IS GOD CALLING YOU TO SERVE?

God has created all of us so special! We were created for a purpose and we in the church family seek to help one another find that ultimate purpose for each of our lives – from the youngest to the oldest – we reflect God’s image and God’s purpose.

The church has a special purpose too. Our own constitution and bylaws state our purpose as follows: The purpose of this Church shall be the advancement of the kingdom of Jesus Christ. It shall seek to attain this end through the public worship of God, the preaching of the Gospel, consistent Christian living by its members, personal evangelism, missionary endeavor and the expression of a Christian witness in community, national and international affairs. The Church receives the Bible as the basis of doctrine and practice.

As a Baptist church, we are organized and function with our government vested in the body which composes its membership. To fulfill then the church’s special purpose, we must be organized and function systemically.

The officers of the Church are the Pastor, Moderator, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Church Clerk, Deacons Chairperson, and the Chairpersons of Christian Education, Facilities, Finance, and Mission. We also have 2 members at large. All positions elected and appointed by the congregation.

Each and every position is vitally important to our work together. It’s heavenly work which starts here on earth. It’s God’s important work in building the kingdom.

The Deacons, together with the Pastor, are responsible for the spiritual life of the Church. They exercise supervision of the worship experience, music, ushering, and administration of the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. Deacons promote the hospitality and fellowship within the Church and ensure that the Church indicates its concern for all its members, particularly those who are needy, sick, or missing from worship, among other areas that deal with membership. If you’ve been visited, called, emailed, texted, participated in the Lord’s Supper, went through the waters of baptism, were held in prayer, or just enjoyed an Agape dinner, you can be assured that the Deacons were involved.

[SOME OF YOU ARE NATURAL DEACONS – WON’T YOU CONSIDER BECOMING A DEACON OF THE CHURCH?]

The Christian Education Committee is joyfully responsible for encouraging growth in discipleship. The committee makes sure that quality and wonderful Christian education programming is offered through Sunday school, Bible studies, special courses, special programs for all age-groups and any other discipleship initiatives of the Church. If your child went through Sunday school, youth group, participated in special mission trips and eventually got baptized at the church, you can thank the Christian education efforts of the church and the commitment that the committee makes. If you’ve learned and grew through a special course or seminar, please thank God for this important ministry.

[IF YOU REALIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF MAKING SURE THAT QUALITY AND RELEVANT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IS AVAILABLE – WON’T YOU CONSIDER JOINING THIS WONDERFUL TEAM?]

The Mission committee is responsible for facilitating the mission ministries of the Church and for any special ministries to which the Church as a whole is committed and/or in which the Committee agrees to participate, including community and government affairs and social action. This is the group of folks that pushes us out of the walls of the church to love God and neighbor as we love ourselves. They encourage us to make meals for the hungry, to provide support for the homeless, to teach English as a Second Language, to scatter in many and diverse acts of service. We should always be missional!

[MANY OF YOU ENJOY THIS MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH AND WANT TO SEE US DOING MORE – WON’T YOU CONSIDER BECOMING PART OF THIS MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH?]

The Facilities Committee is responsible for the stewardship of the Church’s property. Members of this committee have understood the importance of a beautifully kept building for the honor of God and for the testimony of all who enter our doors and/or pass or see us from afar. This committee is responsible for the acquisition, sale, rental, storage, proper maintenance and repair of all Church property including real property as well as furniture and fixtures. Members of this committee deeply care that our church building is a special place and they need all of us together to keep it being that way!

[IF YOU HAVE A SPECIAL AFFINITY TO THE BUILDING, AND CARE THAT IT ALWAYS REFLECT THE LOVE OF GOD AND THE CARE OF THE CONGREGATION, PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING THIS SPECIAL TEAM OF THE CHURCH.]

The Finance Committee is responsible for all financial matters including the work of the Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Investment Manager and special funds, with the exception of the Deacons Fellowship Fund. The committee prepares the yearly income and expense budget for review by the Council and for presentation for adoption by the Church at a business meeting in January. This committee is charged with making sure we have strategies in place to help us cover all expenses and to undergird all of our ministries. The treasurer of the church makes sure our bills are paid! This is a group that is committed to sound financial stewardship.

YOU KNOW THAT GOD IS CALLING YOU TO SERVE! TALK TO PASTOR OR ANY MEMBER OF COUNCIL AND GET INVOLVED IN KINGDOM BUILDING.

Pastor Mayra
Our 150th Anniversary Year became the focal point again on Saturday evening, April 16th when a group of more than 50 FBC members and friends of all ages gathered for a fun filled evening of square dancing. Pastor Mayra opened the evening in prayer and invited everyone to partake in a joyful celebration of our church’s history. Among the lively group, many were dressed for the occasion which added to the festivity of the event. The professional caller was superb in leading along both the experienced and the novices with square dancing and line dancing. Both proved to be delightfully fun. Taking a break from the dancing allowed for sampling of over 11 varieties of chili and over a half dozen types of cornbread. Serving as judge to award a top prize for best chili and cornbread was our square dance caller. He took this role quite seriously and deliberated several minutes over each entry. After careful consideration contest winners were announced. Mary Dobos was the winner of the chili tasting. Mary shared with the group that Mike made the chili and she was the emissary who brought it to the event. Jean Kellogg won recognition for Best Cornbread! We thank all who contributed to the success of the evening and all who came out to participate.

Janet Gabriel and Trish Scott, Co-Chairs of 150th Anniversary Celebration

First Baptist Church Westfield Community Health Fair
Saturday, May 14th, 10:00am—3:00 pm

Bring a friend to the Health Fair!
Blood pressure screenings, massages, speakers on key health topics, children's activities, raffle prizes and more!
If you are interested in volunteering with setup, breakdown or helping during the fair please contact Cheryl Rosario at cherylgrosario@hotmail.com.
And those of you who have your Church Gathered/Church Scattered t-shirts, please wear them!

Deacons' Corner

Join us May 18th for our next Agape Supper. Bring a dish to share, be it a main dish, a vegetable or starch, a salad, a dessert, or whatever suits your fancy. Show off your culinary skills or, if you're short of time, your shopping skills.

This is a low key opportunity to share fellowship with other congregants and to catch up on what's going on in each other's lives. Stay as long as you want; the evening, which starts at 6:30 PM, hardly ever goes past 8:00.

Want a night out? Consider Agape as a better alternative to a crowded and stuffy restaurant. We'll see you there!

Steve Lind
**Missionary Kids!** -- All during May the children will be having lots of fun and learning about how people of long ago served God by serving others and how we can too! It’s all about being a Missionary Kid! In elementary school, children are taught about subjects important for their academic success. In sports, children learn about sportsmanship, coordination and team play. In the Scouts, they learn about being in service. In the Church, children incorporate all of that and go even deeper by learning about God’s book, Jesus and daily life loving others as they love themselves. In the church, children’s little spirit is nurtured and they grow! All parents are encouraged to bring your children to church. 😊

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**150 Random Acts of Kindness!**

At the last Congregational Meeting on April 3rd, I challenged the congregation to perform 150 random acts of kindness in honor of FBC’s 150th anniversary. We’re working on a way to display these outside as a witness to the community, but first we need your random acts! As you perform your random acts of kindness, please write down what you have done (You can submit anonymously if you wish), and put them in the Moderator’s mailbox in the office. Let’s see how creative we can be in spreading the love of Christ! Thanks for your help!

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*Elaine Pratt, Church Moderator*

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**Music Notes!**

This month, as the choirs look forward to their summer "vacation," they will be closing out their worship season with providing some old favorites during our services. On May 15th, the Chancel Ringers will be joined by some "guest" percussionists to play Siyahamba. Based on an African tune, certain members of the bell choir have been known to dance along to the rhythm of the tintinnabulation.

On May 22nd, the FBC Chamber Orchestra will be accompanying the hymns and songs of our church service.

Throughout the month of May, the Chancel choir will be singing some of your favorite anthems from this past year. Be sure to be present for a reprise of River in Judea and Ride the Chariot.

The Chancel Choir will be singing through Sunday, June 5th. After that, we’ll have a pickup choir during the remainder of the summer under the leadership of our new Director of Music Ministries, Michael Rosin.

Lastly, I want to solicit your help to identify some old cherished hymns that we haven’t sung in a real long time. The only criteria is that the hymn is not in our current hymnal. Just provide the title or first line of the hymn. We’ll try to include them in the services this summer. You can send them to me by email (sdlind@comcast.net) or hand it to me before or after church or leave it in my box in the office.

*Your humble Kappel Meister,*

*Steve Lind*
Children’s Choir

The children’s choir is actively practicing for Children’s Sunday, June 12. Practice takes place after children’s moments each Sunday morning. If your child wishes to sing a joyful noise unto the Lord, please bring them each Sunday.

Thank You...

...Jean Kellogg and Linda Johnson for the delicious Easter breakfast.
...Ike Alvarado for so often jumping in, sometimes last minute, to help with counting and door opening/closing.
...Carleen Morris for once again igniting our hallway bulletin board!!
...to all our ESL tutors this last round: Bob Gotham, Brittany Lambros, Nancy Lambros, Cherie Parker, Kathy Briedis, Ike Alvarado, Natasha Klockkova, Katie Virzi, Hilary Araujo, Daisy Calidonio and Pastor Mayra, and childcare assistants, Missy Gotham and Kathleen Borchers.
...All those who helped with setup and clean up for our square dance.
...June and George Goellner, Nancy Lambros, Bill Hopkins, Cherie Parker, Michael Klikushin, Paul Koslowski, Carleen, Olivia, Trevor and Jeffrey Morris, Pastor Mayra and Tom Ball for helping with cleanup day.

Supermarket Gift Card Program

Thank you to all those who have participated in our supermarket gift card program. Complete an order form noting which store the cards should be purchased from, the denominations wanted, and the total of the order. We will place orders once a month. All orders need to be received by the 3rd Sunday of each month. Orders received after this date will not be processed until the next month.

Order forms can be found in the manila envelope posted on the bulletin board outside the church office. Checks, payable to First Baptist, and completed order forms can be dropped off in the church office. Friends and family may also purchase cards. You may speak with Cherie Parker if you have any questions concerning this program.

-- Finance Committee

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Our ESL Program will begin its next round on Tuesday, May 10th, 6:30-8:30 p.m. We have recruited more tutors but could always use more!

This is how you can help:
*Pray for Rintu Mathew, program coordinator, for the tutors and for the students
*Get the word out about the program to help in recruiting students and more tutors—Flyers available!
*Consider getting involved in one way or another.
Attention all Singles... You're invited to come downstairs, have a second cup of coffee and join in the lively discussion. Here's a snapshot of the most recent topics discussed: How to stay young? Would you lend money? How do you use computer? What is your heritage?

Reminder: Tom from Autumn Harvest is coming to the June 12 meeting to give us vital information on supplements that will keep us well. Sunday Morning Singles meets every Sunday from 9am-10:15am downstairs in Fellowship Hall. All are invited.

—Maryann Friscia
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Coming together in joyful worship, we’re here...
· To share the reality of God’s love,
· To connect our lifestyles to Christian truth,
· And to put our faith into action through responding to needs in our community, nation, and world.