



# WHO ARE THE "NONES?"

According to the *Parish Paper* (March 2010) a person who answers the question "What is your religion, if any?" with "None" joins the ranks of about 15 percent of Americans who are unaffiliated with any religious group. People who answer "None" are the fastest growing group in the religious landscape, up 138 percent since 1990.

*Who are the "Nones?"* More than 70 percent are under age fifty. Sixty percent are men and forty percent are women. "Nones" are mostly never married and single. Thirty-one percent are college graduates. Almost eight out of ten "Nones" say they were raised in some kind of religion as children.

*What fuels the growth of the "Nones" group?* More people now have cross-religious experiences through workplace and friendships. Exposure to diverse religious traditions appears to encourage thinking that "none" is as good as "any of the above." Adults leaving the traditional church contributed substantially to the "None's" group expansion.

Marriage (when it occurs) happens across religious traditions. Instead of choosing one or the other spouse's affiliation, the couple picks "neither and none." Close to one-half of American adults have changed religious affiliation at least once or profess a religious affiliation different from that in which they

were raised. Surprisingly, "Nones" are the most likely group to become affiliated with a religious organization.

"Nones" follow a different pathway to faith. Traditionally people sought to join a tradition to find belonging or accept a body of doctrine or find welcome for what they believe. "Nones" seek a religion to enhance who they already are!

How can congregations respond to the "Nones?" Churches need to:

- ◇ Emphasize the participation of children and youth in all aspects of congregational life because such participation has life-long returns.
- ◇ Have a systematic way of connecting with guests and attendees.
- ◇ Welcome single, never married adults.
- ◇ Create worship styles for the needs of people younger than the age of 45.
- ◇ Realize that people now connect with a congregation in the following sequence: a) participation, b) join, and c) believe.

Research about "Nones" and religious switching reveal the remarkable changeability in the religious landscape of America. How many "Nones" do you know?

—Pastor Bayes

## WORSHIP

Sunday, September 5, 2010

10:00 a.m. Worship ■ 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Time

### "Contentious Workers"

*Matthew 20:1-6*

Samuel Gompers, the founder and longtime president of the American Federation of Labor said of Labor Day, it "...differs in every essential from the other holidays of the year in any country. All other holidays are in a more or less degree connected with conflicts and battles of man's prowess over man, of strife and discord for greed and power, of glories achieved by one nation over another. Labor Day...is devoted to no man, living or dead, to no sect, race or nation."

Contrary to Gompers's statement, Labor Day actually emerged out of conflict.

Music: Jon Dainty, baritone

Greeters: Charlie Barton, Tom & Carol Maulding,  
Louise Heimann, Robert Paton, Karen Vickerman

Welcome Center:  
Gay Barton, Doug Miller

Flowers on September 5 are given in celebration of the September 3 wedding of Sarah Wendt and Jason Stuckwisch, by grandparents Chuck and Jackie Kellogg.

## CALENDAR

Sunday, September 5

- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Time
- 11:20 a.m. Bible in 90 Days (Chapel)

Monday, September 6

- Office Closed for Labor Day
- 7:30 a.m. Fun & Fit
- 7:00 p.m. FunMakers

Tuesday, September 7

- 10:00 a.m. M.U.G.S. (Paneras)

Wednesday, September 8

- 7:30 a.m. Fun & Fit
- 5:15 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Dinner.
- 6:45 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, September 10

- 7:30 a.m. Fun & Fit

Saturday, September 11

- 10:00 a.m. ABW Brunch

## CANNED FOOD DRIVE

Please bring non-perishable food this Sunday, September 5th and place it in the cart in the Warm Room. Donated foods will go to the *Salvation Army*.

## SAVE THE DATE

Heartwarming Hats will meet on Monday, September 13 at 11:00 a.m. in room 226.

Common Place Walk for Reading, Saturday, September 11, 2010, 8:00 a.m., 514 S. Shelley St., Peoria.

All Church Auction, Saturday, November 6.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

*Please remember in your prayers:*

- Rose Kelly      Paul Phillips
- Karen Dainty    Katherine Paradise
- Gail Sexton     Ruben Redard
- Don Stoner      Mike Mason
- Jan Swanson    Sieg Polakow
- Augusta Smith   Madelynn Claire Ryan

## HEALTH TIPS

*Be alert to danger.* Change your smoke alarms after 10 years. After a decade of continual vigilance, a unit's sensors become less sensitive, putting you at a greater risk from smoke or fire should a blaze erupt. Test smoke alarms monthly and replace batteries with new ones every year.

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



FINANCIAL REPORT July 2010	Budget for Month	Actual for Month
Pledges	\$32,808	\$32,348
Projected Giving	\$6,258	\$4,680
Plate Offering	\$1,383	\$1,457
Other Revenue	\$941	\$454
<b>Month Total</b>	<b>\$41,391</b>	<b>\$38,939</b>

## FLOWERS

There are Sundays available, October 3, 25 and 31, if you would like to donate flowers in the Sanctuary or the Warm Room in recognition, remembrance, honor of a loved one, special occasion or group.

Please contact Karen Vickerman at 309-692-3268 or see her Sunday morning to arrange a donation.

YOU ARE INVITED.....

To a  
**CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY**

September 12, 2010  
(immediately after worship)

Displays in Fellowship Hall will present the many opportunities and groups available to members and friends of First Baptist Church.

Come see the new and different  
Sunday School and group activities  
being offered this fall.



## THANK YOU

Dear Friends,  
Thank you for the wonderful celebration of the 20th anniversary of my ordination! The reception was beautiful, and I was touched by your meaningful cards, gifts, and greetings. It has been the privilege of my life to be able to serve Christ in ordained ministry, and it is a particular blessing to serve in the midst of such caring, vibrant people.

—Pastor Cheri Grizzard

To My Friends at First Baptist Church,  
Thanks, a very large thanks to Bonna Zimmerman, and Pastor Garland Criswell for visiting me while in the hospital and Snyder Village. Also to all of those who prayed for me while I was in Proctor Hospital and Snyder Village. First Baptist is truly a caring church.

—Augusta Smith

## SERVE YOUR CHURCH

Your nominating committee is putting together a slate of candidates to serve on the church's Diaconate, Missions Board, Christian Education Board and Board of Trustees next year. There will also be vacancies on the Music and Pastoral Relations committees.

If you would like to volunteer, please call or e-mail Barb Drake (692-1201, [bdrake@mtco.com](mailto:bdrake@mtco.com)).

And if you are approached, please consider making this commitment to your church. Strong leadership is necessary to keep First Baptist strong.

Barb Drake, Nominating Committee Chair

## VOLUNTEERS, PLEASE

Hines School needs tutors! Only 1 hour out of your day can make a difference in a child's life. If interested, please call (686-5951) or e-mail Karen Pilgrim ([khpilgrim@comcast.net](mailto:khpilgrim@comcast.net).) Last year's tutors will be signed up again this year. If unable to tutor again this year, please call Karen. You all make a huge difference...thank you so much!

Help is needed at FBC on Sundays in the two's and three's room and the nursery. Please contact Kim Still at 633-5447.



## FALL LEARNING 2010



### CHILDREN

The children's Sunday School program, **PowerXPress**, uses a rotational workshop model which seeks to foster the personal and spiritual growth of children ages 5 through fifth grade. This Fall's lessons are: "Bible Teachings," "Out of Egypt," "Teach Us to Pray" and "God's Messengers Bring Good News." Each Sunday, we will assemble at **XPress Gatherings (Rm. 317)** where we will experience the lesson for the week. The children will then rotate to stations that enhance the lesson through art and crafts, computer programs and games, science, and storytelling through dramas and videos.

### YOUTH

The Youth class will be using *LinC: Living in Christ*, an up-to-date, internet-based ecumenical youth study that deals with cutting edge issues. *LinC* examines the latest music, movies, news, and current events through a biblical lens and challenges youth to think about their faith and beliefs. After discussing a topic that they understand and which is relevant to their world, students will go deeper into Bible study, equipping them to evaluate their culture with biblical perspective and to apply their faith to their daily experiences. There is no pre-printed curriculum, and class sessions will be new each week, but samples of recent *LinC* sessions include: *So You Think You Can Meditate*, *HD Clarity*, *Share in the Blame*, *Mind Games*, *Justice Generation*, and *Getting Excited About God's Beautiful Game*.

Leaders: Jennifer Dusek, Paul Phillips, Kim Still, Bonna Zimmerman  
Youth Room 222

### ADULT

#### **FAITH & AMERICAN POLITICS: LIBERTY & JUSTICE FOR ALL**

This course focuses on the value of faith in the exercise of our citizenship. Through the use of videos and readings, this theme is developed by examining:

*Our founders' understanding of liberty as outlined in our founding documents*  
*The call of Jesus and the prophets for just societies*  
*Diverse Christian responses to these ideas*

Leader: Pastor Tom Bayes, Chapel

#### **THE BIBLE IN 90 DAYS**

As the name implies, the purpose of this course is to enable participants to read the entire Bible in 90 days (14 weeks). Sunday sessions include a video teaching segment as well as time for discussion, encouragement, and accountability.

Leader: Pastor Cheri Grizzard, Parlor

#### **A BLUEPRINT FOR BUILDING**

We will identify & begin building new projects for our outreach ministry. Come and join us as we explore new avenues of building and service.

Leaders: John Dusek & Earl Pilgrim, White House Garage

First Baptist Church of Peoria  
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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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### FBC Staff

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### **\*\*ATTENTION\*\***

There will be no Fall Rummage Sale this year. The next rummage sale will be Spring 2011. Please direct questions/comments to Delores Swigart (682-7950) or Debbie McGlothlen (635-3666.)

### **YOUTH GROUP CALENDAR**

- Sept. 12 Kick-off w/miniature golf (or bowling if raining).
- Sept. 19 Review of Quest mission opportunities & possible mission trip to Rainbow Acres in Arizona.
- Sept. 26 Friendship House



### **Look Who's Coming To Dinner**

The Small Group Ministry Team is hoping it will be you, the families and friends of First Baptist.

The Team is, once again, planning mixer dinners for Saturday, September 18 and Sunday, September 19.

To sign up to host or attend one of these special dinners, look for bulletin inserts or see a friendly Team member for help with the sign-up process.

## Janet Middleton

*By Barb Drake*



"There's this whole world out there that's fun and interesting," says Janet Middleton. And that's pretty much how she lives her life.

Where to begin?

Perhaps with Neil Diamond. Since discovering his music at age 14, Janet's seen him perform at least 35 times. She's driven through a flash flood on Interstate 80 in pursuit of her "life-long musical buddy" and spent a night in the Chicago Stadium parking lot in hopes of getting great tickets. (She didn't.)

Or maybe with "Les Miserables." Janet loves Broadway musicals, but this one more than any other. She's seen it about 20 times, including on Broadway when Colm Wilkinson's version of "Bring Him Home" stopped the show – literally -- for the applause.

Then there's her antique postcard collection. She got into collecting cards that date back at least a century while pursuing another hobby – collecting antique snow babies. "It's just a passion," she says. "I've gone to shows all over." Her collection numbers at least 2,000, each individually selected.

Golf? Loves it, wishes she had more time to play.

Guitar? Enjoys playing for herself, occasionally as chord backup at church.

Of course, there are the animals: one dog (a keeshond), five guinea pigs, a sun conure ("a beautiful small parrot from South America that is acrobatic and fun – it does somersaults"), two parakeets and one cockatiel (favorite phrase: "Watcha doin'?"). Janet was among the leaders who raised money and persuaded the Peoria Park Board to set aside a portion of Lower Bradley Park as a dog park – a place where dogs can run and play safely. Open just a year, "it's been a big success," she says. "It's so good for the community and the dogs around here."

Speaking of animals, here's something most of us wouldn't give a thought to: Guinea Pig Nationals. That's right, it's not just dogs that compete for Best in Show – so do guinea pigs. Two years ago Janet followed the guinea pigs to Colorado, last year she traveled to Pennsylvania, and next year she'll be in familiar Middleton territory – Rochester, N.Y. Granted, going to Guinea Pig Nationals might not meet everyone's definition of "a whole world that's fun and interesting," but it fits Janet's just fine. "I'm in Heaven," she says.

When not in Heaven, Janet is in Peoria and has been since 1975, when her father, Jim Middleton, became senior pastor at First Baptist Church. At the time she was studying government at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. Her major reflected no particular career interest but the simple fact that she found politics interesting. It was always part of the conversation in the Middleton household, especially when living in Ann Arbor, Mich., home of the University of Michigan, a major locus of the anti-war movement in the 1960s.

"I liked Peoria," Janet says. "I liked the church, I liked the people, I liked being here very much." So when she was offered a job processing group health claims at Aetna's Peoria office, she took it. She worked there in various capacities for 20 years, until the day Aetna closed its Peoria office.

"I said I should do something that's my passion," Janet recalls, and animals had long been her passion. So she launched her own business around miniatures she crafted out of silk thread, creative photo frames tailored to various dog breeds, and other ingenious products she hoped to sell at dog shows. "It was incredibly labor-intensive," she says, and it didn't take her long to realize that, no matter how many hours she worked, she couldn't make a living.

So in 1998 she went to work for Petco. As companion animal specialist at the Peoria store, Janet is responsible for seeing that the animals get good care and for helping shoppers figure out what's right for them.

A big part of Janet's "fun and interesting" world is First Baptist Church, which she joined in 1976. She's served on the Diaconate, Board of Trustees and Missions Board and spent 25 years in Sunday School, working with two- and three-year-olds. By the time last year she decided to take a break, children she taught early on were bringing in their own offspring.

"I love this church," she says. Besides the "great, great people here," she especially appreciates First Baptist's "openness and tolerance for different ideas. I like a very liberal interpretation and the church is very tolerant of that."

