

November 2013 Bridger Community Ministries

First Baptist Church



From the Pastor's desk

Who are we? Mission? Church? Missional Church?

¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. [Matthew 28:19-20 NASB95]

²⁵And a lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶And He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?" ²⁷And he answered, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND; AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." ²⁸And He said to him, "You have answered correctly; DO THIS AND YOU WILL LIVE." [Luke 10:25-28 NASB95]

⁴³You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. ⁴⁶For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. [Matthew 5:43-48 NASB95]

Does it ever seem odd to you that the church spends so much time trying to figure out who it is and what its job, role or vocation is to be? Many of us came of age in a world where church was simply something you, and everyone else you knew, did. Some of you even remember the days of BYPU – Baptist Young Peoples Union of America. Some of us came up in the age of the local church youth group, which met on Wednesday nights for bible study and worship, then had activities throughout the summer. Many of us remember the days of the ABW Circles – Esther, Mary-Martha, Lydia and Ruth. At our height, we had thriving women's ministries, men's breakfasts, all-church workdays and youth groups. We were the church – we worshiped, fellowshiped and did missions.

We live in a different world today. Ever frustrated by chaos in our culture and a growing doubt about whether the church, or even the Christian faith is relevant, our understanding of how we proceed to be, and 'do' church is changing. The key to our understanding is how we embody the scripture verses listed above. The summary is: "Love God, Love our neighbors," "Go! Make Disciples" and "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." Let's see if we can make a contemporary mission statement out of these words of Jesus and make a difference in Bozeman!

This November we continue to study the "I, I am" sayings in the Gospel of John, for the express purpose of finding out who '**we are**' intended to be - *in Christ*.

We are turning a corner my friends. Come to prayer meeting. Invite your neighbors to worship. It's your turn to 'pitch in' for the sake of FBC and the Kingdom work of Christ. *See you Sunday!*

Pastor Jay

College Ministry Update

- Nick Woods



As Fall gives over to Winter, the College Students are giving over to more and more tests and homework. Please continue to keep them all in your prayers as they balance school and work with everything else that's going on, and if you see someone out and about, make sure you give

them some encouragement!

This semester we've been moving more a direction of focused discipleship, and we plan to continue that as the year winds down. I will be working with Pastor Jay on finding some materials for us to pursue in order to help us actively grow into a stronger relationship with God. As always, prayers are appreciated in this regard, and I welcome suggestions for study material as well.

ABW Ministries

- Pat Newby



WORLD COMMUNITY DAY. Our faithful women will be meeting Ecumenically at United Methodist Fri. Nov 1 at 9:30 a.m. for Brunch and a Program. Join us to greet other dedicated Christian women in a

learning program.

Nov. 20 ABW Ministries will be visiting our ladies unable to attend meetings. Please bring cookies to share.

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU!!!! Have you noticed our refreshed kitchen and nursery? These events don't just happen. Our ABW women MINISTERED to our church body Wed. Oct. 23, by cleaning, organizing and strategizing current and future use of these important areas. We were entertained by our youngest balls of energy: Zoe Bowker and Eli Culp! Many thanks to Nadine, Grace, Janelle, Ellie, Edie, Mandy, Andrea and Pat for willingly and lovingly REPORTING FOR DUTY!!

We are collecting mittens and gloves for Head start! Please place them on the "mitten tree" in the back of the sanctuary - the deadline is the last week of November!

The Rock Report

- Jason Bowker



As you are probably used to hearing in our monthly Rock Reports, we have been consistently busy at The Rock over the last month. We continue to have tons of kids visit us during the lunch hour and are also fairly busy before and after school. It has been really fun to connect

with so many students and the number of deep, healthy conversations with our kids has increased dramatically from last Spring to this Fall.

We have been plugging away with our weekly, student-led worship/Bible study/ prayer group on Monday nights, but we are also looking forward to sponsoring a couple of extra activities over the next month to try to reach out to a whole new group of students. Fellowship of Christian Athletes will be holding a 5th Quarter party at The Rock after the Bozeman High football game this Friday night. Hopefully this is a great time of connecting with students who are currently outside of our realm of influence.

Gary and I are also excited to be hosting our first Open-Mic Night of this school year on Saturday, November 16. We hosted three of these nights last Spring and they were a great time to connect with students and allow their incredible gifts to be put on display. We are looking forward to another year of reaching out to students through these fun events. Please be in prayer for us as

Thank you!!

I want to thank all of you at First Baptist Church, but especially the church Leadership Team for assisting me as I have completed all the requirements for Ph.D.

degree. I began studying for my Ph.D. in 2006, which in Brownwood, Texas and had the last leg to complete while I was in Bozeman. Thank for you for giving me the time and helping provide the resources for me to complete this milestone accomplishment. When I receive my 'sheep skin' from the University of Bristol, I will be setting the date for a "Thank you" party.

All of my respect and love, Pastor Jay



The Jesus Prayer

- Gary Cook



Julian of Norwich wrote, "Pray, even if you feel nothing, see nothing. For when you are dry, empty, sick or weak, at such a time is your prayer most pleasing to God, even though you may find little joy in it. This is true of all believing prayer."

I don't know how, or whether, Julian really knew God is most pleased by prayers from us when we are dry, empty, sick, or weak. Perhaps that was what it seemed to her in her experience.

But I do know that it is hard to pray when we feel nothing. How do we pray at such times?

One way is to pray model prayers. Jesus gave us his prayer, The Lord's Prayer, which is always appropriate. Always. Another simple model prayer is called "The Jesus Prayer." It is based on words tax collectors, blind men, and others (including demons!) prayed to Jesus in the gospel stories. It goes like this: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, have mercy on me, a sinner." Fourteen words.

Even in spiritually dry times, times of weakness, most of us manage to get out of bed, eat, work, and somehow get through our daily routines. As we go about, even though we don't feel like it, we can surely mutter a simple fourteen-word-prayer such as The Jesus Prayer, not because we feel like it, but because God commands us to pray. And God has promised to honor our obedience. Who knows? We may pray our way into feeling like praying.

Family Promise

- Grace Holiday



Interested in learning how you can be a part of the solution to family homelessness in our community? Family Promise Gallatin Valley would like to invite you to a new volunteer training. Monday November 18th from 6-8pm here at FBC! Pizza and refreshments will be served. The training is free but reservations are required.

Please contact Grace at 406-586-6179. Thank you!

Dear First Baptist Church:

Gary, Jason, Nick and I want to thank you for the generous love gift you gave to each of us in honor of pastor appreciation month. Your generosity and love is without exception and we are grateful for the partnership we share with you in ministry to our community.

Pastors Jay, Gary, Nick and Jason

Daily Prayer Points

Sunday

- *Pastor Jay, Melissa & family
- *Pastor Gary, Tammy & family
- *Jason, Mandy, and Zoe Bowker
- *Hallie and Chris Kronebusch
- *Nick and Lauren Woods

Monday

- *BCM Staff: Grace & Larry
- *Shut-ins & Nursing Home members
- *CSR Ministry Outreach

Tuesday

- *Leadership Team: Gary Cook, Grace Holiday, Austin Beard, Karen Gilhousen, Robin Moore, Ken Mottram, and Dan Abrams

Wednesday

- *The Rock & Illuminate
- *Staff: Gary, Tammy & Alison Curry
- *Jason, Mandy, and Zoey Bowker

Thursday

- *ABW & Women's Ministries
- *Home Groups
- *Cancer Support Group

Friday

- *College & Young Adult Ministries
- *Children's Outreach & Ministries
- *The Gathering

Saturday

- *Yellowstone Theological Institute faculty, staff, and partners

Leadership Team Meeting Report

- Robin Moore, Secretary



The Leadership Team reviewed the September financial reports at our meeting on October 9. The Non-Designated General Fund balance as of 9/30/13 was \$22,619.43. We paid the first premium installment on our Brotherhood Mutual Property & Liability insurance policy in September (\$3,155.50) from the Escrow Fund. This month we paid our third quarter contributions to ABC Northwest Region (\$3,000) and to an international missionary (\$400 to Mike & Jill Lowery in the Congo), also from the Escrow Fund. Property taxes on the Fowler (Pond) Property will be due in November. We have taken three 5th Sunday offerings this year and have collected \$3,557.00 which was used for additional loan principal payments. We have collected \$190 this month for the World Mission Offering; this offering will continue through November. The Leadership Team also reviewed the third quarter year-to-date Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual report. Gary, Grace and Robin will be meeting soon to draft a 2014 budget for review at the Business Meeting on November 10.

The church has received an offer for the Fowler (Pond) Property from GVLТ and Haven which the church has accepted. GVLТ has paid down earnest money and, if all goes well, we will close the deal in early December.

Nick reported that the College Group has been devoting one meeting per month to prayer and one meeting each month to a fellowship time. They will host a Fellowship Potluck meeting at First Baptist Church on Tuesday evening, October 29. All of the church is invited. The group is finishing The Screwtape Letters in Sunday school and is studying Daniel in home group. They are looking at new books for Sunday school. Continue to pray for the students as they are all busy with their classes and work.

Jason reported that things are going well at the Rock. It has been very busy at lunch time, and there have been lots of new kids after school, many of them freshmen. The Illuminate group is now meeting on Monday nights and has changed

its name to TMT. Much of the senior leadership was lost so the remaining students are rebuilding the group and learning leadership skills. The Bowkers made a trip to the Seattle area on October 16-20 and visited with Karen and Klein Gilhousen. Klein looked and felt great going into his next big radiation treatment on October 31. He will be in the hospital all of November. Remember to keep Klein and Karen in your prayers.

Pastor Jay will be leaving on Tuesday, October 29, to visit his daughter, Catherine, in Texas. He will then fly to Seattle to attend the Grenz Lecture at the Seattle School of Psychology and Religion (the lecture is being delivered by John Franke) and to visit Karen and Klein. He will return to Bozeman on November 7. Rev. Patti Duckworth will be preaching on Sunday, November 3, in his absence.

The Leadership Team has also been discussing ideas for vision and mission in 2014. Who are we as a church, and what is our mission in Bozeman and the world? What is God calling us to be and to do? There was a Town Hall Talk after church on October 27 where these questions were discussed with the congregation. The input from this meeting will be used by the Leadership Team as they continue to pursue these questions in the coming month. If you have any ideas or comments, please feel free to speak with Pastor Jay or a member of the Leadership Team. Leadership Team members are: Gary Cook, Grace Holiday, Austin Beard, Karen Gilhousen, Robin Moore, Ken Mottram, and Dan Abrams.



Bridger Community November 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
★ Denotes Birthday		7pm - College Ministry Fellowship Potluck @ FBC	1pm - Worship Team Oct. 30 6pm - Prayer Home Group	5pm - Cancer Group Oct. 31 8pm - A Study of Hebrews	9:30am - World Community Day ABW @ UMC	2
3 9:30 - Discipleship 10:30 - Worship Rev. Patti Duckworth Preaching	4 9am - Staff Meeting 7pm - TMT at the Rock	5 9:30am - Gary Cook Bible Study 7pm - College HG	6 7am - Leadership Team 1pm - Worship Team 6pm - Prayer Home Group	7 5pm - Cancer Group 8pm - A Study of Hebrews	8	9
	Pastor Jay out of office - Visiting Gilhouseins in Seattle				★ Gary Cook	
10 9:30 - Discipleship 10:30 - Worship Budget Business Meeting	11 9am - Staff Meeting 7pm - TMT at the Rock	12 9:30am - Gary Cook Bible Study 7pm - College HG	13 1pm - Worship Team 6pm - Prayer Home Group	14 5pm - Cancer Group 8pm - A Study of Hebrews	15	16 6:30pm - Open Mic Night at The Rock! ★ Hannah Smith
17 9:30 - Discipleship 10:30 - Worship	18 9am - Staff Meeting 7pm - TMT at the Rock	19 9:30am - Gary Cook Bible Study 7pm - College HG	20 7am - Leadership Team 1pm - Worship Team 6pm - Prayer Home Group	21 5pm - Cancer Group 8pm - A Study of Hebrews	22	23 Outdoor Ministry: Will Moore Slides, food, and fun 7pm!
★ Bob Moore		★ Paul Newby				
24 9:30 - Discipleship 10:30 - Worship Hunter's Thanksgiving Meal	25 9am - Staff Meeting 7pm - TMT at the Rock	26 9:30am - Gary Cook Bible Study 7pm - College HG	27 1pm - Worship Team 6pm - Special Thanksgiving Prayer at Church	28 Office Closed	29 Office Closed	30 All Hands! Advent Church Decoration and Refreshments
				THANKSGIVING	★ Pastor Jay	

Coming this Winter!

December 4th
 ABW 6:00 pm Christmas Blessings Salad and Dessert Dinner

December 8th
 MSU Brass Choir
 Concert 2pm @ FBC

December 19th
 Bells of the Bridgers
 Concert 7pm @ FBC

December 24th
 Christmas Eve Service
 Lessons and Carols 5pm

November Happenings

- 1 World Community Day - Church Women United
- Oct. 29 - Nov. 7 Pastor Jay out of office
- 3 Rev. Patti Duckworth preaching
- 10 Budget Business Meeting
- 23 Outdoor Ministries and Brawl of the Wild!
- 24 Hunter's Thanksgiving Meal
- 28 *Thanksgiving Day Holiday*
- 30 All Hands! Advent Church Decoration & Refreshments

November Birthdays:

- 8 Gary Cook
- 16 Hannah Smith
- 17 Bob Moore
- 19 Paul Newby
- 29 Jay Smith

November Anniversaries:

- 13 Cook
- 21 Newby (Alex & Yulia)



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