



First Baptist Church

COLUMNS

First Baptist Church

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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

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin." (Hebrews 4:15 NIV)

Recently, as we've been following the ministry of Jesus through the Gospel of Luke, the question, "who *is* Jesus" keeps popping up. During June, we will continue asking this question and learning from the Scripture what it has to say in answer.

As we do this, I want to challenge you in your thinking about Jesus. I want to challenge you to have a balanced idea of who he is, based on the eighth chapter of Luke, where Jesus calmed the storm (Luke 8:22-25). It is in this passage where we learn the most foundational answer to the "who is Jesus?" question.

You know, some people really like the idea that Jesus is FULLY MAN, and they focus on that. Throughout church history, all sorts of problems have sprung up because of this. In fact, most of the world treats Jesus this way, calling him "just a good man." BUT THAT IS NOT AT ALL WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES!!!

Don't get me wrong, Jesus *is* fully man. But if you focus on that and neglect the idea that he is also fully God, you can end up in trouble. Even Christians can get ourselves in this trap: We end up treating Jesus like he's our "BFF," or even worse, we treat him like our personal assistant. How do you know when you make this mistake? You know this has happened if when you pray, all you do is give Jesus your laundry list of things you want him to do for you. These people tend to focus on the love of Jesus and what *he* can do for *them* while they ignore the power of Jesus and what *they* should do for *him*. This is NOT the way it should be.

On the other hand, some people really like the idea that Jesus is FULLY GOD, and they focus almost exclusively on that. Throughout church history, all sorts of problems have sprung up because of this also.

People like this may get so caught up in being afraid of Jesus' power that they forget to be *amazed* by it. These people tend to be legalists, who spend maybe just a little too much time making sure they dot all their "i's" and cross all their "t's" because they live in fear of what God will do to them if they don't. They focus on the power of Jesus and they ignore the love of Jesus. This is also NOT the way it should be.

Instead, you need to understand that Jesus is both fully God and fully man. You need to live in a state of love and amazement of Jesus, the one and only God that can truly relate with you, who as a man, knows what it's like to get tired and fall asleep on a gently-rocking boat, who also knows what it's like to suffer, who even knows what it's like to die; but who at the same time is also *powerful* enough to command all the elements of nature, and to even rise from the dead. FULLY GOD AND FULLY MAN, THE LORD OF ALL CREATION. *THAT* is who Jesus is!

Following Jesus through the storms of life with you,

Pastor Matt

Please Remember The Following In Prayer

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

- Those with other medical concerns: Vida Crosby and Connie Payne.
- Our men and women who are serving our country in the military at home and overseas.
- Our kids and youth.
- Pastor Matt 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.

CONGRATULATIONS!! Graduating Seniors

Derek Gilman, son of Tim and Wendy Gilman and grandson of Phyllis Porter graduated from Abraham Lincoln High School in Council Bluffs on May 25. Derek graduated with honors and will be attending Iowa State University in Ames, IA majoring in Physics. Derek was very active in orchestra, and speech receiving #1 ratings in both areas. Also, Derek received his Eagle Scout Award (the highest award in Boy Scouts) awarded to just a few scouts who demonstrated strong leadership skills, completed all badge work and completed a Eagle Scout project.

Also graduating was **Johnny Murray**, son of John and Lynne Murray and grandson of Jim and Pat Fitl. He graduated with honors from Burke High School on May 21. Johnny was very active in football, was an all state academic recipient, a member of the National Honor Society and was the lead male singer for this year's musical. Johnny and his younger brother, Bobby and a friend, formed a rock band, "Superman's Hero". Johnny will be attending the University of Nebraska at Omaha this fall with a major in Marketing and a minor in Music.



A New Baby Has Arrived!

Chelsea Gamblin made her debut on Friday, May 10 weighing 7# 8 oz. She is the daughter of Courtney and Jeff Gamblin and granddaughter of Sue and Darrell Reed and great daughter of Ken and Dorothy Sciford.

Quick Update!

Youth Ministry Coordinator Search Committee Update

The Youth Ministry Coordinator Search Committee met on May 6, 2013. Committee members are Darlene Anderson, Stacy Friis, Christine Hillebran, Randy Shelton and Chris Wing. We discussed the possibility of announcing the job on our church website. We also discussed other channels to advertise the job. Members of the committee volunteered to contact other churches and Christian ministries at several colleges and universities. We studied and discussed the Child/Youth Worker Application Form. We also studied the Job Description and discussed the required qualifications of the youth ministry coordinator. We ask you, our church family, to be in prayer for our committee and for the person that is chosen to be our Youth Ministry Coordinator.

A word of gratitude to all who supported the Rebecca-Ruth ABW Circle Bake Sale. They almost reached their goal. The total amount received was \$192.00. All proceeds will be used to support mission work in India. Again thanks to all who brought items for the sale.

New Member Recognition Sunday! On Sunday, June 2, FBCO celebrated “new lives” into the church family. Received by baptism after completion of classes on baptism and church membership were: Noah Wing, Noah Stenzal, Claire Wing, Terra Martinez and Daniel Perez, Hannah Kubiak and Tiana Jackson.



Received in for membership were: Matthew Jessop, Brian Krieger, Felicia Cervantes and Celeste and Andy Gustafson.

Praise the Lord for these new members!

Happy Father's Day

My Hero

*My hero is the quiet type.
No marching bands, no media hype,
But through my eyes it's plain to see,
A hero, God has sent to me.*

*With gentle strength and quiet pride,
All self-concern is set aside,
To reach out to his fellow man,
And be there with a helping hand,*

*Heroes are a rarity,
A blessing to humanity, With all they
give and all they do,
I'll be the thing you never knew,
My hero has always been you.*

..Anonymous

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JULY 8—12

6:00 pm—8:00pm

Ages K-6th grade

**Registration is the
first night!**

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“If we're all God's children, just think of all the cards he gets on Father's Day.”

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.

June Birthdays and Anniversaries

1—Darlene Anderson

3—Wanda Chanler

4—Kevin Gilliland

7—Jim Fitl

12—Joe Mettenbrink

26—Lila Laizure

27—Noah Wing

28—Elizabeth Gamblin

30—James Fitl

10—Jim & Karla Musick

24—Jim & Colleen Sariscsany

26—Vergel & Bess Borromeo



At the Altar

by Jan Ackerson

When my daughter Jericho was a freshman in college, she suffered a terrible injury which required months of recuperation and rehabilitation, and left her with a permanent disability. During the long weeks of her recovery at home, I wrestled constantly with negative emotions and depression. I doubt that anyone knew what spiritual distress I was in; I became very adept at masking my pain.

One bleak Sunday morning, I was acutely feeling my separation from God. I was still angry with Him for allowing Jericho to be hurt, but even more, I was missing God and the relationship with Him that I had previously cherished. I play piano during the morning worship, and when the time came for congregational prayer, I slipped away from the piano and knelt at the altar in tears, wordlessly appealing to my Heavenly Father for comfort and forgiveness. The piano is very near the altar, so I was kneeling there alone for several seconds while the pastor finished his invitation to the congregation to come and pray. While my spirit reached out to God, my mind was aware of the sound of many others coming forward to kneel. Being the well-brought-up Christian woman that I was, I did not peek, but I heard and felt several others, settling in all around me and even in front of me. I remember thinking (even as I prayed) that there were more people than usual praying there that morning, and that the needs must be great.

As the pastor's prayer came to a close, a supernatural peace settled on my heart, and the heaviness lifted from my spirit. God and I were going to be all right. I opened my eyes and prepared to rise, expecting to see several friends making their way

back to their pews. Instead, I was surprised to see that I was the only person at the altar, except for the pastor down at the other end.

Now, I am skeptical and somewhat disapproving of our popular culture's current preoccupation with angels. Nevertheless—I believe that God sent several angels to pray with me that morning. I believe that He allowed me to hear and feel them settling in around me. I believe that it was they who bore my burden back to the Heavenly Father. Thank You, Father, for the brush of angels' wings! My prayer for each of you is that at some point in your suffering, God may draw back the curtain for a moment and give you some small glimpse of heaven.

About the Author

Jan Ackerson is a Christian who has traveled through sorrow and depression, and has found victory and grace. She dedicates all writings to her Heavenly Father. Contact Jan for writing projects at jackerso@remc11.k12.mi.us