If you would like to help support the purchase of the new HVAC system, simply make your check out to First Baptist and designate it "HVAC". May God bless the gifts and the givers!

PASTOR ON VACATION

Pastor Brent and family will be on vacation Christmas Day through New Year's Day. On Sunday, December 30th, which is the 5th Sunday of the month, we will focus on special music along with reflections from the First Baptist Deacons.

THANK YOU!

Christmas Decorators: Many Thanks!

Special "thanks" is extended to Ellen Schaefer & Gina Kallal and their team of merry decorators who assembled on Monday, November 19th and transformed our church in preparation for the Downtown Country Christmas event and the Advent Season. Well done, friends!

Dearest Church Family,

There is really no way to express the way I felt on the Sunday you all "surprised" me with an appreciation day. To have my family there to see how caring of a bunch you are was special to me and I felt as though my parents should have been standing with Lizz and I, because they brought me up with values of hard work and to care for others. **"Work before Play"** has been rooted in my family ever since I was a young boy helping on both grandparents farms. My mother came from a family of 9 brothers & sisters and that's how I learned that a group can have fun working together easier than watching a few struggle. I don't recall a time that I have asked for help here at 1st Baptist and there always being an outstretched helping hand and I've never been disappointed.

I would like to thank the staff I work with, this is a wonderful environment to be in. To be able to get up everyday and not dread coming to work is a blessing that I do not overlook or take for granted. To be able to give a list of names of the people that have become close friends since I've started working here would be nearly impossible. I've watched your babies grow to be teens and teens to adults. I have felt the hurt of losing dear friends within the congregation, only to know they are in a special place. So with this being said, I would like to let you all know that it was a very special time for me, to be appreciated. I look forward to serving as your custodian as long as this is the Lord's plan for us.

Thank you & God Bless,
Scott Quiller

DECEMBER

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

1 Marilyn Bowers
Charles Henson

2 Ben Kallal

4 Steve Schaefer

5 Sara Berghoff

6 Shelly Pointer
Sheryl Stone

9 Kim Skinner

11 Justin Meredith
Denise Hayes

12 Barb Hargrave

14 Chelsea Minor Rexroad

15 DeWayne Hargrave

16 Jacob Olson
Tate Welsh

17 Anna Enriquez

18 Dawn Olson
Jessica Snyder

20 Mike Lucas
Cooper Gillis

22 Cindy Lucas

23 Matt Herring
Mitch Reynolds

24 Steve Meredith
Zachary Schaefer

25 Carole Bell

27 Stan Hudson

28 Mark Marshall
Crystal Snyder

29 Cindy Dawson
Jake Lucas

30 Debra Bryson

Happy Anniversary

6 Warner & Ruth Embley
27 Bud & Eva Newberry
28 Dan & Carol Sherwin



(Taken from the Parish Paper)

Congregations that have grown stronger in spirit and ministry over the past several years were able to say that the following statements accurately described their worshipping community. How well do these describe our congregation?

- Our congregation has a clear mission and purpose.
- Our congregation is spiritually vital and alive.
- We are caring and supportive of members who have health, financial, or personal needs.
- We are good at incorporating newcomers into the congregation.
- Our congregation is working for social justice.
- Our congregation is intentional about maximizing the number and variety of small groups offered.
- We use the internet and social media tools effectively.
- Our congregation is quite different from other congregations in our community.

DECEMBER 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						¹ ² 8:00 Men's Fellowship Breakfast Olive Branch ANGEL TREE ALL DAY
2 9:30 Worship Service Communion 10:45 Sunday School 6:00 Fusion	3 6:30 Cub Scouts FH 6:30 Boy Scouts MC	4 6:00 Chess Club	5 10:00 Prayer Group 3:30 Kids Choir 5:00 Choir	6	7	8 9:00 - 1:00 Girl Scouts Fireside Room 6:00 Kids Program
9 9:30 Worship Service 10:45 Sunday School OCC BAKE SALE 6:00 Fusion	10 5:30 Missionettes 6:30 Cub Scouts FH 6:30 Boy Scouts MC	11 6:00 Chess Club	12 10:00 Prayer group 3:30 Kids Choir 5:00 Choir	13 7:00 Trustees	14	15 12:30 Cookie Exchange 2:00 Cub Scouts Crossover Ceremony
16 9:30 Worship Service Business Meeting 10:45 Sunday School 4:00 Christmas Caroling 6:00 Fusion Christmas Party	17 6:30 Boy Scouts MC	18 6:00 Chess Club 6:30 Cub Scouts Christmas Party	19 10:00 Prayer Group 3:30 Deacon Mtg. 5:00 Choir	20	21	22 10:00 Deliver Food Baskets
23 9:30 Worship Service/ Cantata 10:45 Sunday School 6:00 Fusion	24 Christmas Eve Service	25 CHRISTMAS	26	27	28	29
30 9:30 Worship Service 10:45 Sunday School	31 New Year's Eve	PASTOR.. ON.....	VACATION.....

First Baptist Church

200 West Pearl Street

Jerseyville, IL 62052-1661

DECEMBER 2018

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PAID
Jerseyville, IL
Permit No. 56



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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Jerseyville, IL 62052

Phone: 618-639-3602
E-mail: jvillefbc@gtec.com

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
JERSEVILLECHURCH.COM

MISSION STATEMENT FOR FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Our mission is to praise, honor and glorify God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit; to preach and teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ at home, in our community and throughout the world; to be faithful to God and our brothers and sisters in Christ through commitment, love and service; and to seek after and follow God's will and leading, individually and as a congregation of fellow believers.

VISION STATEMENT

United by our love of Christ and each other, we will grow and draw all people to the Lord.