

July/August COLUMNS

Mission Summit 2013 Update

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor" (Luke 4:18-19 NIV).

Mission Summit 2013, held this past June in Overland Park, Kansas, was an incredible gathering of American Baptist believers from all over the United States! Along with some other FBC Omaha folks, Lisa, our boys, and I had the unique opportunity to represent our local church and to be a part of this historic occasion.

It was an amazing time of celebrating who we are as American Baptists: A time to celebrate many milestones in our history. First, we celebrated the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, which is significant because of the involvement of many American Baptists in the anti-slavery movement back in the 1800s. Second, we celebrated the 200th anniversary of the ministry of Adoniram and Ann Judson in Burma. As you may already know, our own American Karen Baptist Church can trace their roots directly back to the Judsons' ministry. Third, we celebrated the 375th anniversary of the founding of the First Baptist Church in America, located in Providence Rhode Island. *American Baptists have been active leaders in the work of mission and justice in American and beyond for a long time; and God is calling us at FBC Omaha to continue that legacy into the future.*

The Summit included three days of workshops and challenging messages. And I walked away from the experience with three things that I believe relate clearly to what God is calling us to do at FBC Omaha.

Justice – The first day of the summit included a focus on justice and the issue of unprecedented levels of incarceration in jails and prisons in our country. It challenged me to think about our church and our partnership with the “Good News” jail ministry in Omaha, and how important that is as we seek to bring the good news of the gospel to those who are incarcerated now. It challenged me also to consider the value of effective youth ministry in helping to address the issue by providing a healthy alternative for young people and a positive influence in our neighborhood.

Cross-Cultural Local Mission – The second day of the summit focused on cross-cultural mission, as exemplified by the Judsons. It reminded me that we at FBC Omaha should feel incredibly blessed and humbled that God has entrusted us with hosting a Karen-speaking congregation. It challenged me that we ought to renew our ministry commitment to them. And it also challenged me with the idea of establishing other cross-cultural missions within our community, as the Lord will lead.

Preparing for the Future – The third day focused on following the Spirit's leading as we seek to reach a generation that is increasingly non-Christian and unaware of the Gospel. For me, this was particularly significant as I reflected on the transitions taking place in Midtown Omaha. As new housing developments emerge, as new and different people move in, will we be ready to reach them? Are we prepared for the future?

And of course, I related it all to our annual theme, “GOSPEL: GOD’S WORD FOR EVERYONE.” I believe that we *must* remain committed to that idea. We *must* remain committed to the holistic reality of the gospel: That it involves “preaching the good news,” of course; but that it also means “recovery of sight for the blind,” and help for the “oppressed” (Luke 4:18). We *must* remain committed to reaching *all* the people God brings into our lives, whether they are refugees from another country who speak another language, or whether they are young adults from next door who are so different from us culturally that they *might as well* speak another language. THE GOSPEL IS GOD’S WORD FOR EVERYONE. Let us *always* keep that in mind!

Following Christ with you,

Pastor Matt

Please Remember The Following In Prayer

Our homebound members: Beverly Tompkins, Nancy Clatterbuck, Velta Henson, Ruth Saklar, Bob Snyder, Pat Buie, Pauline Borromeo, and Floyd Webber.

- Those with other medical concerns: Vida Crosby and Connie Payne who is recovering from a bone fracture in her leg.
- Our men and women who are serving our country in the military at home and overseas.
- Our kids and youth.
- The “Vision Team” and the YMC Search Committee.
- Remember the staff of FBCO and the members of the cabinet in prayer.



We extend our deepest condolences to the family of Linda Buxton who passed away on June 21. Linda’s husband Vincent passed away earlier this year. Funeral services are at a later date.

Anyone wishing to send a card to Linda’s family the address is: Family of Linda Buxton

Life Care Center
20275 Hopper Street, #302
Elkhorn, NE 68022



- ◆ **Wow** and thanks to everyone who donated items for the Youth Rummage Sale held June 15! It was a HUGE success and netted the youth group around \$450 for youth activities.
- ◆ The Youth Ministry Search Committee met June 18, 2013. Chairperson for the committee is Randy Shelton, Secretary is Christine Hillebran, Newsletter liaison is Darlene Anderson. Christine Hillebran and Stacy Friis will check references. Pastor Toupin opened our meeting with prayer. Each person reviewed the applications that we have received to date. We discussed the pros and cons of each candidate. We discussed places where the job has been posted and discussed other places where we could advertise the position. We discussed what other channels of advertisement we are interested in using. Again we ask for your prayer support as we endeavor to fill the position of Youth Ministry Coordinator. Our next meeting will be July 23, 2013.

A New Baby Has Arrived!

Adam and Kirsten welcomed a baby boy, Nicholas James Cleveland into their lives on May 5th. Nicholas joins sister Ariadne. There will be a special baby dedication for Nicholas on July 7th during the morning worship service.



THANK YOU!

Dear Pastor Matt, and First Baptist Church, Thank you very much for your generous gift to Parables. I used it to buy a silver chain with a cross on it. I am lucky to be a part of such a loving church family.

Sincerely,
Johnny Murray

Quarterly Business Meeting

We encourage you to make plans, now, for the July 21st Quarterly Business Meeting following the morning worship service. Come and support our cabinet and ministry leaders and find out what is happening in an around FBCO.

Food designations (according to your last name initial) are as follows:

A-Ha	Main Dish
Hb-Ro	Side dish or salad
Rp—Z	Dessert

Clean-up crew: Todd Nelson’s and Christine Hillebran’s classes.



Attention All Kids K—6th Grade

It is VBS time and we want you to be a part of all the fun activities being planned just for you! So get ready to “Stand Strong for God”.

DATES: JULY 8—JULY 12TH

TIME: 6:00 PM TO 8:00 PM

WHERE: FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OMAHA



Come join the fun!!!

KIDS AND FAMILIES!

**The Church Carnival is planned
and we are waiting for you!!!**

July 28 from 6:00pm—8:00pm

There will be games for you to participate in, face painting, food, and lots of prizes, etc. Kids, plan now, and invite your friends.

Volunteers are needed for the game tables and donations of school supplies are requested. If you can help in any of these areas, see Michelle Wing.

VISION FOCUS

Please continue to pray for the “Vision Team” as they begin their work this summer. They will be working to develop a new mission statement for the church, a 5-year strategic plan, and new ways to communicate the “FBCO story,” among other things.



Encourage an FBCO Sunday School Teacher Today!

Every single week, our dedicated Sunday School teachers work hard to lead children, teens, and adults of all ages, to learn more about Jesus and what it means to follow him. Without these volunteers, this vital educational ministry in our church simply would not be possible. So take some time this month to say “Thank you!” to one of our many teachers; letting them know that they are a valued part of ministry here at FBCO!

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

A little encouragement goes a long way!

-Pastor Matt

LOOK! A unique opportunity for young adults at FBC Omaha...

Missional Immersion

What is the Gospel? What is the Bible and its role in our lives? Where is the Kingdom of God and how do we get involved? What is the Church? These are questions that shape us as Christians every day. Missional Immersion 2013 looks to engage our 18-40-year-olds in Nebraska to help discover answers to these questions. There will be hands-on training taught by people and churches already doing ministry. There will be immersion experiences where participants can see and experience in person how this ministry is done in local settings. Participants will receive a \$1,000 stipend to start their own ministry experiment and receive regular feedback and encouragement. Missional Immersion 2013 promises to be an exciting learning process that will challenge you to grow deeper in your faith and grow deeper in your understanding of ministry and the Church.

Sign up today! To register contact the American Baptist Churches of Nebraska Region office at 402-556-4730 or email Associate Executive Minister Greg Mamula at gmamula@abcnebraska.com. You can also contact the church office for more information.

Church Office Open House

(Sunday July 28th)

Join the Church Staff during Coffee Hour, right after service on July 28th, for an “Open House” celebrating all the great remodeling work that has been done in our offices, the new library, and the “Pairs and Spares” classroom. We will have all the rooms on the main floor open so you can see what all has been done. You won’t want to miss it: There may be yummy treats hiding in some of the rooms! Many thanks to ALL who have helped complete this project!

July Birthdays and Anniversaries

1—Rus and Jean Weaver

5—Matt and Lisa Toupin

6—Jim and Georgia Soucie

9—Ryan Kubiak, Makenna Ferrell,
Terra Martinez, and Christina Gladwell

11—Terry Friis

14—Wil Gladwell

15—Randy and Tina Shelton

17—Marge Hayes

17—Lee and Mona Riviera

19—Levi Toupin

22—Stacy Friis

28—Colleen Sariscsany

29—Maryellen Rose

29—Chuck and Marge Hayes

30—Brayden Ferrell

30—Lisa Toupin

August Birthdays and Anniversaries

1—Mike Gamblin and Rachel Hillebran

3—Mark Wilson and Ashley Fitt

5—Jamie Gamblin

6—Chris Wing

7—Sue Reed

9—Lucy Wing

11—Jeanne Shelor

12—Holly Graves

14—Patricia Buie

15—Eileen Haney

18—Jayna Ferrell

19—Floyd Webber, Chelsey Friis

20—Joe and Darlene Anderson

21—Chris and Michelle Wing

22—Karla Musick and Adam Cleveland

22—Fred and Jan Walden

24—Andy Gustafson

24—Terry and Stacy Friis

26—Olivia Wing and Joan Stewart

on the
HORIZON

August 25—Baptism Service during worship

September 7—Men's Prayer Breakfast: 8:30am

September 7—FBCO serves the Community Meal

September 11—Electric Wednesday start-up date

September 15—All Church picnic at Benson Park Pavilion

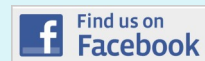


First Baptist Church Omaha

421 Park Avenue; Phone: 402-345-5009

Email: office@omahafbc.org

Website: www.omahafbc.org



First Baptist Church Omaha

Rev. Matt Toupin, Pastor

Sunday Services

9:45am—Sunday School for all ages

11:00am—Worship Service

Wednesday Services (September to May)

6pm: dinner

6:30: Handbell choir rehearsal

6:45: Activities for ages K-12