

September, 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

Sunday Services

9:45am Sunday School for
all ages
11am Worship in the
Sanctuary
12pm Coffee Fellowship in
the Parlor
5:30pm Mesa Café
6:30pm Mesa Bible Study

COME JOIN US



Matt's Musings...

"We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."
(Romans 6:4 ESV)

Sometimes it is helpful to remember what it is that makes you *you*. This applies to us as individuals and also as a church family. As Baptists believers, there are many things that make us who we are, but one of the things that makes us most unique is our approach to what we call the "ordinances" of the church.

In Baptist belief and practice, the ordinances of the local church include baptism and the Lord's Supper, both of which were commanded by Jesus (Mt. 28:18-20, Lk. 22:19). These ordinances serve as outward, physical symbols of inward, spiritual realities. In the case of baptism, the ordinance is meant to serve as an outward sign of one's relationship with God and entry into his kingdom (1 Co. 6:11,

Ga. 2:20). Baptism does not *save* a person, but it is necessary as the new believer's public testimony that they have made a conscious decision to follow Christ (Ac. 16:30-33, Ep. 2:8-9).

This baptismal reality is most properly symbolized via *immersion*, wherein a clear picture is painted of the believer identifying with Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection (Ro. 6:3-8, Cl. 2:11-12). It is the outward sign that a person has become a member of the body of Christ (Ga. 3:27-28, Ep. 4:22-25). Moreover, it must be a *believer's* baptism, recognizing that people should only get baptized once they are mature enough to make an authentic, personal confession of faith (Mt. 28:19; Ac. 2:38-41, 8:36-39). This believer's baptism is not coerced and it recognizes the freedom of each person who has come to faith in Christ as the result of a personal and voluntary choice that they have made.

Likewise, in celebrating the Lord's Supper, the local church corporately acknowledges Christ's presence with them, symbolizing his broken body with the bread and the shedding of his blood with the cup, all while looking forward in anticipation to his return (Mt. 26:26-29, 1 Co. 11:26). The Lord's Supper is reserved for those who already follow Christ and it is an opportunity each time for believers to examine themselves, deal with unconfessed sin, and seek reconciliation with others (1 Co. 11:28-30).

There are different ways of *servicing* communion, including the passing of the elements through the sanctuary, and also inviting the congregation up to the Lord's Table to take the elements by *intinction* (dipping the bread in the cup). But either way, the purpose is the same.

September will be a special month for us to reflect on these concepts, especially *believer's baptism by immersion*, as we will celebrate a special, joint baptismal service with American Karen Baptist Church on Sunday, September 21st. This will also be a celebration of work that has been completed recently to repair the baptistery. You won't want to miss it!

Living the Gospel with you,

-Pastor Matt

REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING IN PRAYER:

Beverly Tompkins, Wanda Chandler, Nancy Clatterbuck, Velta Henson, 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!
- The Worship Leader Search Committee (Ken Pierce, Michelle Wing & Jacob Cleveland).

Our Volunteers Are Amazing!

Many thanks to the Children's Ministry Team and the many volunteers who helped in so many ways to make Vacation Bible School and the "Back to School" Carnival a huge success! There are too many names to mention but you know who you are and your help was greatly appreciated! About 30-35 kids attended all five nights at VBS during the week of July 7-11th.

The **"Back to School Carnival"** was held on July 27 in the evening and was a fun night for all. Many



back-packs and other school supplies were given to deserving kids. Again kudos to all who helped make this a HUGE success!



Ruth Saklar, a long time member of First Baptist Church. Ruth had been in poor health for quite some time and on Sunday, July 13, Ruth went home to be with her Heavenly Father. Funeral services were held at First Baptist Church with Rev. Dr. David Bender officiating. Please continue to pray for her family during this time.

Condolences also to the family of our former pastor, Kip Mickelson, who died from the injuries sustained in a car accident in July. Also, prayers for West Side Baptist Church in Topeka, KS where Kip was Senior Pastor the past three years.

Welcome to the World!

- ◇ We celebrate the arrival of Ethan Daniel Gamblin, born on August 11th in Council Bluffs to Brian and Chelsey Gamblin.
- ◇ Prayers of thanks for healthy baby boy! On August 19th, little Kobe Dean was born at Methodist Women's Hospital to Adriana Cleveland. He weighed in at 7lbs, 6oz. Mom and baby are doing well.

Watch for more information regarding a celebration of this new arrival.



It's A Baby Shower...

WHEN: Sunday, October 5, 2014
TIME: 3:00pm
WHERE: Church Parlor

All women of First Baptist Church are invited to attend the baby shower honoring Lisa Toupin and Baby Boy Toupin.



Lisa is registered at Babies "R" Us

ELECTRIC WEDNESDAYS BEGINS SEPTEMBER 10, 2014!

Our "Electric Wednesdays" Program will begin Charging up at 6:15 with a scrumptious meal.

- ◇ Bible study for kids, fun with music and adventure in the gym will begin after the meal. Invite your friends to join you!
- ◇ The youth and adults will have their various programs as well. The youth will meet in the gym from 6:00 to 6:15 and then eat dinner at 6:45pm.
- ◇ Bell choir rehearsal is at 6:45pm. If you are new to the church and have an interest in joining the bell choir, see Jim Musick.
- ◇ "Table Talk", an adult Bible study led by Pastor Matt will meet at 7:00pm in the Parlor.
- ◇ The adult choir rehearses at 7:45pm in the chapel.

See You September 10th!!



Electric Wednesday Help Wanted!

The Electric Wednesday team is still looking for some helpers to do specific tasks. Is God calling you to serve with the team? Here's what we need:

(2) Table Parents: To welcome children and sit with them during dinner and encourage proper table etiquette.

(2) Team Leaders: To escort children from one activity to the next throughout the evening.

(2) Nursery Helpers: To supervise children in the nursery just one time per month.

If you are interested in helping in any of these areas please see Georgia Soucie or Michelle Wing. Thanks!

"Melting Potluck" Picnic Sunday, September 21st At Omaha's Dodge Park

Don't miss out on this fun time for fellowship with your church family and with our friends at American Karen Baptist Church (AKBC). Be thinking NOW about what yummy food you might bring to share with everyone! We will head to Dodge Park immediately after a special joint worship service with AKBC. Need more information or help with a ride? Contact Jennifer Cleveland or the Church Office.

DIRECTIONS:

- ◇ Take 1st right onto Harney Street.
- ◇ Turn left onto S. 28th Street
- ◇ Merge onto US-75 North
- ◇ Turn right onto Craig Avenue
- ◇ Turn left onto John J. Pershing Drive

"HOUSE OF PRAYER" MINISTRY"

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

All are welcome to be a part of this new emphasis in our prayer ministry, taking place in the sanctuary on 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:

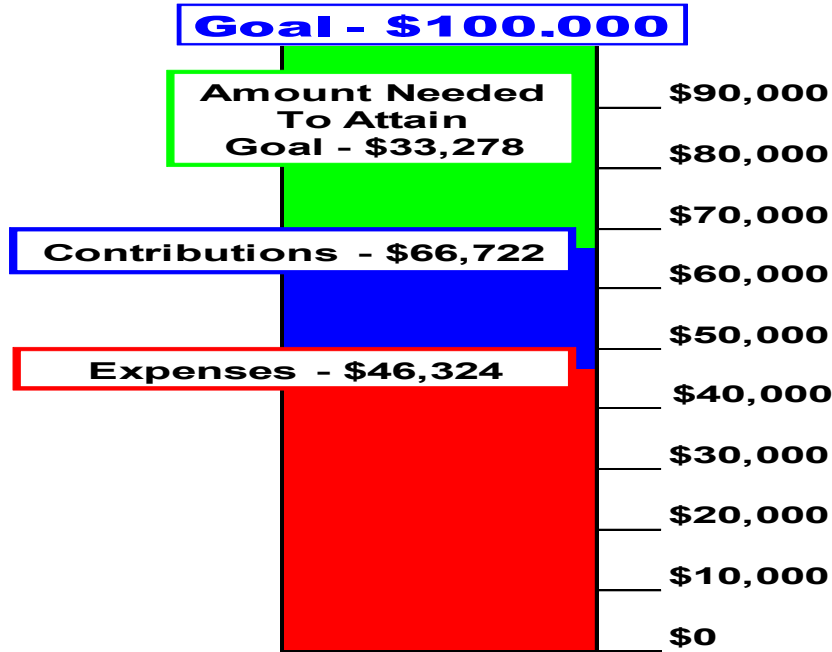
10:00am – SILENT PRAYER – a special time to prepare your heart for worship

10:35am – PRAYER MEETING – a time to share prayer requests and praises, and pray together

10:50am – PRAYER FOR THE SERVICE – a time to gather at the altar in a "circle prayer" for the worship service



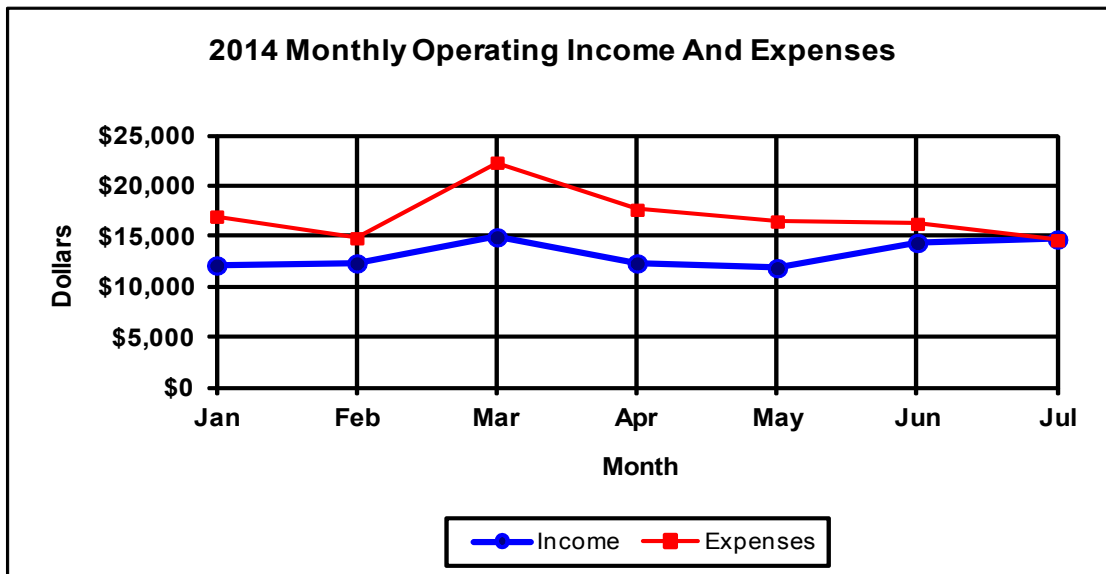
Capital Fund Drive July 2012 - June 2015 July 2014 Progress Report



FBCO Finance Update July 2014

Current Operating Income And Expenses *			
Category	July	YTD	YTD Budget
Income	\$14,714	\$92,682	X
Expenses	\$14,637	\$119,173	\$133,440
Variance	\$77	-\$26,491	\$14,267

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



YOUTH MINISTRY



So the summer has come and gone at least for our kiddos who are “enjoying” their days back in school. I use that term loosely mostly due to the fact that I drown out all their moping and complaining about homework each and every week and pretend they love school with a passion second only to Jesus! That being said let’s take a look at what is going on in the youth department this fall.

I am currently in seminary as many of you know and taking 3 classes this fall. I am excited to continue progressing and expanding my cranium with theological wisdom. As far as the youth are concerned we will be having a lock- in sometime this fall. I am thinking late October so stay tuned for more information on that. It will likely include a trip to Vala’s pumpkin patch. Also as I assume some of you have heard via your kids many changes took place in the youth room after the church work day. We removed some of the old couches and replaced them with rows of chairs. These are ongoing changes to improve the room and make it more functional. We also hope to have a new television sometime before Christmas. More information will be presented on this as well.

Our theme for this school year concerning Sunday mornings is servant leadership. My goal is to equip the youth with leadership knowledge and skills that will help equip them to lead in all walks of life in high school, college, and the workplace. This was a core value when I was in college at Grace University and I firmly believe that developing leadership qualities can absolutely change one’s life and circumstances drastically.

That is a quick synopsis of what we have planned going forward. Thank you all for your continued support of the next generation of leaders and please continue praying for our youth! God Bless!

Pastor Kyle

Special Baptism Service

The baptistery is finally repaired and a joint baptismal service is planned for Sunday, September 21st! We will be rejoicing in the baptism of several people from American Karen Baptist Church and from FBCO!



*Are you interested in getting baptized?
Just talk to Pastor Matt by Sunday, September 7th.*

Need Something?

Pastor Matt will be out of town September 12th-16th. During this time, 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 an emergency.



September Birthdays

3 – Celeste Gustafson
6 – Lynn Murray
8 – Janice Stober & Gerald Kubiak
12 – Lisa Parsons
13 – Austin Borromeo
14 - Jennifer Cleveland
16 – Russ Weaver & Cindy Gladwell
17 – Doris Clark & Jan Kottich
20 – Velta Henson
21 – Inez Edwards
23 – Kathy Brown
27 – Jason Hurlbut

September Anniversaries

15 – Kevin & Alvadine Gilliland
28 – Jim & Pat Fitl



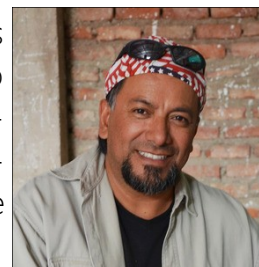
International Mission Focus: Ignite Bolivia 2014

Ignite Bolivia 2014 has come and gone. All the dental and other supplies which the members of FBCO generously donated have been successfully delivered to our mission partners in Bolivia and are even now making a difference there. And so I want to thank the members of the church, the Cabinet, and the staff for your partnership in ministry and mission, allowing me to go serve in Bolivia as

your short-term missionary and then to represent you all at the World Mission Conference in Green Lake back in July.

Let's view this not as the end of an incredible opportunity for our church, but as a key event in our history. May it re-*ignite* in our church an ongoing passion for international missions that is so needed these days in a world in such desperate need of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the love of God.

In the months and years ahead, there will be opportunities for our church to get involved in international missions, both in Bolivia and beyond. Already, there is a special fundraising effort among some of our sister churches here in Nebraska to help Goretty Jora's "Emanuel Foundation." (Watch for more information on that coming soon.) Then, there is always the need to pray for and financially support our missionaries there in Bolivia, Mario Morales and J.D. and Rhonda Reed. And this September, we will have the opportunity to **RISE TO THE CHALLENGE** and support the missionary work of International Ministries all around the globe. Who knows? Maybe one day *you* will be called to "rise to the challenge" and go to Bolivia or somewhere else in our world.



The question is not whether or not we are called to missions; rather, the question is *how* and *when* we at FBCO will answer the call to missions.

So church, let's **RISE TO THE CHALLENGE!**

-Pastor Matt



J.D. and Rhonda Reed and family (IM Missionaries in Bolivia)



How IM's Response to the Spiritual Needs in Macau, China, Is Repeated Worldwide through the World Mission Offering

Almost 2,000 years ago, the Apostle Paul saw a vision of a man saying, “*come over to Macedonia and help us.*” (*Acts 16:9*)

Today, there are people all over the world—from Myanmar and Brazil to South Africa and Macau—who are also crying out for help: a cry for the hope and light of the Gospel in a world darkened by sin.

This year, our World Mission Offering materials will focus on Macau, an area of the world steeped in the casino industry, as an example of how IM responds to the Spirit's call by helping to raise up, train and place missionaries and development workers. It's a Scripture-inspired pattern found in Acts 16.

Why this year's World Mission Offering is more important than ever

“Over the years, IM has been thrilled by how churches have been supporting individual missionaries and development workers,” says Reid Trulson, IM Executive Director. “This helps churches to connect on a more personal way to the specific mission projects.

“But there is also a real need for ongoing support for the global work of IM,” he adds, “for recruiting new global workers, for its ongoing behind-the-scenes work to sustain workers in the field and for strengthening ties with our partners around the world who are acting selflessly and with courage to spread the good news in their own regions.”

“As we **Rise to the Challenge** together through the World Mission Offering, our prayer is that more people around the world will come to Christ, grow in their relationships to God and change their worlds through the power of the Spirit.”

American Baptist International Ministries is celebrating 200 years of ministry in 2014. Organized in 1814 as the first Baptist international mission agency in America, it began its pioneer mission work in Burma and today works in Asia, Africa, Europe, the Middle East and the Americas serving more than 1,800 long-term and short-term missionaries. Its central mission is to help people come to faith in Jesus, grow in their relationships with God and change their worlds through the power of the Spirit. It works with respected partners in over 70 countries in ministries that meet human need.

INTRODUCING THE NEW "KOINONIA" MINISTRY

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (1John 1:7 ESV)

The Greek word for "fellowship" is **κοινωνία** (koinonia). It carries with it the idea of sharing, participation, and close relationship. As believers, we enjoy *fellowship* with God and with one another.

In that spirit, we will be starting a new "Koinonia Ministry" on Sunday mornings. Two "Koinonia Spaces" will be set up: One in the main hallway entrance to the sanctuary and a second one downstairs in what used to be known as the Clothing Closet. Both areas will be available for FBCO members to enjoy fellowship with one another and welcome visitors before the worship service, while the "House of Prayer" ministry is taking place in the sanctuary until 10:50am.

So, grab a cup of coffee and hang out with us in one of the "Koinonia Spaces" this Sunday!



On the Table...

MESA will be starting back up again on Sunday, September 28th! Using the "Table Talk" notes to help guide our discussion of the Sunday sermon, MESA is a small-group style Bible study that includes times of fellowship, music, and prayer. Though MESA is specifically designed for young adults, all are welcome to attend!

It all starts at 5:30pm on Sundays in the Parlor with a light meal at "MESA Café." (It's a potluck, so bring something yummy to share!) Then, Bible study and worship begin at 6:30pm.

The first two MESA meetings this fall will include a special time of prayer for the expansion of MESA into a new cross-cultural mission...

"MESA en Español" will be an outreach to our Spanish-speaking neighbors using the same format of "MESA in English." Sunday, October 12th will be the big kick-off event for this ministry, which will officially begin meeting in the Parlor at 4:30pm on Sunday, October 19th.

As MESA gets started again this fall, we have some needs. Can you help?

Prayer. Please pray for MESA this fall as we seek to reach new people with the gospel, with an emphasis on the many young adults and Spanish-speaking people who reside within walking distance of our church. This is a key part of our FBCO mission as we seek to live the gospel, starting right here in Midtown Omaha!

People. Help us get the word out about MESA to the young adults and Spanish-speakers in your life! We would love to welcome them to this new ministry!

Musicians. We need musicians for both versions of MESA. Do you play the guitar? Got rhythm on the drums? Then contact Pastor Matt or Adam Cleveland right away!

Volunteers. We need people to help out with the weekly set-up, clean-up, and behind-the-scenes stuff to make MESA a success. Is God prompting you in this area? Then call us right away!

Thanks everyone for your support of this innovative new ministry!

Coming Sunday, October 12th @ 6:00pm...
Spanish/English Outreach Event

Reaviva Tu Pasión por Cristo
VLM en Concierto



Reignite Your Passion for Christ
VLM in Concert

Viva la Musica! On Sunday, October 12th, the bilingual Contemporary Christian Music Group, VLM, will be bringing us a concert and ministry event here at FBCO in Spanish and English. VLM has opened for Mandisa, and played with Peter Furler (formerly of the Newsboys.) This special event will be jointly hosted in the sanctuary by FBCO, FBC Norfolk, Alcance Latino of Norfolk, and ABCNE. Please plan to join us for an evening of celebrating our Lord Jesus Christ in music and word. Invite your friends and neighbors to enjoy our hospitality with a Latin beat.

This event will serve as a catalyst for the expansion of our new "MESA" ministry here at FBCO to reach our Spanish-speaking neighbors and young adults with the Good News, while also challenging our church go even deeper in our mission commitment to be "living the Gospel in Midtown and beyond."

To volunteer or get involved, contact Pastor Matt.

Men's Ministry Update

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

NO MEN'S BREAKFASTS THIS FALL. We will be taking a break this fall from our monthly breakfasts as our Men's Ministry "re-tools" for the future. We are in the process of identifying leaders who might be interested in serving on a "Leadership Team" to help us better serve the needs of FBCO men going forward. Interested in serving in this way? Contact the Church Office.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	2	3 3:00pm – Staff Meeting (PL)	4	5	6 11:30am – Community Meal
7 9:30am – Worship Practice 9:45am – Sunday School 11:00am – Worship (Promotion) 12:30pm – AKBC Worship 3:30pm – NA (FH)	8 11:00am – AKBC-FBCO Leadership Meeting	9	10 3:00pm – Staff Meeting (PL) 6:15pm – EW start up (including choir re- hearsal)	11 7:00pm – Cabinet (PARLOR)	12	13 11:30am – Community Meal
14 Vacation (Pastor Matt) 9:30am – Worship Practice 9:45am – Sunday School 11:00am – Worship (Guest Speaker – Pastor Kyle) 12:30pm – AKBC Wor- ship 3:30pm – NA (FH)	15 Vacation (Pastor Matt)	16 Vacation (Pastor Matt)	17 Newsletter Due 1:00pm – Rebecca-Ruth Circle 3:00pm – Staff Meeting (PL) 6:15pm – EW	18	19 *ABC Nebraska Region Convention	20 *ABC Nebraska Region Convention 11:30am – Community Meal 2:00PM – Perez Fam Event (FH)
21 9:30am – Worship Practice 9:45am – Sunday School 11:00am – Worship (JOINT SERVICE – BAPTISM - Pastor Nyo Tae) 12:30pm – “Melting Potluck Picnic”-NP Dodge Park 3:30pm – NA (FH)	22	23	24 3:00pm – Staff Meeting (PL) 6:15pm – EW	25	26	27 11:30am – Community Meal
28 9:30am – Worship Practice 9:45am – Sunday School 11:00am – Worship 12:30pm – Shepherds (LIBR) 12:30pm – AKBC Wor- ship 3:30pm – NA (FH) 5:30pm – MESA Café (PARLR) 6:30pm – MESA Eng. (PARLR)	29	30	Notes:			