

SoJournal

"Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you, and bless you!" (Gen. 26:3)

First Baptist Church of Birmingham, Michigan May 9, 2004

A Word from Wes

As you may know, it has been my privilege to be involved in a covenanted group of American Baptist colleagues in a Lilley Endowed time for theological reading and reflection. The first book that we read was *The Missional Church*, edited by Darrell Guder. The book is a series of collaborations in writing about the church in America as we face the future. As the title suggests, these writers believe that critically important to the church is the reclaiming of a priority of mission for the lives of congregations.

Over the years of my own service in ministry this has been an increasingly important emphasis for me. I have been fortunate to serve congregations that have been committed to mission in significant ways.

What a joy it has been for me to come to First Baptist Church of Birmingham, Michigan and to discover a congregation so positively oriented toward mission. At the Southeast Area Annual meeting you were recognized for outstanding support for American Baptist Mission. This included being one of the top 100 churches in Mission giving in our denomination. You are leaders in the support of Mission in our Region as well. These are matters to be celebrated.

Not included in the totals are the countless ways and hours that are devoted to the work of ministry, mission and outreach that are contributed in your energy and time. So, let me, in this place, express my appreciation for that great record of caring and compassion. We are, indeed, exploring what it means to be a missional church.

We do need to look to the future by asking the question, "How do we grow and increase our commitment to mission and ministry?" Notice, I am not asking the question in terms of maintenance...but growth.

This concern does not come from a desire to be on top of things statistically. Yes, it is good to be recognized. But, our real motivation ought to be in response to God's call to faithfulness and to the needs of others around us and in our world. We are not about statistics, as helpful as they are in measuring what we do. We ARE about being instruments of God's reconciling, redeeming and liberating love.

In our weekly group study times, we have been reading from Ephesians. As we read, we were reminded that the source of our power and energy, of our wisdom and compassion does not reside within ourselves. Rather, that source is God's love and grace made known in Christ. To be the missional church, we need to be engaged in those activities that keep us connected to the Source.

I invite you to be about that priority by being present in worship, by engaging in learning and growth in your life of faith, and by getting involved in hands on, face-to-face ministry. As we do, our support for mission will grow in the most important category—changed lives and a changed world for time and eternity.

- Wes

SENDING PRAYERS TO OUR FAMILY OF

FAITH

Jack Erhardt passed away on April 28. His funeral service was held at our church on Saturday, April 30. Please continue to be in prayer for Jackie and her family as they grieve this loss.

Katy Lett has had her last chemotherapy treatment and we rejoice with her and Phil that she has finished this difficult procedure. We continue to keep her in our prayers for a full recovery from breast cancer.

Werner Schettling was hospitalized recently and has now returned home. Doctors are further evaluating his health. Keep Werner and the Schettling family in your prayers.

Carole Craig continues with her treatments and will be evaluated within the next few weeks. She is finally over the infection she has struggled with for may week. Continue to pray for her health and comfort.

Jack McRobb's mother is hospitalized at Beaumont. Please remember her in your prayers.

Congratulations to **Jack & Jo Ellis** on the birth of their third grandchild, Maya, born to James & Katie in Iowa on Saturday, May 1. Blessings!

Congratulations to **Elizabeth Lin** who was recently promoted to Regional Mortgage Sales Manager of Citizens Bank. Well done Elizabeth!

Congratulations to **Jeremy Nabors** who just graduated from University of Michigan! Great Job, Jeremy!

Congratulations to **Henry Nabors** who was recently elected as President of the Board at the Birmingham Area Seniors Coordinating Council and Center (BASCC)!

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for all of the prayers and support you have given us during this time of Don's illness and death. We appreciate the calls, cards, flowers, prayers and words of comfort. We continue to give thanks to God for this faith community and your ability to reach out in love and comfort.

With love, gratitude and blessings,
Doreen, Dale, Cathi,
Brian and Cassie Feldpausch

VOL. 10

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH SOJOURNAL (USPS 528-560)

No. 8

2004 Church Officers: Moderator: Bill Olsen; Vice Moderator: Joan Moore; Financial Secretary: Glenn Craig; Treasurer: Greg Bennett; Recording Clerk: Nancy Nabors; Membership Clerk: Frances McEvoy

Ministry Team Chairs: Jennifer Nixon (Celebrations); Jerri Poe (Deacons); Leona Frost (Educational); Doris Fell; (Human Resources); David McEwen (Physical Resources); Henry Nabors (Stewardship); Nancy Sharp (Outreach)

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Notices for the SoJournal should be in writing to the Church Office.

MinistersAll Members of this Church
Pastors	Rev. Dr. J. Wesley Babian
Pastor Cathi Feldpausch
Office Manager/PublicistLeslie Jaquez
Director of Music & Organist Jack E. Ellis
CustodianLeonard Dietrich, Jr.

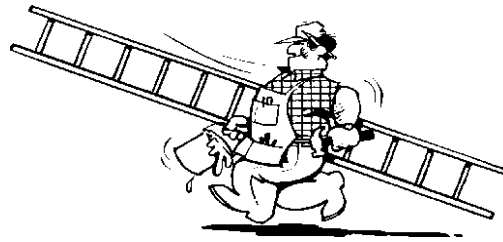
Certificate of Christian Ministry

The next classes in the Certificate in Christian Ministry program of the ABC of Michigan meet on May 14-15. At the East Lansing site the Rev. Jimmie Wafer will lead the session on pastoral care. At the Roscommon site the Rev. Pat Hernandez will lead the session on the devotional life of the pastor.

The Certificate program is designed to create a pool of certified lay pastors who can be local church pastors in congregations where a churches cannot afford a full time, seminary-trained pastor; provide entry-level experiential education for ministry; and provide learning sites at two locations in Michigan.

Upon completion of the Certificate program a person is eligible to be a local church pastor with continued mentoring and an agreement to continue their education.

(Ref: E-Link)



WEEKEND WORK RETREAT

Who: For the men and boys of the South Eastern Area
What: Weekend Work Retreat
Where: Camp Lael in Lapeer
When: May 21 & 22
Cost: \$15 per person

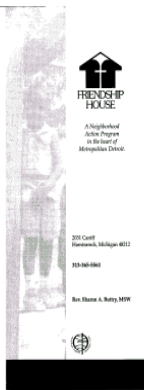
Check in between 7 & 8 PM on Friday, May 21. Or come up and join us Saturday morning, May 22. Breakfast begins at 8 AM. We'll finish up Saturday afternoon.

The cost includes a Friday night snack, 2 meals on Saturday and sleeping accommodations in the beautiful cabins of Camp Lael (bring your own bedding, sleeping bag, pillow).

There are a variety of general maintenance and repair jobs to be done. Most tools will be provided. Bring any of your own you think might be helpful.

To reserve you place call Dennis at 313-292-3691 or the SEA Metro Office at 800-668-7882 by Monday, May 17.

Great way for men to gather together for fellowship, friendship and good deeds!



Save This Date
for

Friendship House 75th Anniversary Celebration

October 10, 2004 from 2 to 6 PM at the Ukrainian Cultural Center located at 26601 Ryan Road in Warren. Please join us in celebrating the history and legacy of Friendship House, the diversity of our community, and the faithfulness of it's alumni and friends. Tickets are available as of August 1. Individual ticket costs \$35. Call 313-365-5561 for more information.

A Stewardship Note...

“Nothing truly belongs to us; everything actually belongs to God” (33 Days of Stewardship, Sutherland and Nowery). Good stewards recognize the priority of God’s ownership and that people of faith are called to be careful managers of all the resources entrusted to them.



Church Website...

The church is looking for a volunteer "webmaster" for its soon-to-be newly revised website. The person should understand the technicalities of web design, website building, and site maintenance. Speak to Wes Babian or Bill Olsen to show your interest.

Women of FBCB, you are involved in many different activities. You are caregivers for children, spouses, parents, and friends. You work both in the home and outside the home. You support our church family and your own communities.

Our American Baptist Women’s Ministries Board
 Invites
 All FBCB Women to Come Together
 for a



Spring Salad-Potluck-Luncheon
 "In Celebration of Women"
 Saturday - May 22 - 11:00
 Fellowship Hall



Don't miss out on the fun...RSVP to the office by May 20.

Volunteers Needed

Would you like to spend some time at a tropical paradise?

Do you long to share your love of Jesus with children? Do you like to hula? Then come to work for Lava Lava Island. Requirements are a desire to have fun, ability to frolic and skills to smile. Needed are decorators, helpers, leaders and buddies. Contact Keely Tyson, Leona Frost or Cathi Feldpausch. Shirt and tie are not required!!!



Where Jesus' Love Flows

Join us this summer beginning Tuesday, July 27 for three exciting days of Vacation Bible School. Meeting from 9:30 to 12:30 in the Fellowship Hall, this year's theme is titled *Lava Lava Island, Where Jesus' Love Flows.*

We are very excited to announce that VBS will expand the offerings this summer to also include older children. A sign up sheet will be available in the Welcome Center. Cost is \$10 per child, with a maximum cost of \$25.00 per family.

Scholarships are also available for those in need. Please see Leona Frost or Cathi Feldpausch for more information.

Friendship House: They Have A New Plan & We Can Help Make It Happen!

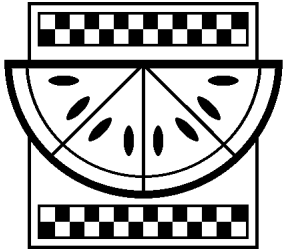
"Initiative 365:24/7"

Friendship House is building a community resource network to connect "neighbors to neighbors" to meet the urgent needs of vulnerable citizens in a harsh economic climate. This requires our attention "365 days a year, 24/7," twenty four hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year. The needs and problems of our neighbors do not take a vacation or a Sabbath.

Friendship House Board and Staff are asking you to take part in "Initiative 365:24/7", to meet the needs of a focused and intentional urban community. We need 365 new people, representing each day of this our 75th Anniversary year, to donate \$247 ANNUALLY for the next 3 years to accomplish the goal of "neighbor to neighbor" empowerment. Better yet, "round-up" your donation to \$250. Your donation is tax deductible. A \$20 per month pledge arrangement can be arranged with our office: Friendship House, 2031 Caniff Avenue, Hamtramck, MI 48212. Phone : 313-365-5561.

Our gift to you will be a "Friendship House Day Calendar" in 2005, listing your name on the day you designate as your personally sponsored 365:24/7 day. This could be a birthday, anniversary or a day to honor someone you love. Carol Allen, a former Staff member, is our first donor and she has claimed February 9th. (But, she is willing to share her special day with others!) The calendar will include sights and stories about the activities of Friendship House made possible by your donation.

Thanks! -- Rev. Sharon Buttry, MSW, Director of Friendship House
(Ref: E-Link)



Backyard Fellowship!

A less formal version of our *Dinners for Nine*, we warmly invite you to *Picnics for Nine* hosted on June 8th by Jim & Jerri Poe and then on June 15 at the home of Doris Myers. A summertime

evening backyard gathering, we hope to encourage fellowship and friendships through this time together. Please call the office to RSVP your space!

SEA Annual Meeting Well-Attended

Five persons from our congregation attended the South East Area Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 2. A package of information that was shared at the meeting is on file in the church office for those who are interested. The Region Board unanimously approved an amended version of the restructuring plan for ABC MI. The substance of that plan is available in the office and the implications of it will be discussed at the council level within our church.

Learning Community Update

This has been a wonderful year for the adults, teens and children of FBCB in regard to The Learning Community.

With the introduction across generations of the "Seasons of the Spirit", a lectionary based curriculum we have been able to experience the transforming power of Christ's love and call to mission and ministry through the unfolding of the biblical texts.

The Educational Ministries Team will be honoring all the teachers and facilitators who have participated in The Learning Community, the Nursery/Toddler program and Children's Church. We will express our appreciation to them on Sunday, June 6th during worship. After worship we will celebrate their commitment with a cake in Fellowship Hall.

The last day of Learning Community will be on Sunday, June 6th. There will be no Learning Community on Memorial Day week-end, Sunday, May 30.

Spring is Springing!

All friends and members of the church are invited to donate annuals and/or perennial plants and plant them in the church beds or flower pots. We hope to have a full bounty of beautiful color and flora around our great building! If you are interested in donating and planting, please coordinate with Leslie in the office. Thanks!

NEXT SUNDAY!

NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 16 WILL BE A VERY BIG DAY HERE AT FBCB!

- ◆ First it's Heritage Sunday and we will be celebrating the **134th Anniversary** of our church!
- ◆ In worship we will hold up our **40 and 50-year members**, celebrating their long-time commitment to this church and to Jesus Christ.
- ◆ In the parlor, we will set up for the **Silent Auction**. It will be the first day where folks can begin the bidding process on the terrific items, service and gifts donated by church friends and members and local merchants. The final day for bidding will be June 6.

IN THE FBCB CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, May 9, 9:30 AM Learning Community & 11 AM Worship; SOS Guests leave; The SoJournal, our church news letter is available in the Welcome Center today; Mother's Day

Monday, May 10, Stewardship Team meets at 7:30 PM in the Conference Room

Tuesday, May 11, Bible Study meets in the Parlor at 10 AM; Deacons meet at 1 PM in the Conference room

Wednesday, May 12, Bells meet at 6:30 PM & Choir meets at 7:30 PM

Thursday, May 13, Bible Study group meets at Dave & Leona's at 7 PM; MOSES Board Meeting, evening

Sunday, May 16, Heritage Sunday! Celebrating the 134th Anniversary of the church; 9:30 AM Learning Community & 11AM Worship; Recognition of Long-time members; Silent auction begins, set up in Parlor; B'Jazz Vespers 2 6PM!

Monday, May 17, Church Council meets at 6:30 PM, Physical resources & Christian Education Teams meet after Council

Tuesday, May 18, Bible Study meets in the Parlor at 10 AM; Lydia Circle meets at 1 PM at the home of Harriet Kleinfelder

Wednesday, May 19, Outreach Team meets at 5 PM in the Conf. Room; Bells meet at 6:30 PM & Choir meets at 7:30 PM

Thursday, May 20, Bible Study group meets at Dave & Leona's at 7 PM; wedding rehearsal at 6:30 PM

Saturday, May 22, ABW Spring Salad Luncheon in Fellowship Hall begins at 11 AM; wedding at 3:30 PM (Sanctuary & Parlor)

Sunday, May 23, 9:30 AM Learning Community & 11 AM Worship; Congregational Meeting in Sanctuary after worship

Tuesday, May 25, Bible Study meets in the Parlor at 10 AM; Quilter's Group meets at 11 AM

Wednesday, May 26, Bells meet at 6:30 PM & Choir meets at 7:30 PM

Thursday, May 27, Bible Study group meets at Dave & Leona's at 7 PM

Friday, May 28, Birmingham / Bloomfield Coalition Downtown Scavenger Hunt & After Party in Fellowship Hall, 5 to 11 PM

Sunday, May 30, No Learning Community Hour (Memorial Day Holiday); Worship at 11 AM; The SoJournal, our church newsletter is available today in the Welcome Center

Monday, May 31, Church Office Closed in Observance of Memorial Day Holiday



**Last Vespers
of the season!
Don't Miss It!**

May, 16, 2004

"May Moon Jazz"

from the

The Shelia Landis Quartet

- Shelia, vocals
- Rick Matle, guitar
- Kurt Krahnke, bass
- Dennis Sheridan, drums
- George "Sax Man" Benson

Upcoming Sunday Morning Worship

“Seasons of the Spirit”

Sunday, May 16

“Tree of Life”

Heritage Sunday

Recognition of Long-time Members

Silent Auction Begins

Sunday, May 23

“Alpha and Omega”

Congregational Meeting after worship services

Sunday, May 30

“God’s Great & Glorious Day”

Pentecost

Making Mission Happen!

At the recent South East Area Annual Meeting, our church was recognized for placing 97th (out of 100) for our United Mission Giving of all American Baptist Churches throughout the Nation!

Well done, First Baptist Church, Birmingham!

SoJournal

First Baptist Church
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Birmingham, MI 48009-3300
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Periodical

May 9, 2004

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:

April 25: 113

May 2 115

Visit Our Website at:
<http://users.aol.com/churchwww/first.htm>
E-Mail: firstbaptistbirm@sbcglobal.net