



**2008
PRAYER LIST**

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lorena Buehler | Homebound |
| Casel & Evelyn Bush | Homebound |
| Bill Cherry | Homebound |
| Posey & Gerri Gaines | Homebound |
| Dorothy Gilreath | Homebound |
| Maury Green | Homebound |
| Ardythe Hester | Homebound |
| Wanda Love | Homebound |
| Ruth Wilson | Homebound |
| Janie Allen | Good Samaritan |
| Raymond Ayers | Holiday Village |
| Mabel Georgesen | Heritage Center |
| Margaret Hollingsworth | Good Samaritan |
| Thelma Julian | Atria Assisted Living |
| Ruth McMillan | Core Nursing Home |
| Stella Neel | Holiday Village |
| LaVone Peach | Good Samaritan |
| Anne Peterman | Heritage Center |
| Bessie Pfingston | Mt Vernon Nursing |
| Gladys Rezek | Solarbron |
| Roberta VonHarten | Atria Assisted Living |
| Benita Williams | Solarbron |
| Dr. Robert Williams | Heritage Center |
| Allan Reeves | US Air Force, Afghanistan |
| David James | US Army |
| Steven A. Michaels | US Marines - Japan |
| Matthew Peninger | US Army |
| Tim Chrockrem | US Navy |
| Home & Foreign Missionaries | |
| The Howell Family | Marc Klein |
| Gretchen Barth | Alyce Sanders |
| Judi Schneider | Stella Neel |
| Ruth McMillen | Adolph Buente |
| Ruth Wilson | Roberta VonHarten |
| Raymond Ayers | Nell Ernsperger |
| Lois Hoffman | Andrew Bolesky |

Church Staff:
 Rev. Dr. George Huffsmith – Pastor, H. Posey Gaines - Pastor Emeritus, Julie Lauer - Music Director, Olivia Yates – Organist, Marge Baker – Pianist, Rhonda Wilson - Financial Secretary, Vada Chrockrem - Church Secretary, Beth & Sarah Bloss –

The Celebrations (USPC 932440) is published bi-weekly by First Baptist Church, 320 Cherry St., Evansville, IN 47713
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to First Baptist Church, 320 Cherry St., Evansville, IN 47713

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
 320 Cherry Street, Evansville, IN 47713
 Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
 Morning Worship: 10:45 a.m.
 Telephone: 812.425.8296
 Fax: 812.425.4445
 E-Mail address:
 firstbaptistchurch@fbcevansville.org
 Web Site: www.fbcevansville.org

Periodical
 Postage Paid
 Evansville, IN

THE CELEBRATIONS



First Baptist Church

Evansville, Indiana

Vol. 56, No. 93

December 10, 2009

Vision Statement

We are building on our heritage and approaching the future with a vision relevant to our changing world while creating an atmosphere where Christ can bring healing, hope, and joy to all.



As I think back over my journey of faith I find that many times when God has been doing remarkable things in my life there has been a pastor that has been there to guide me through the process. Many of these pastors worked long hours for little pay yet with the joy of knowing they were doing what God had called them to do. Now many of those pastors are retired and with the toll the economy has taken on their Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board retirement account they find that they are doing with less in their “Golden Years”. That is why I feel that it is an honor for me to contribute generously to the RMMO or Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering.

The RMMO is spent two ways. The first is a “Thank you” check sent to retired American Baptist Ministers and Missionaries and their widowed spouses. This check is a reminder that they have served a grateful people that have appreciated the service they have rendered to Christ’s mission across this nation and around the world. A reminder that the denomination they served has not forgotten them.

The second use of the funds is to meet the needs of emergency assistance. There are times when sudden and unexpected expenses occur. Illness, storms and other events often upset delicately balanced budgets leaving bills unpaid and financial distress. At these times funds from this offering can be used to lift the financial burden that weighs so heavy.

So to me RMMO has a face and a name: It is Rev. Sam Fell who led me to Christ and baptized me, or Reverend Ralph Wagner who helped me to meet Joanne and presided at our wedding or Dr. Vince deGregoris who taught me Pastoral Care in Seminary, or a hundred other names that have shaped and enriched my ministry.

How about you? Does your RMMO have a face and a name? Maybe a name like Dr. Posey Gaines, Dr. Gene Ton, or another American Baptist Pastor that has touched your life and is now retired, what name does your offering have?

Envelopes are in the pew racks or you can send you to the church through the US postal service now through the end of the year. As my mother always told me, “Don’t forget to say thank-you”.

Grace and Peace,
 Pastor George

God's House -- \$1285

~ ~ ~

World Mission Offering -- \$986

FBC Christmas Dinner

4th Quarter Business Meeting

Plan to join us for our Church Christmas Dinner on Dec. 13th at 5:30pm the meat (Ham) and bread will be provided. Please bring a complimentary dish to share. Also our Fourth Quarter Business Meeting will be at 6:30pm to approve our 2010 budget and to elect our 2010 church officers and team members.

Thank You!

Rev

Huffsmith and members of First Baptist. Thank you for the beautiful planter that you sent to the funeral home in honor of Benita. It will find a special place in our home. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated at this difficult time.

Kirk & Kyle Williams & Family

OFFERING BOXES

Offering Boxes will be available for pick up in the lobby outside the church office on December 27th. If you don't want the offering boxes, please notify the church office by December 21st.



LIVING NATIVITY

Friday – Saturday December 11th – 12th
6:00pm – 8:00pm

Experience the beauty of the first Christmas at this free, drive-thru event.

Live animals and actors bring the first Christmas to life.

(Anyone that is participating in this event needs to be at church by 5:30pm.)

A NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM

December 16 from 6:00-8:00 PM in the Family Life Center - - - Bring your family and friends to experience what it was like in Bethlehem the night Jesus was born.

Enjoy the hustle and bustle of the marketplace as you create items at the shops--leather working, candle making, metal working, pottery and much more. You might encounter a Roman

soldier, or a shepherd or two. Best of all you, will meet Mary and Joseph and hear them tell about their very special baby. It's all free and a great way to experience the true meaning of the Christmas season. Hope to see you there.



Sunday December 20th 6:00pm

Handel's Messiah

The combined choirs of First Baptist Church and Eastminster Presbyterian accompanied by a chamber orchestra present Handel's Messiah.



Thursday December 24th
7:00pm

A candlelight worship service that focuses on the retelling of the birth of Jesus.

MITTEN TREE

We have begun collecting socks, underwear, hats, gloves and sweatpants, in children's sizes, for our First Baptist Mitten Tree. Items of all sizes are welcome. Just place them on or under the tree in the Koffee Klatch area.

ATTENTION ALL VETERANS



I would like your help in developing a list of all veterans who are related to First Baptist Church. If you could please mail, email, or drop off to the church office a note with the following information; Name, date of service, and branch of the military you served in, rank and a brief note as to what you did and where you did it. I thank you in advance for this information and I thank you for your service to your country.

Pastor George



Youth Christmas Party

All high school and middle school youth are invited to a Christmas Progressive Dinner and Caroling Party on Friday, Dec. 18th. We'll leave from the church at 5:00pm. Bring a \$5 gift for a gift exchange. Give Joannie or Scott a call at 985-7555 if you need a ride.

SO WHY GO TO CHURCH?

1. Because It Is Not Good to Be Alone.

“God said, “it is not good to be alone...” We kid ourselves when we think that we can develop a healthy and Christ-like spirituality by ourselves. We learn about God and learn to follow Jesus in a community. It is good to be in community.

2. To Take My Rightful Place Humbly Within the Family of Humanity.

Our human (sinful) nature causes us to achieve an unhealthy sense of individualism. We strive to distinguish ourselves from others in the sense that we think more highly of ourselves than we ought to. To join a church is to give up this fantasy that we are better than others. For in the church we are reminded that “naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return again.” In a church we give up our elitism and take our place humbly with other fallen human beings.

3. Because God Calls Me There.

God is clear that our faith is to be learned and lived out in community. Our faith is not a private search for what is highest in oneself but a communal search for God. The two great commandments are: To love God and to love your neighbor. To love God is to learn to love others in the community of faith.

4. To Dispel My Fantasies About Myself.

Outside of a church community we are free to live lives as we please and to convince ourselves that we are “good” at least better than most. The church is comprised of sinful people who all fall short of the glory of God. To not be involved with church because of people’s faults, shortcomings and hypocrisy is a great rationalization. What is too painful to deal with is not other people’s imperfections but our own fantasies about our own goodness. To be involved in a church family where people can see us for who we really are and still love us is very, very good for us.

5. Because Ten Thousand Saints Have Told Me So.

The saints of old and the saints of the present day are fairly unanimous regarding the importance of church. It is hard to imagine Mother Teresa or Francis Assisi apart from their connection to a church. God wants all of us to walk the spiritual journey not alone but with others.

6. To Help Others Carry Their Pathologies and to Have Them Help Me Carry Mine.

Simply put, we go to church so that other people might help us carry what is unhealthy inside of us and so that I might help others carry what is unhealthy inside

of them. We are all “broken” in some ways. We need each other to help us with our “brokenness.” We should not be surprised that we find every kind of sickness within our churches. But the presence of those pathologies should not keep us from going to church but, instead, draw us there where we can help others.

7. To Dream with Others.

A large group of people watching the news together could change the world. The church is that group of people. As an organization—with a heart for justice, peace, and the poor—it is far from perfect, but it is the best of a bad lot and it offers positive hope. The first thing I should do, if I hope to help bring about some justice and peace on this planet, is to begin to dream with others who are committed to the same dream. If I hope to do that I should go to church.

8. To Practice for Heaven.

Heaven, the Bible assures us, will be a place enjoyed by billions of people of every temperament, race, background, and ideology imaginable. A loving heart for all others will be required to live there. Thus, in this life, it is necessary to get some practice at this, good to be in situations that stretch us and enlarge our love for others. Few things stretch us as painfully as does church community. However, when we avoid the pain and mess of church community to walk a less painful and private road or to gather with

only people of our own kind, our love need not and generally does not grow. Going to church is one of the best heart exercises available.

9. For the Pure Joy of It...Because It Is Heaven!

At our family gatherings there are family members of all kinds there. Those we like and those we don’t. Those who have hurt us, wronged us, stepped on us and turned their back on us. And of course, there are those we are truly fond of. Those we know that really love us and would do anything for us. Our family gatherings are a mixture of the good, the bad, and the ugly. Yet, through it all, and underneath it all, there is a joy that comes from being together as a family. Our family gatherings are not a whole lot different than the gathering that one day will take place in heaven. It will be a gathering of all kinds of people. And there, underneath it all, there will be a sense of real joy as we gather together as the family of God.

(All of the above was taken and used with some modification from the book The Holy Longing by Ronald Rolheiser. Doubleday Press, Copyright 1999)



2009 Poinsettia List

Janie Allen in MEMORY of Bob Allen

June F. Althaus in MEMORY of all my
deceased Loved Ones

Marge Baker in MEMORY of Elizabeth
Kershaw

Gary, Susan and Hannah Bassett in
MEMORY of John Wesley Bassett . . .
"We love and miss you dearly"
Dad, Mom and Hannah

Mary Bihm in MEMORY of Paul Bihm,
my Husband

Buente/Widick Family in MEMORY of
Jessee Widick

Come Double Class in MEMORY of
deceased Members

Dennis and Kimberly Don in MEMORY
of C.B. Woody, Neva Woody and Rex
Don

Virginia Gore in MEMORY of Jack
Gore (Gore Family) and Mayme Vote
(Virginia Gore and Family)

Orel K. Graper in MEMORY and
HONOR of Loved Ones

Norma Greulich in MEMORY of my
Parents and Grandparents

Norman and Dolores Guyer in
MEMORY of our Parents, Brothers,
and Sisters

John C. Hall in MEMORY of Mr. and
Mrs. J.C. Hall

Lois Hoffman in MEMORY of my
Husband, Everett and Parents

Howard K. Knopfmeier in MEMORY of
Milton A. and Mildred L. Knopfmeier

Dan and Melinda Langhorst in
MEMORY of Jenny Langhorst and Dan
Martyn

Diane Legler in MEMORY of T.R.
Legler and in HONOR of Our Church

Don, Barbara and Robert Mills in
MEMORY of Henry (Bud) and Vivian
Mills

Larry Norvell in MEMORY of Mr. &
Mrs. Letcher Norvell (Parents of Larry
Norvell) and Connor Bryan Williams
(Grandson of Larry Norvell)

Chester and Judy Peak in MEMORY of
Chester and Ethel LaRoe, Clarice
LaRoe, Raymond LaRoe and Chester
and Mayzell Peak, Sr.

Ron and Wanda Rheinhardt in
MEMORY of Roderick Blackburn,
Mattie Blackburn, Clinton Rheinhardt
and Ethelyn Rheinhardt

Clara Stitt in MEMORY of Mother,
Mayme Vote and Husband, Bill Stitt

Gloria Strott in MEMORY of Wally
Strott, Husband and Father . . .
Gloria, Wassie, and John

Beverly Thurgood in MEMORY of
Chuck Thurgood, Husband and
George H. Hollingsworth, Dad

Joan Turley in MEMORY of Wm.
J. Gorman, Larry Gorman, and
Jerry Gorman

Rose Williams in MEMORY of
Husband, Sons, and Parents

Olivia Yates in MEMORY of my
Parents, Prentice and Laura
Ethington

Marcia Yurks in MEMORY of
Bonnie Story, my Mom

