



Matt's Musings...

"It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."

(Ephesians 4:11-13 NIV)

May, 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
11am Worship in the Sanctuary
12pm Coffee Fellowship in the Parlor
5:30pm MESA Café in the Parlor
6:30pm MESA Bible Study in the Parlor

In the March 2014 edition of *The Columns*, I unveiled the new FBCO mission statement, which was developed by the Vision Team, in Partnership with the leaders of the Cabinet. Here it is again:

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

In that article, I said that this was merely a broad-strokes "road-map" of how we will achieve our vision to be *"living the Gospel in Midtown and beyond."* I also said that I was looking forward to unpacking what it will mean for us as a church in the months to come. Well, I'm excited to announce that that time has arrived!

Starting the first Sunday in May, we take a break from our series through the gospel of Luke to begin a 6-week journey together exploring our mission as a church. We will be looking at how this mission statement is really a distillation of our core values as a body of believers. We will also be looking at the role each member of the body, and each leadership team, has in carrying out the mission. Within this context, we will also take time to consider how *everything* we do as a church relates to the mission. And all along, we will relate the entire discussion to Scripture, and to what God calls us to do as his people gathered on the corner of Park and Harney, at our unique point in history.

To get a sneak-peak of how this new series will play out and to start thinking about how our core values, key servant-leaders, ministries, and certain scripture passages relate to and inform our new mission statement, check out the "Living the Gospel" section in the pages that follow.

I'm looking forward to embarking on this journey with all of you. You won't want to miss out!

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, 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.



Our thoughts and prayers are extended to the family of Floyd Webber who passed away on March 28th. A memorial service was held at the church on April 1st. Pastor Matt officiated.

May Birthdays

- 04: Marcia Marescalco
- 05: Ruth Hillebran
- 05: Lola Murtaugh
- 07: Nicholas Cleveland
- 12: Jake Cleveland
- 14: Erin Gamblin
- 21: Judy Cunningham
- 22: Gretchen Heil & Dorothy Sciford
- 23: Bob Hillebran
- 24: Joe Anderson
- 25: Pauline Borromeo
- 26: Jan Walden
- 27: Janean Shane
- 30: Gary Gladwell

May Anniversaries

- 05: John & Lynn Murray
- 06: Dave & Joan Overbey
- 22: Smokey & Elaine Stober
- 27: Dave & Pam Kulisek
- 28: Andy & Celeste Gustafson

ABW Rebecca-Ruth Circle Annual Bake Sale May 18, 2014 (right after church)

We do not want a cookie, brownie, pie, cake, muffin, etc., left behind! So come and purchase goodies and help a worthy cause!



Proceeds from the sale of baked goods will be sent to the Democratic Republic of Congo for hospital supplies!

This is a part of American Baptist International Ministries. Your help is greatly appreciated!!



Electric Wednesdays

Our Wednesday Night program for our kids, youth and adults will be taking a break for the summer. The last date is May 14 and will resume again in September. Watch for further information on the start up date. Many thanks to the volunteers who helped in some way to make this a very successful year!

**FBCO Finance Update
March 2014**

Current Operating Income And Expenses ¹			
Category	March	YTD	YTD Budget
Income ²	\$14,927	\$39,405	X
Expenses ³	\$22,327	\$54,136	\$57,188
Variance ⁴	-\$7,400	-\$14,731	\$3,052

Additional Information

¹ Excludes non-budgeted, self-supporting, and designated categories

(funds must be used for a specified category or item)

² Income is allocated to Ministry Teams according to approved budget

³ Expenses include payroll, utilities, supplies, office equipment, curriculum, insurance, literature and tracts, community meals, repairs, maintenance, inspections, and other operating costs

⁴ Avg monthly income deficit = \$4,910

Attention all men! Here's some important info. for you all to know about:

MEN'S SERVICE PROJECT AT PARKSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH. In April, 14 men from FBCO volunteered to serve this sister church in North Omaha. Great job guys! The congregation there was very blessed by your hard work and dedication to the Lord. THANK YOU!

NO MEN'S BREAKFAST IN MAY. There will be no men's breakfast during the month of May. Instead, all men are encouraged to take part in the "Spring Fling" up at Camp Moses Merrill on Saturday, May 3rd. This should be a fun-filled and free event for all men and their families. Don't miss out!

MEN'S RETREAT UPDATE. Due to scheduling conflicts, we will not be doing a men's service retreat up at Camp Moses Merrill this year. Instead, we will be encouraging guys to participate in the ABC Nebraska Men's Retreat, which will take place this fall. Watch for more information coming soon. There will be a cost to this retreat, so let's begin thinking now about possible fundraising ideas!

NEXT MEN'S BREAKFAST ON JUNE 7TH @ 8:30AM. You won't want to miss this one! Stephen Stout of Good Neighbor Ministries. Invite a friend and come to enjoy a good breakfast and fellowship with your brothers in Christ!



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!

*NOTE: There will be no MESA on Mother's Day, May 11th!

**Come to the "Spring Fling" at
Moses Merrill Camp &
Conference Center**

Looking for something fun (and free) to do in the great outdoors this May? Then join Pastor Matt, Lisa and the boys for the "Spring Fling" up at Camp Moses Merrill on Saturday, May 3rd. Lunch is available 11am-2pm (donations graciously accepted). Registration is not required, but if you are interested in going, sign up at the "Church Biz" board so we can have an idea of who from FBCO will be going. There will be opportunities to explore camp and join in on all sorts of fun activities for kids, teens, and adults, including:

- 8:30am 5K Run/Walk (\$35 Registration)
- 10:30am 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament, Trivia Tournament, foosball Tournament
- 1:00pm Capture the Flag, Horseshoe Tournament
- 2:00pm NORV Scavenger Hunt, Checkers Tournament
- 3:00pm Valley Games/Races
- 4:00pm Tug of War

Don't miss it!



KAREN CORNER

An Unexpected Blessing!

As some of you may recall, American Karen Baptist Church (AKBC) was planning to hold a special fundraiser to help raise money for their students to attend Camp Moses Merrill this summer. We at FBCO were hoping to help them by attending this special fundraising event. However, for various reasons, the leaders of AKBC decided to go about their fundraising in a different manner. Unfortunately, this got "lost in translation," and so we at FBCO were not aware of when the AKBC fundraiser actually took place (just one of the challenges of doing ministry in a multi-lingual setting).

However, this turned out to be a blessing in disguise for both our congregations! The leaders of AKBC were able to raise a total of \$4,280, which they gave to FBCO on Easter Sunday. This is more than enough to send all the AKBC students to camp this summer who have signed up! The leaders of AKBC said that remainder is to be used to help cover general costs of running the church building. A huge THANK YOU to Pastor Nyo Tae and the leaders and members of AKBC for their generosity to the camping program and also to FBCO!

Easter Thank-You!

A Big "thank-you" to all who helped make Holy Week and Easter Sunday at FBCO a true celebration of Christ and an out reach to the community. Special thanks to all who set-up, cleaned up, cooked, welcomed visitors, sang, etc.....

Thank You!
😊



Greetings once again from the Youth department! Pastor Kyle speaking and I wanted to offer you all a little sneak peek into what the youth ministry is up to these days. Before we look forward to what is coming in the near future it is prudent to reflect on all the events that have transpired recently.

In the month of April the entire youth ministry ventured out to AMC theater to view the new movie "God's Not Dead". This film is an apologetic piece centered around a freshman in college who feels called by the Lord to defend his faith in a secular classroom setting in front of his entire class along with a professor who is a confessed atheist. Everyone seemed to really enjoy the movie, and the best part was we all learned a little something about how to defend our faith to non-believers.

Also in April the youth came together for a free pizza night to stuff and hide the Easter eggs for the hunt on Easter Sunday. The turnout was fantastic! I want to once again thank Michelle Wing for supplying the pizza and helping coordinate this event.

Now looking ahead we have lots of ideas for future events throughout the spring/summer/fall months. In the month of May we are contemplating going to see the new movie "Heaven is for Real". I also wanted to remind everyone that camp is drawing closer so begin making plans if your child or children plan to attend. Long term plans also include a "lock-in" sometime this fall. More details on that particular event will be forthcoming.

That having been said I also wanted to provide an update on me personally. I would like to ask for prayer concerning my plans this fall. I will be starting my Masters of Divinity degree online beginning in August. I am very excited to get back into school; however I am also fully aware that my free time will diminish rapidly. Prayers for abundant energy and patience are always welcome. Thank you all for your continued support not only of me but more importantly of the youth at First Baptist Omaha! You are all investing in the leaders of tomorrow! God bless and He is Risen!

Pastor Kyle



International Mission Focus: Ignite Bolivia 2014

What is Ignite?

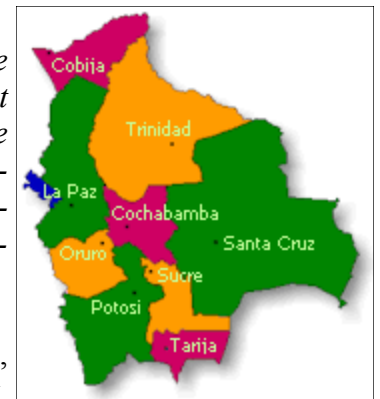
Ignite is an exciting program, sponsored by American Baptist International Ministries (IM), that enables young adults to spark a connection, kindle spiritual and personal growth, and blaze with passion for Jesus Christ. It is an adventure of cross-cultural mission service that will push them out of their 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 7th-20th. After that, he will accompany the team to the World Mission Conference in Green Lake, Wisconsin, July 21st-25th.



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.

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 join Pastor Matt at the conference ! 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 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.

“LIVING THE GOSPEL”

Listed below is a graphical representation of how what we *do* at First Baptist Church Omaha reflects our mission (listed on page 1) and God’s call in scripture. As a community, we will be considering the implications of our mission on Sunday mornings, starting this May, with sermons derived from the scriptural basis listed in the far right-hand column.

PART I: “WE EXIST TO EQUIP PEOPLE...”

Core Value	Key Servant-Leader(s)	Ministry	Scriptural Basis
Preaching & Evangelism	Pastoral Staff	Sunday Sermon	Romans 10:13-15
Discipleship	Adult Discipleship Team, Youth and Young Adult Ministry Team, Children’s Ministry Team, Teachers, Pastoral Staff	Sunday School, Table Talk, MESA, Youth Group, Electric Weds	Ephesians 4:11-13

PART II: “...TO LIVE OUT THE GOSPEL IN EVERYDAY LIFE...”

Core Value	Key Servant-Leader(s)	Ministry	Scriptural Basis
Life	The Congregation	Home, Work, School, Grocery Store, Coffee Shop, etc.	Psalms 145

PART III: “...LOVING GOD...”

Core Value	Key Servant-Leader(s)	Ministry	Scriptural Basis
Worship	Worship & Celebration Team, Music Staff, Musicians	Sunday Worship	Psalms 19

PART IV: “...LOVING ALL PEOPLE...”

Core Value	Servant-Leader(s)	Ministry	Scriptural Basis
Service	Shepherding Team	Day-to-Day Congregational Care and Nurture	Acts 6:1-7
Fellowship	Hospitality Committee, Men’s Ministry, Women’s Ministry	Church-Wide Special Events	John 13:34-35
Cross-Cultural Fellowship	First Baptist Church Omaha, American Karen Baptist Church	Joint Worship Services, Collaborative Projects	Galatians 3:24-29

PART V: “...IN MIDTOWN OMAHA...”

Core Value	Servant-Leader(s)	Ministry	Scriptural Basis
Local Missions	Outreach Team	Outreach Events, Evangelism Training, Community Meal	Matthew 25:34-40
First Baptist Missions	Stewardship Team, Property Team, Church Officers, Technology Team, Administrative and Building Staff	Local Church Infrastructure	Acts 1:8

PART VI: “...AND BEYOND.”

Core Value	Servant-Leader(s)	Ministry	Scriptural Basis
National and International Missions	Missions Team	National and International Mission Partnerships, Mission Experiences	Matthew 28:18-20

◀ Apr 2014		~ May 2014 ~					Jun 2014 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
				1 *Work Week (MMCCC) 6:00pm – Zumba (FH)	2 *Work Week (MMCCC)	3 *Work Week (MMCCC) *Spring Fling (MMCCC) 8:30am – Men's Breakfast Cancelled 11:30am – Community Meal	
4 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)	5	6 9:30am – Omaha Pastors' Meeting	7 3:00pm – Staff Meeting (PL) 6:15pm – EW	8 6:00pm – Zumba (FH) 7:00pm – Cabinet (PARLOR)	9	10 11:30am – Community Meal	
11 <i>Mother's Day</i> 9:30am – Worship Practice 9:45am – Sunday School 11:00am – Worship 12:30pm – AKBC Worship 3:30pm – NA (FH) MESA Cancelled Tonight	12	13	14 3:00pm – Staff Meeting (PL) 6:15pm – EW Final Night	15 6:00pm – Zumba (FH)	16	17 <i>Armed Forces Day</i> 11:30am – Community Meal	
18 9:30am – Worship Practice 9:45am – Sunday School 11:00am – Worship 12:30pm – Rebecca-Ruth Bk. Sl. 12:30pm – AKBC Worship 3:30pm – NA (FH) 5:30pm – MESA Café (PARLR) 6:30pm – MESA Eng. (PARLOR)	19	20	21 <i>Newsletter Due</i> 1:00pm – Rebecca-Ruth Circle 3:00pm – Staff Meeting (PL)	22 6:00pm – Zumba (FH)	23 <i>OPS Last Day of School</i>	24 11:30am – Community Meal (FBCO SERVES)	
25 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)	26 <i>Memorial Day</i> CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	27	28 3:00pm – Staff Meeting (PL)	29 6:00pm – Zumba (FH)	30	31 11:30am – Community Meal	

