

October, 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  
4:30pm MESA, Spanish  
5:30pm MESA Café  
6:30pm MESA Bible Study

**COME JOIN US  
FOR  
WORSHIP!**

**Matt's Musings...**

*And when He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood." (Luke 22:19-20 NASB)*

Last month in this article, I couldn't help but write about the importance of our identity as Baptist believers when it comes to the two "ordinances" of the local church: Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014 was an historic day to celebrate both of these ordinances in fellowship with our local mission partners at American Karen Baptist Church. I was so proud of my son, Levi, who took the big step of *believer's* baptism! He was joined by our own Sandy Richeson and seven other brothers and sisters in Christ from AKBC. The service was concluded with a historic time of communion at the Lord's Table. This time of communion at a Baptism service was new to us at FBCO, but it was part of a deeply-rooted tradition for our Karen friends. Really, there is no more appropriate way to celebrate baptism and new life in Christ than to join with new believers as they come to the Lord's Table for the first time.

What an amazing celebration and testimony to the mighty work of the Holy Spirit that is taking place at the corner of Park and Harney. (By the way, to see some AWESOME pictures of the baptism service and church picnic celebration, just flip back a couple pages in this newsletter!)

Now that it is October, we are continuing our focus on the two ordinances of the church, but calling special attention to the Lord's Table. The Spanish word for table is *mesa*. No surprise then, that our new outreach ministry to young adults *and* Spanish-speaking people here in midtown takes that same name: *MESA*.



MESA is founded on two basic ideas: That the work of ministry should begin at the Lord's Table (*la Mesa del Señor*) and that it should be cross-cultural. We see that the work of ministry begins at the Lord's Table in the gospel accounts when Jesus shared his final meal before he went to the cross with his disciples in the upper room. Not long after this episode, we see the cross-cultural aspect of ministry early on in the history of the church in Acts 2, where these same disciples shared the good news with people from many different nations and language groups.

The vision of MESA is "Culture Reconciled." The good news is that God desires to see people reconciled to himself and to one another. That is why MESA envisions a world in which people from various cultures are reconciled to God and to people from different cultures based on what Jesus Christ has done for them all on the cross.

And that is why, starting October 5<sup>th</sup>, we will begin studying Luke 22:1-23, that key passage in which the Lord relates to us the whole point of the *mesa*. It will be a time for us all, whether we are a part of the MESA program or not, to be *revived in our passion for Jesus*, and to be reminded of the significance of the cross. **(Matt's Musings, continued on page 3)**

## Please Remember the following in Your Prayers

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).



*First Baptist Church was an intricate part of our mother Ruth Saklar's life. Therefore we want to express our thanks to the members of FBC for the many phone calls, prayers and visitations during her years of*

*being homebound as well as for the beautiful service and luncheon held in celebration of her life. We want thanks extended to the Courtesy/Hostess Committee and those who provided the delicious salads and desserts, and the Rainbow Ranch Class members who served and cleaned up.*

*God bless our First Baptist Church Friends,  
Carol McClusky  
Victoria Bishop  
Linda Cahill  
Sally Saklar Schoening  
Mike Saklar*

### "Melting-Pot Picnic" Huge Success

The "all church picnic" we celebrated on September 21 at NP Dodge Park was a great success! We celebrated this event with the American Karen Baptist Church family. Many hands were available to plan, prepare, cook, and clean-up. Special thanks to Jennifer Cleveland who made all the necessary arrangements.

So to those who helped in any way and to those who attended this event...KUDOS!



**October** is a time we set aside to honor our clergy and church staff for their hard work, sacrifice, and dedication to serving the people of God. Pastors and church staff live unique callings to serve the people of God in a vulnerable and very public ways. Congregations are always grateful for their church staff members. But October is a time to be intentional about telling our church staff how much they mean to us. Also remember all church staff are ministers, not just the senior pastor!

1. **Public thanks:** tell your pastor thank you from the pulpit at church, in an article in the paper, or on social media.
2. **Resources:** Pastors use lots of books, websites, and other pastors to help continue their education. Provide them with books, memberships, and tickets to continuing education opportunities.
3. **Office Makeover:** surprise your staff with a fresh coat of paint, a new book shelf, new desk, or computer. They will be re-energized and inspired to be more creative in a new clean office.
4. **31 days of appreciation:** You know how when November rolls around and everyone uses each day to say what they are thankful for on facebook? Well try using the 31 days of October to send encouraging and kind words to your pastor on facebook, letters, cards, emails etc.
5. **Goodie Bags:** What are your staff members favorite things? Reese's Pieces, baseball, sunglasses, cookies...oh wait those are my favorite things! Anyway, build a nice goodie bag with their favorite candies or tickets to a movie.
6. **Be Simple.** Sometimes it's just the little things like a kind word, a hug, or simple "Thanks!" means more than anything.
7. **Be Extravagant!** Every once in a while I hear stories of churches who for major anniversaries (10, 15, 20 year type things) do something big like a trip to Europe or a cruise or a new car for a staff member. Maybe that's too much but how about a 3 day weekend someplace close? A yard makeover or clean up? Detail their car?

"The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching" (1 Timothy 5:17)

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

Out of this will naturally flow a great evangelistic outreach opportunity, named (no surprises here), "*Revive Your Passion for Christ*," featuring the Reno, Nevada-based Christian contemporary and bilingual band called "*Viva la Música (VLM)*". This event, open to the entire church family, and to the entire community, will seek to bring about revival in our neighborhood, with the aim to share the gospel with everyone, but *especially* with young adults and Spanish-speaking people. The whole point is to call everyone to the Lord's *mesa* (and to also invite them to the *MESA* program, of course).

As we come to the Lord's *Mesa* this month, through our study of scripture, through "rocking out" with VLM, and through expanding into new and exciting ministry opportunities, I am calling upon the entire church family to pray fervently for revival in Midtown, starting right here at First Baptist Church Omaha.

*Living the Gospel* with you,

Pastor Matt

### Quarterly Potluck and Business Meeting

The last quarterly business meeting of 2014 is October 19th right after the Morning Worship Service. There will be a potluck luncheon served first. Be planning now what delicious food item you will be bringing.

Food distribution is as follows:

- A-I Side Dish
- J-Q Main Dish
- R-Z Dessert

The Youth and Young Adults will be in charge of clean-up following the meal.

*Be Still*  
AND KNOW  
THAT *I am*  
GOD.



**Leaves** and temps are falling and that means one thing, football season is officially upon us! If you haven't noticed from my plugs during announcements I love Husker football with a passion! Anyway, that being said we cannot continue without the obligatory **GO BIG RED!**

Our youth are in full swing back into the school year and loving every minute of it. Maybe that is wishful thinking on my part. A little update on our event for October. Unfortunately due to work related schedule changes the lock in is being postponed until further notice. My other job is undergoing massive changes in structure and requiring me to work on Saturdays for the time being. With that being said I am planning a trip to Vala's Pumpkin Patch later on this month so keep an eye on Horizon's for more details. I will hopefully have a date and the specifics in the coming week.

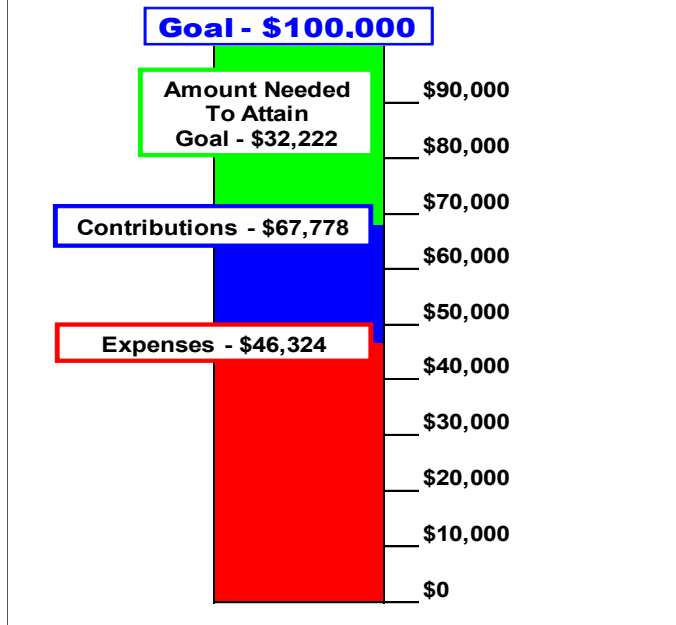
Lastly I wanted to comment on the meeting I had with the Karen youth and young adults recently. I shared with them my vision for youth ministry and formally invited them to attend Wednesday nights. Overall the meeting went very well with a lot a positive feedback from the Karen. I will continue to remain in contact with them and hopefully in the not too distant future we see a number of new youth attending Wednesday nights. More info to come on these exciting new developments.

Thanks for supporting our youth and continue to pray for them as they navigate the treacherous landscape of junior high/high school. Blessings!

Pastor Kyle



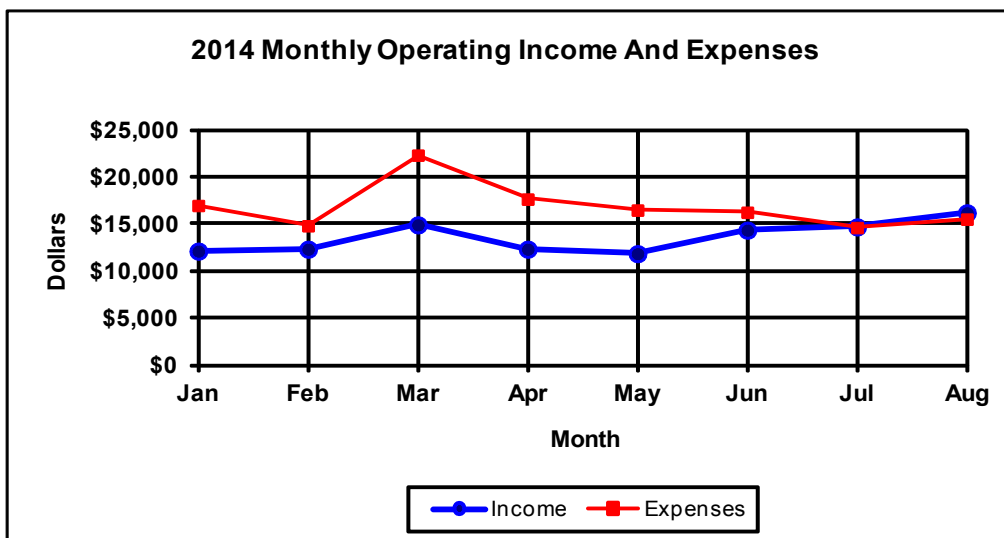
**Capital Fund Drive  
July 2012 - June 2015  
August 2014 Progress Report**



**FBCO Finance Update  
August 2014**

Current Operating Income And Expenses *			
Category	August	YTD	YTD Budget
Income	\$16,212	\$108,894	X
Expenses	\$15,526	\$134,700	\$152,503
Variance	\$686	-\$25,806	\$17,803

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





## International Mission Focus: World Mission Offering

Last month we shared with you some of what's going on in the "international scene" for FBCO.

We shared how, 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.

This past September, we had the opportunity to RISE TO THE CHALLENGE and support the missionary work of International Ministries all around the globe through the World Mission Offering. We are pleased to announce that the members of First Baptist Church Omaha stepped up to the plate and generously gave \$747 to support the important work of International Ministries.

Remember, 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 continue to RISE TO THE CHALLENGE!

-Pastor Matt



**NO MEN'S BREAKFASTS THIS FALL..** we will be taking a break from our monthly breakfasts as our Men's Ministry "retools" for the future. We are in the process 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, 402-345-5009.

## Library news!

**MISSING!** These DVD's are missing from our children's video section:

- ◇ Charlotte's Web
- ◇ Hermie, A Common Caterpillar
- ◇ My Everyday Bible Story – Daniel & Friends
- ◇ My Everyday Bible Story – Esther & Friends
- ◇ The Legend of the Three Trees

**OUR LIBRARY IS OLD-SCHOOL** – We don't use barcodes! To check out a book or DVD, remove the 3x5 card from the item, write your name and the date on it and place it in the yellow "check-out cards" container on the check-out counter. Then pick up a Date Due slip and write in the due date and put in your book to remind you to return the item on time. Items may be checked out for one month.

Thanks for your help in returning the above items!





## On the Table...

Are you a young adult (or young adult at heart) looking for a way to get connected at First Baptist Church? Then MESA is for you!

We meet Sunday nights at

5:30pm for a light meal and then do Bible study and worship at 6:30pm.

Follow us on Facebook at the new "MESA at FBCO" page. Watch for updates on signing up to bring food and what's happening in general right there!

*FYI...on Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, MESA will be a bit different than normal. Instead of our typical meal and Bible study, we will be helping to host our big bilingual outreach called "Revive Your Passion for Christ" with the band, "Viva la Música." Come, help us make this concert an AWESOME outreach to the community as we invite everyone to the table/ mesa!*

MESA is a new ministry and we need lots of help! Are you interested in reaching the neighborhood with the gospel, helping with music, working with young adults, using your Spanish, setting up, cleaning up, running A/V, etc., etc.? Then contact Pastor Matt or Adam Cleveland and we will get you connected!

***Thanks everyone for your support of this innovative new ministry!***

## 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!

We are currently looking for volunteers to serve as Koinonia hosts/ hostesses . All that is involved is setting up coffee in your area and providing a warm welcome to visitors and FBCO members. If you wish to volunteer, contact Pastor Matt .

## "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

Join us and help set a mood of prayer and worship before the service even begins, truly making our sanctuary *"a house of prayer for all nations."*



### More Than Ever

In today's chaotic world,  
With everything around us crumbling,  
Morality held in contempt,  
Our leaders false, corrupt, or bumbling,

More than ever, we need Christ  
To lead us through this darkening place;  
His absolute truth will light our way;  
He'll lift us with His love and grace.

The Bible is our cornerstone;  
In God's word, we take our stands;  
Role models we will strive to be,  
Examples of our Lord's commands.

Dear Lord Jesus, strengthen us  
To complete the tasks you'd have us do;  
We pray you'll lead us, guide us now  
To know and love and follow you.

*By Joanna Fuchs*







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

*Reaviva Tu Pasión por Cristo*  
*VLM en Concierto*



*Revive Your Passion for Christ*  
*VLM in Concert*

Viva la Musica! On Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 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.*



~ October 2014 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 3:00pm – Staff Meeting (PL) 6:15pm – EW	2	3	4 11:30am – Community Meal
5 9:30am – Worship Practice 9:45am – Sunday School (CHURCH 101) 11:00am – Worship 12:30pm – AKBC Worship 3:00pm – Baby Shower (FH) 3:30pm – NA (FH) 5:30pm – MESA Café (PARLR) 6:30pm – MESA Eng. (PARLR)	6	7 9:30am – Omaha Pastors' Meeting	8 3:00pm – Staff Meeting (PL) 6:15pm – EW	9 7:00pm – Cabinet (PARLOR)	10	11 11:30am – Community Meal
12 9:30am – Worship Practice 9:45am – Sunday School (CHURCH 101) 11:00am – Worship 12:30pm – AKBC Worship 3:30pm – NA (FH) 6:00pm – Spanish-Speaking Ministry Outreach Event (SA)	13 Columbus Day	14	15 Newsletter Due 1:00pm – Rebecca-Ruth Circle 3:00pm – Staff Meeting (PL) 6:15pm – EW	16	17	18 11:30am – Community Meal
19 9:30am – Worship Practice 9:45am – Sunday School (CHURCH 101) 11:00am – Worship (Mission Moment; Hope Center) 12:30pm – Quarterly Meeting 12:30pm – AKBC Worship 4:30pm – NA (FH) 4:30pm – MESA Esp. (PARLR) 5:30pm – MESA Café (PARLR) 6:30pm – MESA Eng. (PARLR)	20	21	22 3:00pm – Staff Meeting (PL) 6:15pm – EW	23	24	25 11:30am – Community Meal
26 9:30am – Worship Practice 9:45am – Sunday School 11:00am – Worship 12:30pm – AKBC Worship 3:30pm – NA (FH) 4:30pm – MESA Esp. (PARLR) 5:30pm – MESA Café (PARLR) 6:30pm – MESA Eng. (PARLR)	27	28	29 3:00pm – Staff Meeting (PL) 6:15pm – EW	30	31	Notes:



**Welcome to First Baptist Church!** There's a lot going on around here, and here are just some of the ways you can get connected...

### Upcoming Events

10/5, 12 & 19	<b>"Church 101" New Member Class</b> (9:45am, Pastor's Lobby)
10/5	<b>Baby Shower for Lisa Toupin and baby boy Toupin</b> , (3pm, Parlor)
10/12	<b>Spanish/English Outreach: VLM in Concert</b> (6pm, Sanctuary)
10/15	<b>Rebecca-Ruth Circle</b> (1pm, Parlor)
10/19	<b>Quarterly Business Meeting</b> (After Worship, Fellowship Hall)
11/1	<b>Fall Clean-Up</b> (8am, Fellowship Hall)

### "Church 101" New Member Class

Using the book, *"I Am a Church Member,"* by Thomas Rainer, Pastor Matt will be leading this class on Sundays at 9:45am Sep. 28<sup>th</sup> – Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>. This learning opportunity is for all who want to become members of First Baptist or who are just interested in learning more about the church.



**Come to MESA!** 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. Kids welcome!

### INTRODUCING THE NEW "KOINONIA" MINISTRY

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*To volunteer or get involved, contact Pastor Matt.*



### Fall Clean-Up at First Baptist

It is time, once again, to roll-up our sleeves and put our "house in order!" Save the date of Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup> on your calendar to do some serious scrubbing, dusting, mopping, etc., to get the church in "tip-top" shape before the Christmas season. We will be posting a sign-up sheet on the "Church Biz" table later.

### WEEKLY MINISTRIES

#### SUNDAYS

9:45AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL (ALL AGES)
11:00AM	WORSHIP
4:30PM	MESA EN ESPAÑOL (ESTUDIO BÍBLICO)
5:30PM	CAFÉ MESA
6:30PM	MESA IN ENGLISH (YOUNG ADULTS)

#### WEDNESDAYS

6:15PM	CHURCH FAMILY DINNER
7:00PM	ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS, YOUTH, AND ADULTS

#### SATURDAYS

11:30AM	COMMUNITY MEAL (FREE)
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### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY-THURSDAY, 1:00-4:00PM

OTHER TIMES BY APPOINTMENT

(CALL 402-345-5009 OR EMAIL [OFFICE@OMAHAFBC.ORG](mailto:OFFICE@OMAHAFBC.ORG))

