First Baptist Church Council Meeting Minutes  
September 16, 2013

Members Present:  Troy Oldert, Fred Gordon, Cheryl Wiebers, Connie Fallat, Linda Johnson, Josh Bond, Mike Brewer, Gregg Hemmen, Vonnie Houchin, Pat Barber, Kathryn Sosa.

Moderator Kathryn Sosa called the meeting to order with prayer, requesting each member take some quiet time to allow God to move in our midst as we go about His work at First Baptist Church.

Mike Brewer and Linda Johnson moved and seconded that the August Minutes be approved. Cheryl Wiebers and Troy Oldert moved and seconded that the Financial Report and the Ministry Reports be approved as submitted.

The Celebration Party, September 15, 2013, for the Sanctuary Remodel debt paid off in full was a huge success. Gary Oldert presided and did a terrific job. The left-over food will be used by the Fellowship committee for Wednesday night supper. The Deacons will be sending a retirement honorarium to Riley Walker on behalf of First Baptist Church. It was mentioned that the pictures from the Celebration Party of the sanctuary remodeling might be put on the church website. The Stewardship Ministry is monitoring the steady flow of contributions incoming to pay off the roof debt of which there remains $37,000 to be paid. A suggestion was made to post the balance of this debt on the website so that everyone could watch it as it continues to be paid off.

The request was made by Gregg that more suggestions be incoming for the “go-to” Church projects. Each Ministry is asked to create and contribute ideas for this program. Some suggestions made: Visiting Shut-ins; Visiting nursing homes; raking leaves and doing other yard work for those with limitations; Mary Martha Circle is considering the nursing home visitation possibility.

Church Work Day - September 21, 2013 - plenty of projects to handle. Fred Gordon reported that the Mens’ Room has been repainted. Ideas for the Ladies’ Room are still being considered; however, it is agreed that it does need updating. The church foundation will be repainted. Discussion followed regarding the front lawn, sprinkler system installation, office exchange and remodel of front entryway, etc.

Other Upcoming Events:
* Mission Conference in Huron - 9-20-13 to 9-22-13
* Carol Misterek is organizing a group to attend the Buffalo Roundup, 9-27-13
* Carda Wedding - October 5, 2013

New Business:
* Discussion regarding the formation of the Nominating Committee - Following a suggestion by Cheryl Wiebers, each ministry chairman recommended possible names from their ministry to serve on the Nominating Committee. Kathryn will assume responsibility for visiting with those suggested to complete the five-member committee to be in place within the next six weeks.
* Ruperto Reyes, our custodian “par excellence” has requested his retirement to begin at the end of September so that he and his wife can be moving to Sioux Falls. A job description will be formulated and posted so that Ruperto will be able to train the new custodian prior to his move.

Respectfully submitted, 
Pat Barber, Church Clerk
Pastor’s Report
Prepared for Church Council
October 2013

“How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!” Psalm 133:1

The Network Spiritual Gifts classes I’ve been leading have been going pretty well. We’ll have between 5-10 there on Sunday morning. There’s 18-25 attending the Wednesday night class. There has been good discussion and I’m looking forward to seeing what God will do with this.

The Tuesday morning Harmony of the Gospels Bible study resumed in September and we’ve been having 15-20 people there consistently.

The yearly staff evaluation process has been completed. I asked each staff member to interact and comment on his or her job description. Then, I also commented on how I feel each staff member is doing. I am very pleased and feel blessed to work with the group that is here at First Baptist. We interact well as a group, I believe we enjoy being with one another, and we share openly in our meetings. I met with the Personnel Committee on Monday, September 30th to share my input with them about 2013 and staff performance.

The staff and I have been planning for the November/December months in worship. We’ll be doing an anticipation series in November and then in December we’ll be doing a Christmas series with the focus of God reaching out to humanity through Jesus. Some individual weeks will focus on: (a) How God reaches for the conflicted; (b) How God reaches for the down and out; and (c) How God reaches for the willing.

I am sad that Ruperto Reyes will be retiring soon but I certainly wish him the best in this next season of life. He was planning on retiring effective September 30th but has recently said he will continue until we “find the right person” (his words) to succeed him. Ruperto has consistently gone well beyond his job description to help out.

Butch Weber, a member at First Baptist, died on September 26th and I did his memorial service at Kirk Funeral Home on Monday, September 30th.

Within the next month, I will be taking some vacation time to go to Iowa and help with the corn harvest. This is something I’ve done for several years now and it rejuvenates me. Josh Bond has agreed to preach on the Sundays I’ll be gone. I will also be gone the first Sunday in November doing a wedding in North Carolina and preaching at my former church – Cane Creek Baptist Church. They invited me to do this while I’m there doing the wedding.

Thank you for the privilege of serving among you.

[Signature]
First Baptist Church Student Ministries Monthly Report (Oct 2013)

1. Junior and Senior High
   a. **Sunday School** – Continuing with a study in Acts. Applying the work of the early church to the church of today. Kathy Sosa taught one week for me. Thanks Kathy!
   b. **Wednesday Evenings** – Some junior and senior high students assisting with younger students or adult worship team on Wednesday evenings
   c. **Worship** – Sunday night worship being led by Josh, Tanner, Colby, and Cathryn. Working to encourage corporate worship over performing for the congregation of students.
   d. **INSIDE.OUT**
      i. Officially kicked off on September 15th
      ii. Needed to cancel two times (I was gone for funeral in Indiana & weather).
      iii. Started a youth planning board and are meeting each week at 5:30PM.
      v. Made adjustments to our weekly schedule for our younger students.
         1. 5:30 PM - Youth meeting and doors open
         2. 6:00 PM - Worship service
         3. 7:00 – 8:30 PM - Activities in church.
   e. **Events**
      i. Guys only overnighter at my home on 10/11 and 10/12. Played video games, ate food, and messed around. Good group of boys!
      ii. The youth and I are planning a lock-in for 11/8 from 7PM to 7AM
      iii. Planning a trip to Denver for Acquire the Fire in April
      iv. Winter Retreat in February
      v. Junior High Jam in March

2. Kindergarten to 5th Grade
   a. **Worship On Wednesday** – Great start on September 11th. We are serving students in our church from 3 years old thru 5th grade. Activities are as follows, each lasting 15 minutes:
      i. 6:00 – 6:15 – Praise and Large Group
      ii. 6:15 – 6:30 – First Rotations (story, memory verse, or crafts)
      iii. 6:30 - 6:45 – Second Rotations (story, memory verse, or crafts)
      iv. 6:45 – 7:00 – Third Rotation (game time)
      v. 7:00 – 7:15 – Fourth Rotation (story or crafts)
      vi. 7:15 – 7:30 – Closing Large Group
   b. **Sunday School** - Wayna is doing a great job with Sunday school. She has enlisted the help of teachers and spends each week teaching the students songs and then going through their lessons plans. Wayna is a great asset to our families at FBC!
      i. Wayna Warren is the Director of Pre K-2
      ii. Danie Koskan is the Director of 3-5 grades
c. Kids time each week. Currently enlisting the students help to collecting for Operation Christmas Child
d. Cooperating with fellowship for a fall festival on Wednesday, Oct 30th.

3. **Miscellaneous** –
   
a. Operation Christmas Child
b. Yard clean-up – Had a few students help with yard clean-up after the storm. We have been assisting families from our church and linked to our church. Still currently working on homes and will be for the foreseeable future.
c. Small group at my home has still not begun. Having a difficult time getting my schedule to work with my wife’s schedule (apparently there are only 7 evenings each week). Hope to begin this again soon.
d. Still want to start the INSTE, but will need to back burner for a while. I would like to do this study with my friends in Pine Ridge, with the goal to train up leaders from Pine Ridge who can minister to the people of Pine Ridge. People seem open to more formal theological training.
e. Still working alongside a few people within the church
f. Still working toward family based ministry and feel that small groups at my home are the best place to start. Hopefully the families I am meeting with can begin small groups of their own.
Music Notes October Council Meeting

Music work and plans for the coming month:

1. We are experimenting with choir rehearsal in our sanctuary.
   - We are on the verge of outgrowing our choir room.
   - There is such a huge difference between our rehearsal sound and when we sing in the sanctuary. Hopefully this will help bridge that gap.
   - A great quality Kawai digital piano was donated to our church which we are using as our rehearsal piano. We can sing in the sanctuary and have a keyboard close for part playing, etc.
   - I am looking into ordering a “piano dolly” so the keyboard can be on wheels for easy movement.
     - This will also make a great option for a keyboard when we expand the entrance area.

2. Choir has previewed much music and is now working on anthems for coming services. I have ordered some difficult music and our talented members are doing a great job!

3. Candi Fender is working on the choir music so she will be able to accompany as needed which frees me up to concentrate on directing.

4. Plans are underway for a women’s chorus on ABW Sunday in November—I am hoping for a great turn-out for our rehearsals.

5. Some very specific requests have made their way to the “My Favorite Song” window. (YEAH!) Now I am working to make sure I can honor the requests.

    Thanks be to God for his indescribable gifts! 2 Corinthians 9:15

Vonnie Houchin
Diaconate Ministry Report – October

The Diaconate Ministry held their monthly meeting on Sept. 23rd with 7 members present. Items discussed included the following:

1) Sharon reported on the balance in the Benevolence Fund which is $4,632.66. Al and Shirley discussed their first visit to the food bank and reported on what items were available for our food table in the back of the Sanctuary. Al also recommended that a set of shelves in the back might come in handy in keeping the food organized a little.

2) Gregg mentioned he will be gone 2 Sundays in Oct and the 1st Sunday in Nov and Josh has graciously offered to preach the Sundays he will be gone.

3) The following proposed budget will be submitted to the Stewardship Ministry:

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<th>Item</th>
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<tr>
<td>Flowers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visual Aids</td>
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<td>Music</td>
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<td>Pulpit Supply</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,645.00</strong></td>
</tr>
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4) Gregg had sent an article regarding "8 Effective Ways to Follow Up with Guests at Your Church" and a discussion followed. One item that was mentioned was referring visitors as being "new here" instead of guests. Another item that was mentioned was giving visitors some kind of gift bag with the church's name imprinted on it.

5) The Labor Day Retreat was discussed and a suggestion was made for possibly next year, to have someone fill the pulpit and to have a substitute pianist so Pastor Gregg and Vonnie could remain at camp and take in the Sunday activities, such as the Service at Vespers or the Brunch.

The meeting was closed with prayer and the next meeting will be held October 28th at 6pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Brewer
Fellowship Ministry Report - October

Fellowship had a brief meeting Wednesday evening, September 25th.

Conversation started with the option of a Fall Festival this year. We decided we will do this Wednesday, October 30th. We will be working with Josh Bond over the next couple of weeks but have a basic idea/plan of what this night will be...starting with a fun chili cook-off, games for the kids, face painting and a cupcake walk! Our hope is that it is a relaxing and fun evening for families but with a little bit of structure as well:)

We also have started the planning process for the Thanksgiving meal this year. It was asked that it will be held Sunday, November 24th after the service.

Crista