



Faith *news*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
NOVEMBER 2016

fbc

All the Things We Hate to Talk About

I thought about discussing the presidential election in this article, but decided we're all tired of this election by now, so I'll only say one thing. Get out and vote. Vote your Christian, Biblical values to the best of your ability. Christians ought not to be silent during elections. The most important issues we face are actually in terms of God's kingdom, not man's governance. Even if our government affects our lives, it only affects our lives. God's kingdom affects our lives and our eternity. By God's grace, He has seen fit to move mightily among us at First Baptist. We have had more baptisms this year than I can remember in any other given year, and there are more planned for December. Our Kid's Club and Collide Youth ministries are experiencing higher numbers than ever, not to mention all the men who just attended the Momentum conference at Life Action Camp in Michigan. We had nearly double the number of men than we've ever had before. It is exactly what we always hope and pray for. And it is driving us to create new solutions to all the space and staffing issues it causes. One of the problems that arises that is not so easy to overcome is money. Thankfully, we have been a very generous and healthy church where giving is concerned. I have always believed that a spiritually healthy church will not struggle financially. But

that doesn't mean we never have to talk about it. As we look at expanding most of our ministries and staff, it becomes clear that giving will have to increase to make sure we can do everything we feel God leading us to do. I don't know what people give, which is a good thing, so I can't say I know exactly where the encouragement or teaching needs to be. I will say from a personal perspective on giving, that Mollie and I have always felt a conviction to tithe (give 10% of our income) to the church, and from time to time I have felt God's leading to be generous beyond tithing, by giving an offering to special needs. I am very grateful that we have a church family that not only supports the ministry we've been called to do here in Mercer County, but is also generous to support mission work all over the United States and the world. Not only that but we have been blessed this year to buy a church bus, which is getting used at least twice a week to transport kids and youth from the west side of the county to the church, and many, many volunteers who make it all happen. So, let me leave you with three things...

#1 - Vote

#2 - What is God doing in your life?

#3 -How is God leading you to serve His kingdom and/or give to His work?

In Christ, Pastor Luke

Church Events

- 11.1 -Deacon Meeting
- 11.1-11.4 – Pastor Luke @ Creation Conference
- 11.5. – Men's Min. Council -Women's Think Tank
- 11.6– Daylight Savings Time
- 11.11 - Ladies Meet & Mingle
- 11.12-Fight the Silence Youth Event
- 11.13-Trustee Meeting
- 11.15 – Church Council No Choir Practice
- 11.18-Single Sisters Outing
- 11.20 –Special Bus. Meeting
- 11.22 – JOY Circle @ Vashti
- 11.24-Thanksgiving Meal Happy Thanksgiving! Church Office Closed.
- 11.25-Church Office Closed
- 11.27-No High School Collide

Collide Youth Ministry

“Ever since my daughter started going to Collide about a year ago, she’s become a different person. She has joy, happiness and peace in her life. Whatever she has, I want that in my life too,” said a mom to while we were having lunch together.

I had never met this mom before, but God has been challenging me to start meeting with the parents of our un-churched kids , with the hopes of building relationships and ultimately, teaching them about Christ too. I could tell as soon as this mom sat down, she was hungry, not just for lunch, but hungry for something more in her life. She had walked a difficult road in life and no matter what or who she looked to she never found satisfaction, so I told her about the only hope that truly lasts. I shared with her the hope her daughter has embraced through Christ and the love and forgiveness offered to her through Him!

I challenged her to respond to the gospel message, laying down her life and her sin to embrace God’s love and forgiveness for her. She told me she would definitely have a conversation with God about all of this once she got home. I said, Ok, but you let me know when and if you make the decision to follow Jesus. Well, I got this text message from her once she got home.

“I have to share this with you. I was on my way home and was talking to God about letting o and letting God take control and a semi was barreling in from a side road and missed the stop sign and yet somehow managed to stop just shy of hitting me and I honestly don’t feel like it was a coincidence! I felt like God saved me! I know it sounds crazy, but it’s true! I’ve never been a firm believer in miracles, but I wasn’t scared. I felt like it was going to be ok?!” Then I responded by asking her if she had put her trust in Jesus, so that if she had died, she would go and be with God. I reminded her this was God sending her a message that we never know when our life on earth will end. She said, *“I did not, but I certainly am now.”* I encouraged her to get on her knees and cry out to God! She did! And she said, *“I feel relieved that’s the best way I can think of describing it. Relieved, like a pound of bricks has been lifted off my shoulders.”* I told her that was the weight of sin being taken from her! She was now free! She came to church this past Sunday and I couldn’t be more excited for this mom and daughter as they continue their faith journeys together, following Jesus. Another mom who I invited over for dinner just recently told me something similar , *“Heather, my daughter has changed.”* Friends, this is the power of God working in our teens, continue to pray for them.

Also, please celebrate with me all the work God did at fall retreat. There were 15 students who gave their lives to Christ. I’ll share that story next month, because I’m out of room! Please like the Collide Youth Group Facebook page to stay up to date with all God is doing. God is moving in our teens! We’re seeking Him after youth group each week for revival, believing He will reign down His Spirit as we seek Him in prayer! Blessings, Heather Q.

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

- **Collide Continues!** – 6th-8th grade meet on Wednesdays from 6:30-8pm at FBC. High School has Bible study at FBC on Wednesdays from 6:30-8pm. Dave Potthast teaches on the book of John for all students grades 9th-12th. Also, High School has Collide on Sunday Nights at the Whitenack’s home (803 SW 2nd Ave) from 6-7:30pm.
- **Before School Prayer Time!** High School – Radical Disciples-7:30am Mondays & Wednesdays- Room 214, Jr. High – 7:45am Thursdays in the Chorus Room, MC Intermediate – 7:40am Tuesdays in the library.
- **Fall Retreat Sunday-** Sunday, Nov. 6th. New Bibles will be presented to students who came to faith in Christ at fall retreat and testimonies will be shared.
- **Fight the Silence Concert-** Nov. 12th from 7:30-10pm at Mercer Co. High School. Fundraiser for Another Child Foundation. Admission is \$1 or bring a gently used coat, or blanket to give to kids in Romania.



2016 WEEKLY INFORMATION CENTER

Nov. 6	Betty Williams, Vivian Kopp, Patsy Castor & Maddie Dunn	Jenny Dixon, Haley & Josh Johnson Blair Wilkerson, Paul & Kendall Hedrick & Mollie	John & Sherry Huffstuler Rodrigo Quiroz
Nov. 13	Betty Williams, Ronda & Veronica Moffitt	Tina McCaw, Lisa & Shay Litwiler, Mollie & Maddie Dunn	Bill & Marsha Loving Monica Dennison
Nov. 20	Betty Williams, Susan Potthast & Lisa Clawson	Sarah Kellett, Beth Whitenack, Barbara Nesbitt & Mollie	Gene & Krista Bear Troy Riddell
Nov. 27	Betty Williams, Sharon & Bryce Moffitt & Jan Crutcher	Shannon Sedam, Steph & Terry Leonard & Mollie	Paul & Kay Hedrick Charlie Douglas

If you are unable to serve the day you are scheduled in the Nursery, please make arrangements in advance to switch with another person on the schedule. Please contact **Ronda Moffitt, Nursery Coordinator**, for all concerns on her Cell:(309) 371-3021. Thank you! **Kids Club Worship**—PLEASE come to the Fellowship Hall by **10:00am** so you can help & prep. *Please continue to let me know if you are switching with somebody. I have it set up so there are two adults plus myself helping at a time. Please do not switch with a couple if you are an individual. Thank you so much for your service! ~Mollie. If you need to contact Mollie about Kids Club Worship, call -309-371-6962.

Finance Board Member of the Month for November – Lisa Litwiler
Trustee of the Month for November: - JP Kelly

Prayer Team Assignments:

- November 6 – Kay Hedrick, MaryLee Finch, Peggy Johnson, Vickie Korn & Laurie Louck
- November 13 – Jeanne Barber, Barb Bryant, Lonnie Maynard & Sherry Huffstutler
- November 20 – Deb & Dave VanderHeyden, Troy Riddell, Vickie Korn & Laurie Louck
- November 27 – Tina McCaw, Jason & Shelly Snyder, Elden Cirks & Lonnie Maynard

Weekly Attendance & Offering

DATE	10/2/16	10/9/16	10/16/16	10/23/16
8 AM	101	89	91	94
10 AM	265	231	245	261
TOTAL	366	320	336	355

Date	10/2/16	10/9/16	10/16/16	10/23/16
Current Expense	\$9,956.75	\$11,294.31	\$8,024.00	\$7,107.60
Building Fund/Mem.	\$440.00	\$625.00	\$97.00	\$17.00
Benevolence	\$1,279.00	\$1,210.00	\$704.00	\$625.00
Total	\$11,675.75	\$13,129.31	\$8,825.00	\$7,749.60

****Weekly offering needed to meet 2016 budget - \$8,467.11**

Kids Club Ministry

I've been increasingly unsettled about some of the moral dilemmas our culture and governing leaders are pushing into the "norm" of our society. This made me think about the old hymn that was written in the civil war era, "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus." This song is based on a devoted preacher who lived in the south but disagreed with slavery. The result was that they kicked him out of the church for taking a stand against something that he was convicted about. He went on to influence many and bring many to faith in Jesus because he dared to stand up for Jesus even in adversity.

Convictions are a funny thing. God leads us differently than others sometimes and it can be a lonely or painful road to travel. While it may be tempting to make excuses because God isn't leading others the same as you, if God is leading you, it's in your best interest to obey Him because he is God and he knows best. Psalm 128:1 says, "Blessed are all who fear the LORD, who walk in obedience to him."

When these convictions pop up in our lives, which they will if you're following God, we have a choice to make. Ignore them and make excuses, or obey the Spirit's prompting and grow. When we disobey, it holds us back from spiritual growth. John 14:15 says, "If you love me obey my commandments." When we obey, it catapults us toward God and we are blessed by that obedience.

It is so hard to stand up for Jesus right now. We have so many pressures and worldly agendas circling around us at all times. While we want to follow Jesus with our hearts, our flesh is constantly battling against us. The temptation to cling to our pleasures and comforts is real! How do you know if you're being convicted? Well, a good sign is that you keep thinking about it and it won't go away. Sometimes God gives us insight into the prompting, but sometimes, He doesn't. Read God's Word. Talk to Him and talk these convictions out with those who love Him, too. Ask others to pray for you and keep you accountable. Keep following Him, even when it's hard, and be prepared to be blessed by God's faithfulness to you! I look forward to seeing the fruitfulness of obedience to God in the lives of our congregation in the months to come.

Happy Thanksgiving! ~Mollie

*More information about the hymn "Stand up Stand up for Jesus" can be found at this link:
<http://www.challies.com/articles/hymn-stories-stand-up-stand-up-for-jesus>*



Upcoming Events

Kids Club Sunday: Nov. 20th @ 10:15am Worship Service

We invite you to join us as the Kids Worship & Kids Club kiddos sing and show us what they've been learning! Kids need to be dropped off by 10:05 in the sanctuary if they don't attend Sunday School. Please have them wear their Kids Club shirts if they have one. Thanks!

Women's Ministry & General Announcements

Women's Ministry Think Tank— Saturday, Nov. 1st at 9am in the Enon Room. All ladies are invited to these meetings.

Ladies Meet & Mingle — We will meet at First Baptist in the Fellowship Hall on Friday, Nov. 11th at 6:30pm. Cara Svoboda will be teaching a craft. Please bring a snack to share. All ladies welcome to attend.

J.O.Y. Circle — We will have our Christmas Party Potluck on Tuesday, Nov. 22nd at 6pm at Vashti Village. Please bring a dish to share.



Single Sisters Outing — The Single Sisters will be dining out at Boon Docks in Joy on Friday, November 18th at 5:30pm. Call Pam Spangler if you need a ride at 582-6416. All ladies ages 18 and older are welcome to attend.

Thanks You

A big Thank You from the Dunn family - We were very blessed by all the appreciation we received during October.

Can You Assist?

We are looking for a few more people to add to our list of individuals who can provide a salad or dessert on occasion for funeral luncheons. If you are willing to be called upon occasionally to bring a dish for a funeral luncheon, please let Vivian Kopp know. Vivian can be reached at 582-5464. Also, if you are currently on the list and prefer not to be, also let Vivian know.

Volunteers Needed

We are looking for a few people to be added to our rotation of greeters at the church for the 10:15am service. If you would enjoy being a greeter, please call Pam at the church office at 582-7812.

Deacon Meeting— Tuesday, Nov. 1st at 6:30pm.

Daylight Savings Time - Turn your clock back 1 hour before going to bed on Saturday night Nov. 5th as daylight savings time begins on Sunday, Nov. 6th.

Trustee Meeting - Sunday, Nov. 13th at 11:30am

Church Council Meeting - Tuesday, Nov. 15th at 7pm.

Special Business Meeting - Sunday, Nov. 20th at 11:30am. This is an important meeting for all members to attend. Budgets, nominations and an update on the building committee will be discussed.

Happy Birthday

Carey Bewley November 1
Claude Moreland November 5
Jady Ewing
Bryce Moffitt

November 6
Jacki Olson
Brooke Cox November 8
Kathy Sponsler
Luke Dunn
Treyten Hileman November 10
Sharon Baugher November 11
Kate Baugher
Britni Ewing
Stew Klink
Abel Castor November 12
Bailey Kellogg
Joshua Miller November 13
Josh Ringle November 14
Steve Struble November 15
Laurie Moreland
Tristin Lukaszewski
Aaron Struble November 16
Bill Loving November 17
Jacob Dennison

November 18
Matthew Griswold November 19
Mallory Moffitt

November 20
Myron Higgins November 21
Steve Nelson
Gerry Kelly November 23
Curtis Franks
Maliayah Smith November 24
November 25
Payton Devlin November 26
November 28
Tyler Lukaszewski
Lisa Finch
Seth Bowker
Frannie Franks November 29
Nicole Koester
Corey Smith November 30

Happy Anniversary

Chris & Heather Kopp

Daryl & Mary Bewley

Perry & Drue Baugher

Bill & Marsha Loving

Dean & Lola Buttgen

Bill & Joyce McKinley
Jason & Shelly Snyder



Anyone in need of a Thanksgiving Dinner? Please Join us!



Help spread the word that First Baptist is hosting a FREE Thanksgiving Meal Thursday, Nov. 24th from 11am-Noon at the Mercer County Senior Center – 137 W. Main St. Aledo. Please RSVP the church office at 582-7812. Delivery is available in Aledo for those who are unable to drive to the Senior Center. Pastor Seth is also looking for volunteers to help serve and deliver the lunches. If you would like to help or have questions, see Pastor see Pastor Seth.

Christmas is Coming!

We know it's early to be talking about Christmas but there are changes to service times that day and we wanted you to know about it. Christmas Day Services - Did you know that Christmas Day falls on a Sunday this year? It's true! We are making adjustments to our service schedule that day. Our Christmas Worship service will be a combined service at 9am. There will be no 8am or 10:15am service and there will not be Sunday School on Christmas day! Christmas Eve Service will be at 7pm on Saturday, December 24th .

A Word From Pastor Seth

Thankful, Grateful Appreciative

With the harvest bushels coming in we will quickly slip into the Thanksgiving celebration. Thanksgiving is a time to count our blessings and thank God for everything. Learning to be grateful even during the hard times and through things we consider to be hard. We are in the process of learning that all things happen for the good of those who love God. Having an Appreciative heart through every moment during this life is the goal.

Last year on Thanksgiving day our church supported a free meal to the community. Our Scripture for them is from **Luke 14:12-14** "... When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just." Last year we served 31 meals at the senior center, 9 meals delivered to the emergency workers on duty, 27 meals were delivered to the door, and all this was done by 34 volunteers.

No matter what your tradition is please consider helping this project again this year or give to the food pantry in Joy's Thanksgiving box handout. We have the following volunteer positions available this year: serving, food pick up and delivery, coat check, pie crew, greeters, bus driver, drink crew and clean-up crew. Volunteer time slots for positions are from 10am-1pm Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 24th. God has blessed us, God help us to be the blessing! ~Seth

Pastor Seth's New Sunday School Class will begin on Sunday, Dec. 4th at 9am - Pastor Seth will be teaching "Bread for the Hungry Christian." Everyone is welcome to jump into this class. It takes place in classroom "F" inside Fellowship Hall.

Men's Ministry

Men's Breakfast at FBC – Every Sunday morning at 7am the men are invited to a Men's Breakfast and Bible Study in our Fellowship Hall. No need to RSVP, just show up hungry. You'll enjoy a delicious, hot breakfast each week followed by fellowship and study. If you have questions, see Pastor Luke or Pastor Seth.

Men's Ministry Council – Will meet Saturday, Nov. 5th at 7:30am in the Enon room.

6th Annual Men in Ministry Night - All Men are invited to the Aledo United Methodist Church-301 N. College Ave., Aledo on Saturday, Nov. 5th at 3pm. This is a FREE event and includes workshops, music, ministry, food and fellowship. Workshop leaders include: Pastor Seth Bowker, Rev. Mark Harris, and Bill Breeden with music by the Gospel Soul Revivers and a worship service by Pastor Bob Keller.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
800 NE 6th Avenue
Aledo, IL 61231

Phone: 309-582-7812
Fax: 309-582-2064
Email: fbcaledo2@frontiernet.net
www.firstbaptistaledo.com

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**PRAYER AND CONCERNS—IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF PRAYER CHAIN
PLEASE CALL: THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 309-582-7812**

HEALTH & WELL BEING

Family of Carolyn Hanson, Aiyle Edwards, Family of Robert McCrae, Family of Rich Lower, Betty Adams, Mary Rillie, Dennis Carlson, Matt Martin, Allen & Mary Jo Retherford, Donna & Brian Bushnell, Bill Bewley, Ryan McNall Thomas, Tiffany Lloyd, Cathy Griswold, Howard Andress, AJ Artus, Mason Vestal, The youth of our church & community, Vickie Korn, Shirley McCormick, Larry Bull, Gary Schrock, Charlotte Thompson, William Little & family, Marc, Doris, Elizabeth and Alicia Dewey, Brenda Leng, Deb Corson, Karen Burnham, Connie Decounter, Susie Hall, Henry Leichty, Richard Rockhold, Mercer County Jail Ministry, Jim Eager, Noah Muske, Mark Muske, John Atkinson, Merrick LeClere, Stew Klink, Vickie Anderson, Sutton Finch, Sharon McCormick, Judy Leighty, Jeannene McNall, Marilyn Staley, Gay Youngblood, Joe, Amanda & Abrial Norwick, Marilyn Heine, Bob Sell, Dave Olson, Bill McNamara, Colette Hawkins, Gerald Mitchell, Lauryn Russell, Chad Peterson, Connie Freeman, Alec Bowen, Jo Kernan, Matt & Lisa Hammill, Carol Schaefer, Elaine, Anna, Jack, Alex, Shawn, Jacob, Barbara, Mary, Julie Doub, Arinna, Janet Mueller, Amber Smock, Jennifer Franks, Shelly Upson and Tim Snyder

NURSING HOME

Bob Sell & Kathryn Baugher

MISSIONARIES & MILITARY

Danika Higgins & Rigoberto Cruz
John Klink, Jackson McKay, Joe Elliott, Spencer Zielke, Jon Szalonek,
Christopher Schultz, Austin Weir, Tyler Mattson, Kyle Mandle,
Charles Schultz, Terry Schaefer & Matt VanderHeyden

OTHER CONCERNS

The church & all decisions