



August 1, 2017

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."*

Prayer Partners

For the health needs of many of our church family: Thayer Bradish, Patrick Caldwell, Denny Franklin, Jim Funk (Sue McCallum Funk's husband), Dale Green, Pastor Lara and the Heise Family, Jenny Kendrick, Betty King, Emma Mantel, Ruthie O'Dell, Elaine Parsons, Dave Pellegrom, Joyce Poland, Joyce Phillips, Anne Poindexter, Betty Spiker, Lou Stickney, Alex Sutherland and Family, Ned Sweebe, Marilyn Walker, Bob Winchester and Judy Zeiss.

And the needs of loved ones: Acacia (Walter's granddaughter), Kim Francisco, Steven Gibson (E. Poindexter's nephew), Pat Hintz, Mary Pietenpol, Jim Richard (Nicole's dad), Andrea Shumake, Marcus Terwillegar, Audrey Yost, and Molly Young (friend of Jilian Struble).

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.



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 to 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.

LEAD PASTOR

For the last few months, I have been looking at houses in Midland and I have come to realize: I am horrible at looking at houses! I am totally distracted by décor. I have no ability to see what a house can be; I only see what it is. Simply put, when it comes to houses, I have no ability to visualize. This “issue” made it hard for me to look at houses that were anything less than “move in ready”. I will admit that I needed people to ask good questions which made me stop and think past “it’s cute” or “it needs work.” But, I am happy to say that at the end of June, we put an offer in on a house and will be closing early this month!

These past few weeks have been so much fun as I poured over Pinterest, magazines, and store ads to find ideas on how to decorate the new house. I quickly decided on a “Rustic Modern” look, but still found it difficult to visualize how to make that style come to life inside my home. Luckily, the ability to see the vision and run with it IS a gift of my mother. Once she knew the style I liked, she was off and running with ideas. I am so lucky to have her in my life!

While my ability to “see” what a house can be is limited, God HAS given me the ability to see what a church can be. I love to dream about God’s design for FBC and for the past month I have been able to share that passion with others in the church, as a group has been gathering during the Sunday School hour with the goal of developing a new mission and vision--which is definitely up my alley! At the “helm” of this process has been Dave Pellegrom, who has years of experience working at DOW Chemical where he did just that. First, Dave explained to us what a mission is a: “shared image of a desired state of affairs that inspires action, determines behavior, and fuels motivation.” Based on this understanding, Dave invited us the first week to throw out as many answers as we could in response to the question “Why do we exist?” This part of the process was important because for us to share this image we wanted to invite as much input as possible. After the group finished “brain storming”, we each chose three ideas that we felt drawn to or felt were most important for us as a body. These ideas were then sent out to the body as a whole via email, individuals were invited to add their input to the process so that the final product (the mission) truly would be a conglomeration of as many voices as possible.

The following week, the group that met looked at the list from the week before and in four small groups considered the emphases put on each item, based previous weeks markings, and based on their interpretation of the date developed four different mission statements. This activity took the entire class session the second week, so the following week we met again as a larger group to discuss the “heart” of the four

statements. The objective of the activity was not to create “winning” and “losing” statements, but to see the value in each one. We then combined these crucial elements in order to create one cohesive statement which would reflect the total mission of the church. (Note: All the sheets with those details have been emailed to the congregation and will be available in the narthex for the month of August.)

I will admit that this process amazed me. Though there was a core group who showed up weekly, there were many others who came once or even twice over the four week process. Some questioned the process. Others loved it. YET, there was cohesiveness to ever changing group; and I was not the only one that felt that way! It seems as though the process brought out the best of our understanding of what it means to work together as a body. We developed a shared vision for what our church could be and in the process began to live out the mission that we now propose---**FBC: Where every person matters and relationships with God and neighbors grow.**

We exist to be a place where that belief can be lived out. We exist to help others see that they matter to God. That He died to save them, because He loves them that much. We exist to help those who already know that truth grow in their understanding of it. We exist to be a place where we can be challenged by that sense of value and by the life of Christ, in order that our relationships with others would grow in depth and breadth. We exist so that this sense that all people matter would be made evident through us and change our lives, our church, our city, and our world.

What I love about this mission is that it meets us right where we are, yet there is room there to grow. It meets us where we are because our church has spoken up before for the oppressed (the African American churches in the South that were bombed and in Ghana). This meets us where we are because we have long seen the importance of strong teaching and preaching. This meets us where we are because we have a history of deep concern for one another. Yet, it also invites us to ask questions like “How can we better show that every person matters?” and “In what ways can the church better walk with members as we grow our relationship with God?”

This proposed mission is a great beginning to the next phase in the life of FBC. I am excited about what lies ahead. And I hope you will be too.

~Rev. Lara Heise

ATTENTION RETIREES!

Please save August 24 at 11:30 a.m. for a potluck picnic at the home of Kathy Williams. There will be more detailed information soon. RSVP: Call Jo and Bob Clarke at 989 835-4175 or Kathy at 989-435-2997.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

For those who have been worried about the forks that ran away with the spoons...the mystery has been solved! The forks were actually hiding under the knives and have been found!

~ Dave Hitchcock, co-chair

SAVE THE DATE!!!

ROAD RALLY and POTLOCK - SEPTEMBER 23

The FBC Road Rally will be held September 23.

After receiving the first clue at the church, teams will drive around Midland and surrounding areas, earning points by solving puzzles, finding locations and objects, and answering questions or completing tasks. Teams of 2-4 people are suggested, and racers of all ages are encouraged to participate.

The rally will be followed by a potluck dinner at Plymouth Park Pavilion "H" for racers and anyone else who would like to join us! More details to come...

~Kerry & Brendon Smith

THANK YOU

Dear FBC:

On behalf of my staff, preschool children and parents at Stepping Stones, we would like to say thank you for allowing us to hold our Spring Preschool Program and Graduation at your Church in June. Thanks also for allowing us to use your facility for our Holiday program last December. Your facility is the perfect place for us to hold our programs, with the large seating area, stage, and sound/projection systems. Our programs were wonderful!

~ Sincerely, Emily Squires

GUIDING PRINCIPLE OF THE MONTH

OUR PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD (Soul Freedom) ---

This direct personal relationship with God is the privilege and responsibility that each and every one of us has. We have both the ability and the necessity to enter into a direct saving relationship with God through Christ. We may be different in our relationships with God, so we need to recognize and honor these differences.



CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Serving with Love



CONNECTIONS

We have made some connections and hopefully many of those will be lasting. This summer 5 Wednesdays were set aside to meet at Plymouth Park, Shelter H, at 6 PM, for games, trivia, food and conversations.

This all could take place because Deb and Jim Hitt, Sharon and Allen Ross, Jan Sutherland and Shelley Page, Karen and Keith Freeburg, Lara Heise and Ceonni Willams and Vicki and John Walter put together a variety of entrees to share and YOU brought the sides. The hosts also created a theme for the evening and provided activities for all to enjoy. We saw about 24 people each Wednesday.

This year we had to move to FBC twice due to the weather, but still carried on. Which brings up the issue of costs. We paid \$175 to reserve Shelter H for our 5 evenings. When it rains we do not get our money returned. Do you want to continue CONNECTIONS another year? How do you feel now that you know the cost?

Congregational Care wants to bring opportunities that matter to YOU. Please let Vicki, Jenn, Jo, Preston or Marcia know your thoughts regarding CONNECTIONS.

SHUT-INS

Have an hour free this month? Consider visiting one of our Shut-Ins!
(Another list will be printed in next month's Newsletter)

Elva Blymyer

Stone Crest Assisted Living, 255 N. Main St (M-47) #14A, Freeland, MI 48623

Dale Green

1919 Pinesboro Drive, Sanford, MI 48657

Emma Mantel

Stratford, 2121 Rockwell Drive, Midland, MI 48642

Ruth O'Dell

521 N. Rustic Drive, Midland, MI 48640

Lou Stickney (On Hospice)

Stratford - Woodbridge Wing #251 - 2121 Rockwell Drive, Midland, MI 48642



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

September's Newsletter deadline is August 21 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/>

[AUGUST CALENDAR - 2017](#)

Regular Schedule

Sundays	9:30 AM 11:00 AM
Mondays	10-11:30AM 4-5:00PM 6:30 PM
Tuesdays	7:30 AM
Wednesdays	6:30 PM
Thursdays	5:30 PM 6:15 PM
Saturdays	10AM-2PM

ABIDING SCRIPTURES AUGUST — HEBREWS 12:1-3

Worship Service - Communion Service is the 1st Sunday of each month
 Summer Sunday School - Ends August 13
 Staff Meeting (2nd Monday staff meeting is on Tuesday @ 11AM)
Missions Team Meeting - Harmony Room - August 14
Team Network Meeting - Media Rm - August 14 - All church is invited!
 Men's Breakfast at M's Café at 5103 Eastman Rd.
Leadership Development Team Meeting - Media Rm - TBD
Stewardship & Finance Meeting - Media Room - August 17
Property Management Meeting - Media Room - TBD
FBC Serves at Open Door - August 12 (2nd Saturday of Every Month)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Special Event</u>
August 2	5-8:00PM	Neighborhood BLOCK PARTY!!!
August 13	11:00AM 12 Noon	Summer Sunday School Ends Christian Education Meeting
August 21	-	September Newsletter Deadline
August 24	11:30AM-2PM	RETIREES' LUNCHEON @ Kathy Williams'
September 4		Office Closed for Labor Day



Ushers

Dave Hitchcock
Jenn Hitchcock

SAVE THE DATE!!!

Sept 5 - Continental Breakfast
 Sept 10 - Rally Day
 Sept 23 - Road Rally

Church Greeters

6 Chuck & Pat McCourt
 13 Vicki & John Walter
 20 Victor & Linda A-O
 26 Louise & Roger B.

[CLICK HERE to Connect to Church Calendar](#)

Date: August 1, 2017

Newsletter for Friends and Members
First Baptist Church
915 E. Sugnet Road
Midland MI 48642-3772

Sunday Schedule

9:30AM Worship Service

11:00AM Sunday School



First Baptist Church
915 E. Sugnet Rd.
Midland, MI 48642

Phone: (989) 835-6731

Email: office@midlandfbc.com

Website: www.midlandfbc.com

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)

Jan Sutherland: Music Minister

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