



# February Newsletter

Let marriage be held in honor among all ~ Hebrews 13:4

## Pastor's Corner

As February kicks off, I would like to welcome Seth Bowker to the staff of FBC. He officially begins his role as part-time associate pastor of FBC on February 1st, and I am excited to see what God is going to do as we begin a new stage in ministry with Seth.

I don't often concern myself with the hallmark calendar when it comes to preaching. We usually recognize mothers and fathers on Mother's Day and Father's Day, and veterans on Veterans Day, but I don't organize the preaching calendar around such observances. This year, however, I am going to spend February preaching about marriage. More so because I see a great need than because it's trendy. Marriage was established by God to reflect His

faithfulness and love to His people, and I believe marriage has the potential to be the most satisfying and fulfilling relationship in life. Since the Bible tells us that marriage should be honored by all, I find it appropriate to spend a few weeks preaching on it, even though many people are single, divorced, widowed, etc. This may be a good place to clarify something I mentioned in my last newsletter article. I had said that Romans 12:2 would be our theme verse for the year. I did not mean to imply that I would be preaching on Romans 12:2 all year. What I meant was that the theme of transformation and counter-cultural Christianity would be embedded in all the preaching

throughout the year based on the teaching of Romans 12:2 which tells us not be conformed to this world, but rather transformed. Sorry for any confusion I may have caused. I also don't want you to be confused about the upcoming revival! Starting March 22nd, Life Action Ministries will lead revival meetings for two weeks. We have witnessed first hand how God is able to move through these meetings, and I encourage you to make it a top priority to attend. You will never regret setting aside two weeks to seek the Lord. I know God is going to forever change many lives in the days ahead as we seek Him for revival.

In Christ, Pastor Luke

### Inside this issue:

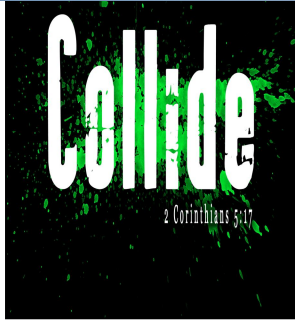
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## Welcome to our New Associate Pastor Seth & Family!

Hello, First Baptist Church of Aledo Family. My name is Seth and my wife's name is Denise. We have two children; our daughter, Natalie, is 5 and our son, Jadon, is 3. I recently celebrated my 28<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my 9<sup>th</sup> birthday and my wife is a beautiful age that I won't say. My wife and I grew up in Aledo and graduated from the former Aledo High School. We have been married for 6 years. We currently live in Joy both spiritually (in Jesus Christ) and physically (Joy, IL). We are the Bowker family.



I'm finishing my Bachelor Degree in Christian Ministry at International Seminary. The school is located in Plymouth, Florida with a satellite class in Bettendorf, Iowa. To finish my degree I must write ten theses and mail them in to be ridiculed and graded. I'm blessed to be serving FBC as the Associate Pastor in a part time capacity as I finish school and I look forward to many years here even after school is done. February 1<sup>st</sup> Denise will once again be in her dream job as a stay at home mom and homeschooler. We look forward to serving the Lord with you at First Baptist Church of Aledo. God Blesses, just share. Seth Bowker



**Junior High Collide meets every Wednesday at FBC from 6:30-8pm beginning – High School Collide meets every Sunday from 6-7:30pm at FBC.**

half of years of ministering to young people in the community, I have had the joy of hearing so many of their stories. I have cried with students, rejoiced, rebuked and called them to action. I have seen some rise up. I have watched others walk away. I have walked alongside some through terrible pain and loss. I have had the joy of seeing some for the very first time turn from their sin and trust in Jesus Christ for salvation.

Ministry is all about being willing to enter into the pain, joys and struggles of life with someone else. It is to say, I will walk with you through life's journey! I will point you to the healer! I will travel with you as we follow Jesus.

I recognize that youth ministry is not best done in a vacuum, where one person does all the ministering, quite the contrary. Youth Ministry thrives and will have a greater long-term impact when the church body rises up and becomes youth ministers themselves.

I am starting to see our church embrace this kind of thinking with things like the Collide Mentoring Ministry and Prayer Ministry. The students of this community need our wisdom. They need a shoulder to cry on and an ear to listen. They have a story to share and so do you. Let's continue, as a body, to join with them as we journey together until we shall see Him face to face.

Also, please mark your calendars for the Collide Agape Dinner on Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>. This event is for students 6-12<sup>th</sup> grade. It is free! We'll start at 6pm and go until 7:30pm.

In Christ's Love,

Heather Q.

# Upcoming Collide Youth Events!

## High School Collide Super Bowl Party

Sunday, Feb 1<sup>st</sup> – 5pm - ? at Brian & Monica Denison home – 1270-35<sup>th</sup> Ave., Seaton.

If you're attending bring a dish to pass.




*Collide Agape Dinner*  
 Sunday, Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>  
 6-7:30pm  
 First Baptist Church Aledo  
 6-12<sup>th</sup> grade  
 Semi-formal event.  
 Guys in ties and slacks.  
 Ladies, a modest dress or skirt  
 free dinner, music, and testimonies  
 Students, please RSVP to the church office  
 309-582-7812 or text Heather 217-552-5253

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE INFORMATION CENTER**

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		Kids Club Worship	Greeters
<b>Feb. 1</b>	Betty Williams, Lisa Clawson, & Grace Buttgen	Paul Hedrick & Sarah Kellett	Jeanne Barber & Bill & Arlene Bewley
<b>Feb. 8</b>	Betty Williams, Ronda Moffitt, & Veronica Moffitt	Jen Miller & Beth Whitenack	Monica Dennison, & Paul & Kay Hedrick
<b>Feb. 15</b>	Betty Williams, Sharon Moffitt & Bryce Moffitt	Lynda Castor & Tina McCaw	John & Sherry Huffstutler & Dawn Douglas
<b>Feb. 22</b>	Betty Williams, Connie Mattson & Lisa Clawson	Shay & Lisa Litwiler	Sandy Zunkel & Dave & Deb VanderHeyden

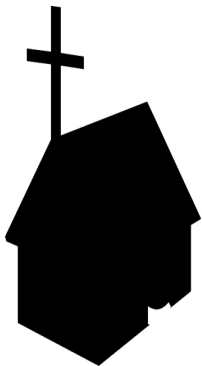
If you are unable to serve the day you are scheduled in the Nursery, please make arrangements in advance to switch with another person on the schedule. Please contact **Ronda Moffitt, Nursery Coordinator, for all concerns on her Cell:(309)371-3021**. Thank you! **Kids Club Worship** PLEASE come to the Fellowship Hall by **9:45am** 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 6309-371-6962.

**Finance Board Member of the Month for February – Clint Huffstutler**  
**Trustee Member of the Month for February — Stew Klink**

**Weekly Attendance & Offering**



DATE	1/4/15	1/11/15	1/18/15	1/25/15
<b>8 AM</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>10 AM</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>229</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>325</b>



Date	1/4/15	1/11/15	1/18/15	1/25/15
<b>Current Expense</b>	<b>\$7,441.79</b>	<b>\$8,120.30</b>	<b>\$7,829.27</b>	<b>\$6,132.71</b>
<b>Building Fund/Mem.</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>	<b>\$185.00</b>	<b>\$205.00</b>	<b>\$1,985.00</b>
<b>Benevolence</b>	<b>\$270.00</b>	<b>\$250.00</b>	<b>\$305.00</b>	<b>\$60.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,736.79</b>	<b>\$8,555.30</b>	<b>\$8,339.27</b>	<b>\$8,177.71</b>



## January News—Kids Club Ministry



When I was in my early early 20's, I experienced a couple short seasons of doubt in my faith. I would be trucking along doing my normal thing and out of nowhere these questions would rise up within me...*"What if God isn't real?", "Is he here with me?",* and *"Am I fooling myself?"* I remember distinctly the summer before my senior year in college. I was in my senior internship at a Christian family homeless shelter in Kansas City, MO. I was sitting on the floor of the bedroom I shared at the shelter with another intern, working on a project for an inner-city camp. As I sat their cutting cardstock, I wondered for a moment if all of this was even worth it. In the midst of the pain, apathy, poverty, and desperation of those who I was serving, I wondered for a moment if God was real. It was as if Satan circled around me sitting on that

faded carpet, whispering these doubts in my ear. I stopped what I was doing and thought for a moment. This wasn't the first time I had thoughts like these but I have to say it was my last. I said out loud at that moment (to Satan) that my faith wasn't going to waiver. I was going to choose to believe what the Bible says is true!

**Faith is choosing to believe** even when we don't have all the answers. In that moment I had victory over Satan's schemes. He doesn't want us to believe that there is a God. He distracts us, tempts us, whispers lies in our ears, and tries to spin us into a completely different direction than where our Creator God desires us to be. God wants us to have hope, purpose, and peace. Satan, on the other hand, is the master of all lies and doesn't want us to have anything but death and destruction. That night as I was sitting on the floor I knew and believed that my hope is and always will be in Jesus! If you think about it, nothing else compares.

If you find yourself asking these questions, I want to encourage you. They're great questions to ask! We need to ask them BUT be careful where you go looking for the answers. The Bible is clear about how our understanding is nothing compared to God's. Science doesn't have it figured out (see Prov. 3:5-6). We have to have faith.



### Here are some things you can do and that I myself do when I'm struggling:

**Keep talking to God.** Don't stop praying. God wants us to share our heart and thoughts with him. He made you and wants for you to trust him with everything.

**Hebrews 11:6** *"And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him."*

**Ask God for His peace that only he can give.** If you have accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you have the Spirit of God living inside of you. **Philippians 4:6-7** *"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."*

**Keep connected** to your Christian brothers and sisters. Keep going to church and signing up for those Bible studies. You're not alone. Let your church family surround you in prayer and love. **Romans 10:17** *"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."*

Thanks for taking the time to read! Blessings to you this month! Mollie, Children's Minister

**Kids Club** is for kids ages 3 years through 5th grade on Wednesdays from 6:30-8pm. Please visit Kids Corner in the foyer for more info about our kids programs.

The Winter session runs through March 18th, 2015.



**Family Skate Party:** The whole church is invited to this free event on Feb. 15th from 2:30-4:30pm at the Monmouth skating rink. Please bring a snack to share and invite a friend! The first drink is free but additional drinks will cost .50-2.00. No need to sign up, just show up. See you there! Please contact Mollie at 371-6962 if you have any questions.

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...rs in Christ, had 1 Aledo. My heart is so blessed, I didn't imagine the many blessings that God had prepared for me at the trip, my words can't say what my heart feels. Thanks so much for being generous with me, thanks for the money that everyone gave me, will be very useful for next days. I will be always grateful for all that you have done for me. I can't thank you all enough for the thoughtfulness. I had a great time meeting new brothers and sister in Christ, I really enjoyed every moment, you are all awesome and special people. Keep going serving to our God. God bless your lives. Love you all. Psalm 107:1—Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, his love endures forever. Lucy

\* \* \*

Thank you for remembering Allen with a fruit plate at Christmas time. Also thank you for your thoughts and prayers at this time of loss.

God Bless, Ardith Gustafson & Family

\* \* \*

Dear church Family,

We send this thank you with heartfelt gratitude to the Love Unlimited Bible Study group. We deeply appreciate the money that was in the Christmas card! The card was beautiful! This gift greatly helped us in the difficult month of December.

Also, thank you to the rest of our church family for ALL the prayers said for lots of health issues. This is deeply appreciated. We serve an Amazing God!

Sincerely, Darren & Janet Rind

\* \* \*

We would like to thank your church & congregation for all your help in 2014, money, food items & volunteers at the Food Pantry. It was all very much appreciated. May God Bless You All.

Churches of Mercer Co-Food Pantry

\* \* \*

Thank you to the First Baptist Church for the gift of money. It is an honor and pleasure to serve your church. We appreciate your generosity! In Christ, Kent & Colleen

## What's Coming Up!



**Wednesday Night Live Classes continue through March 18th!**

Join us every Wednesday from 6:30-8pm through March. 18th.

**Deacons will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 3rd at 7pm.**

**Women's Ministry Think Tank-Feb. 7th at 9am.** All women are welcome to attend.

**Trustees will meet on Feb. 8th following the 10am service.**

**Food Pantry Volunteers Needed**



ó First Baptist is responsible for providing volunteers for the Mercer County Food Pantry and there are still a couple of spots that need to be filled in June and

November. If you would like to help volunteer, call the church at 582-7812 and we'd get you plugged in to one of the available days.



**Hearts at Home is March 13th-14th. Sign up deadline is Feb. 8th. Return registration forms to Sarah Brown.**



The church nursery is looking for children's Christian DVDs like Veggie Tales. If you have some you would like to donate, please leave them in the church office or nursery.



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## BY BIRTHDAY

Troy Riddell	February 1
Lee Bell	February 2
Bradley Williams	February 7
Brian Dennison	February 8
David Cooper	February 9
Austin Reid	
Rosemary Reid	
Ken Berthel	
Jeanna Potthast Swafford	February 11
Adam Reid	February 13
James Schultz	February 14
Aiden Monson	February 15
Alison Lafever	February 16
Carolyn McGuire	
Jeff Lukaszewski	February 17
Jera McCaw	February 18
Brian Rind	February 19
Dylan Sproston	
Erin Huffstutler	February 21
Ian Hunter	February 22
Pam Spangler	February 25
Kate Hunter	
Jonathon Steckman	
Natalie Finch	
Noah Louck	February 27
Bill Tracy	



**Men's Super Bowl Party**—Sunday, Feb. 1st at 4:30pm at Brad Olson's home—720 SW 2nd Ave., Aledo. This will be in place of the men's study. All men are invited to attend.

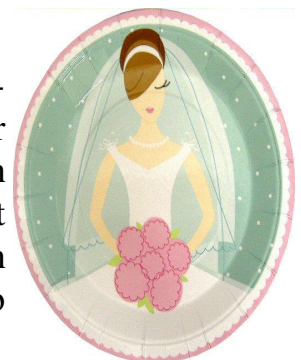


### You're Invited!

Everyone is invited to a Baby Shower for Ashlie Dellitt Fuller on **Sunday, Feb. 22nd** at 2pm in the church's new addition. Ashlie is registered at Babies R Us and Target under Ashlie Dellitt Fuller. If you have questions, please call hostess Robin Huffstutler at 309-371-9137.

### Bridal Shower

The church family is invited to a bridal shower for Britteny Kenney on **Saturday, March 7th** at 2:30pm in the Enon Room. RSVP to Deb Blaser at 582-3078





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will be at First Baptist Church Aledo  
April 5th!  
—Sunday, Feb. 8th!



**What is the “Pre Summit?”** - The Pre-Summit is a time to prepare for the upcoming Revival. Several events will be going on during the “Pre Summit” which is **Sunday, February 8th.**

### **Pre Summit Events on Feb. 8th include:**

**“Unified Sunday School”** - Sunday at 9am - This time will be used to introduce the Life Action Summit format to the congregation and clarify the meaning of revival.

### **Pre Summit Revival Service at 8am & 10am—Life Action Ministry’s Mac Cockrell will joining us for the Pre-Summit Services.**



Mac grew up with two loving parents in a middle-class suburb of Atlanta, Georgia. In 1998, he was drawn to two college freshmen who “had it all” - looks, money, athleticism . . . yet they chose to serve Jesus. In them, Mac saw firsthand a walk with Christ like he had heard about in church but never before seen. He made it his own, and nothing has been average for this normal guy since. Upon graduating from Georgia State University with a degree in Speech Communication, Mac knew the audience he wanted to reach. He understands the importance of communicating biblical truths and life application to today’s youth. Mac has served with Life Action Ministries as the Youth Revivalist on a traveling team since August of 2011. His passion is to see the next generation of students truly “get it” - that Christians are real people with real struggles, real desires, real abilities, and real stories. And they love a real Savior.

**Life Action Coordinator’s Meeting**—Sunday, Feb. 8th at 4:30pm - All those who have been asked to coordinate the Revival will need to be at the church for this meeting.

**Pre-Summit Sunday Evening Prayer Service** - 6pm on Feb. 8th - Everyone is invited to this prayer service which will prepare the congregation to be in prayer and personal preparation for the upcoming summit. There will be a nursery and Collide for High School but there will not be programming for the kids 3 years old - 8th grade but children that age are welcome to come to the prayer service.

### **Prayer Vigil**

#### **One more way you can help with the Revival prior to the Summit beginning**

Perry Baugher is our Prayer Coordinator for the Life Action Revival. Perry is looking for some prayer warriors. To prepare for the Summit, we are having a “Around the Clock” prayer vigil every Sunday in March (March 1st, 8th & 15th) beginning at midnight Sunday and going through midnight on Monday. You may pray from wherever you’re most comfortable. We will be praying for what God can do during Life Action Revival Summit. We are looking for volunteers to take a ½ hour prayer time slots. See the sign up sheet in the lobby on the Connection Board or call the church office at 582-7812 to sign up.







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## CALLING GOD'S PEOPLE TO GOD'S PRESENCE

### Coming to First Baptist Aledo—March 22nd-April 5th!

**What happens at a Life Action Summit?** We believe that this summit will be a time where significant change will take place in the history of our church. Prayerfully, we will seek God together. Truth and hope will be proclaimed. Lives will be transformed. The church will experience spiritual renewal. Families will be strengthened. The church's fire for the Great Commission will be stoked up.

#### Evening Services During the Revival

During the week there will be a service at **6:30pm** for adults, children and youth each night (**Sunday-Friday March, 22nd-March 27th & March 29th-April 3rd**). The adults will have worship services in the sanctuary. Children ages 4 years old-1st grade are invited to "Happy Hearts City" where teachers will reinforce the foundational theme that Obedience is the Key. There will be interactive drama and the children will enjoy creative lessons, crafts, songs and activities. "Base Camp" is offered for 2nd-5th grade. At "Base Camp" children will embark on a unique experience as "climbers" training to pursue the ultimate adventure of knowing a loving God. Foundational character principles and scripture will be presented through music, drama, interactive lessons and activities. The Youth in grades 6th-12th can participate in "Awake." These specialized sessions will help the youth think about how Jesus' teachings apply to their daily lives. Our passion is to see teenagers awake and start a movement that will change the course of this world for God's glory.

**True Women—Ladies Luncheon** The date and details for this event, which will be held on a weekday during the Summit, will be announced soon!

#### Saturday, March 28th—9am-1pm

**Home Life Café** Set in a relaxed atmosphere and designed for all adults—singles, newlyweds, parents, grandparents, single parents—the discussion will provide you with practical tools for experiencing God in every relationship in your home.

**Life's Pizza House for Teens** Your youth (grades 6th-12th) will not want to miss this. Through clear, Christ-centered, biblical teaching, teens will be challenged to live for God's glory in everyday practical ways. It's designed to build relationships, present truth, and worship our great God in a relaxed atmosphere.

**Happy Heart City & Base Camp** For kids ages 4 years old through 5th grade—Prepare for an epic mission to explore and discover the universe and its Creator. Join us for adventure-packed teaching, games, and group challenges.

#### Assisting with Revival

Finally, for the Revival we will need housing, food, and vehicles for 25 young adults during the Revival Summit. Please prayerfully consider how the Lord might lead you to support the Summit with these needs. Thanks to those of you who have already signed up. If you would like to help, call the church office at 582-7812.



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PRAYER AND CONCERNS—IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF PRAYER CHAIN  
PLEASE CALL:

PASTOR LUKE @ 309-371-6964 or Cindy Maynard @ 582-2098



#### **HEALTH & WELL BEING**

**Prayer Concerns** - Family of Bernie Mckean, Tobi Sheese, Ethel Welch, Family of Alberta Balmer, Angie Hyett, Sandra Morrison, Family of Ann Eddleman, Family of Kenny Crutcher, Josh Johnson, Carol Smock, Vada Morgan, Ashlin Klev, Julie Rind, Jayne Fitzsimmons, Jim & Marjie Earl, Nancy Rumler, Deb Bruning, Vickie Korn, Bud & Carol Schaefer, Derald Jones, Connor Sutton, Karen Walker, Herb Nelson, Jean Ball, Connie Vail, Peg Cox, Caryl Leslie, Jennifer Franks, Dee Shea, Krista Bear, Shelly Upson, Sherrie McCarty-Cloyd, Brenda Leng, Connie Armstrong, Lori Strom, Kate Hermanson & Carolyn Hanson

#### **NURSING HOME**

Virginia Sirotnak, Aldus Gridley & Ron Rhine

#### **MISSIONARIES & MILITARY**

Alex & Jess Etheridge & Jim Earl  
Austin Weir, Tyler Mattson, Matthew VanderHeyden, Caleb VanderHeyden, Kyle Mandle,  
Charles Schultz & Terry Schaefer

#### **OTHER CONCERNS**

The church & all decisions