



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Living the Gospel

## OMAHA

### Matt's Musings...

March, 2014  
**COLUMNS**

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#### **STAFF**

Matt Toupin  
*Pastor*

Kyle Stanek  
*Youth Pastor*

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  
12:00pm: Coffee Fellowship in the Parlor.

**COME JOIN US FOR  
WORSHIP!**

*...for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."  
How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? (Romans 10:13-14 NIV)*

There can be no clearer summons to get involved in the mission work of Christ than these words from the book of Romans. We live in a world that in many ways is still as broken as it was when these words were first written two millennia ago: A world in which poverty and hopelessness plague the hearts of our cities; a world in which many children grow up without knowing the love of good parents; a world in which young people can enter adulthood without having ever heard who Jesus is. This world is just as desperately in need of the salvation that only Jesus Christ can provide as it was during the days of the Apostles.

And for us as Christians, there is really only one option. You see, we do not have the luxury of sitting on our backsides and just getting depressed about the brokenness of our world. Absolutely not! Why? Because the fact that *"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved,"* motivates us to do something! It motivates us to proclaim the gospel to our broken world through words and action, so that the world may hear, and so that by hearing they might believe, and so that by believing they might call on the name of the Lord and "be saved." That is the very heartbeat of our mission.

March is a month of mission at First Baptist Church Omaha for several reasons.

First and foremost, this month the Vision Team and Cabinet are unveiling our new church mission statement...

**WE EXIST TO EQUIP PEOPLE  
TO LIVE OUT THE GOSPEL IN EVERYDAY LIFE,  
LOVING GOD,  
LOVING ALL PEOPLE,  
IN MIDTOWN OMAHA AND BEYOND.**

This is a broad-strokes "road-map" of how we will achieve our vision to be *"living the Gospel in Midtown and beyond."* I look forward to unpacking what this will mean for us as a church in the months to come. Stay tuned! *(continued on pg. 3)*



### Remember The Following In Prayer

Beverly Tompkins, Wanda Chandler, Nancy Clatterbuck, Velta Henson, Ruth Saklar, Bob Snyder, Pat Buie, Pauline Borromeo, Floyd Webber, Marge Braman, Charlene Howard, Vida Crosby, and Inez Edwards

- 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 staff of FBCO and the members of the Cabinet.



Many thanks to Ben Martinez, Randy Shelton and the Men's Ministry for all their hard work putting the Valentine's dinner together. Also thanks to Jim and Karla Musick for setting up the table decorations and planning the program. It was an evening of GREAT food, fellowship and fun activities.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to John and Carilee Sutton and their extended family on the death of John's mother, Joyce Sutton. Joyce passed away in December and a memorial service was held at the church on February 22. Pastor Matt officiated.



To the First Baptist Church: Mother was a loved, active member of many Baptist Churches throughout her life.

We appreciate the time & effort that went into preparing the refreshments for mother's funeral.

*Jennifer, Belinda, Chester and John Sutton*

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1—Sharon Wooster
- 2—Rosemary Wilder and Todd Nelson
- 10—Darrel Reed
- 14—Adriana Cleveland
- 15—Smokey Stober
- 21—Mona Riviera
- 26—Jim Soucie
- 28—Johnny Murray and Beverly Tompkins
- 31—Ruth Saklar

**There are NO March Anniversaries**

### GREETINGS FROM THE YOUTH DEPARTMENT!

Pastor Kyle speaking and I just wanted to offer a little insight and vision for the youth ministry at FBCO for 2014. Before doing so it is prudent to express how grateful I am to having been blessed with the opportunity to serve everyone here at First Baptist Omaha! It has been a joy to begin getting to know all the wonderful people that call this church home. Needless to say I am excited for where God is taking FBC this year with an emphasis on the youth ministry.

The most pressing thing that is begging to be discussed is undoubtedly the Spring Youth Retreat which takes place on March 21-23. The retreat will take place at Moses Merrill Camp & Conference Center and includes youth from many surrounding ABC churches. I am beyond ecstatic to see what God has planned for this gathering of youth and youth workers!

I will be speaking at one of the sessions along with 3 other youth pastors from other ABC churches in the area. My prayer is that every youth at FBC Omaha is able to attend, however if there are certain stumbling blocks that hinder this from being a reality please by all means talk to me and we can see what can be done. It is my experience that some of the most effective and enduring life changes for youth happen at retreats like this.

Now speaking for events going forward we are beginning to gear up for Summer Camp and more information will be available in the coming weeks on that. I am also planning a lock-in sometime later this year, most likely in the early Fall. We are also praying for a few additions to the youth room including a flat screen television, small sound system, and additional furniture. I cannot stress enough how excited I am for 2014 and what God is going to do with this body of believers. Once again it has been a pleasure to know many of you in the 2 short months I have been on staff. Many changes have taken place and more shall follow; however I am a firm believer that God has huge plans in store for each and every one of us. It is up to us to have the strength and more importantly the faith to step into those plans and reach our fullest potential to live out our Kingdom purpose here and now! Thank you all so much for the warmest of welcomes. I shall leave you with a favorite passage of mine, Ephesians 4:2, "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love." God bless you all! Pastor Kyle



## KAREN CORNER

In late 2013 an estimated 40,000 people traveled to Rangoon, Burma (Yangon, Myanmar) to a conference planned for 10,000. Every school, church and many offices within miles was cleared of furniture so people could sleep on the floors. Fire pits were dug to hold massive metal trays with rice to feed everyone. The government gave permission to ethnic Christians from remote parts of Burma to attend this special occasion. Many international guests were also present. What had they gathered for?

This extraordinary event was to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the coming of Ann and Adoniram Judson to Burma. The Christians in Burma see this as the coming of the good news of Jesus Christ to their land. We in the U.S. see it as the beginning of the modern Protestant missionary movement.

With so many people groups, languages, and traditions represented in the celebration it was truly a taste of heaven. See Revelation 5:9-10: "by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation..." Let us pray that the freedom allowed for this event by the government will continue for these faithful believers.

An eyewitness account by Duane and Marcia Binkley, ABC missionaries, is posted on the Missions Bulletin Board for you to read.



Map of Myanmar



40,000 Baptist Christians attending 200th Anniversary of the arrival of Adoniram and Anne Judson in Burma.



The America for Christ Offering 2014 supports our churches, neighborhood action programs, advocacy, training and community impact by facilitating leadership workshops and conferences, promoting excellent discipleship resources through Judson Press and providing opportunities for churches, individuals and youth groups to participate in home mission through Volunteer Ministries.

Some of the donations from the AFC Offering support the following:

- Children in Poverty initiative
- Missional Church Learning Experience
- Refugee resettlement initiatives (e.g, individuals from Burma)
- Immigration concerns and advocacy and much more

The AFC offering will be taken during the month of March.

### Matt's Musings (continued from page 1)

There are some other reasons why March is a month of mission, and here is just a sampling:

**The America for Christ Offering.** This month we will be invited to partner with other Baptists around the United States to provide support for mission projects happening in our own country. Watch for more information in your Sunday morning bulletin.

**ABC Nebraska Spring Mission Festival.** Taking place at First Baptist Church Kearney, this event will celebrate what God is doing through all sorts of mission projects in Nebraska, the United States, and around the world. There will even be an FBCO connection, with a presentation on the recent Bolivia Mission Study Tour and our own MESA project. For information on how to register, just contact the church office or the ABC Nebraska regional office.

**Special Mission Speaker, Kelli Williams.** From Alaska Child and Family Services, Kelli will encourage us by sharing about her ministry during the Sunday school hour on March 30<sup>th</sup> and at a special "Coffee Time" hosted by FBCO in the Parlor on Monday, March 31<sup>st</sup>.

There are so many ways to get involved in the mission of Christ at First Baptist Church. Let's get motivated, roll up our sleeves, and get going!

*Living the Gospel* with you,

-Pastor Matt



## On the Table...

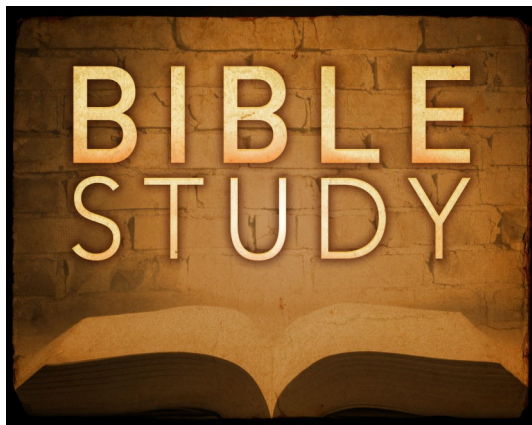
Our new MESA ministry began on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014, with a MESA-Palooza pizza party! So far, MESA involves about 15

people, including adults, teenagers, and kids.

MESA is a weekly Bible study ministry that uses the "Table Talk" discussion tool printed on the back of the Sunday morning sermon notes. Each Sunday night at 5:30pm, we begin with MESA Café, a time for light refreshments and fellowship. This is followed by worship, prayer, and Bible study at 6:30pm. It has been exciting to see how different people have stepped up to the plate to do different things in order to make MESA happen, everything from providing food, playing music, setup/cleanup, and even running the A/V equipment. Thanks to everyone who has been a part of MESA so far!

This new ministry is designed specifically for Young Adults. However, it is open to anyone who is interested. For more information on how to get involved, contact Adam Cleveland or Pastor Matt.

Please pray for this new ministry as it continues to grow and adapt to the needs of our community.



## ZUMBA!!!

Ladies, come join us for a special ZUMBA class on Sunday March 2nd at 2 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Come and be a part of our new outreach experiment!!!

*Watch for more details on this exciting new women's ministry as it develops. For more information, please see Michelle Wing.*

## Assure Women's Center Invitation

Assure Women's Center invites you to our Annual Fundraising Dinner  
Thursday, March 27, 2014  
Embassy Suites Conference Center  
12520 Westport Parkway - La Vista

Dinner at 6:30pm—Cost: \$30.00 per person

See Jan Kottich if you wish to attend this event.

## Annual Pie Auction

Join us Sunday March 16 for one fun event you do not want to miss! Proceeds from the auction helps generate scholarship funds so that our kids and youth can attend summer camp at Moses Merrill Camp and Conference Center.



LUNCH WILL BE SERVED!!



## Attention!!!

Help us save energy by making sure ALL lights are turned off and ALL doors shut and locked when you are finished using rooms in the church!

## THANKS!!!



# 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 night (except 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays) in the church gym from 6-7pm.

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.

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## GET READY FOR EASTER OUTREACH!

This year Easter will look a little bit different at FBCO. Our focus will be on reaching out to our neighbors and inviting them to an upbeat celebration of our risen Lord. Here are some of the things to look forward to in April:

**Good Friday Service** (April 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm). This will be a special, music-filled worship service designed to help worshippers reflect on the significance of the cross.

**Easter Sunday Potluck Brunch** (April 20<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am). Church family will be invited to bring yummy breakfast treats like egg casseroles, cinnamon rolls, and fruit, to share with one another and with our guests in the Fellowship Hall. *(Start planning your favorite recipe NOW!)*

**Kids' Easter Egg Hunt** (April 20<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am). Kids will scurry around the third floor in a fun-filled frenzy, searching for Easter morning treasures.

**Easter Worship Celebration** (April 20<sup>th</sup>, 11:00am). This joy-filled service will feature proclamation of the Resurrection, favorite Easter music, and baptism.



◀ Feb 2014	~ March 2014 ~					Apr 2014 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> 8:30am – Men's Breakfast 11:30am – Community Meal (FBCO SERVES)
<b>2</b> 9:30am – Worship Practice 9:45am – Sunday School (CHURCH 101) 11:00am – Worship 12:30pm – AKBC Worship 3:30pm – NA (FH) 5:30pm – MESA Café (PARLR) 6:30pm – MESA Eng. (PARLOR)	<b>3</b> 6:30pm – Sports Practice (GYM)	<b>4</b> 9:30am – Omaha Pastors' Meeting (PARLOR)	<b>5</b> 3:00pm – Staff Meeting (PL) 6:15pm – EW	<b>6</b> 6:00pm – KWIK (GYM) 7:30pm – Great Adventures (GYM)	<b>7</b> *Missional Immersion (PARLOR & GYM)	<b>8</b> *Missional Immersion (PARLOR & GYM) 11:30am – Community Meal
<b>9</b> Pastor Matt Vacation 9:30am – Worship Practice 9:45am – Sunday School 11:00am – Worship (Guest Speaker Kyle Stanek) 12:30pm – AKBC Worship 3:30pm – NA (FH) 5:30pm – MESA Café (PARLOR) 6:30pm – MESA Eng. (PARLOR)	<b>10</b> Pastor Matt Vaca. 6:30pm – Sports Practice (GYM)	<b>11</b> Pastor Matt Vaca.	<b>12</b> Pastor Matt Vaca. 6:15pm – EW	<b>13</b> Pastor Matt Vaca. 7:00pm – Cabinet (PARLOR)	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 11:30am – Community Meal
<b>16</b> 9:30am – Worship Practice 9:45am – Sunday School 11:00am – Worship (JOINT SERVICE – Pastor Nyo Tae) 12:30pm – Pie Auction (FH) 3:30pm – NA (FH) 5:30pm – MESA Cancelled	<b>17</b> St. Patrick's Day 6:30pm – Sports Practice (GYM)	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Newsletter Due 1:00pm – Rebecca-Ruth Circle 3:00pm – Staff Meeting (PL) 6:15pm – EW	<b>20</b> 6:00pm – KWIK (GYM)	<b>21</b> *AB Youth Retreat (MMCCC)	<b>22</b> *AB Youth Retreat (MMCCC) 11:30am – Community Meal
<b>23</b> *AB Youth Retreat (MMCCC) 9:30am – Worship Practice 9:45am – Sunday School 11:00am – Worship 12:30pm – AKBC Worship 12:30pm – Shepherds (LIBR) 3:30pm – NA (FH) 5:30pm – MESA Café (PARLR) 6:30pm – MESA Eng. (PARLOR)	<b>24</b> 6:30pm – Sports Practice (GYM)	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 3:00pm – Staff Meeting (PL) 6:15pm – EW	<b>27</b> 6:00pm – KWIK (GYM) 6:30pm – Assure Women's Center Annual Banquet (Embassy Suites, La Vista, NE)	<b>28</b> *ABC Nebraska Spring Mission Festival in Kearney	<b>29</b> *ABC Nebraska Spring Mission Festival in Kearney 11:30am – Community Meal
<b>30</b> 9:30am – Worship Practice 9:45am – Sunday School (Guest Speaker Kelli Williams) 11:00am – Worship 12:30pm – AKBC Worship 3:30pm – NA (FH) 5:30pm – MESA Café (PARLR) 6:30pm – MESA Eng. (PARLOR)	<b>31</b> 10:00am – Coffee with Kelli Williams (Parlor)	<b>Notes:</b>				