

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

COLUMNS

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Just A Thought...

by Pastor Kip

Why do you say...and speak, "My way is hid from the Lord and my right is disregarded by my God"? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary, his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:27-31

In his book "The Alchemist" Paulo Coelho writes: "We are afraid of losing what we have, whether it's our life or our possessions and property. But this fear evaporates when we understand that our life stories and the history of the world were written by the same hand."

This thought captivated my attention especially in light of the economic crisis our country is going through. There seems to be a lot of fear, as people face the future with uncertainty and gnawing questions. The fear is real as we hear about people losing their homes, their investments, their retirement, their jobs. Every day the headlines and news stories speak of businesses going under, banks going broke, and industries cutting thousands of jobs. These are troublesome times and as our government talks of and considers bailout plans the average person on the street wonders how this is all going to work and how all those billions are going to trickle down and then how it is all going to be paid back again. There are no easy answers for these troubled times.

As Christians we believe that even in the worst of times God is still speaking and working, even when we can't see it. The scripture above was written in a time of national crisis. Babylon was about to destroy Judah and take the Israelites captive. The future was frightening and everything looked hopeless. In the midst of it all Isaiah was given this word from the Lord. He starts by asking the question, "Why do you think God does not see you and the situation you face?" He goes on to say that even though the strongest people may grow faint in the face of great challenges, God's strength never diminishes, and it is His strength that becomes our source of strength. He says that waiting on the Lord, or hoping in the Lord, will be the way that we renew our strength. When that happens we are able to rise and soar above life's challenges and difficulties as if we had the wings of eagles.

When we remember that the same God who has written the history of the world has also written our personal histories we begin to discover that the world, the economy, the challenges, and the difficulties never have the last word because, "*The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary, his understanding is unsearchable.*" As it has been said, it may take a long time to fix what is happening, but we can experience hope in the midst of it all, for "*they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.*"



2009 Cabinet

Moderator—Bruce Carlson
Vice Moderator—Hal Johnson
Clerk—Judy Cunningham
Treasurers—Fred and Jeanne Shelor

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Hospitality, Care and Nurture	Lynne Chesire
Worship and Celebration	Michelle Wing *
Youth and Young Adults	Natalie Sariscsany*
Finance and Stewardship	Jim Musick
Property and Physical Resources	Larry Graves*
Discipleship and Adult Education	Darlene Anderson*
Evangelism and Community Outreach	Gary Gladwell* and Jason Ferrell*
Local and World Missions	Gay Endicott*
Membership Development	John Cleveland
Children's Ministries	Cindy Gladwell*

*Please remember to pray for our church leaders as they carry out the work of
God's church and His people.*

* *new cabinet members*

The men of First Baptist
cordially invite you to a
VALENTINE DINNER

Friday, February 13

at 7:00 p.m.

The deadline for signing up is

February 8th.

Come and enjoy an evening of fine
dining and special music.



New Directories

Available

New directories have been printed and are available on the table outside the sanctuary. If there are any corrections to be made please notify the church office at 345-5009. We have tried to make the directory as accurate as possible but know that mistakes are possible, so please let us know if you see incorrect information.

Remembering Our Shut-Ins

In Prayer

- ◆ Lorraine Olson, homebound.
- ◆ Ella Faulkner, homebound.
- ◆ Pat Buie at Millard Manor.
- ◆ Beverly Tompkins at St. Joseph Tower
- ◆ Violet Schoening at Fox Run Assisted Living.
- ◆ Vincent and Linda Buxton at Millard Manor.
- ◆ Nancy Clatterbuck at Sunridge Village.
- ◆ Joyce Guthals at Skyline.
- ◆ Jim and Vida Crosby at home.

Lent

Devotionals

Once again we are putting together a booklet of devotionals to be read during the Lenten season which starts on Ash Wednesday, February 25 and ends with Easter Sunday, April 12. If you would like to write a devotional there is a sign up poster with available dates for you to choose from. The deadline for submitting the devotional(s) is February 15. Write as many devotionals as you would like. There is no limit.

We suggest the devotional include a scripture passage, your devotional thought and a concluding prayer. A copy of last year's booklet is in the office. If you need to see it check with Phyllis Porter.



Many thanks to Cindy Gladwell and the set up team and tear down people who worked so diligently on the annual dinner on January 23. We had an excellent turn out despite the very cold weather.



Circle these dates on your calendar and make plans to attend a spirit filled and fun filled weekend at the Moses Merrill Camp and Conference Center. The dates for this year's exciting retreat weekend are **Saturday, May 2 to Sunday, May 3**. Those who attended the retreat last year all agreed to do this again and we are making the plans to do it again!

More information will be forthcoming as the women's leadership team makes the plans. Don't hesitate to offer any suggestions you might have. Our guest leader is MaryBeth Robertson who is on staff at Moses Merrill.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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FORWARD IN FAITH
EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT



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*February 25
to
April 10, 2009*

