



Matt's Musings...

July/August, 2014
COLUMNS

First Baptist Church Omaha
 421 Park Avenue
 Omaha, NE 68131
 Phone: 402-345-5009
 email: office@omahafbc.org
 www.omahafbc.org



STAFF

Matt Toupin
Pastor

Kyle Stanek
Youth Pastor

Jim and Karla Musick
Music Directors

Phyllis Porter
Office Manager

Ben Martinez
Building Superintendent

Summer Sunday Services

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

COME JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

I posted the following on my Facebook page after our most recent joint worship service with American Karen Baptist Church on June 29th, 2014:

Great day of worship with the good people of First Baptist Church Omaha and American Karen Baptist Church. Excellent international food too! Before service had a chance to pray for mission partners in Bolivia and talk about Spanish-speaking ministry. After service had the opportunity to speak with a guy from South Sudan and then was invited to a Haitian family reunion. GOD IS GOOD. How amazing to be part of a truly international church in the heart of the United States of America.

Those of you who are on Facebook may have noticed that I rarely post anything using social media unless it is a pretty big deal to me personally. Sometimes it happens when I have a *really* good meal (I'm quite a fan of GOOD food, as most of you know); sometimes it happens when my kids achieve some milestone in life; sometimes it happens when I'm announcing a new addition to the Toupin family; and sometimes it happens when Team USA does something awesome at the World Cup down in Brazil. You know, just the really important stuff!

And so, when I posted about the cross-cultural aspect of our ministry at FBCO, that means it's *sort of a really big deal to me!* God has really made our church an international church. What an amazing ministry he has entrusted to us! Let us never take that for granted. As we reflect on the uniquely cross-cultural and international mission calling of our church, may we be reminded of the words recorded in Isaiah:

"...for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations" (Isaiah 56:7b NIV)

As I prepare to *go out to the mission field* in Bolivia during the month of July, I carry with me fond memories of how God has *brought in the mission field* to those I leave behind (temporarily) at the corner of Park and Harney. As you pray for me and my family during our absence, I humbly carry with me to Bolivia your greetings and Christian love. As I do mission overseas, I am encouraged in the knowledge that you all will continue to be faithful in mission here in Omaha as you reach out to our community through a myriad of ministries, including Vacation Bible School, the "Back-to-School" Carnival, summer camp, and, of course, Sunday morning worship.

Living the Gospel with you (in Nebraska and Bolivia),

-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.
- Pray for continued growth of the American Karen Baptist Congregation that meets in our sanctuary every Sunday!

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Brian and Chelsey Gamblin on the recent loss of their dear little angel, Erin, who went home to her Heavenly Father on May 18th. Erin was the Granddaughter of Sue and Darrell Reed and Great Granddaughter of Ken and Dorothy Sciford. Pastor Matt officiated at the service which was held on May 24th.



WANTED: A new attendee, Ginger Farris, will be moving to another location here in Omaha and is in need of a bed and a few chairs. If you have both of these items or one of these items, please call the church office: 402-345-5009.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Well Done!

Congratulations to Noah Stenzel!

Congratulations are in order for FBCO Member and recent high school graduate, Noah Stenzel. The Dillon Hayes Memorial Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that Noah has been awarded the scholarship for the 2014-2015 school year. Noah is planning to study at Metropolitan Community College this Fall. Great job, Noah!

VBS Starts This Week

DATE: Monday, July 7-Friday, July 11th

TIME: 6pm-8pm

WHERE: First Baptist Church Omaha



WEIRD ANIMALS

Where Jesus' Love is One-of-a-kind

Coming Soon: "Back-to-School" Carnival!

Sunday, July 27th, 6-8pm

Don't miss this great outreach event for the families of FBCO and our neighborhood! There will be fun, games, a hot dog roast, and kids can even earn free school supplies!

Volunteers are needed!

Contact Michelle Wing to get connected.

Donations are needed!

Can you support this event by donating school supplies? Just bring them to church and place them in the donation box at the "Church Biz" board.



Coming Soon...FBCO T-Shirts



Help us get the word out about how God is at work in Midtown with an FBCO T-Shirt! To place your order, please see Judy Cunningham at the FBCO T-Shirt table in the Parlor during the Coffee Hour on Sunday, July 6th and 13th. The cost for each shirt is \$10 and payment is due at the time you place your order (additional charge for larger sizes). Options for children, youth, men and women are available. Orders WILL NOT be accepted after July 16th!

Order forms are also available at the Church Biz Board!

Bolivia Donations

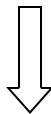
Thank you to EVERYONE who gave generously to send Pastor Matt to Bolivia with dental and school supplies for the children of Cochabamba. A total of \$763 were donated, along with LOTS of school supplies, dental supplies, and eyeglasses for children. The suitcase is now officially PACKED! Many lives will be blessed because of the Lord's providence and your generosity. ¡Gracias!

Pastor Matt to be in Bolivia
Leading the "Ignite Team" from
July 7—19th

And at the World Mission Conference
Green Lake

From July 20—July 26th

While he is away please note the information in
the box below if a need arises.



Need Something?

During Pastor Matt's time out of town, July 7th -26th, if a need arises, please contact Pastor Kyle or our Moderator, Kathy Brown. Additionally, you are welcome to reach out to the "shepherding team" in the event of



"Freedom Sunday" Worship Service

Join us on Sunday, July 6th, for a special worship experience celebrating our freedom in Christ and expressing gratitude for the many blessings we enjoy in the United States. Happy Birthday USA!

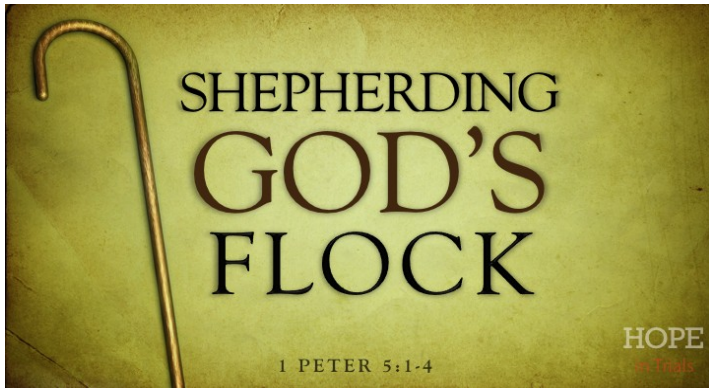


MESA On the Table...

MESA in Spanish, you say?

MESA will be taking a break this summer, due to start up again in September. But we will be gathering periodically for prayer and to discern next steps as we prepare to enter into the next phase of our ministry: "MESA en Español," a Spanish-speaking version of MESA. Are you interested in this new, cross-cultural aspect of MESA? If so, watch for information on Facebook and in the weekly "On the Horizon" bulletin insert on how to get involved.

Please Note: A special "Prayer Meeting" focused on seeking discernment and guidance for MESA en Español will be hosted in the Pastor's Lobby during Sunday School on Sunday, July 27th, at 10:00am. All are welcome.



"Shepherding the Flock"

Introducing your FBCO Shepherding Team

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35 ESV)

The "Shepherding Team" is a new ministry team at First Baptist. We are in the initial stages of instituting this ministry and, as with most new ministries, there are some question marks over what it will look like and how it will work, but we want to begin by sharing the concept behind the shepherding idea. The shepherds are appointed to assist in the duties of pastoral care. They are the key servant-leaders in our congregation setting the tone for us all as we strive to live out the "new commandment" of Jesus to "love one another" (John 13:34). As our mission statement says, we at First Baptist Church Omaha are striving to be about the mission of Christ's church by "loving God and loving all people". One of the first steps on the road to loving all people is taking care of our own, especially in times of crisis or exceptional need. As such, we envision the tasks of the Shepherds to include: calling by phone or visiting those who are homebound or sick in the hospital, administering communion in such cases if people so desire, calling on families to offer the church's support during times such as the birth of a new baby or the death of a loved one, reaching out to individuals who have not been in church in several weeks, serving in a support and advisory role for the pastor, and, in general, acting in such a way as to realize the church's calling to be a body of believers who care for one another in times of need both spiritually and physically.

While all of these things will continue to be done by the pastor as well, in a congregation of our size, there is far too much to do to expect one full-time pastor to do it all. We have attempted to divide this ministry among a group of people by giving each shepherd a list of congregants for whom they are specifically responsible. As shepherds we will strive to form a special relationship with you, our "sheep," and to be aware when these times of need arise, but your shepherd is not omniscient. Please reach out to one of the shepherds if you are in need. You may, as always, contact the pastor in the church office, but you may also reach out to your shepherd specifically. From us you can expect confidentiality about things you ask to be kept in confidence and support and communication to the pastor and the other shepherds on those things about which you would like prayer or specific support.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Who are the Shepherds?

The Shepherds are: Jason Ferrell (Shepherding Team Leader), Charles and Marjory Hayes, Andy and Celeste Gustafson, Cheryl Lillie and Christine Hillebran, Sue Reed, Lynne Chesire, Pam Kulisek, Kevin Gilliland

Who's my Shepherd?

A "Shepherding List" will be posted on the "Church Biz" board in the main hallway at church. Feel free to take a moment to check out the list to learn who your shepherd is. Alternatively, feel free to contact the church office for the same information.

How did these people become Shepherds? Can I be a Shepherd?

These people were nominated by FBCO members and appointed by the Pastor. The term for Shepherds (right now) is 2 years and Shepherds can serve up to 3 consecutive terms. As people rotate off the shepherding team, we will be looking for new members. If you are interested in this ministry and serving in this capacity, please express your interest to the Pastor. The general requirements of this position are 1) FBCO membership for one year and 2) recognition by other members as a leader in the congregation.

Will my Shepherd mow my lawn?

Sorry to say, but you should not expect your shepherd to mow your lawn (or pay your electricity bill or drive you to the grocery store at 10 o'clock at night, etc., etc.) But, if you have a special need in an area such as this, your shepherd may be able to help you find the help you need.

-FBCO Shepherding Team

KAREN CORNER

The church has become aware of the need for rice to feed the 140,000 Karen and others in the nine refugee camps along the Thai/Burma border. These are friends and family members of our sister congregation.

Since \$1.00 will buy enough rice to feed 1 person for more than 4 days, and \$100 will provide for a family of 5 for 80 days, it is hoped that the goal of \$5,000 will improve survival rate of hundreds of refugees and give them hope that others are thinking of them.

The church will accept gifts for this project through July. Please make checks payable to **First Baptist Church and put "Rice for Refugees" on the memo line or envelope.** If you wish more information go to: www.internationalministries.org/projects/100.

To date FBCO has collected over \$200.00 for this project.



International Mission Focus: Ignite Bolivia 2014

As many of you know by now, Pastor Matt has been selected to partner with IM missionary in Bolivia, Mario Morales, along with other IM staff, to lead the Ignite Bolivia 2014 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-26th, for the purpose of helping them to debrief their experience overseas.

Thanks to the faithful generosity of the members and friends of First Baptist Church Omaha, Pastor Matt will be bringing with him to Bolivia a large stock of dental supplies, eye-glasses, and school supplies to help the children in the city of Cochabamba through the ministries of the House of Hope and Fundación Emanuel. You may recall that we recently had the unique opportunity to meet two of the ladies who work with these ministries in person at FBCO, Carmen Flores and Goretty Jora. It is truly amazing to see how God is calling FBCO to be "LIVING THE GOSPEL IN MIDTWN AND BEYOND." Clearly, our "BEYOND" includes Bolivia!

Pastor Matt and the Ignite team encourage you to join them as they are immersed in the Bolivian culture. And you can join them on their journey! To follow along, and to offer your prayers and words of encouragement to the team, check out the Ignite Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/IGNITEBolivia2014?ref=hl> and the Ignite website located at: <http://internationalministries.org/teams/632>.

As the journey of Ignite Bolivia 2014 unfolds, please include the members of the team in your prayers: Justin Scott, Lily Corathers, John Hite, Sarah Nash, Mario Morales, Pastor Matt, and Dan Buttry.

For more information on Ignite, check out the Bolivia Missions Board in the mail hallway at church.

¡Buen Viaje Pastor Mateo!



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

Join Pastor Matt and the "Ignite" team at the
World Mission Conference!

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. 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



Mark Your Calendar:
Spanish-Speaking Ministry Outreach Event
Sunday, October 12th, 4:30pm

As you may recall, the new "MESA" ministry at FBCO was originally planned with two "target-audiences" in mind: English-speaking young adults and Spanish-speaking folks who live right here in Midtown Omaha. The English-speaking phase of MESA has already begun, but up until now, it has been unclear just when (and how) the Spanish-speaking phase might begin.

But then, earlier this Spring, when some of the folks at our Spanish-speaking sister ABC church in Norfolk, NE learned about this new ministry, God opened a door. Abraham Montalvo, son of the Pastor of the church (who has the same name), proposed that his church send a "mission delegation" to FBCO to help us get MESA en Español started this fall. In the midst of it all, it seems God has also brought to our church several different people who speak Spanish and who are passionate about reaching the Hispanic community with the gospel. *How often we provide the questions and God provides the answers!*

And so, coming this fall, FBCO will have a unique opportunity to partner with First Baptist Church Norfolk and Al-cance Latino, the Spanish-speaking congregation of FBC Norfolk, along with the ABC Nebraska Region Office, to host a special, bilingual outreach event designed to share the gospel of Jesus Christ both with our Spanish-speaking and English-speaking neighbors.

This event, which is currently in the development stage, will feature a bilingual worship band that is proficient in various musical styles, along with an evangelistic message. Watch for more details in the coming months.

It is hoped that the event will serve as a catalyst for the continued growth of our new "MESA" ministry here at FBCO, while also challenging our church go even deeper in our mission commitment to be "living the Gospel in Midtown and beyond," where many of our neighbors speak Spanish as their first language.

If you have questions about this unique mission opportunity or if you would like to get involved, please just contact Pastor Matt.

INTRODUCING THE NEW "HOUSE OF PRAYER" MINISTRY

"...for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations (Isa 56:7b NIV)

Following Pastor Matt's recent sermon, entitled, "Get Serious about the House of Prayer," and in the spirit of the sermon series, "WE AIN'T PLAYING CHURCH," we will be introducing a new emphasis in our prayer ministry Sunday mornings, simply called "House of Prayer." It is the idea of providing a place of peace and refuge—a sanctuary—to all who wish to pray and seek the Lord in a quiet setting leading up to our corporate worship service. Here's how it will work:

10:00am – SILENT PRAYER. Following Worship Team practice, there will be a time of silent prayer in the *Sanctuary* for worshippers to prepare their hearts for and pray for the worship service independently. During this time, those who wish to talk, hang-out, and fellowship with one another, will be encouraged to do so in the *Fellowship Hall*, located on the first floor of the building. There is even a "cool" new sitting area at the base of the sanctuary staircase that has been set up specifically for fellowship of this nature!

10:35am – PRAYER MEETING. At this time, Ken Pierce will lead a traditional prayer meeting in the front several pews of the *Sanctuary*. Folks will be invited to share prayer requests and praises, with a brief time of corporate prayer to follow. This will naturally "merge" into a prayer for the worship service that begins at 11:00am. This will be a casual, low-key time, and folks will be welcome to join as they finish Sunday School or arrive at church.

All are welcome to join in these times of prayer and it is hoped that this new emphasis will help set a mood of prayer and worship before the service even begins, truly making our sanctuary "a house of prayer for all nations."

Men's Ministry Update:

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

- ◇ **NO MEN'S BREAKFAST THIS SUMMER.** We will be taking a break this summer from our monthly breakfasts as many of our guys are traveling and involved in other projects. However, we are looking forward to getting a good group of guys to attend the AB Men's Conference in August.
- ◇ **AB MEN'S CONFERENCE AUGUST 8TH-9TH.** Taking place up at Camp Moses Merrill, this conference will feature encouraging times of worship, great food, and opportunities for recreation out in God's creation. Mark your calendars now and watch for more information on the Men's Ministry board. Questions? Contact Jim Musick. To register, contact the camp office at 402-666-5639.



July Birthdays

9—Terra Martinez, Ryan Kubiak, Makenna Ferrell,
and Christina Gladwell
10—Rob Stenzel
11—Terry Friis
14—Wil Gladwell
17—Marge Hayes
19—Levi Toupin
22—Stacy Friis
28—Colleen Sariscsany
29—Maryellen Rose
30—Lisa Toupin and Brayden Ferrell

August Birthdays

1—Mike Gamblin
3—Mark Wilson
5—Jamie Gamblin
6—Chris Wing
7—Sue Reed and Mary Stenzel
10—Lucy Wing
11—Jeanne Shelor
12—Holly Graves
13—Aaron Parsons
14—Pat Buie
15—Linda Hansen and Ken Pierce
18—Jayna Ferrell
19—Chelsey Friis
22—Adam Cleveland and Karla Musick
23—David Kulisek
24—Andy Gustafson
25—Felicia Cervantes
26—Joan Stewart
26—Olivia Wing
28—Noah Stenzel

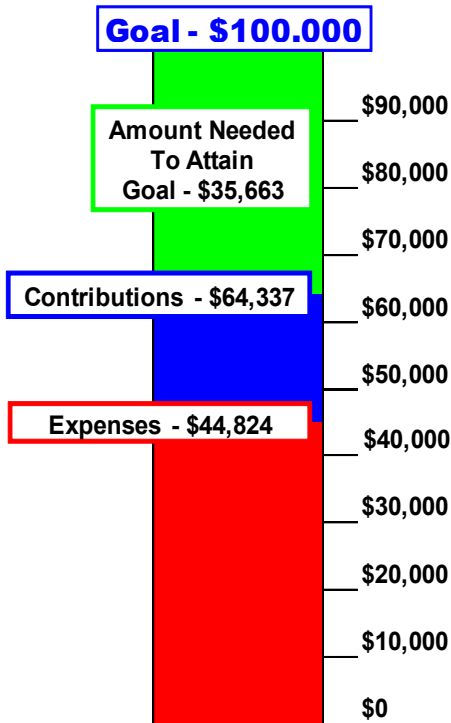
July Anniversaries

1—Rus and Jean Weaver
5—Matt and Lisa Toupin
2—Tony and Marcia Marascalco
6—Jim and Georgia Soucie
15—Randy and Tina Shelton
17—Lee and Mona Riveria
29—Chuck and Marge Hayes

August Anniversaries

20—Dr. Joe and Darlene Anderson
21—Chris and Michelle Wing
22—Fred and Jan Walden
24—Terry and Stacy Friis

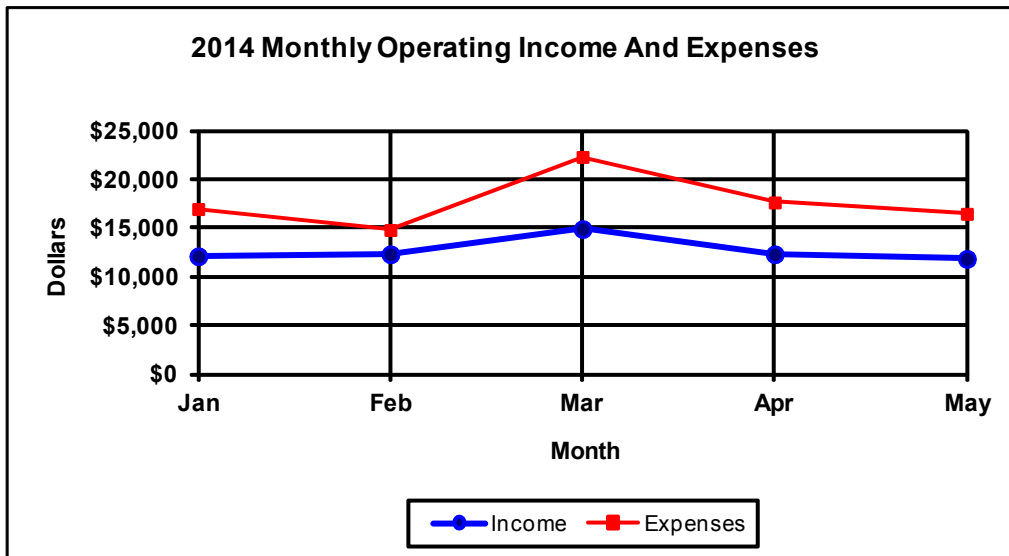
**Capital Fund Drive
July 2012 - June 2015
May 2014 Progress Report**



**FBCO Finance Update
May 2014**

Current Operating Income And Expenses *			
Category	May	YTD	YTD Budget
Income	\$11,860	\$63,609	X
Expenses	\$16,490	\$88,278	\$95,314
Variance	-\$4,630	-\$24,668	\$7,036

* Excludes non-budget, self-supporting, and designated categories



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 3:00pm – Staff Meeting (PL)	3	4 Independence Day	5 11:30am – Community Meal 4:00pm – Altimo Family Gathering (FH)
6 *Senior High Camp (MMCCC) 9:30am – Worship Practice 9:45am – Sunday School 11:00am – Worship 12:30pm – AKBC Worship 3:30pm – NA (FH)	7 Ignite *Senior High Camp (MMCCC) 6:00pm - VBS 6:30pm – Women’s Bible Study	8 Ignite *Senior High Camp (MMCCC) 6:00pm - VBS	9 Ignite *Senior High Camp (MMCCC) 3:00pm – Staff Meeting (PL) 6:00pm - VBS	10 Ignite *Senior High Camp (MMCCC) 6:00pm - VBS	11 Ignite *Senior High Camp (MMCCC) 6:00pm - VBS	12 Ignite 11:30am – Community Meal
13 Ignite *Junior II Camp (MMCCC) 9:30am – Worship Practice 9:45am – Sunday School 11:00am – Worship (Guest Speaker – Greg Mamula) 12:30pm – AKBC Worship 3:30pm – NA (FH)	14 Ignite *Junior II Camp (MMCCC) 6:30pm – Women’s Bible Study	15 Ignite *Junior II Camp (MMCCC)	16 No Newsletter *Junior II Camp (MMCCC) 3:00pm – Staff Meeting (PL)	17 Ignite *Junior II Camp (MMCCC)	18 Ignite *Junior II Camp (MMCCC)	19 Ignite 11:30am – Community Meal
20 Ignite *Kid’s MAD Camp (MMCCC) 9:30am – Worship Practice 9:45am – Sunday School 11:00am – Worship (Guest Speaker – Pastor Kyle) 12:30pm – Quarterly Meeting 12:30pm – AKBC Worship 3:30pm – NA (FH)	21 *World Mission Conference (GREEN LAKE) *Kid’s MAD Camp (MMCCC) 6:30pm – Women’s Bible Study	22 *World Mission Conference (GREEN LAKE) *Kid’s MAD Camp (MMCCC)	23 *World Mission Conference (GREEN LAKE) *Kid’s MAD Camp (MMCCC) 3:00pm – Staff Meeting (PL) 6:30pm – Youth Activity Night	24 *World Mission Conference (GREEN LAKE) *Kid’s MAD Camp (MMCCC) 11:00am – NU Meeting	25 *World Mission Conference (GREEN LAKE) *Kid’s MAD Camp (MMCCC) *Primary II Camp (MMCCC)	26 *World Mission Conference (GREEN LAKE) *Primary II Camp (MMCCC) 11:30am – Community Meal
27 *Primary II Camp (MMCCC) *3 rd -6 th Grade Camp (MMCCC) 9:30am – Worship Practice 9:45am – Sunday School 10:00am – “MESA en Español” Prayer Meeting (Pastor’s Lobby) 11:00am – Worship 12:30pm – AKBC Worship 3:30pm – NA (FH) 6:00pm – Church Carnival	28 *3 rd -6 th Grade Camp (MMCCC) 6:30pm – Women’s Bible Study 3:00pm – Staff Meeting (PL)	29 Vacation (Pastor Matt) *3 rd -6 th Grade Camp (MMCCC)	30 Vacation (Pastor Matt)	31 Vacation (Pastor Matt) *7 th -12 th Grade Camp (MMCCC)	Notes:	

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Vacation (Pastor Matt) *7 th -12 th Grade Camp (MMCCC)	2 Vacation (Pastor Matt) *7 th -12 th Grade Camp (MMCCC) 11:30am – Community Meal (FBCO SERVES)
3 Vacation (Pastor Matt) 9:30am – Worship Practice 9:45am – Sunday School 11:00am – Worship (Guest Speaker – Pastor Kyle) 12:30pm – AKBC Worship 3:30pm – NA (FH)	4 Vacation (Pastor Matt) 6:30pm – Women's Bible Study	5 Vacation (Pastor Matt) 9:30am – Omaha Pastors' Meeting	6 Vacation (Pastor Matt) 3:00pm – Staff Meeting (PL) 6:30pm – Youth Activity Night	7 Vacation (Pastor Matt)	8 *AB Men's Retreat (MMCCC)	9 *AB Men's Retreat (MMCCC) 11:30am – Community Meal
10 9:30am – Worship Practice 9:45am – Sunday School 11:00am – Worship 12:30pm – AKBC Worship 3:30pm – NA (FH)	11 6:30pm – Women's Bible Study	12	13 OPS First Day of School 3:00pm – Staff Meeting (PL)	14 7:00pm – Cabinet (PARLOR)	15	16 11:30am – Community Meal
17 9:30am – Worship Practice 9:45am – Sunday School 11:00am – Worship 12:30pm – AKBC Worship 3:30pm – NA (FH)	18 6:30pm – Women's Bible Study	19	20 Newsletter Due 3:00pm – Staff Meeting (PL) 6:30pm – Youth Activity Night	21	22	23 11:30am – Community Meal
24 9:30am – Worship Practice 9:45am – Sunday School 11:00am – Worship 12:30pm – AKBC Worship 3:30pm – NA (FH)	25 6:30pm – Women's Bible Study	26	27 3:00pm – Staff Meeting (PL)	28	29	30 11:30am – Community Meal
31 9:30am – Worship Practice 9:45am – Sunday School 11:00am – Worship 12:30pm – AKBC Worship 3:30pm – NA (FH)	Notes:					