

Why Bother With Church?

At our colloquium for American Baptist Senior Pastors in San Diego, our General Secretary, Roy Medley, said that a friend asked him, *"Why bother with church?"* It is a good question. Church can be so convoluted and complex at times. An article in Christian Century quoted the following comments made about a church:

- The church is not friendly [*versus*] they reached out to me.
- The worship is irrelevant and mechanical [*versus*] the worship is transformational.
- I have grown so much here [*versus*] I am not fed here.
- The church is run by insiders [*versus*] I appreciate the open, transparent process.

The author of the article writes, *"All of the above things were said of the same church!"* So, why do we bother with church? Roy Medley answered, *"Because the gospel is greater than the church and that opens us to a new reality, a new possibility of a living hope. The church exercises a subversive power to overcome the power of darkness. The gospel is greater than those who proclaim it."*

Heather Entreken, Senior Pastor of Prairie Baptist Church in Kansas reminds us that the church is not monolithic. She says that churches change and go through seasons and so do church members. Sometimes church and personal needs, circumstances and resources fit perfectly; sometimes not. People tend to find what they are seeking and similar minded people group together. All of us perceive things according to our own perspectives and life experiences. Sometimes this individuality causes the gears of ministry to grind!

Why bother with church? Because the church of Jesus Christ calls us to generosity, hope, compassion, mercy, and justice. The church is the one place where we become community with those who differ from us socially, economically, politically, culturally, and theologically. It is the one place we come together as his body to use our diverse gifts to serve him in the world.

May we recommit our lives to the gospel that is greater than those who proclaim it!

-Pastor Bayes

WORSHIP

Sunday, April 18, 2010

10:00 a.m.	Worship
11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Time
11:20 a.m.	Sunday School

"Where is God When it Hurts?"

The story of Job raises the gut-wrenching questions of those who suffer. In the midst of our pain and heartache, we cry out like Job, "Where is God when it hurts?"

Drama:

"God, It's Not Fair"

Music:

"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" — Chancel Choir

"Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child" — Danielle Blancaflor

Greeters:

Terry & Kathy Geiselman, Fred Johnson
Dan Pasquini, Pat Sheikh, Karen Pilgrim

Welcome Center:

Jay Tellier
Thom Lacy



CALENDAR

Sunday, April 18

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Time
- 11:20 a.m. Sunday School
- 12:00 p.m. Youth Group
- 12:05 p.m. Executive Meeting

Monday, April 19

- 7:30 a.m. Fun & Fit Over 50
- 2:00 p.m. Senior Net
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Team Mtg.

Tuesday, April 20

- 8:00 a.m. Senior Net
- 10:00 a.m. M.U.G.S. (Panera's)

Wednesday, April 21

- 7:30 a.m. Fun & Fit Over 50
- 8:00 a.m. Senior Net
- 5:15 p.m. Bell Rehearsal
- 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Dinner
- 6:45 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 22

- 10:00 a.m. Senior Net

Friday, April 23

- 7:30 a.m. Fun & Fit Over 50

Saturday, April 24

- 8:00 a.m. Rebuilding Together
- 8:30 a.m. Senior Net

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please remember in your prayers:

Thom Lacy
Pat Wolstenholm
Bob Orrill
Jan Swanson
Virginia Ashton
Harry Miller
Sieg Polakow
Madelynn Claire Ryan
Roger Ballou

SYMPATHY

To Pam & Doug Miller on the death of Pam's grandmother, Gramma Lily on Sunday, April 4.

HEALTH TIPS

Is the best treatment for a burn ice?

No. Icing can cause frostbite and damage to skin. Instead, cool the burn under cold running water for 5 minutes. Then cover it with a gauze bandage.

Debbie McGlothlen, 635-3666
Lurene Ladd, 691-2054



When: Saturday April 24, 2010

Time: 8:00 a.m. until work is completed.

Where: Magnolia Boyd
2220 N Idaho
Peoria, IL

Contact Paul Grove or John Dusek if you have questions. Sign-up sheets will be in Fellowship Hall.

Join us for a day of fellowship and community service

Thank You,
Paul Grove, Mission Board Chair
John Dusek, House Captain

CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE

APRIL 17

8:00 a.m.— 2:00 p.m.

Donations to the sale can be delivered to Fellowship Hall during the day on April 15 and 16.

RACE FOR THE CURE

Be a part of the First Baptist Team this year. You can register online at www.komenpeoria.org.

Go to "Race for the Cure" — Join an Existing Team. At the bottom of the next page you will be prompted for team name. Our team is [Peoria First Baptist Church](#). Registration deadline is April 23 for teams and must be completed online. For those who cannot register online, please bring or mail a completed form (with credit card information and shirt size) to the church office. We will complete registration on a weekly basis until the deadline. New this year, if you enroll by April 23, your packet will be mailed directly to your home.

There are many advantages to being part of our team: we offer FREE shuttle service to/from the Metro Centre and you can enjoy a delicious breakfast following the Race back at the church.

Mark your calendars! If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 682-5491.

Judy Tellier
Team Captain

FLOWERS

There are Sundays available in May and June if you would like to donate flowers in the Sanctuary in recognition, remembrance or honor of a loved one, special occasion or group.

Keep in mind that smaller contributions can be combined to purchase flowers for a shared remembrance, etc.

Please contact Karen Vickerman at 309-692-3268 to arrange a donation.



Liz Siegler

When Liz Siegler joined First Baptist Church on January 10, some 30 members of her extended family were present to show their love and support. Family is important to Liz – her new family and her church family.

The 17-year-old Morton High School junior became a part of the Burmood-Phillips clan two years ago when Jan and Brad Burmood accepted her as a foster daughter. Raised mostly in Pekin, Liz had a tumultuous upbringing until landing in the Burmood home. "I guess it was kind of God's doing, putting me in a family as loving as Jan's," she says. "Jan's family has really taken me in. It was overwhelming at first; now it feels right."

She says getting together with family is "one of my favorite things to do." At First Baptist that includes three young foster siblings (Terra, Christian and Carl); grandparents Paul and Nancy Phillips; Uncle Jeff and Aunt Kathy Phillips; and her four Phillips cousins – Lauren, Josh, Nathan and Andrew.

The church family also includes the adults who have welcomed her and the young people who have become her friends. She wears a charm bracelet given by one of those adults, Mary Lou Russell, who was her baptismal sponsor. Four charms dangle from it – a birthday star, a Christmas angel, a heart engraved with the date the court made her officially a part of the Burmood family (Sept. 17, 2009) and a Bible representing her baptism.

"I love this church," she says. "Everyone is welcoming and so kind." The friends she's made in Youth Group are important, as are the mission projects the group does. She especially likes serving Sunday dinners at Friendship House and had a great time on the group's Christmas-week trip to Green Lake. "It was just fun," she says. "I was ecstatic the entire week." She skied for the first time in her life – falling a lot, she says – and enjoyed group-building activities, such as a game called the Amazing Race. One of the tasks involved blowing a ping pong ball around a maze.

An "A" student mostly, Liz will have nearly enough credits to graduate by the end of the school year. But she says she expects to be back to enjoy her senior year and senior activities – she's a Key Club member -- with the friends she's made. Then it's off to Illinois Central College for two years before transferring to a university where she can get a degree in marine biology.

Marine biology?

"I just love the ocean," she explains. "It seems so mesmerizing. It's so big." She says she loved the ocean even before seeing it for the first time in the summer of 2008 on a family trip to South Carolina. Last summer she got to taste marine life up close and personal when she swam in a shark tank on a trip to Disney World. Even her e-mail address (which begins doll_phin) reflects her fondness for the sea.

Liz's less adventurous hobbies include reading, music and drawing; she carries a notebook of her sketches. She loves American history and has been eagerly learning about World War II. A newly decorated bedroom in the basement of the family's Morton home allows her some get-away time.

Life is great, she says. "It's almost as if I'm at peace with the world."

SPRING LEARNING

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Children's Sunday School: age 4-fifth grade will continue with **PowerXpress**. This Spring's lessons are Easter, Daniel and Creation. Class will begin each Sunday after opening assembly in the synagogue (room 311.)

Youth Sunday School: Junior High (grades 6-8) and Senior High (grades 9-12) will continue using **LinC: Living in Christ**. Jr. high will meet in the synagogue (room 311) and sr. high will meet in the youth room (room 222.)

ADULT LEARNING

SESSIONS WITH JAMES: EXPLORATIONS IN FAITH & WORKS

With titles such as "Is This a Multiple-Choice Test?" and "Excuse Me, Sir, Have You Seen My Heart?," this study by Michael D. McCullar is designed to give the learner a full understanding of the book of James and its relevance for our lives today.

Leader: Pastor Cheri Grizzard, Parlor

SPIRITUALITY FOR THE REST OF US

In his personal and practical book, respected Bible teacher Larry Osborne offers a fresh approach for those who deeply desire to know God more, but are tired of adjusting to other people's definitions of spirituality.

Leader: Pastor Tom Bayes, Chapel

A BLUEPRINT FOR BUILDING

This session we will be building planter boxes for Habitat for Humanity houses and some small items for the children's garden.

Leader: Dianne Bayes, White House Garage

DIFFICULT SAYINGS OF PAUL

Peter (2 Peter 3:15-16) tells us that in Paul's writings there "are some things in them hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction as they do other scriptures." This class will consider some of the difficult sayings of Paul towards an understanding that will be relevant for us now and in the future.

Leader: Dr. Phil Ladd, Room 228

FBC SCHOLARSHIPS

Attention all college-bound members
of First Baptist Church:

It is once again time to apply for church scholarships. Applications can be picked up in the church office or downloaded from the church website, www.fbcpeoria.org (select "Forms/Brochures" under the "Resources" heading at the top of the page.) Please return all completed applications to the church office by April 30, 2010.

Kim Still,
Chair Christian Education

ATTENTION GARDENERS

Did you happen to notice labels embedded in certain areas of our church grounds? They're small, copper-colored wire labels and on each one is written a number. The numbers begin with number one and end with number ten. No, you don't get a prize if you find them all, but we hope that you find an area you would like to plant and maintain.

Sign up accordingly at our GARDEN WALK-THRU on Sunday, April 25. We will meet in Fellowship Hall following services. A map of the landscape plans will be provided at that time.

—Jan Olson

AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN APRIL EVENTS

Esther-Hannah Circle will meet on **Tuesday, April 20 at 12:30 p.m.** in the home of hostess Betty Wenger, 2930 W. Wardcliffe Drive, Peoria. The program, "Living Through Transition" will be presented by Carolyn Pasquini. Devotions will be led by Martha Nibbelin. Come join us!

Evening Literature Circle will meet **Tuesday, April 20 at 7:30 p.m.** in the home of Bonna Zimmerman, hostess, 6 Roth Court, Metamora. The book Half Broke Horses by Jeanette Walls will be discussed. Dessert will be provided by Kara Grove. A warm welcome is extended to all!

Afternoon Literature Circle will meet **April 28 at 12:30 p.m.** in the home of hostess Jackie Krag, 5337 W. Flagstone Drive, Peoria. Gene Belsley will lead a discussion of The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald. Hope to see you there!

First Baptist Church of Peoria
411 W Lake Avenue
Peoria IL 61614

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THE MISSION OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IS TO MINISTER TO OUR CONGREGATION, THE COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD, SO THAT ALL MAY EXPERIENCE THE LOVE AND GRACE OF GOD.

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YOUTH GROUP CALENDAR

Saturday, April 17

Rummage Sale

Sunday, April 18

Birthday Party for Joe (and everybody)!!

Sunday, April 25

Fired Up

Contacts: Doug & Pam Miller, 688-6095, Joe & Lisa Sexton, 692-1416

FRIENDSHIP HOUSE SPRING LUNCHEON

FRIDAY, APRIL 23

12 NOON

10:30 A.M. BAKE & BOUTIQUE SALE

800 NE MADISON, PEORIA

This year's luncheon features music from **9 to Five**, a vocal trio featuring music from the 30's through current pop, light country and gospel. Before the luncheon there will be a Boutique and Bake Sale. Raffle tickets will be drawn at the luncheon to determine the winners of a beautiful handmade quilt and some delicious chocolates.

American Baptist Women will be displaying the quilt and selling tickets for the raffle and luncheon in Fellowship Hall immediately after Sunday service. Luncheon tickets are \$7 each and raffle tickets are 1 for \$1 or 6 for \$5.

—Carolyn Ihnken, ABW President