



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

## Living the Gospel

# OMAHA

*Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, "We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled.*

*He will be handed over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him, spit on him, flog him and kill him. On the third day he will rise again."*

*(Luke 18:31-33 NIV)*

## April, 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 Services

9:45am—Sunday School for all ages.

11:00am—Worship in the Sanctuary

12:00pm—Coffee Fellowship in the Parlor

5:30pm—MESA Café in the Parlor

6:30pm—MESA Bible Study in the Parlor

**COME JOIN US FOR  
WORSHIP!**

At First Baptist Church Omaha, we ended the month of March by looking at the end of the eighteenth chapter of Luke's gospel. In this passage, Jesus takes his disciples aside to reveal to them some very important information. I can imagine he might have put his hand on their shoulders, and looked them straight in the eye, to *really* get their attention. And likewise, as we enter this new month of April, and the prospect of Holy Week, I believe the Lord also want to really get *our* attention.

And the information Jesus had for the disciples was really nothing new. He had shared it with them already many times ever since he had "*set his face to go to Jerusalem*" (Luke 9:51 KJV). So it was really more of a reminder—a very *serious* reminder of the core and ultimate purpose of his mission on earth.

And as we think about the month of April here at FBCO, it is interesting to point out that, in this passage, Jesus told his disciples about three very key events that were about to take place.

First, he told them "*We are going up to Jerusalem.*" This is an event known later on in the gospel narrative as "The Triumphal Entry" (see Luke 19:28-44). The children of FBCO and American Karen Baptist Church will help us celebrate this day as they lead us in song on Palm Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>.

Second, Jesus told the disciples that he would "*be handed over to the Gentiles [who would] mock him, insult him, spit on him, flog him and kill him.*" This somber reality is an event we *must* commemorate as people who follow Christ, for the cross is at the very heart of our faith and who we are as believers. As such, we will gather on Good Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, to do just that: Worshipping the Lord with songs of the cross, sharing communion at the Lord's Table, and reliving what happened that day by reading the Scripture together.

Third, Jesus told them that "*On the third day he will rise again.*" For us as Christians, there can be no more significant event than the fact that our Lord, Jesus Christ, rose from the grave! And so, Resurrection Sunday on April 20<sup>th</sup> will be a day of great joy and very appropriate celebration. To help us do just that, we will start the morning with our first annual Easter Sunday Potluck Brunch at 9:30am. Then, there will be a fun-filled Easter Egg Hunt for kids on the third floor of the building at 10:30am. And to cap it all off, we will join together in a joyful celebration, praising the risen Savior in song and proclamation of the Gospel, and also rejoicing with several individuals who have decided to follow the Lord in baptism.

These events that we will commemorate and celebrate shall serve as the cornerstone of our worship together this month. It is my hope that as we reflect on these and other events that took place during Holy Week, we would in a way insert ourselves in the story, growing in our understanding of the Lord's sacrifice, his love for us, and the significance of his suffering, death, resurrection, and victory for our personal lives and our mission together as God's people.

*Living the Gospel* with you,

-Pastor Matt

## 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.

## April Birthdays

2—Fred Shelor and Elmer Sinner  
3—Brian Gamblin  
11—Mike Murtaugh  
13—Alvadine Gilliland  
14—Jim Sariscsany  
15—Joan Overbey  
18—Sharon Hurlbut  
21—John Murray  
22—Randy Shelton  
23—James Wing  
24—Larry Graves  
26—Garion Dochstader  
27—Molly Stenzel  
28—Hannah Hillebran

## April Anniversaries

03—Gerald and Niki Kubiak  
11—Bob and Christine Hillebran

*Thanks to all who have sent me cards the past few months since I broke my ankle (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentine, as well as get-well cards). And thanks also to Pastor Matt and others who have stopped by to see me. I appreciate all of you.*

Wanda Chandler



## No Child Or Youth Will Be Left Behind (Thanks To Your Generous Donations)

The Chili and Chicken Noodle Soup Dinner and Pie Auction were held on Sunday, March 16. We would like to thank everyone who donated baked goods for the auction, purchased desserts or raffle tickets, or helped with the event. It was nice to have the Karen congregation join us this year. The auction and raffle raised \$4,043.50 and personal donations brought the total amount for the event up to \$4,943.50. This money will be used to send our Children and Youth to Camp Moses Merrill. The event was a huge success and a lot of fun. Thank you for your generous support which will allow us to award a camp scholarship to every Child and Youth who earns one this year (and none of them will be left behind)!

We would like to thank the following businesses for donating gift certificates and other items for the auction.

- Bath & Body Works
- CRAVE (Shawn McGuire) - 200 South 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Suite 4103
- Chicago Dawg House (Kelly Keegan) 3157 Farnam Street
- Marcus Midtown Cinema (Adam Hankins) 3201 Farnam Street, Suite 6111
- Wheatfields (Ron Popp) 1224 South 103<sup>rd</sup> Street



## 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:

- **Palm Sunday Service** (April 13<sup>th</sup>, 11:00am). Join us as we celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem! The children of FBCO and American Karen Baptist Church have been working together on some musical numbers that they want to share with us all!
- **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. *(To sign up to bring a specific food item, look for the signup sheets near the "Church Biz" Board).*
- **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.



## On the Table...

Don't miss out on MESA, our new Bible study ministry, open to all, but geared specifically to young adults. MESA meets most Sundays for snacks and refreshments at 5:30pm and then for worship and Bible study at 6:30pm. Young adults also *sometimes* have kiddos, so the little ones are welcome too!

Hope to see you there!

*Please note that there will be no MESA on Easter Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>.*



**KWIK**  
Kids' Winter Indoor  
Kicks

### Thank You!

Well, the "KWIK" season has come to a close for this year. However, the kids and parents involved in this new soccer ministry wish to thank Coach Gerald Kubiak for his awesome leadership and for all the fun we had! Thanks Coach!

### Thank You!

On behalf of the Fundación Emmanuel, which works to share the love of Jesus with street children in Cochabamba, Bolivia, IM Missionary, Mario Morales, wishes to thank the people of First Baptist Church Omaha for their generous donation to support the ministry there. You may recall that our 2013 Christmas offering was raised to benefit both the children of Cochabamba and the children of Omaha!

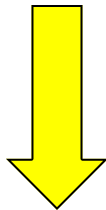
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND  
INVESTMENT IN THE KINGDOM!

## KAREN CORNER

On March 16 the congregations of American Karen Baptist Church (AKBC) and First Baptist joined together to worship our God. Besides the wonderful Karen choir music and congregational singing, our faithful translator Paung Shu Clay gave her living testimony. Those present were inspired and moved by the story of persecutions and struggle that the Karen Christians have gone through to reach this place in Omaha, NE.

To make her point Paung used a scripture from Ecclesiastes 3:11: "God has made everything beautiful in its time..." That word combined with one that was used from Deuteronomy 10: 17-19 which speaks of God's concern and love for the stranger and command for his people to love the stranger was a powerful directive to us.

The morning ended with a great fellowship during the pie auction to raise funds for camp scholarships.



GET READY...The AKBC is holding its fundraiser for the same purpose on Saturday April 12. They will sell tickets in their own congregation to purchase Karen food items on the 12th from 2:30-4:00pm. Tickets will also be available to First Baptist members the two weeks before. Tickets will be \$5.00 each and will purchase a sizable bowl of food. Food must be picked up at the church.



At this time we have 18 students planning on camp. It looks like our scholarship fund will be able to help all of them. Praise the Lord!

# ZUMBA!



## Zumba at FBCO

A Zumba Class has been formed here at FBCO. For those interested the class meets on Thursday nights from 6:00pm to 7:00 in the dining room. What is Zumba? Founded in 2001, Zumba Fitness is a global lifestyle brand that fuses fitness, entertainment and culture into an exhilarating dance-fitness sensation! Zumba® exercise classes are "fitness-parties" that blend upbeat world rhythms with easy-to-follow choreography, for a total-body workout that feels like a celebration.

Ana Maria Pierce, a certified Zumba instructor, and new member of FBCO, leads the group. Any questions, see Michelle Wing.

## Easter Mission Opportunity

FBCO Children's Ministry is in need of donations of small, individually wrapped Easter candy for the kid's egg hunt on Easter Sunday. Can you help out? If so, bring your donations to the bin at the "Church Biz board marked "Easter Donations."





## International Mission Focus: Ignite Bolivia 2014

What is Ignite?

Ignite is an exciting program, sponsored by American Baptist International Ministries (IM), that enables young adults to spark a connection, kindle spiritual and personal growth, and blaze with passion for Jesus Christ. It is an adventure of cross-cultural mission service that will push them out of their comfort zones into an extraordinary faith walk with God. During their

travels, team members deepen their relationship with God while seeking a deeper understanding of international missions. Each year, Ignite takes an adventurous group of young adults to a different part of the globe where International Ministries is engaged in missions work. This year, they will be heading to Bolivia. The 2014 Ignite team has already formed and will include members both from the United States and Chile.

At First Baptist Church Omaha, we have two unique connections to Ignite:

*First of all, Lisa Toupin is an alumni of the "Xtreme Team" (this is the previous name of Ignite). Lisa was a part of a team that traveled all over the nation of India, engaging in missions work in many different contexts, everything from small tribal villages to the mega-cities of Calcutta and Hyderabad. It was a life-changing experience for Lisa and all of her fellow team members.*

*Secondly, Pastor Matt has been called to serve as one of the leaders of Ignite this summer. IM has issued this call because of his experience in Bolivia last fall developing relationships with local mission partners and because there was a need for a leader who speaks both English and Spanish, given the bilingual make-up of the team. Recently, the FBCO Cabinet unanimously endorsed Pastor Matt's call to represent our church and to serve in this endeavor.*

Pastor Matt will be partnering with IM missionary in Bolivia, Mario Morales, along with other IM staff, to lead the team. He will be in Bolivia July 7<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>. After that, he will accompany the team to the World Mission Conference in Green Lake, Wisconsin, July 21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>.

This is a unique mission opportunity not only for Pastor Matt, but for our entire church family as well. How can you get involved? First, let's begin praying NOW for a transformative and safe experience for the Ignite team. Secondly, let's use this experience as an opportunity to consider how we at FBCO might get more actively involved in missions internationally as we seek to be "*Living the Gospel in Midtown and Beyond*," to use the words of our new vision statement. Third, consider attending the World Mission Conference in July to celebrate what God is doing through missionary work in Bolivia and elsewhere throughout the globe.

**FBCO MEN!** Here is an opportunity to help another Sister Church. Parkside Baptist Church is in need of some serious building repairs. The details are listed below:

- Date: April 5 - meet at 8:15 in FBC parking lot to car-pool it to Parkside Baptist church. We will leave promptly at 8:30am.
- Bring your tools and get ready to roll up your sleeves.
- How much?: There is no cost to this event. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Repairs include painting, ceiling tile replacement, and minor plumbing repairs.

**Celebrate International Ministries' 200th Birthday!**  
**July 21-26, 2014 at Green Lake**



American Baptist International Ministries will celebrate its 200th anniversary this July 21-25, at Green Lake Conference Center in Green Lake, Wisconsin. Come and meet your international missionaries and hear about their exciting adventures.

Who will be there? EVERYONE!

- ALL 209 International Missionaries and their families!
- 100 International Guests
- 50 IM staff members
- YOU!

The World Mission Conference is not just for missionaries, it's for anyone interested in knowing what God is doing in the world! Whether you know a little or a lot about mission work, this event is for EVERYONE. You'll hear stories from folks fresh from the field as you rub shoulders with brothers and sisters in Christ from dozens of countries. It will be inspirational, educational and a lot of FUN!

Register online:

go to [www.internationalministries.org](http://www.internationalministries.org) and

click on the link

***World Mission Conference.***

\$159 Program fee for one adult

For housing, call Green Lake Conference Center at 920-294-3323. Housing at Green Lake is full but they can give you information about lodging in the surrounding area.

For more information, call Carole Sydnor at 610-768-2313.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 9:30am – Omaha Pastors' Meeting	<b>2</b> 3:00pm – Staff Meeting (PL) 6:15pm – EW	<b>3</b> 6:00pm – Zumba (FH)	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 8:30am – Men's Mission Project (Parkside Baptist Church) 11:30am – Community Meal
<b>6</b> 9:30am – Worship Practice 9:45am – Sunday School 11:00am – Worship 12:30pm – AKBC Worship 3:30pm – NA (FH) 5:30pm – MESA Café (PARLR) 6:30pm – MESA Eng. (PARLOR)	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 3:00pm – Staff Meeting (PL) 6:15pm – EW	<b>10</b> 6:00pm – Zumba (FH) 7:00pm – Cabinet (PARLOR)	<b>11</b> *Missional Immersion (MASON CITY)	<b>12</b> *Missional Immersion (MASON CITY) 11:30am – Community Meal 2:30pm – AKBC Summer Camp Fundraiser (FH)
<b>13 Palm Sunday</b> 9:30am – Worship Practice 9:45am – Sunday School 11:00am – Worship 12:30pm – AKBC Worship 3:30pm – NA (FH) 5:30pm – MESA Café (PARLR) 6:30pm – MESA Eng. (PARLOR)	<b>14</b>	<b>15 Tax Day (Taxes Due)</b>	<b>16 Newsletter Due</b> 1:00pm – Rebecca-Ruth Circle 3:00pm – Staff Meeting (PL)	<b>17</b> 6:00pm – Zumba (FH)	<b>18 Good Friday</b> 7:00pm – Good Friday Service	<b>19</b> 11:30am – Community Meal
<b>20 Easter</b> 9:00am – Worship Practice 9:30am – Easter Potluck Brunch 10:30am – Kid's Egg Hunt 11:00am – Worship (Baptism) 12:30pm – AKBC Worship 4:00pm – NA (FH) 5:30pm – MESA Café (PARLR) 6:30pm – MESA Eng. (PARLOR)	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23 Administrative Professionals</b> 3:00pm – Staff Meeting (PL) 6:15pm – EW	<b>24</b> 6:00pm – Zumba (FH)	<b>25 Arbor Day</b>	<b>26</b> 11:30am – Community Meal
<b>27</b> 9:30am – Worship Practice 9:45am – Sunday School 11:00am – Worship 12:30pm – Quarterly Meeting 12:30pm – AKBC Worship 3:30pm – NA (FH) 5:30pm – MESA Café (PARLR) 6:30pm – MESA Eng. (PARLOR)	<b>28</b> *Work Week (MMCCC) *Prairie Pastors' Conference (New Life Baptist, Bellevue)	<b>29</b> *Work Week (MMCCC) *Prairie Pastors' Conference (New Life Baptist, Bellevue)	<b>30</b> *Work Week (MMCCC) *Prairie Pastors' Conference (New Life Baptist, Bellevue) 3:00pm – Staff Meeting (PL) 6:15pm – EW	<b>Notes:</b>		