

First Baptist Church



2013 COLUMNS

First Baptist Church

421 Park Avenue,
Omaha, NE

PH: 402-345-5009

Fax: 402-933-2020

Email:
office@omahafbc.org

Website:
www.omahafbc.org



First Baptist Church
Omaha

Staff:

Rev. Matt Toupin
Pastor

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 p.m.—Coffee
fellowship in the
parlor

From the Pastor's Desk...

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland." (Isaiah 43:18-19 NIV)

When God promised to deliver his people, Israel, from captivity in Babylon, he wanted them to look forward, not backward!

He wanted them to not dwell on the past, on how things had been in the "good old days," as if they were somehow better than what would come in the future. Yes, God had done amazing things for his people in days long ago. But you see, our God is the God of all time: Past, present, and future. As such, he called on them to look forward, to the "new thing" he was about to bring into their lives!

These words spoken through the prophet Isaiah apply to us today. How easy it is for us to dwell on the past! Some of us dwell on the past in a *nostalgic* way, reflecting on how good things used to be when we were younger. Some of us dwell on the past in a *negative* way, holding grudges against people for sins committed long ago. Some of us dwell on the past in an *administrative* way, always putting up roadblocks to new, fresh ideas with the phrase, "but we've never done it that way before." Still others of us are guilty of all three!

We all struggle with God's command to "*forget the former things*" and to "*not dwell on the past.*" But God calls us to something greater, something far more exciting, and that is...THE FUTURE!

Just as God was doing a new thing for the people of Israel, I believe he is doing a new thing at First Baptist Church Omaha. That's why I continue to be excited about our Vision Process! The Vision Process began in January as I met with each of our Cabinet members individually and in small groups to get their ideas about where they felt God might be leading us as a congregation. It continued in March as the Cabinet met and held a "Vision Summit" to determine strategic priorities for the next five years. The process will continue this summer, as the Cabinet has voted to create a "Vision Group," which will focus on creating a strategic plan to make these priorities reality and on telling the "First Baptist Story" in a fresh, exciting, and new way. It is also hoped that a new vision statement, mission statement, church logo and improvements to our web presence will emerge from this process.

This Vision Process, this "new thing" God has placed in our midst, has been reinforced with prayer by various groups and individuals within the church. Please join me in praying for guidance and direction as together we seek to perceive the new way God is making for us!

Following Christ with You,

Pastor Matt

**Please Remember The Following In
Your Prayers**

Our homebound members: Beverly Tompkins, Linda Buxton, Nancy Clatterbuck, Velta Henson, Willi Treu, Ruth Saklar, Bob Snyder, Pat Buie and Pauline Borromeo, Charlene Howard and Floyd Webber.

- ◆ Those with other medical concerns: 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 Pastor Matt Toupin as he leads our church into a new "Vision for First Baptist Church".
- ◆ Remember the staff of FBCO and the members of the Cabinet in prayer.

2013 ABC NE Region Wide Mission Trip. ABC NE is looking for up to 100 people to participate in a Region Wide Mission trip to Ottawa, KS June 16-20 (this is prior to the Mission Summit and just a short drive from Overland Park.) You are invited to join other ABC NE members to gather our missional energies to help North Baptist Church. Further information is posted on the bulletin board along with registration forms.

The American Baptist Churches USA Mission Summit/Biennial, 2013 will be held June 21-23 in Overland Park, KS. Our church is registered for this event and we invite you to consider attending this event at the discounted rate of just \$35.00! (food & lodging not included). There is information posted on the bulletin board across from the church office and registration forms are in the church office. If you have any questions, please see Kathy Brown.



Spectacular!!

The Chili and Chicken Noodle Soup Dinner and Dessert Auction was held on Sunday, April 14. We would like to thank everyone who participated in the event. A little over \$3,000 was raised for the camp scholarship fund. The winners of the soup tasting contest were Pastor Matt for the chicken noodle soup and Todd Nelson for chili. The event was a big success and a lot of fun. Thank you for support our Children and Youth.

We would like to thank the following restaurants for donating gift certificates for the Dessert auction. If you are in the neighborhood, please stop by and say thank you and grab a bite to eat!!

1. Cheddars (Ashley) 12152 L St.
2. Greek Islands (George) 3821 Center St.
3. Jazz—A Louisiana Kitchen (Jordan Jackson) 1421 Farnam St.
4. La Casa Pizzeria (Nicole) 4432 Leavenworth St.
5. Wheatfields 1224 S. 103rd St.

We would also like to thank the coaches of the First Baptist Church baseball team for donating two baseball jerseys. If you have a chance, attend a game and cheer the Team on. Go FBC!

Join us for a special baptism service on Sunday, May 19th

Let's celebrate with some of the young people in our church who have decided take their faith journey and "kick it up a notch." If you yourself are a teen or young adult interested in getting baptized, don't miss out on...

Plunge! (For Teens)

Attention all students, grades 6-12: Join Pastor Matt for a special learning opportunity designed specifically for YOU! Have you been thinking about getting baptized or becoming an official member of FBC Omaha? If so, join us for "Plunge!" We will be talking about what it means to take your faith seriously. It all happens in Pastor Matt's office *during the Sunday School Hour, 9:45am to 10:45am, on May 5th and 12th.*

**Capital Fund
Campaign Update**

Goal	\$100,000.00
Contributions	\$ 41,696.38
Funds Needed	\$ 58,303.62
Expenditures	\$ 36,536.81

BAKE SALE TO BENEFIT MISSION WORK IN INDIA

Preparations are underway for the Annual Rebecca-Ruth ABW Circle Bake Sale on Sunday, May 19 right after the worship service. We need donations of baked goods such as: cookies, cakes, pies, muffins, cupcakes, etc. If you are willing to donate any of the above items, please mark the package(s). In other words, if you are providing cookies mark what kind of cookie it is and the same for cakes, muffins, etc.

Any and all proceeds from the sale of the baked goods will support mission work in the country of India. Thank you for your help.



Andy and Celeste Gustafson and Felicia Cervantes presented themselves for membership by transfer of church membership. We will celebrate these new members and perhaps a few more at a special time during the service, June 2.

Electric Wednesdays Activities will meet for the last time this school year on May 15th. This includes the Bible study with Pastor Matt. A special recognition of volunteers will be Sunday, May 12th.

NEW WORK REQUEST SYSTEM!

See something around church that needs to be repaired or cleaned? Or do you need help with a special project? If so, please fill out one of our new "Work Request" forms and submit it to our Building Superintendent, Ben Martinez, by placing it in his mailbox in the church office. You can find the forms at the bulletin board across from the church office. Thanks for your help!

The Youth Ministry Coordinator

Search Has Begun!

The Youth Ministry Coordinator (YMC) Search Committee has been formed and is ready to begin the process of finding just the right person for youth ministry here at FBCO! The YMC will be a part-time position focused on leading our Youth Group on Wednesday nights, Sunday mornings, and for special events. Here are the names of the Search Committee members:

Randy Shelton

Stacy Friis

Chris Wing

Christine Hillebran

Darlene Anderson

The search process will begin in the month of May. Please pray for each one of the Committee members and for the important work they will be doing. Also, pray for the person whom even now God is preparing for this special ministry with the youth of FBCO!

Extreme Makeover

(Church Office Edition)

The church office suite will continue undergoing significant remodeling during the month of May. The Secretary's office and the library will trade places, which will help our staff and also provide the church family with a larger library where classes, events, and meetings can be held. It is also hoped this will help us to provide a more warm and welcoming environment for visitors to our office. Stay tuned until the unveiling of the finished product!

Encourage an FBCO Staffer Today!

Have you noticed something that one of our FBCO staff members has done exceptionally well lately? Have you told them about it? Well if not, take the opportunity to say an encouraging word of appreciation to these hard-working and dedicated folks who do all sorts of behind-the-scenes work that keep the gospel ministry of FBCO moving forward! We are so fortunate to have such a great team of people serving the Lord and our church family, so let's tell them!

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." (1 Thessalonians 5:11 NIV)

A little encouragement goes a long way!

Pastor Matt

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.

May Birthdays and Anniversaries

4—Marcia Marascalco;	21—Judy Cunningham
5— <i>John & Lynn Murray</i> ;	22—Dorothy Sciford
6— <i>Dave & Joan Overbey</i>	22—Gretchen Heil
8—Brandon Todalen	22— <i>Smokey & Elaine Stober</i>
12—Jacob Cleveland	23—Bob Hillebran
13— <i>Randy & Michelle Todalen</i>	24—Joe Anderson
15—Amy Fitl	25—Pauline Borromeo
	26—Jan Walden
	27—Janean Shane
	27— <i>Dave & Pam Kulisek</i>
	28— <i>Andy & Celeste Gustafson</i>
	30—Gary Gladwell

VISION FOCUS

In March, the Cabinet agreed on 10 1-Year Strategic Planning Priorities and 10 5-Year Strategic Planning Priorities. In April, the Cabinet voted to create a “Vision Group” which, among other things, will be charged to develop a strategic plan designed to make these priorities happen. Here are the priorities that will be guiding the Vision Group as they begin their work this summer:

Strategic Planning Priorities: 1-Year Goals

1. *Create and fill a new, paid, part-time youth minister position by the 2013-2014 school year, laying the foundation for a strong and vibrant youth ministry.*
2. *Improve marketing.*
3. *Create programs that appeal to people living at Midtown Crossing and the Leavenworth Neighborhood.*
4. *Improve Internal Communication.*
5. *Create activity packets for children to use during the service.*
6. *Improve the budgeting process.*
7. *Install new flooring in the Fellowship Hall.*
8. *Create a new program for single people.*
9. *Improve the membership development process.*
10. *Create a “children’s church” program during sermon time.*

Strategic Planning Priorities: 5-Year Goals

1. *Increase core membership.*
2. *Install new carpeting in the sanctuary.*
3. *Purchase a new church van or two.*
4. *Serve all age groups in the church equally well.*
5. *Administer a mission trip for youth and adults.*
6. *Expand attendance to two services.*
7. *Encourage giving (increasing by 20 “giving units”).*
8. *Completely remodel the kitchen.*
9. *Expand and improve parking.*
10. *Provide opportunities to serve in mission locally..*

Pastor Matt (on behalf of the Vision Group)