



# TOWER TALK

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## A Word From Pastor Brent . . . . .



January 2019

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*ANSWERED PRAYERS*

It happened during the Advent season in 1993. It was my first Christmas as pastor of Big Walnut Baptist Church in Reelsville, Indiana – a wonderful congregation, nestled out in the country (not far from the crowd, but not in it, in a whole different way). I was 36 years old and pursuing fitness (a life-long endeavor, with many successes and failures).

On this particular December night I decided to go out power-walking around 11:00 p.m. (it’s what you do when you’re single and can do pretty much whatever you want at 11:00 p.m.). So I set out down a long and winding country road that stretched from the church to a covered bridge. The moon lit the way as I traveled briskly into the night. An occasional car or truck would pass me. Some would slow down, probably wondering why the local pastor was out walking this late at night. If they idled too long I would have a fleeting fear that I was about to be snatched, never to be heard from again – so I walked all the faster!

It was on my return from that walk that the unexpected happened. Moving at a high rate of speed (humanly speaking), I stepped into a chuck hole and went sprawling in 15 different directions. There was ice and snow on the road and I slid and flipped, my walking stick flying out into the dark. A chorus of loud snorts responded to my calamity, and I realized I’d disturbed a herd of deer, standing in a field nearby. I lay there on the road, in the cold, until I could get reoriented. I had a hurt knee and skinned and bleeding palms. I stood slowly and hurt everywhere. Fortunately I wasn’t that far from the parsonage so, once I’d retrieved my trusty walking stick, I slowly hobbled back home, where my Persian cat, Caesar, Too was waiting and wondering why in the world I’d gone out that late in the first place. I doctored myself as best I could and collapsed on the couch, rethinking my fitness strategy.

*Continued on Page 2 . . . . .*

## A Word From Pastor Brent - Continued

Dangerous though they were, I did some of my best praying on those power walks. I was half way through my 30's - a busy pastor and yet lonely in many ways. I was asking God for the door to open to marriage and family - for a time when I would arrive home and not just be greeted by a moody cat and the sound of my own voice talking. Could there be a wife - children - in the future I'd trusted to God? On that long-ago December night, as I nursed my wounds, I didn't know what the Lord was up to. I walked (and fell) by faith.

But now I know the answers to those distant prayers. When I pull in the driveway I know who waits inside the house for me. Yes, there's still a moody cat, and a dog who thinks I'm the greatest, but there is this amazing wife named Patti and these two wonderful kids named Adam and Elizabeth. The same God who sent Jesus into the world because He knew my deep-down need for a Savior - who, by the power of Jesus, called me to do ministry in His name - knew I had other needs in my life as well - listened to those fervent prayers, lifted up in the frosty night air, under the moonlight on a country road in Reelsville.

I live in the shower of blessings which are born out of God's people praying and trusting Him to do for us amazing things - to meet our needs - provide for us as only He can. As we begin a new year together, I stand as a witness to His wonderful works, and I thank Him daily for those precious, priceless...answered prayers. Amen.



## Homebound & Friends

### Our Homebound:

Jerseyville Manor  
1251 N. State, Jerseyville

Jerseyville Rehab, 1001 S. State St.,  
Jerseyville

Jerseyville Estates, 1210 E.  
Fairgrounds, Jerseyville

Willow Rose Rehab & Healthcare  
410 Fletcher, Jerseyville

### At their homes:

### Ongoing Prayer Concerns:



### 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](http://JERSEYVILLECHURCH.COM)

## 2019 OFFICERS AND TEAMS

### OFFICERS

Moderator	Mark Embley
Clerk	Marilyn Bowers
Treasurer	Judi Poppe
Assistant Treasurer	Shelly Pointer
Financial Secretary	Bev Norris
Asst. Financial Secretary	Barb Hargrave

### TRUSTEES

Kim Marshall (2019)  
 Ben Kallal (2019)  
 Linda Crotchett (2019)  
 Eric Pointer (2019)  
 Dave Olson (2019)  
 Kimberly Wade (2019)  
 Pat Gipson (2019)  
 Matt Marshall (2019)  
 Ben Heitzig (2019)

### DIACONATE

JoAnn Cooper (2020)  
 Bob Lucas (2020)  
 Jan Platto (2020)  
 Kim Skinner (2020)  
 Shelly Pointer (2019)  
 Gary Williams (2019)  
 Jon Wade (2019)  
 Terri Starrett (2019)  
 Peggy Noah (2019)

### TEAMS

#### MISSIONS

Tim Buis Co-Leader (2019)  
 Kim Marshall Co-Leader (2019)

#### WORSHIP

Melissa Beauchamp Co-Leader (2020)  
 Terri Starrett Co-Leader (2019)

#### FAMILY LIFE

Susan Neunaber Co-Leader (2020) - Sunday School Director  
 Jenna Busch Co-Leader (2019) - Coordinating Team Rep

#### YOUTH

Cathy Reynolds Co-Leader (2019) - Coordinating Rep  
 Dave Busch Co-Leader (2019) - Sunday School Director

#### CHILDREN

Gina Meredith Co-Leader (2019) - Sunday School Director  
 Cindy Lucas Co-Leader (2020) - Coordinating Team Rep

## Announcements



### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: WHERE DID OUR BOXES GO?

On Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> many members and friends of First Baptist gathered in the Fellowship Hall to pack our Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes. Together we filled 500 boxes with T-Shirts and flip-flops, notebooks and pencils, tooth brushes and soap, Beanie Babies and other fun items. The following week those boxes were shipped and, according to JoAnn Cooper, one of our OCC Coordinators, they arrived safely in Ghana, which is a country located along the Gulf of Guinea and the Atlantic Ocean, the sub-region of West Africa.

Receiving an OCC shoe box can be a life-changer. Each box comes with materials designed to help lead the recipient into a personal relationship with Christ. The other contents in the shoe box can also have a profound impact. Such was the case for Mariya Snizhko, who dreamed of becoming an artist even as she grew up in a Christian home in Ukraine. Art was a way for her to express herself and escape the various challenges in her life, which included being bullied at school. Her parents couldn't afford basic art supplies, so Mariya prayed that God would provide them instead. And her prayers were answered with the arrival of a simple shoebox.

Inside the package from Operation Christmas Child were crayons, paint, and brushes, "more art supplies for me than I could have ever imagined," Mariya said. "It humbled me to know how much God truly cared for me to provide those art supplies that allowed me to grow and mature and express myself."

Today, Mariya is an art teacher in an inner-city school in Cleveland, Ohio. "There are millions of children around the world that still need hope," she says. "God is able to use those simple things that you put in a shoebox to answer prayers and to encourage them that God is able to paint a beautiful masterpiece in their life, as well as He has done in mine."

*For the past 25 years, Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, has partnered with local churches in more than 100 countries to distribute gifts to boys and girls in need and tell them about God's Greatest Gift—Jesus Christ. First Baptist Jerseyville is a joyful partner in this mission and plans to send another 500 shoe boxes in 2019!*

### JERSEY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL SUPPORTS BACK PACK MINISTRY

Our friends at the Jersey Community Hospital oversaw a food drive in December to help support the Back Pack Ministry. The response to the effort was outstanding and our shelves currently runneth over! With the food donations also came a very generous financial gift, which will help keep the Back Packs filled into the early spring. We are currently delivering 39 Back Packs to local schools each Friday – food that is then sent home with kids whose families face special challenges. This is a significant local mission that God has blessed in multiple ways. Rejoice!

## Announcements



### EPIPHANY BRUNCH/PARTY SET FOR JANUARY 6<sup>th</sup>

Epiphany - the 12<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas - falls on January 6<sup>th</sup> which is a Sunday this year. Epiphany celebrates the coming of the Wise Men to the Christ child and officially draws the Christmas season to a close. We will be celebrating this event in worship and with a lovely brunch and program in the Fellowship Hall following the Sunday School hour. Who will be crowned King or Queen of the festivities this year? You have to be there to be a contender! Our Family Life Ministry Team is coordinating the party. Mark your calendars now!

### CANDIDATE FOR CHILDREN'S/YOUTH POSITION COMING JANUARY 13<sup>th</sup>

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.

***Tim and Michelle will be coming to Jerseyville the weekend of Saturday January 12<sup>th</sup>.*** There will be an opportunity to meet and greet at an open house at the church on Saturday at 6:30. He will participate in worship on Sunday morning, doing the Children's Message and sharing the morning message with Pastor Brent. A question-answer time will follow worship and a vote taken on calling Tim to the position.

## 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. 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!

### COMMITMENT SUNDAY BRINGS STRONG RESPONSE

On Sunday, November 25<sup>th</sup> the First Baptist family was given the opportunity to make their financial commitments for 2019. There were 40 pledge cards received at the conclusion of the worship hour. The total amount committed so far stands at \$162,136 - one of the strongest responses we've had in recent years, providing us with a solid foundation to build on in the year ahead. According to the latest financial report, tithes and offerings to First Baptist through November totaled \$231,729. Well done, thou good and faithful servants!

### DIACONATE FUNDS USED FOR TORNADO RELIEF

Some nasty weather came through Illinois on Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, with tornadoes doing great damage to Taylorsville and surrounding areas. Our Great Rivers Region sent out an immediate appeal to the GRR churches, seeking funds to be used for tornado relief efforts. The First Baptist Deacons were led to send \$300 from the Diaconate Fund to help. Gifts given from our church and many others are being used by the GRR American Baptist Men to help rebuild not only churches in the areas affected, but to assist their neighbors as well. Your gifts to the Diaconate Fund help us share the love of Christ with others. What a blessing to be able to assist those in need!

## THANK YOU!

*"Thank you" is not nearly enough for all the prayers, cards, gifts, love and concern given my family throughout this stressful year. Each challenge was met because of your support and we are so very appreciative! I would ask that your prayers continue a bit longer as my husband continues his chemo treatments through the end of March. What a wonderful family I have at Jerseyville First Baptist. I thank God each day for you and I thank each one of you!!*

*Lovingly,  
Joyce Sagez*

I would like to thank my church family and trustees for the Christmas gift. Working in a church office can have it's challenges, (did I say that?) but the blessings far out-weigh any obstacle that may present itself. Thank you for the opportunity to serve my church in this way, and may you all have a blessed New Year!

Judi Poppe

I would like to thank the trustees and the church family for the Christmas gift. I love working with all of you and am blessed beyond measure. Thanks for letting me serve you & may God bless you all in this coming year.

Sherilyn Imboden



# JANUARY

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 1 Russell (Rip) Crotchett  
Cathy Reynolds
- 2 Susan Beach
- 3 Anna Starrett
- 5 Jill Snyder  
Cheryl Darr
- 6 Teresa Vahle
- 14 Elaine Schofield
- 16 Daniel Sauerwein
- 18 Pat Renicke
- 21 Barb Lawton
- 26 Olivia Behl
- 28 Connor Ashlock  
Carter Fitzgerald
- 29 Bev Crone  
Christine Berkholz
- 30 Matt Marshall  
Andrew Platto

## Happy Anniversary

- 3 AJ & Emily Wunderlin
- 8 Chuck & Debbie Updike





(Taken from the Growth Points)

In the diving competition at the Rio 2016 Olympics, one of the commentators made an interesting comment. He said that in training divers, the first thing the Chinese do is teach their divers how to enter the water from whatever diving apparatus they are competing from (e.g., springboard, platform, etc.). Prior to any work on flips, turns, somersaults, and other aspects of technique, divers are coached on how to enter the water. The result is that Chinese divers enter the water with minimal splash, and minimal splash is a critical element of scoring high marks. In essence the Chinese divers start with the end in mind. Everything else is built on the conclusion of the dive. If they know how to end well, everything leading up to that provides a solid performance.

This same principle needs to be applied to the disciple-making process. You need to know what you are looking for in a disciple. What does a disciple look like? What actions, attitudes, and attributes do you want in a follower of Jesus. You need to define what you want to accomplish and how you are going to do it. Clarity as to the end result will instill the process you put in place to get there. We might ask ourselves three questions:

- What qualities and behaviors are we trying to develop in disciples?
- What do we want them to do?
- What do we want them to be?

# JANUARY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 8:00 Men's Fellowship Breakfast Olive Branch
<b>6</b> 9:30 Worship Service Communion 10:45 Sunday School 12:00 Epiphany Party 6:00 Fusion	<b>7</b> 6:30 Cub Scouts FH 6:30 Boy Scouts MC	<b>8</b> 6:00 Chess Club	<b>9</b> 3:30 Kids Choir 5:00 Choir	<b>10</b> 7:00 Trustees	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 6:30 Tim and Michelle Thurmond Open House
<b>13</b> 9:30 Worship Service Tim Thurmond in Worship 10:45 Sunday School OCC BAKE SALE 6:00 Fusion	<b>14</b> 6:30 Cub Scouts FH 6:30 Boy Scouts MC	<b>15</b> 6:00 Chess Club	<b>16</b> 3:30 Kids Choir 5:00 Choir	<b>17</b> 4:00-8:00 Meet Your Legislators	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 9:30 Worship Service 10:45 Sunday School 6:00 Fusion	<b>21</b>  Building Closed	<b>22</b> 6:00 Chess Club	<b>23</b> 3:30 Deacon Meeting 3:30 Kids Choir 5:00 Choir	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 9:30 Worship Service 10:45 Sunday School 6:00 Fusion	<b>28</b> 6:30 Cub Scouts FH 6:30 Boy Scouts MC	<b>29</b> 6:00 Chess Club	<b>30</b> 3:30 Kids Choir 5:00 Choir	<b>31</b>		



## First Baptist Church

200 West Pearl Street

Jerseyville, IL 62052-1661

**JANUARY 2019**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit

Auto

U.S. Postage

PAID

Jerseyville, IL

Permit No. 56



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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Jerseyville, IL 62052

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E-mail: [jvillefbc@gtec.com](mailto:jvillefbc@gtec.com)

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
[JERSEYVILLECHURCH.COM](http://JERSEYVILLECHURCH.COM)

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### 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.