



January 15, 2019

First Things

A Monthly Newsletter for Members and Friends

Who We Are: FBC: Where every person matters and relationships with God and neighbors grow.

What We Do: We are learning to live the life that Jesus would live if Jesus were living our life through:

- *meaningful worship and study*
- *valuing and loving others through service*
- *embracing God's created diversity*
- *intentional connections to our community*
- *caring for one another through all of life*



Rev. Lara Freeburg 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 has two children: Lola and Devin.



Each of you, the people who greeted us at the door, the lady who supplied such beautiful music, Rev. Freeburg's comforting words, those who shared memories of Ron and his family, the women who prepared the delicious food, congregants who smiled and hugged --touched our family deeply. Knowing how much you cared about Ron comforts us and will help us through this difficult time. We appreciate your kindness more than words can say.

~Sincerely, the Ronald Keith Smith Family

PRAYER PARTNERS

For those that grieve: The families of Duane Coats (brother-in-law of Jo Clarke), and Betty King

For the health needs of many of our church family: Thayer Bradish (surgery recovery), Wayne Crosby (recovery), Bob Hodges (tests), Joe Mortensen (recovery), Ruthie O'Dell, Joyce Phillips, Anne Poindexter, Don Raetz (surgery recovery), Andrea Ross (numbness), Wilbur Seamster (hospital), Shirley Severer (heart failure), Wilbur Seamster (recovery-Stratford), Alex Sutherland, Lou Stickney (hospice), Marcia Williams (migraines & rx side effects), Bob Winchester (recovery)

And the needs of loved ones: Acacia (Walter's granddaughter), Lillian Baker, Tyler Jenkins (Raetz' great-grandson-epilepsy), Lewis King (cancer), Mel Lewis (Poindexter grand-niece), Tim Richard (leukemia), Lanny Robbins' granddaughter's family & foster child, Ben Schultz' mom (cancer), Lee Sperry (surgery recovery), John Yuill (Acoustic Neuroma brain tumor)

And the needs of Friends: Mike Dahley (more surgery recovery), Pat Hintz's friend (cancer), Peter Mortensen (cancer), Patty Zurba (cancer - friend of Kathy Burch)

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.

LEAD PASTOR

In the summer of 2019 my blood pressure dropped to the point at which I could hardly walk. I had to take three months off work because I couldn't stand for long periods of time, which working in retail requires. In the blink of an eye I went from running every day to barely being able to stand up without passing out, which meant that went from a "pull yourself up by your bootstraps" kind of girl to becoming almost fully dependent upon other people! That was one of the hardest times of my life.

There are certain times in life when we need a little extra care, aren't there? Sometimes, as in my case, that care comes from physical help. Other times, the care we need is emotional or spiritual in nature. This can be when we have had a crisis, during a transition, when we are stuck at home, during a time of grief, or when our health is failing. As the pastor, I am happy to meet with members of our congregation during these times. But sometimes a person needs more spiritual care than I am able to give. What a blessing in times such as these that, as Baptists, we hold to the thought that every member of our church is a minister. This means that while I may not be able to provide the spiritual care some individual needs, another member of our congregation may!

This leads me to tell you about a ministry that will be beginning again in 2019: Stephen Ministries. A Stephen minister is a member of our church who is trained in spiritual care and committed to meeting confidentially with individuals in our congregation during periods when they feel they need that extra care. During Rev. Joe Mortenson's time at FBC, the church had a vibrant Stephen ministry which provided help for many members of the congregation; but it went dormant about two decades ago. That is until now, because this year we are going to be reviving it!

While there are already members of our congregation trained, the leaders of this budding ministry (Mark Neil and Lois Crosby) asked me to attend a training to help refresh our Stephen Minister's knowledge and to have a better grasp of the Stephen Ministry program myself. So, from January 13 through January

19t I will be attending the training in Orlando, Florida. When I return, I will meet with the team to share my learnings and continue help this awesome ministry get off the ground.

With that said, if you are interested in a Stephen Minister, let me know! We have ministers who are already trained and very excited about the prospect of meeting with you!

~Rev. Lara Freeburg

“Oh, The Places You Will Go!”

This is a title of one of my favorite author's, Dr. Suess, who has a way of explaining all types of life's issues in the simplest terms. I truly believe the books are just as much for adults as they are for children. That being said, I chose this title for my very first newsletter writing because I am fully aware of the “places I will go” when I continue to seek God's plan and purpose for my life. Some of those places include the following states, and countries: Maine, Pennsylvania, New York, Illinois, Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia (just head north east, you'll find it before hitting New Foundland), Dominican Republic, Brazil, Jerusalem, and now Midland, MI. In my 30+ years in ministry God has certainly brought me places I would never had imagined.

God continues to call me to new and different places, and I must admit I don't mind at all, because I'm aware the experience/adventure is one with a plan and purpose. I believe God has brought me to FBC, Midland, a true loving community, to share the Gospel through Christian Education opportunities for all ages, possible mission trips, and leadership trainings. I simply can't wait to get started and see “oh the places (FBC, Midland) will go” when we focus on learning and growing in Christ together!

Let's get going together,
Karen Boucher

150th ANNIVERSARY PLANNING & CLEAN UP

Exciting plans are taking shape for our church's 150th Anniversary weekend May 31, June 1, June 2! (SAVE THE DATES!!!) Many of us have adult children who were baptized in the church and became members and now live elsewhere. Feel free to let them know of plans as they are communicated to you; or, if they would prefer to be on the invitation list themselves, please give their contact information (address or e-mail) to Shelley in the office (office@midlandfbc.com) or to Kathy Williams Pellegrom via phone: 404-915-0719 or email: cousinjack36@hotmail.com

In addition, the 150th Anniversary Planning Team in conjunction with the Property Management Team, have scheduled Four "Clean Up" days in preparation of this Anniversary! Following service on the scheduled dates, there will be a light luncheon served in the Hearthside Room, followed by cleaning and organizing of our building.

Join us on February 3, March 3, April 7, and May 19!

150th Anniversary Planning Committee: Kathy Williams Pellegrom, Linda A-O, Sharon Bussell-Cooper, Lois Crosby, Lara Freeburg, Pat McCourt, Sue McCallum Funk, Jan Martz, Barb Neil, Shelley Page, Sharon Houghton-Ross, Leona Seamster, Cindy Wong

In Preparation of FBC's 150th Anniversary, Kathy Williams Pellegrom thought to share this with us:

Mrs. L. A. Chichester's Paper
1919 – 50th Anniversary of the Church

The period which I have been asked to discuss is that between the years of 1869 and 1880, covering the first 11 years of the history of the Midland Baptist Church.

Looking back from the ripe age of fifty, we might call this the childhood, if not the infancy, of our church. And as in childhood, the foundation is laid for manhood, so it is the valiant efforts of these early days that have made possible the achievements of our later years.

Too much praise cannot be given to those loyal, earnest pioneers – our charter members and their associates – who so steadfastly upheld the Banner of the Cross in the “Little Church across the River”.

Let us pause at this fiftieth milestone, while in fancy we return to view the scenes of their labors.

We see the village of Midland as it was some forty odd years ago, spread along the banks of the Tittabawassee River, the daily noise and bustle of factory and sawmill hushed in Sabbath stillness. We hear the peal of a church bell wafted on the breeze and, in response to its summons, men, women, and children are seen wending their way toward a substantial frame church standing near the corner of the State Road and Benson St., on the south side of the river. The women are dressed in the fashion of the day with close fitting basques, and skirts of ample fullness, their white neck frills and quaint little bonnets adding charm to the costume, while the men are secretly miserable in their stiff collars and Sunday coats.

The preacher stands outside the open door of the church, and among others we hear him greeting sister Cunningham, Deacon Parley Smith, Brother and Sister Marsh, Sister Eaton, Uncle Joe Townsend, Sister Dorr and sister Gould and Bro. and Sister Joseph Meyers.

Entering the church, we pass thru a hall, from which a stairway leads to the gallery above, and find a seat in a nearby pew.

We learn that the young lady seated at the cabinet organ is Maria Hart (better known to us as Mrs. Chase) but so striking is the resemblance, we could almost believe it was her grandchild – our own fair Mary.

As the organist begins to play, the choir composed of Lizzie Sias, Mrs. McKinstry, Mr. Butler and Dean Marsh, take their places and the congregation rises while the house of God resounds with that grand old hymn, “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”.

At the close of the service the entire company follow the pastor to the mouth of the Chippewa River, where the ordinance of baptism is solemnly observed.

Such we are told, was the picture of the Baptist church of the seventies.

Of those early members, a few are still with us, and have been of invaluable aid in the compiling of this early history, for it is to them that we are indebted for most of our information and many interesting anecdotes connected with the church.

They tell of the time when Mrs. Hart first became organist, succeeding Charlie Meyers. Having no instrument upon which to practice, Uncle Joe Townsend, (who was a drayman and a well known figure in Midland at that time), used to take the organ to her home every Monday morning and return it to the church on the following Saturday in time for the next preaching service.

At this time cottage prayer meetings were held at the homes of the members. There was a Sunday-school but little can be learned about it, except that Mrs. Chase taught a class in the gallery of the church.

Among the first choristers were Parley H. Smith, Mr. Bradley, Mr. Snell, and Dean Marsh. Mrs. Edgar Lee and Nellie Garniss, also played the organ in the old church.

The Ladies' Mite Society, as the Aid Scty. was originally called, played a most important part in the financial affairs of the church during this period, paying off a mortgage of \$200.00 and making possible many improvements.

It seems that there was no baptistry in the church when first built, but later the high water made it necessary to raise the building, and a baptistry was put under the platform at that time.

As you probably all know, the church was moved to Gordon and Grove streets, remodeled and is now used by the Lutherans. The old stairway is now in the barn of Mr. Ben Cook Sr.

The pulpit chairs which we now use in the lecture room were purchased for the church across the river.

One of the most valuable documents the existence of which was discovered only since our Jubilee Week began, is a history of the first twenty years of the Baptist Church in Midland, written by Deacon Parley H. Smith, some years before his death.

Many of the names and events and particularly the dates chronicled with such care, would have remained forgotten and our history incomplete were it not for this paper.

In conclusion let me read that portion dealing with the first eleven years just as he has recorded it.



ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING - FEBRUARY 3, 2019

The Business Meeting will immediately follow morning service.



We'd like to send Warm Birthday & Anniversary Wishes
to all who celebrate in November!

January BIRTHDAYS

5 Keith Freeburg, Jan Martz
6 Betsy Imhoff, Marcia Williams
7 Karolea Streeter
8 Sharon Cooper-Bussell, David Jezowski
10 David Hitchcock, Dale Moore
11 Noah Schultz
12 Renna Yuill
13 Karina Moe
14 Jo Clarke
17 Tracy Imhoff
18 Brendon Smith
19 Claire Caldwell, Lilly Caldwell, Pat Clark
21 Wayne Crosby
22 Marc Dean
24 Beverly Babb
25 Kathy Burch
26 Victor Atiemo-Obeng
28 Rhonda Vance
29 Michell Moe
29 John Williams

January ANNIVERSARIES

None

February BIRTHDAYS

1 Jeff Richards
12 Thayer Bradish
14 Alan Clark
17 Saturn Dean
18 Sharon Houghton-Ross, Emily Richards,
True Rogers
20 Marci Rogers
21 Sharon Carruthers
24 Verda Rider
25 Rena Walker
26 Kelly (Bishop) Kloha
28 Louise Bergman



February ANNIVERSARIES

7 Dave & Bunny Mitchell
15 Tom & Margie Seamster



CALENDAR - 2019

Regular Schedule

Sundays	8:30 AM
	9:30 AM
	11:00 AM
	5:30 PM
Mondays	10:30-11AM
	3-5:30PM
	6:30 PM
	6:30 PM
Tuesdays	7:30 AM
	5:30 PM
Wednesdays	6:15 PM
	7:00 PM
Saturdays	9AM-2PM

ABIDING SCRIPTURES JANUARY - MATTHEW 28:16-20

Chancel Choir Practice
 Worship Service - Communion Service is the 1st Sunday of each month
 Sunday School
 Chancel Bells Rehearsal
 Staff Meeting (2nd Monday staff meeting is on Tuesday @ 12:30PM)
 Take-Note Children's Choir & Chimes - Jan 28 Feb 4/11/18/25
 Team Network Mtg-Media Rm - 2nd Tuesday - Feb 11 - all church invited
 Bible Study - Media Room - Jan 7/21/28 Feb 4/18/25
 Men's Breakfast at M's Café at 5103 Eastman Rd.
 Stewardship & Finance Meeting - 3rd Tuesday - Jan 15 Feb 12
 Property Management Meeting - Feb 6
 Stephen Ministry - Media Rm - 3rd Wednesday - Jan 16 Feb 20
 FBC Serves at Open Door - 2nd Saturday Jan 12 Feb 9

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Special Event</u>
Jan 17-18	9AM-5PM	Scrapbookers in the Hearthside Room
Jan 18-20	-	Youth Great Escape Weekend with the Hitt's
Jan 21	-	NO TAKE-NOTE - MPS Closed
Feb 3	10:15 AM	Annual Business Meeting after Morning Worship
	12 Noon	Light Luncheon followed by Church Clean-Up
Feb 6	1:30 PM	150 th Anniversary Planning Meeting - Harmony Room
Feb 9	10:00 AM	Memorial Visitation for Betty King
	11:00 AM	Memorial for Betty King
	12:00 NOON	Memorial Luncheon
Feb 10	9:30 AM	Scout Sunday
Feb 11	-	February-March Newsletter Deadline

USHERS

Jan: Jim Hitt/Jo & Bob Clarke
 Feb: Rick Imhoff & TBD

CHURCH GREETERS

Jan 20 Schultz Family
 Jan 27 Karen & Keith Freeburg
 Feb 3 TBD
 Feb 10 TBD
 Feb 17 TBD

Date: January 15, 2019

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

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 at 2:00 PM Thursdays, and on digital box Channel 191, at 7:30 PM, Wednesday evening. Church services in video format may also be viewed at <http://www.awincom.com/church-movies/>