

The Messenger



2014

A publication of The First Baptist Church of Westfield

Why Are We Here?

What is Your Calling?

Why are we here? I believe we are each called by God, on several levels.

First, I believe we are each called by God to be His children. Isaiah 41 says, “You whom I took from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest corners, saying to you, ‘You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off.’” That references our call by God to be part of His “church”, the church universal.

I think God also call us to be a part of a specific church family—in this case, FBC Westfield. Just like after we went through a discernment process we called our pastor, I believe that each member was called to be a part of this church body.

But “calling” doesn’t end there. In addition to God leading us to a church fellowship because of what we can receive from it, I believe He also leads us to where we can best serve Him and His kingdom. Romans 12 says “For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function.” Each of us has special and unique gifts that God can use.

We use some of our gifts in our jobs. I would like to suggest that in addition to our vocational calling, we also have a spiritual calling. God has not only called us to our professions, He also calls us to be His church – His hands and feet in the world. But what exactly does that mean? How does it work? 1 Corinthians 12 (from The Message, a modern interpretation) tells us, “God’s various gifts are handed out

everywhere; but they all originate in God’s Spirit. God’s various ministries are carried out everywhere, but they all originate in God’s Spirit. God’s various expressions of power are in action everywhere; but God Himself is behind it all. Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it; everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people!



The variety is wonderful – wise counsel, clear understanding, simple trust, healing the sick, miraculous acts, proclamation, distinguishing between spirits, tongues, interpretation of tongues. All these gifts have a common origin, but are handed out one by one by the one Spirit of God. He decides who gets what, and when.”

What are spiritual gifts? Here’s a list of spiritual gifts from one source - apostleship, prophecy, evangelism, shepherding, teaching, exhortation, knowledge, wisdom, helping, hospitality, giving, administration, mercy, faith, discernment, leadership. No one person possesses all these gifts, just like no one human being is gifted in all secular areas. But we each have a role to play in the overall calling of First Baptist.

This model goes back to Jesus. He called 12 disciples – the people who would go on to carry on the church after Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection. The gospels tell of the variety of people Jesus called – Peter was a fisherman, Matthew a tax collector, Thomas, the doubter, and so on. Each of them had his own unique spiritual gifts, and each had an important role to play in the early church.

How does this apply to each of us? The first step is to figure out our individual spiritual gifts, and what moves us to action and service. Next, show up - as often as possible. When you are not here, we are missing your role, your part. And we are not as effective as we could be. And God may miss an opportunity to minister to someone through you if you are not here. If we are truly all called here to FBC, then it stands to reason that FBC also has a calling – one that we can all contribute to. Our committees are planning some exciting new initiatives this fall that you will be hearing about soon. Maybe you have some great ideas too. We can’t do it – or at least do it as well – without each of you though. Won’t you join me in discovering the calling of FBC – and helping to achieve it?

Elaine Pratt
Moderator

Excerpted from 7/13/14 sermon



Committee Corner

Christian Education. What do you think of when you read those words? Children? Sunday School? How about Bible Study? Seminars? Small Groups? Discipleship?

The FBC bylaws state that the Christian Education Committee is "responsible for encouraging growth in discipleship." A disciple by definition is one who accepts and helps to spread the teachings of Christ. The CE committee wants to unite the congregation, from the youngest to the most experienced, through the teaching and study of the Bible. Many of us think that we cannot spread The Word because we do not know enough or were never trained. Well, I personally want to work on that in my own life. I will be starting a Devotion and Discussion on Tuesday mornings at 10:30AM in the church library. If you are available to join me, please come and help me enjoy peace

in the presence of Christ as we study together. Adult Bible Study on Sunday mornings at 9:15 resumed in September. Grab a cup of coffee or tea and join those in the Lounge. I know you will enjoy that time spent in study and discussion. Parents, please continue to bring your children weekly for Sunday school (during worship), what they learn and who they fellowship with will support them as they grow. Youth, we love seeing you attend and serve in worship. Invite a friend to youth group and watch them grow with you in faith. Young adults, keep your hearts open to opportunities as we welcome Pastor Kadin Williams to his call here at First Baptist. We pray for blessings in his work with the young adult ministry. If you have a specific study topic in your heart, please see Pastor Mayra or myself so that we can work together to encourage growth in discipleship!

Carleen Morris – Chair CE Committee



Pj & Movie Night for Children
Invite a Friend!
Friday, October 3rd @ 6PM
The Lego Movie
FBC Lounge
Pizza & Popcorn will be served!



Please bring a pillow & sleeping bag/ blanket & wear comfy pj's! Call the office to sign up!

Parenting Seminar

For all Parents of Jr. High & Younger

Children's Healthy Mind & Body

Friday, October 3rd
@6pm to 8pm



FIRST BAPTIST WESTFIELD



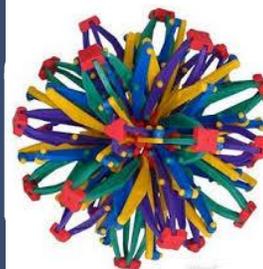
From Miss Katie...

The next Teacher's Bible Study will be Wednesday, 10/8, at 7p.m. We will be studying Matthew 5:6. Invite a friend to attend with you! Please see Katie McGuire with any questions.

Church Gathered Church Scattered

is almost here! Please make sure you have your calendar marked for **Sunday, October 19th**. Please stop by the table in the lobby before or after church service the next 3 Sundays to sign-up for a project. Whether you enjoy making lunches for the homeless, like to tap into your creative genes to help families in need make a leaf project, raise awareness for breast cancer, or spend some quality time spreading God's word with those living in a nursing home, there is something for everyone. Even an animal project this year! And to top it off, Sunday, October 5th and October 12th we will have breakfast treats in the lobby before service where we will be able to answer questions or help you find the right project for you and your family.

Looking forward to a successful CGCS this fall!



Cheryl Rosario
(CGCS Chair)



Dear First Baptist Church of Westfield,

Hello! As the new Associate Pastor, I wanted to take a few moments of your time to introduce myself. My name is Kadin Williams and I am excited by the opportunity to do ministry here with you in Westfield.

As some of you already know, I primarily grew up in and around California. It was while attending college in Santa Cruz, California that I felt my call to ministry. Since then, I have discovered a passion for walking alongside people as they explore and grow in their faith. This is particularly true when it comes to my passion for young adult ministries.

Soon after my enrollment at Princeton Seminary, I met my wonderful wife Amanda who was a year ahead of me. We met in the cafeteria and soon fell into a discussion about the church fathers. We got married two years later. This past May marked our first anniversary. We both enjoy music, art, good food, and even better coffee.

Prior to my arrival in New Jersey, I spent several years as the Director of Youth Ministries in my father's congregation. He, and his grandfathers before him, has served in pastoral ministry for close to thirty years. After my arrival at Princeton, I went on to serve in a variety of capacities at several congregations throughout New Jersey and Rhode Island. Through all of these experiences, I have found a love for developing relationships and programs that help people grow into fuller and richer relationships with Christ.

I am looking forward to getting to know you and work with you as we worship God together. Both Amanda and I are looking forward to meeting you in person.

The peace of Christ be with you,

Kadin J.G. Williams

Associate Pastor

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October

10/2 Cherie Parker
10/4 Karen Donnini
10/6 Randy Hansen
10/7 Pam Greenlaw
 Coleman Scott
10/10 Julie Morris
10/13 Alexandra Lambros
10/19 Betty VanBlarcom
10/20 Natasha Klochkova
10/21 Cindy Mathews
 Dot Waugh
10/23 Isaac Castañeda
10/27 Zephaniah Odogbili
 Cheryl Rosario
10/28 Gabriel Singh
10/31 Janet Gabriel
 And a **Happy Anniversary** to
10/14 Bill & Michele Hopkins
10/21 Art & Maggie Taylor
10/24 Mayra & Isaac Castañeda

Happy Birthday too...

Please Join Us!!

Agape Dinner

**Wednesday,
October 15**

6:30pm, Church Lounge



(please bring a favorite dish to share)

Women's Book Club
Saturday, October 18, 10am,
 in the Church Lounge.

We will discuss "The Orphan Train" by Christina Kline. Joyce will provide refreshments. All are welcome. E-mail Bette Savage if you have any questions....elzsvg@netscape.net





Focus on Mission in October.....Save The Dates!

➔ October 19 - Church Gathered, Church Scattered

Participate in a variety of projects to aid people in this community. Details on page 2 of Messenger.

➔ October 26 – World Mission Offering

The focus is on global mission. Throughout the world from Myanmar and Brazil to South Africa and Macau, people need the hope and light of the Gospel. International Ministries has 174 long term missionaries and more than 1,800 short-term and volunteers working around the world. You will receive a letter telling you more about World Missions with an envelope for your offering. Rise to the Challenge and support International Ministries in placing and sustaining missionaries around the world.



This committee is unlike any other in the church. We do not meet on a regular basis. We do not take minutes. We do not publish our work in any way. So what is our purpose and what do we do?

Our main purpose is to foster constructive communication between the congregation and

its pastoral leadership and to implement the congregation's responsibility for its pastor's professional and personal well-being. It is one of the precious Baptist freedoms that allows each church to make their own decisions about leadership.

If our Pastors have something that should be resolved in a non-confrontational manner, they would come to us. If you have any concerns you feel should be addressed but prefer they remain quiet, you should speak to someone on the Pastoral Relations Committee.

We do not act as a Human Resources Department, monitoring the staff or prescribing their duties. We do not claim any super-powers or special training. We are dedicated to maintaining harmonious relations among staff and congregation in the manner Jesus taught us.

We are at your service,

Luis Araujo, Leonard Gabriel, Jean Kellogg, and Cal Martin



SINGLES FELLOWSHIP

News from the Sunday Morning Singles Discussion Group.

Topics discussed over the past four weeks were:

August 31: Bad Habits.

September 7: Ethics.

September 14: One door closes another opens.

September 21: Single life...a way of life or a wait for life?

We invite you to come downstairs, have a second cup of coffee and join us in lively discussion on a myriad of topics. Sunday Morning Singles Discussion Group meets from 9:00 am to 10:15 am. All are welcome.

Submitted by Maryann Friscia

To the First Baptist Family,

As one who has always preferred to let the music speak for me... I want to try to say thank you for the celebration of our 32 years together.

To the choir... Thank you for an evening that was reminiscent of many Christmas parties and Spring picnics, as we celebrated our years together with a delicious potluck dinner and warm fellowship among cherished friends.

To the congregation... Thank you to all who helped plan, organize, and host a wonderful luncheon. When I returned in September from vacation, I realized each Sunday was one closer to leaving a congregation that I will always love and treasure. So, while I may not play shortstop for the New York Yankees, as I listened to Derek Jeter speak after his last game in the Stadium, I knew exactly how he felt. I was touched by your heartfelt thoughts, your generous gift, and for honoring our ministry together by naming the Choir Room after me.

I have been blessed to have spent these years with faithful and dedicated pastors such as Bob Harvey, Dee Dee Turlington, Lou Ruprecht, and Mayra Castañeda. I have been blessed to have been supported "behind the scenes" with special individuals such as Joyce McGeough and Nancy Lambros. I have been blessed that I have been able to experience, as the children have sung, the "joy of the Lord" with devoted singers, bell ringers, and instrumentalists. I have been blessed to have been able to play the great hymns of our faith on a glorious pipe organ. And I have been blessed to have been among the extraordinary people of First Baptist. I indeed thank God for the opportunity to have ministered among you.

May God continue to bless First Baptist – in particular, with the gift of song – and "May God be with you 'til we meet again."

Bill Mathews

Pastor's Corner

Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m.: A study on the book of Job
 Come each Sunday at 9:15 a.m. as we study this timeless, sublime and bewildering book of the Bible. Themes explored: **God and sin and suffering, life and death and justice.** No prior Bible knowledge needed.

4 Week Mini Course: – **The Voice of Prophecy in the Bible**
 Mark your calendars for Thursdays October 23, 30, and November 6, 13 at 7:00-8:00 p.m. As we will soon approach the Advent Season, you won't want to miss this study and how we best prepare the way of the Lord. Sign-up in the church office.

The Music Ministry at FBC –

While we still process Bill Mathew's departure and pray all blessings upon him, his family and his new ministry, we are making sure that we continue with worshipful music and singing each and every Sunday. The church is blessed with dedicated musicians such as Paul Koslowski, Steve Lind, Carl Della Peruti and Glen Brown who have said yes to leadership with the choir, the song leaders, the bell choir and the orchestra. Erin Klein and Judy Klein continue in rehearsals with the children's choir.

A search committee for a Director of Music Ministries has been assembled. Steve Lind will chair and other members are Glen Brown, Marlee Araujo, Carleen Morris, Allen Chin and Mary Dobos.

Let us all together continue to make a joyful noise unto the Lord and pray for our congregation.
 –Pastor Mayra

Youth Group News...

FBC Youth Group is looking forward to a fun and productive October!

We're excited to have a tennis coach (who's name rhymes with Mayra) get us playing like champs!

Garwood Presbyterian's youth group will be crashing one week.

For Church Gathered/Scattered we'll be participating in the Cancer Walk.

In addition we hope to grant Johnny his long-standing request to go to a corn maze!

We'll continue to study the Gospel of Mark throughout the month.



Please consider recommending the Youth Group to anyone 6th - 12th grade. We meet weekly from 5 - 7:30 and include wonderful and mysterious dinners.



Thank You to...

- ...Leonard Gabriel for his ongoing work on the beautiful mural in the narthex. (See pic at bottom)
- ...Paul Clark, Warren Hanscom, and Bill Hopkins for all the landscaping to make the church building beautiful; ...Warren Hanscom for making sure the front sidewalks were repaired; ...Paul Clark and Warren Hanscom for overseeing the painting, wall repair and overall cleanup of the stairs leading to children's area in Fellowship Hall
- ...Lee Romano, Caroline Siess, Dot Waugh, and Lil Wheeler for helping to mail September Messenger
- ...Donna Lind, Wendy, Molly & Katie Engel for decorating Harvey Hall for Bill's celebration; ...Jesse Brown for the wonderful salads...Cherie Parker for her thoughtfulness in securing the plaque (hung now outside Choir Rm); ...Hilary Araujo for putting together the memory book; Scott Lind for taking pics; and ...Ike Alvarado for helping Steve and Donna clean up.
- ...Patrick Martin for making sure our candles are lit each and every Sunday
- ...Maryann Friscia for delivering our food pantry items to Cranford/Elizabeth
- ...Sirlene Roman for taking various snapshots at church for us
- ...To ALL who serve in the various ministries of this church...ushers, counters, after-church reception, communion servers, church openers & closers, front & back door welcomers, childcare assistants, Sunday school teachers, and helpers, and our social media team.





FIRST BAPTIST WESTFIELD

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ONGOING CALENDAR

Weekly, unless otherwise noted.

Sundays:

9:00 a.m. Singles Fellowship
 9:15 Adult Bible Study
 9:45 Chancel Choir & Song Leaders rehearsal
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
 Children's Sunday School (pre-school-5th grades)
(children join us for worship and leave for Sunday school after a children's message)
 11:30 a.m. Children's Choir & Youth Song Leaders rehearsals
 11:30a.m. Prayer Team meets *(1st Sunday ea month)*
 5 p.m. Youth Group (6th-12th grades)

Tuesdays:

10:30am Small Group Bible Devotion and Discussion

Wednesdays:

12Noon "Conversations with God" (prayer time) in the sanctuary
 1-3 p.m. Knitting/Hobby Group *(2nd Thurs, Oct 9)*
 7pm Teacher's Bible Study *(Oct 8)*

Thursdays:

10:30 a.m. The Hearing Society (a non-profit org): Speech Reading Class
 7:15/8pm Choir/Bell Rehearsals

Saturdays:

10 :00 a.m. Women's Book Club *(monthly: Oct 18)*

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Mayra Castañeda, *Senior Pastor*

Kadin J.G. Williams, *Associate Pastor*

Katie McGuire, *Director of Children's Ministries*

Glen Brown, *Youth Ministry Coordinator*

Ricardo Ribeiro, *Assistant Youth Ministry Coordinator*

Nancy Lambros, *Church Administrator*

Adriana Rodriguez, *Custodian*

Matt Barton, *Nightly Custodian*

OUR PURPOSE

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.

OCTOBER 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Parenting Seminar/PJ Night, 6p	4
5 Communion Sunday	6 Deacons meet, 7pm	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 Columbus Day (Office Closed); Finance Mtg., 7:30p	14 Missions/ Facilities Mtg, 7:30pm	15 Agape Supper, 6:30pm	16	17	18
19 CG/CS Sunday (see pg 2)	20	21	22	23 Mini Course (see Pastor's Corner, p. 5)	24	25
26 World Mission Offering	27	28	29	30 Mini Course (week 2)	31	



Ongoing Calendar on back pg.