

First Baptist Church

January

COLUMNS



GOSPEL: GOD'S WORD FOR EVERYONE

First Baptist Church

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Staff:

Rev. Matt Toupin

Senior Minister

Jim and Karla Musick

Music Directors

Phyllis Porter

Office Manager

Ben Martinez

Building Superintendent

Sunday Worship

9:45 a.m.—Sunday School
for all ages

11:00 a.m.—Worship in the
sanctuary

12:00 a.m.—Coffee fellow-
ship in the church parlor.

NEW. That word keeps popping up in my life lately: New city, new church, new home, new school, new friends, new climate. As Lisa, the boys, and I have started settling in to life here in Omaha, everything has been new to us. And all of this newness brings with it an exciting sense of adventure! Even things as simple as discovering the closest grocery store, the best burger joint, and even just the best route to get to church after a snowstorm, have proven to be just that: An adventure!

Now that it's 2013 and a new season of ministry at First Baptist Church of Omaha has begun, I hope that you will all join us on our adventure. As my family and I explore the city and discover all the great things that it has to offer, may we as a *church* family renew our commitment to explore God's word and discover all the great things *it* has to offer. As we get moving on our adventure as a church, we'll start out with a Sunday morning preaching series going through the Gospel of Luke. This series will challenge us to re-center our lives individually and corporately by looking to the life of the one who called us to be his people in the first place: Jesus Christ. It is my prayer that, as we look at the life of Christ together, Luke will help us all to start 2013 "on the same page." Together, we will explore just what exactly is meant by the word, "gospel" and how that relates to God's calling on our lives as his people.

As we embark on this adventure in 2013, our theme will be "GOSPEL: GOD'S WORD FOR EVERYONE." It comes from the words of Simeon, who while holding the baby Jesus in his arms, praised God, saying:

"For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people" (Luke 2:30-31).

It is my prayer that, as a church family, we would embark on our adventure through the Gospel of Luke together, prepared to live in light of the fact that God's word is for everyone. May those of us who have been following Jesus for years come to church and discover that he still has something to say to us through his word today. May those of us who are new to "this Jesus thing" come to church and discover the depths of his love and power as revealed in Scripture for the first time. And as we interact with our family, friends, and neighbors in 2013, may we have an "outward-focus," showing them God's love and praying that they might also come to respond to the Gospel and begin a relationship with Christ. For in this new year of 2013, as we will learn together on our adventure, The Gospel is God's Word for Everyone!

In Christ,

Pastor Matt

Please Remember The Following In Your Prayers

Our homebound members: Beverly Tompkins, Vincent and Linda Buxton, Nancy Clatterbuck, Joan Kolle, Velta Hanson, Willi Treu, Ruth Saklar, Bob Snyder, Pat Buie and Pauline Borromeo.

- ◆ Those with other medical concerns: Charlene Howard, Vida Crosby and Connie Payne.
- ◆ Pray for the men and women in the military serving at home and abroad
- ◆ Remember our young people in prayer.
- ◆ Pray for our church leaders.



Thank You,

We want to thank the entire First Baptist Church of Omaha family for making us feel so welcome since we arrived in early December. It was so terrific to show up and have a whole group of guys unload our moving truck in about 3 hours, especially since we were so tired from our long journey. Then, how helpful it was to have delicious meals provided to us for an entire week as we began the unpacking process!



*You're a
Blessing!*

On top of that, the "gift card tree" was such an incredible blessing: We are STILL using the cards and tips that people gave us to help guide our adventure of discovering Omaha! Besides that, all the wonderful Christmas cards and treats really

made our first Christmas as a family, outside of Oregon, special. Most importantly, we thank you all for your prayers for safety and protection as we made our way here. You've called us to minister to you, but we already feel ministered to by you all as a congregation. Thank you for making us feel at home!

Sincerely,

The Toupin Family

Ministry Team Reports

Attention Ministry Team Leaders! Annual reports for your ministry are due in the church office by **January 2!!** If you need help writing your report call or see Phyllis Porter, Office Mgr.

Your report does not need to be lengthy, just highlight the important items your team has done or accomplished this past year.

Annual Meeting of First Baptist Church

PLEASE place this date on your calendar. January 20th is the date of our Annual Meeting. There will be a potluck dinner prior to the business meeting and that will be followed by voting on the slate of new cabinet members, voting on the new budget for 2013 and hearing reports from Ministry Leaders.

The food designation for the potluck dinner is as follows:

A—Ha: Dessert

Hb—Ro: Main dish

Rp: - Z: Side dish/ or Salad

Be sure you provide enough food to serve eight (8) people.

The Homebuilders Class will have clean up duty after the meeting.

Government of Peace

Electric Wednesdays should be able to resume on Wednesday, January 9th after a two-week break, with dinner at 6:15 and children's and adult activities to follow. We would like to give a BIG thank you to Christina Atkins for her leadership of the children's musical, "Psalty's Christmas Calamity". She had been rehearsing the children since mid-September, and they were wonderful. A big thank you also to Dave Kulisek for all his help with lighting and sound board for our many rehearsal times, and to Adam Cleveland, our "Psalty". The musical provided not only a learning environment for the children, but an opportunity for them to minister back to the Lord and to the church family. It was also a wonderful outreach venue for un-churched families whose children attend on Wednesday nights.



To our church family for providing all the gifts and wrappings for our Christmas Wrap-Up Party. The weather made us postpone it, but we were able to tuck it in the Sunday before Christmas, to the children's delight. Thanks to Jan Walden, for organizing the entire project, to Stacy Friis and the Youth for assisting with crafts (one of which was making and decorating paper snowflakes to be sent to the new Sandy Hook elementary school location, part of a national effort to welcome the children to a different environment after their winter break), and to all the other adults who stayed after church to help with "shopping" and wrapping. Any left-over gift items and wrappings will be stored for next year's Wrap Up.

Georgia Soucie,
Director of Electric Wednesdays Program

Hopefully you took a break from the headlines over the Christmas holiday. Those headlines about economic disaster, doomsday, and heartbreaking violence have wrung us out. We look forward to the New Year and long to see better things.

Here is a headline we see often during this season from Isaiah 9:6: **For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.**

We usually stop reading there.

It is interesting that at the time of Jesus' birth, the Jewish nation was looking for a leader, not a baby, and for a righteous line of government to be re-established. And it was, just not in the way they expected.

And it is interesting that in our days, we focus on a baby's birth, when what God is doing is preparing to establish His righteous line of government through a *Man*, the Messiah, King Jesus. The next verse reads:

**There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace,
On the throne of David and over his kingdom,
To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness
From then on and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this. Isaiah 9:7**

No matter what the headlines say, God is orchestrating His own purposes, and will bring His own Kingdom and righteousness to bear upon the nations of this earth, in our country, and in our lives. This is something we can hope for, watch for, pray for, and cooperate with.

When we are tempted to fear or to be anxious over headlines this coming year, we can remember that ***there will be no end to the increase of God's government or of His peace.***

We can trust His government in our lives, even as things shake around us. The government of men will grow weaker, but the government of God's Kingdom will grow stronger.

I'm thankful for God's leadership as we start a new year.

Jennifer Cleveland

First Baptist Church
Omaha, NE

Forward in Faith...

Empowered by the Spirit



Our Mission Statement

Leading people to Jesus Christ AND helping one another grow in a relationship with him.

January Birthdays and Anniversaries

6—Laural Sariscsany

6—*Jason and Christine Ferrell*

7—Nancy Clatterbuck

10—*Mike and Lola Murtaugh*

12—Amanda Peterson

13—Marvene Lutz

14—Sandy Richeson

16—*Fred and Jeanne Shelor*

16—*Ken and Dorothy Sciford*

20—Claire Wing & Pamela Thompson

23—Willi Treu

27—Jack Payne



Valentine Dinner

When: February 15, 2013

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Where: Dining Room of FBC

Make your plans now to attend this annual event sponsored by the Men's Ministry. Once again adults are invited to a gourmet catered dinner. A nursery will be provided for those who need child care.

A sign-up sheet is located on the table near the women's lounge. DEADLINE TO SIGN-UP IS FEBRUARY 10TH.

Invite a friend (s) to this evening of food, music and fellowship.

