



From the Pastor's Desk

"Go, stand in the temple courts...and tell the people the full message of this new life." (Acts 5:20 NIV)

Happy New Year!

January, 2014
COLUMNS

First Baptist Church Omaha
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STAFF

Matt Toupin
Pastor

Kyle Stanek
Youth Ministry Coordinator

Jim and Karla Musick
Music Directors

Phyllis Porter
Office Manager

Ben Martinez
Building Superintendent

Sunday Worship

9:45am: Sunday School for all ages
11:00am: Worship in the Sanctuary
12:00am: Coffee Fellowship in the Parlor.

**COME JOIN US FOR
WORSHIP!**

A new year brings with it *new* and exciting opportunities to serve our great God. Like the believers in the early church, we too are faced with the challenge to go out into the world and "tell the people the full message of this *new* life." We are called to proclaim that no matter what happened in 2013, 2014 is a *new* year, with *new* opportunities to connect with God, to grow in faith, to serve the Lord and his people. In summary we are all called to *live the gospel*.

On that note, I am excited to announce that 2014 is also a time for a new vision statement at First Baptist Church Omaha! And here it is... drumroll, please...

"Living the Gospel in Midtown and Beyond"

This vision statement reminds me of the call to commitment and discipleship that Jesus gives us in Luke 14:25-35, where he challenges us to "count the cost." Discipleship is a big deal to Jesus. And it needs to be a big deal for us as individuals and as a body of believers at First Baptist Church also.

You see, discipleship is not just *talking* about the gospel, it's not just *reading* about the gospel, or *discussing* it in a coffee shop or someplace like that. Sure, it may start in that sort of setting, but discipleship really means *living* the gospel, serving as the hands and feet of Christ on a *daily* basis. It's something that we do starting on the corner of Park and Harney, but it's also something we take home with us to our neighborhoods, to our places of work, our schools...our everyday lives.

So, I want to challenge you all to make a real commitment to Christ, or to perhaps renew a commitment you made long ago...to put him first, to be willing to sacrifice, to focus wholeheartedly on his call for your life.

Living the Gospel with you,

-Pastor Matt

Please Remember The Following In Prayer



Beverly Tompkins, Wanda Chandler, Nancy Clatterbuck, Velta Henson, Ruth Saklar, Bob Snyder, Pat Buie, Pauline Borromeo, and

Floyd Webber.

- Those with other medical concerns.
- Our men and women who are serving our country in the military at home and overseas.
- Our kids and youth.
- The “Vision Team”.
- The staff of FBCO and the members of the Cabinet in prayer.

Please note the following address change:

Wanda Chandler
Nebraska Skilled Nursing & Rehab.
7410 Mercy Rd., Rm. 311
Omaha, NE 68124
PH: 402-502-6610

2014 Annual MEETING

Make your plans now to attend the Annual Meeting of FBCO on January 19, 2014. Many new things will be discussed as well as reports from each of the Ministry Teams.

The meeting will begin with a potluck dinner served right after the morning worship service. Food distribution is as follows:

Main Dish will be provided
Salad or side dish: A-K
Dessert: L—Z

Also, the new church logo and theme for the upcoming year(s) will be announced at this meeting. So you do not want to miss out on any of the time of growth and ministry and First Baptist Church Omaha.

Electric Wednesdays Says Thanks

To our church family for providing the gifts for our Christmas Wrap-Up, and exciting time for the kids to “spend” their tickets they had saved for their family Christmas shopping, to Jan Walden for organizing everything, and to the adults who came to lend a hand with the shopping and wrapping.

And to Christina Atkins for directing and organizing the children’s Christmas musical, presented on December 22 at our joint meeting with our Karen friends. We are grateful for all of you.

Georgia Soucie

thank
you!

Thanks So Much!

The staff of First Baptist Church extends our thanks to the many cards, gifts and good wishes for Christmas and the New

Year. We love you all and look forward to a new year serving you and our Lord and Savior.

Jan. 7—Nany Clatterbuck
 Jan. 13—Marvene Lutz
 Jan. 14—Sandy Richeson
 Jan. 20—Claire Wing, Pam Thompson
 Jan. 23—Willi Treu
 Jan. 26—Ariadne Cleveland
 Jan. 27—Jack Payne
 Jan. 29—Terra Friis
 Jan. 30—Robert Snyder, Aiden Whaley



Jan. 6—Jason and Christine Ferrell
 Jan. 16—Fred and Jeanne Shelor
 Jan. 16—Ken and Dorothy Sci-ford



Special thanks to Todd Nelson who has been in charge of the clothing closet that has been an integral part of this church's ministry to the community around us. At the recent cabinet meeting it was decided to close the closet permanently. We will always be grateful to Todd for all the work he put into this project, organizing the clothes and assisting our guests.

JUST FOR FUN!

After tucking their three-year-old child Sammy in for bed one night, his parents heard sobbing coming from his room. Rushing back in, they found him crying hysterically. He managed to tell them that he had swallowed a penny and he was sure he was going to die. No amount of talking was helping. His father, in an attempt to calm him down, palmed a penny from his pocket and pretended to pull it from Sammy's ear. Sammy was delighted. In a flash, he snatched it from his father's hand, swallowed, and then cheerfully demanded, "Do it again, Dad!"

"Christmas Is Forever" Community Feast And Cantata

The "Christmas is Forever" Community Feast and Cantata were held on December 15. The Community Feast was made possible by an ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant which allowed First Baptist Church to host a catered meal for our neighbors and hand out gift bags. There were 217 meals served, over 50 people watched the movie "Polar Express", and 150 to 200 people attended the "Christmas Is Forever" Cantata including at least 30 of our honored neighborhood guests. The Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall were beautifully decorated which added to the festivity.

Thank you FBC congregation for using your special gifts to host an awesome outreach event. People of all ages were involved from three years old to our senior adults. It was great seeing all of the age groups participate and work together. As a team, we can accomplish great things for the Lord. I know God is smiling on each and every one of the volunteers for the work that was done on December 15. Well done congregation of First Baptist Church!

A special word of appreciation goes out to the following businesses.

Chef Hattam Catering

Provided meals at a reduced rate and provided food warmers

40th and Dodge Family Dentistry

(Scott DiLorenzo, D.D.S.; Ted Franco, D.D.S; Luke Matranga, D.D.S.,M.S.)

Donated all of the toothbrushes and toothpaste for the gift bags

Omaha Compound

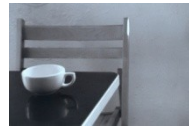
(Todd Manvitz And Ed Olsen)

Provided monetary donations and substantial discounts on plates, cups, silverware, napkins, and gift bag items

God is moving at First Baptist Church so get ready for an exciting journey in 2014!

Jeri Shelor

Coming soon to FBCO...



MESA

Culture Reconciled **Cultura Reconciliada**

WHAT IS MESA?

Sponsored in part by a special “Missional Immersion” grant from ABC Nebraska, MESA is our next step in outreach and discipleship ministries.

MESA is a response to the many opportunities and challenges facing our church as we seek new ways to “live the gospel” in the community. Modeled on the “Table Talk” program we already have going on Wednesday nights, MESA will include a casual atmosphere for worship and Bible study on Sunday evenings, based on the Sunday morning sermon. It will be designed to resonate with young adults, but participation in MESA will be open to all.

MESA will force us to answer some big questions. First, are we ready to meet the spiritual needs of students in our community over time even as our own youth group participants graduate from high school? And with new housing developments coming into Midtown, where will we focus our efforts to reach even more of our unchurched neighbors in new and creative ways? In the midst of it all, what will we do to serve the large population of our Spanish-speaking neighbors who live all around us?

One possible answer to these questions? MESA.

To learn more about MESA, don't miss out on the Annual Meeting and Potluck on January 19th, 2014!



KWIK

Kids' Winter Indoor Kicks

Attention all kids 5 to 10 years of age:

Looking for something fun to do during the winter months when it's too cold to play outside? Then join us for KWIK, Kids' Winter Indoor Kicks!

KWIK is a Christ-centered and fun time to learn some basic soccer skills and have fun with your friends! Each time we meet, we'll start with a group prayer, do some fun soccer drills, play a short game, and learn good sportsmanship along the way. We meet every Thursday in the church gym from 6-7pm starting January 16 (except for the 2nd Thursday of every month).

All you need to do is show up with tennis shoes, soccer shin guards, and have a parent fill out a permission slip. No previous soccer experience is required. Just come and have fun! For more information on KWIK or to get involved, contact Pastor Matt or Gerald Kubiak.