

The Messenger

A publication of The First Baptist Church of Westfield

NOVEMBER 2014

The Senior Minister Reflects

Give God Thanks!

One of my favorite songs is *My Tribute* written in 1971 by Andraé Crouch. It is my favorite because it speaks of a heart that is so very thankful to God for everything – new life and grace and opportunity to give back to God.

*How can I say thanks for the things
you have done for me?*

*Things so undeserved yet you gave
To prove your love for me*

*The voices of a million angels
Could not express my gratitude
All that I am, and ever hope to be
I owe it all to thee*

*To god be the glory, to god be the
glory*

*To god be the glory for the things he
has done*

*With his blood he has saved me
With his power he has raised me
To god be the glory for the things he
has done*

*Just let me live my life and
Let it be pleasing lord to thee
And if I gain any praise, let it go to
Calvary*

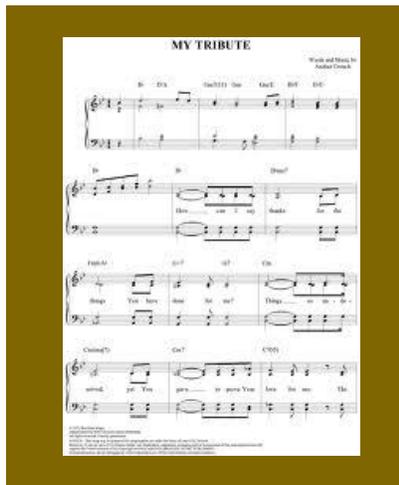
*With his blood he has saved me
With his power he has raised me
To god be the glory for the things he
has done*

The line in the song “To God be the glory for the things he has done” is said to be taken from Fanny Crosby’s hymn entitled, *To God be The Glory*, another favorite. Fanny Crosby, blind since 6 weeks old, wrote many beautiful hymns taken directly from the words of Scripture!

It is always worth contemplating how people, who apparently have had a “hard” hand dealt to them, can experience life as a gift from God. They understand that it

is God who has allowed them to experience life fully and with joy. This was the case for Fanny Crosby as she lived her 95 years of life in thanksgiving unto the Lord. Her tribute to God was her life. I pray that this may be the same for me!

My hope and prayer for our beloved congregation is that we may see and feel God’s powerful presence in our collective lives. May we celebrate God who brings new life, grace and blessing through Jesus! I invite all of us to bring to God our own tribute in thanksgiving for the “things God has done.” What will that be for you in particular?



During November, I also encourage you to invite family, friends, and neighbors to each of our services. Let them know of your special tribute to God and share your faith and the overflowing love of your church.

On November 2 – **Communion Sunday** – we will give God thanks for the Fellowship we so enjoy in the faith community. After all, we are not just any other non-for-profit

organization. As we partake the Lord’s Supper we have fellowship with HIM and we share with each other God’s love for us.

On November 9 – **Invite a Friend to Worship!** – If you are thankful for loyal, loving friends, invite them to sit with you in our church in the round and experience the serenity of worship and friendship together.

On November 16 – **Invite Family to Worship!** – If you are thankful for family, and maybe they don’t usually come to worship with us, take this opportunity to let them know of your love and your thankful heart for them. Hold their hands in our worship of the Lord and in the intimacy of the sanctuary in the round!

On November 23 – **Invite a Neighbor to Worship!** – Neighbors are not family and sometimes they are not even “friends” but they share our sidewalks, our streets, and life in the neighborhood. Take this opportunity to invite them to experience with you a worship service at our church and give God thanks for good and friendly neighbors!

On November 30th – **First Sunday of Advent!** Time for **Tidings of Comfort and Joy** as we experience the Advent Season and Christmas anew. Let us celebrate the peace, pardon, presence and power of Christ in our life and let us do it with others – family, friends, and neighbors! To God be the glory for the things God has done. Amen.

Have you been looking and praying for a concrete, hands on way to serve God and the community at large?

Would you like to make a life changing difference in someone's life?

If so, then your prayers have been answered!

Our mission committee has envisioned an English as a Second Language (ESL) Tutoring Program to be held here at the church starting early in 2015.

As the program details get finalized, you are invited to a series of training for tutors with a certified ESL Trainer. All you need is your good will, time and desire to serve.

Look for the times and dates in the next few weeks!

And in the meantime, add this initiative to your prayers.

--Leonard Gabriel

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MISSIONS

On The Move

Psalm 95:1-3 O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving, Let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the Lord is a great God and a great King above all gods.

It's time for our annual Thanksgiving food collection. We fill bags of food so families in need can enjoy a Thanksgiving feast. Several will go to members of First Baptist and the remainder will be given to one of our partner organizations. This project will be coordinated by the Mission Committee, but we cannot do it alone. We need your help! Your contributions are critical to the success of the project. By signing up to bring specific items on the list, we are able to provide full dinners with all the trimmings. The Sunday School children are helping too. Our goal is to provide 10 dinners. We need donations of 10 turkeys and non-perishable foods on the list.. Cash donations are also welcome.

Dates To Remember

- * **Sunday, Nov. 2 & 9** - Sign up in the narthex before or after church. Choose the items you will bring. We will accept cash in the event you cannot shop.
- * **Sunday, Nov. 16** - ALL NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS DUE! Put your food in a bag with your name on it. You can also drop off at church during the week prior.
- * **Sunday, Nov. 23** - ALL FROZEN TURKEYS AND PIES ARE DUE. Meals will be delivered.



Decorate the Church for Advent

During Advent we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. You are cordially invited to anticipate Advent by participating in a Church decorating event on Sunday, November 23 after worship and reception. Join us as we hang banners and bows, garland and wreaths for the holiday season.



A light lunch of soup and bread will be supplied for all those who participate.

“Many Hands Make Light Work”



- Nov. 1 Christopher Spinner
- Nov. 2 Dottie Collins
- Nov. 5 Wendell Scott
- Nov. 8 Bill Barton
Chelsea Housel
Sneha Kakileti
- Nov. 10 Christina Yang
- Nov. 13 Lil Wheeler
- Nov. 15 Don Turlington
- Nov. 21 Neil Pratt
- Nov. 24 Paul Clark
Mallisa Odogbili
- Nov. 29 Lalitha Kakileti
- Nov. 30 Mary Dobos
Michael Singh



- Nov. 6 Glen & Jessy Brown
- Nov. 18 Chick & Marj Miller
- Nov. 30 Steve & Donna Lind

College Care Packages

You know that feeling when you get a package in the mail? What if that package was being sent from your church family? **On November 23rd** we will have boxes available to be used for care packages for all our “College Age Adults”. We want to let them know that their home church is thinking about them and praying for them.



When you select a box you are committing to cover the cost of shipping, write an encouraging note to the student, and include goodies and items that will hopefully make the upcoming exam time a bit less stressful. The only rule is you have to pick a student that never lived in your home. We want them to know they are remembered by their church family so we want the package to come from someone outside of their family. Each box will have a student name and address and list of suggested items. The package **should be mailed by December 1**. See Cherie Parker with any questions.

Deacons

Save the date! Let’s gather for a Thanksgiving Dinner on **Wednesday, November 19 at 6:30pm** to give thanks for the many blessings bestowed upon us. Turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy and beverages will be supplied. Bring a side dish or dessert that might be typical of your family Thanksgiving dinner.

We will be opening the dinner to the community. This is a great opportunity to invite a friend and introduce them to First Baptist.

We would like to get a **headcount by November 12**. Please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board or let the office know.

We will need a set-up/clean-up crew. The more that volunteer, the easier the job will be. If you are willing to help, please sign up on the bulletin board or let the church know.

We look forward to some fantastic food and even more to the fellowship we are blessed with when our church family gathers together.



**Thanksgiving Dinner
November 19, 6:30pm
Fellowship Hall**

- Nov 9 - Bells will Ring!
- Nov 16 - Guest Organist, Isabelle Livingstone
- Nov 23- Orchestra will Play!



FROM OUR ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Hello! As you know, I have now been at Westfield for about a month and a half. In that time period I have gotten the opportunity to learn about the community and many of the families

within it. It has been a wonderful experience.

Thus far, I have gotten the opportunity to attend a broad range of the committee meetings, preach, teach, hang out with the youth, lead a CGCS team, work with our marketing and social media teams, and even organize a church outing. Even after all of this, I am happy to say that we are just getting started! God is at work in this place and I am really enjoying serving and worshiping with you.

In the upcoming months we have a variety of events planned that I believe will be very successful. In November, we are planning on having two Young Adults Small Group meetings. So mark your calendars for both **Sunday the 9th** and **Sunday the 16th at 1:00pm**. I believe that we're going to have a great time eating, socializing, and spending some time getting into the issues that may be on our hearts and minds. These first two sessions will be structured as open forums and the subsequent meetings will move between Bible studies, topical conversations, service projects, and educational outings based on whatever needs or interests seem to arise.

In December we are looking forward to two main events for the young adults and their families. The first will be a dinner immediately following Carols in the Round. All of the young adults and their families are invited to go out to eat with us. The date for this is, of course, **December 6th**. The second major event for December will be the **Young Adult Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 17th**. Attendees are invited to wear ugly sweaters, bring white elephant gifts for an exchange, and healthy appetites. The party will start at **6:30pm** and go until approximately 9:30pm.

I am also happy to announce that we will begin a series entitled, *The Daniel Plan*, in **January**. The course will cover the interrelations between faith, food, fitness, focus, and friendship within the landscape of healthy Christian living. Katie McGuire and I will both be leading small groups associate with this program and we are looking for more volunteers who may be interested in leading in some way. If you would like to help out, or if you think you might be interested in leading a supplementary fitness section (involving an accessible physical activity), then please contact me for more information.

The grace and peace of Christ be with you.

Kadin J.G. Williams

Associate Pastor

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

...**Paul Clark** for refinishing coffee table
...**all those** who volunteered in our Church Gathered/Church Scattered events

...**Caroline Siess, Dot Waugh, and Lee Romano**, for helping to mail out the October Messenger

...**Kay Schmitt** for donating bibles

...**Glen Brown** for updating Nancy's computer

...**Len Gabriel** for painting the beautiful mural in our narthex



Sunday Morning Singles meets in Harvey Hall from 9-10:15am each Sunday. Here are some recent topics we discussed:

- *Changes occur whether we are ready or not*
- *What makes you happy?*
- *Do you prefer glamour or reality?*
- *What gives you satisfaction?*
- *Balancing Acid and Alkaline in your diet.*

Come downstairs for a second cup of coffee to join in lively discussion on a myriad of interesting topics.

Maryann Friscia

Facilities Committee : Most recently, the Facilities Committee worked on installation of new carpet at the bottom of the rear entrance stairwell, as well as a paint touchup to our front main doors, and repair of our front sidewalk.

Lighting in our library and 2 hallways in narthex area will be completed in early November. Thank you to those who contributed to make that happen.

Preparing now for winter by checking on our boilers, turning off our sprinkler system, adjusting timers on outside lighting (thank you Warren), and ordering of rock salt.



Pj & Movie Night for Children
Invite a Friend!
 Showtime: **Friday, December 5@ 6PM**
 Drop-off: **6pm** Pickup: **8pm**
 Now Playing: **Happy Feet**
 The Big Screen: **FBC Lounge**
 Pizza & Popcorn will be served!




Please bring a pillow & sleeping bag/ blanket & wear comfy pj's!
 Sign up and get your tickets on the bulletin board outside the church office.

Stewardship Campaign has started! Prayerfully consider your pledge for 2015.

"Peace to the whole community, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all who have an undying love for our Lord Jesus Christ."
 Ephesians 6:23-24

Our Theme this year is:
Celebrating Jesus in our Life!

Our Goal for 2015 is \$191,300.00.
Pledge Sunday: December 7th, 2014

Wendell O. Scott, MD
 Stewardship Campaign Chair



The Hearing Society, a non-profit organization, meets every Thursday morning, 10:30-11:45am, September through May, for speech reading class. The purpose is to help people with a hearing loss improve their ability to read lips.

Membership dues are \$25 annually. All welcome. For more information you can call Alice Knecht, 908-688-8241 or Kay Schmitt, 908-232-6546.

Women's Book Club
Saturday, Nov 15
 10am, Church Lounge
 We will be discussing "Wings" by Karl Friedrich.
 Refreshments provided by Mary Foster. lease call Bette Savage for more info.



NOVEMBER 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Daylight Saving Time Ends	3	4	5	6 Mini Course: The Voice of Prophecy, 7pm (week 2)	7	8 Men's Breakfast, 8:30am
9 Young Adult Small Grp, 1pm	10	11 Veterans Day; Facilities Mtg, 7:30p	12 CE Mtg, 7:30pm	13Mini Course: The Voice of Prophecy, 7pm (week 3)	14	
16 Young Adult Small Grp, 1pm	17 Council, 7:30pm	18	19Thanksgiving Dinner, 6:30pm	20Mini Course: The Voice of Prophecy, 7pm (week 4)	21	
23 Deco- rate the Church	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

www.fbcwestfield.org



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ONGOING CALENDAR

Weekly, unless otherwise noted.

Sundays:

9:00 am Singles
9:15 Adult Bible Study
9:55 Chancel Choir/Song Leaders rehearsal
10:30 am 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 am Children's Choir & Youth Song Leaders rehearsals
11:30am Prayer Team meets (1st Sunday, Nov 2)
5 pm Youth Group (6th-12th grades)

Tuesdays:

10:30am Bible Devotion & Discussion (church library)

Wednesdays:

12Noon "Conversations with God" (prayer time) in our sanctuary
1-3 pm Craft Group (2nd Thurs, Nov 13)

Thursdays:

10:30 am The Hearing Society (a non-profit org): Speech Reading Class:

Saturdays:

10:00 am Women's Book Club (monthly, Nov 15)

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Mayra Castañeda, *Senior Pastor*

Kadin J.G. Williams, *Associate Pastor*

Katie McGuire, *Children's Ministry Coordinator*

Glen Brown, *Youth Ministry Coordinator*

Ricardo Ribeiro, *Assistant Youth Ministry Coordinator*

Nancy Lambros, *Church Administrator*

Adriana Rodriguez, *Custodian*

Matt Barton, *Nightly Sexton*

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.