



# First Baptist Church

306 E Divide Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58501  
701-223-8614

Newsletter for Members & Friends of First Baptist Church

July 2019

## From the Pastor's Desk

### **Pastor Bob Weiss**

Adult Bible Studies

9:00 am

Worship Service

10:00 am

### **Church Office:**

Monday thru Thursday

8:30 am – 1:00 pm

701-223-8614

[firstbaptistbis@q.com](mailto:firstbaptistbis@q.com)

[www.firstbaptist.faith](http://www.firstbaptist.faith)

## Volunteers for the Month of June

### **Flower Committee:**

Barb Layton

### **Ushers:**

Lloyd Gingery &  
Ralph Layton



## One Great Hour OF SHARING

July is here and that means we are participating with other American Baptist Churches in The One Great Hour Of Sharing Offering. The Theme this year is taken from Ephesians 3:20-21

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine,

According to his power that is at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Many times, it is easy to feel that we can't do much to help the suffering that takes place in this world. If we were on our own that that is a true statement. However, the Good News is that we are not on our own. God is with us because we are in Christ!

We may be weak, old, young, rich, or poor, but the promise of God is that He can do immeasurably more that we could ever ask or think. He can use us to make an eternal impact in people.

Please pray and ask God how He would like you to participate in helping others in need. Each Sunday in July, we will provide information on what is happening and how you can participate in meeting the needs of others. Remember, He can do immeasurably more that we could every ask or imagine



## July

1<sup>st</sup> Isaac Grantham  
2<sup>nd</sup> Renee Herman  
10<sup>th</sup> Lloyd Gingery  
12<sup>th</sup> Joan Lang  
16<sup>th</sup> Marie NGoma  
16<sup>th</sup> Gloire NGoma  
20<sup>th</sup> Phillip Glekiah  
26<sup>th</sup> Curtis Funches  
28<sup>th</sup> Mary Hayes  
29<sup>th</sup> Doyle Klimpel  
31<sup>st</sup> Charles Fine  
31<sup>st</sup> Baillie Buck Elk

If your Birthday is  
missing and  
you would like it added,  
please contact Shirley in the  
church office  
223-8614 or  
firstbaptistbis@q.com.



Shirley in the office, is  
looking for individuals  
willing to share their  
photos of FBC Events  
and Activities.

Please contact her at  
firstbaptistbis@q.com



The 95th Annual ABW Retreat was held June 7-9, 2019 at Camp Bentley with 3 ladies attending the full weekend with Sue Morth travelling from Oregon again to attend and two ladies attended Saturday.

The theme this year was, "Domestic Violence".

The speaker this year was Coreen Smith and her husband Philip Smith. With the blessing of the National Baptist Convention of Brazil, they both minister to children who are a part of a residential program that rescues homeless street children and youth in age from 8- 18. The program provides guidance, education and training for future employment. Coreen works mainly with older children working with them on life skills so that they can transition from a boarding school to independent living. Philip is the President and CEO of the residential program. Hope Unlimited for Children was founded in 1991. Philip is an associate missionary serving in Brazil in a joint appointment by International and Hope Unlimited International.

Another speaker was Sarah Schmidt from the Church of Hope speaking of her time in prison which was 5 years and how she found Christ and now serves on the Board of Directors at the Church of Hope.

The fundraiser this year was the Brown Bag Auction again which seems to be a success. The amount received was \$360.00. The State Project will be divided between Church of Hope and Camp Bentley. The weekend also included bible study, singing, business meeting, and of course, fellowship.

Plan to attend next year, you won't be sorry.

**Neither circle will be meeting in July.**



## Camp Bentley 2019



Men's Roundup was held May  
31<sup>st</sup> until June 2

### Long Term Prayer Needs

- Ann Schoepp
- Charlotte Martin
- Dale & Annette Eckstrom's granddaughter
- Mary Ann Rauser
- Norma Eberle
- Sue Reuther
- The Congo

### Please be in prayer for:

- Dan Baillie-Injury
- Bruce Rauser
- Caryl Kaseman
- Deanna Hedegaard
- Eric McCalister-compression fracture & bulged disc
- Jeff French-surgery
- Kari Kolstoe
- Lee Weiss-Pastor Bob's brother stroke
- Steven Hawley-Charlotte Martin's brother
- Terry Giggy-Pastor Bob's brother-in-law

### Military Service

- Adam Vetter Norma Eberly's grandson



Women's Retreat  
was held June 7-9.







## Remember our Home Bound

Ann Schoepp  
Charlotte Martin  
Curtis Funches  
Mary Ann Rause  
Norma Eberly  
Shirley Zacher

If you are able, please  
visit or call our  
homebound.

“The homebound need to  
have fellowship brought to  
them.

They miss their friends and  
the fellowship of other  
Church members.”

## In memory

*Edwyna McRaney*  
1917-2019



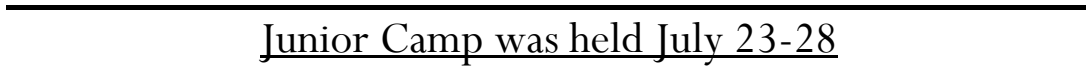
Senior High Camp was held from June 16-22



Junior High Camp was held from June 16-22



Junior Camp was held July 23-28



Did you know  
First Baptist Church  
has a library?

### Book of the month



### CHI St. Alexius Health

is currently looking for  
volunteers to help in the  
Auxiliary Gift Shop, visiting  
with patients in Kidney  
Dial Unit, accompany  
visitors and patients to  
their destinations within  
the hospital.

They are also looking for  
volunteers to help assist  
families and friends in our  
heart and Vascular waiting  
room and ICU waiting  
room.

Please contact Tanya at

**701-530-7159**



## Sarah's Laughter

Becky Moser, Adult Ministry Assistant at Century Baptist Church in Bismarck, has invited members from our church interested in attending their new Infertility Ministry "Sarah's Laughter".

This is a non-profit organization that helps provide faith based support for women who are struggling with infertility or the death of a baby.

This group will meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 6:30 at Century Baptist Church.

Feel free to contact Becky with any questions at [becky@sarabs-laughter.com](mailto:becky@sarabs-laughter.com) or call 701-223-0478.

For more information on Sarah's Laughter, please visit <https://www.sarabs-laughter.com/>

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## Short Term Mission Opportunity Black Hills of South Dakota August 3-11, 2019

The ABC Emergency Services Center was created in the basement of the First Baptist Church of the Northern Hills in Deadwood to help those who became stranded due to injury, abandonment, or mechanical breakdown. The local law enforcement and social services agencies were encouraged to contact our workers when they ran across people in need. The distribution of thousands of posters and brochures helped others find the ESC on their own. (NOTE: Since 2011 we have been based at First Baptist Church of Rapid City.) Volunteers from both regions spend all or part of the week helping, feeding, transporting, and counseling the dozens of individuals who come to the ABCESC for assistance. Throughout the week calls come in at all hours of the day and night from churches, police and rescue workers, and individuals, wanting us to help men, women and children in need. Rapid City has become a strategic base of operations as transportation to the hospitals, rescue mission, bus station, and airport is provided.

Volunteers don't need to be motorcyclists, but ought to have a heart for evangelism and a willingness to serve. Women volunteers are especially needed due to the large percentage of women and children that we end up assisting. If you can come for all or part of the week we can find a job for you

Interested in Sturgis Rally Ministry 2019? Here are more details . . .

- The ABC Emergency Services Center will be open August 3-11. Volunteers wishing to help set up can plan on arriving as early as August 2.
- Housing is provided. Most volunteers bring an air mattress or a cot.





## Camp Bentley Family Camp

**July 12- 14**

We need your help at family camp! We have several opportunities for service for adults and kids attending family camp.

We are looking for people to provide meal blessings, read morning devotions, help with flag raising, setting up and supervising bounce houses, youth to help with kids programming.

We are also looking for campfire roasting forks to borrow for s'more making. Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board if you will be at camp and are interested in helping.

Please contact Kathy Martin if you have any questions.

- RVers will be provided with space to set up camp.
- This mission project is designed for adults. High school students will be permitted when accompanied by a parent.
- Routes to Sturgis will be planned for bikers who wish to ride to the event in a group.
- Follow-up on those ministered to will be coordinated by contacts in ABC regions around the country.
- Each participant is asked to contribute \$100 toward the cost of this project. Local churches are encouraged to assist their participating members in raising this amount. Churches and individuals may also make contributions to this project through their regional office

For additional information [CLICK HERE](#)

American Baptist Churches of Nebraska 11244 Blondo Street • Omaha, NE 68164  
(877) 244-7339 • (402) 556-4730 • [LCline@ameritas.com](mailto:LCline@ameritas.com)

## Happening this month

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| July 3     | <b>No</b> 412 Youth Group                    |
|            | <b>No</b> Adult Bible Study                  |
| July 4     | 4 <sup>th</sup> of July-Church Office Closed |
| July 10    | 6:30 412 Youth Group "Regular Night"         |
|            | 7:00 Adult Bible Study                       |
| July 12-14 | Camp Bentley Family Camp                     |
| July 15    | Quarterly Reports Due                        |
| July 17    | 2:00-8:00 412 Youth at the Lake              |
|            | 7:00 Adult Bible Study                       |
| July 22    | Newsletter Articles Due                      |
| July 24    | 6:30 412 Youth Group "Regular Night"         |
|            | 7:00 Adult Bible Study                       |
| July 27    | 8:00 am Men's Breakfast                      |
| July 31    | 6:30 412 Youth Group "Scavenger Hunt"        |
|            | 7:00 Adult Bible Study                       |



# Having a mission in life

Rev. John Zehring

June 21, 2019



## Watermelon Days at the Railroad Museum July 15

1:00-5:00 pm

3102 37<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Mandan, ND

Admission is free however donations are accepted. Free watermelon will be served to those attending. There will be "Live Steam" train rides for boys and girls. Ride the "Sky Line Railway" from Hensler, North Dakota with Ed Duke as your engineer. The Railroad Museum has railroad cars, new exhibits, and over 3,000 square feet of display of small and large railroad artifacts; a model train display and hundreds of old railroad photos. The Railroad Museum is now open daily from 1 to 5 pm thru Labor Day.

When someone is going through a rough time ....just sit with them. No preaching, no advice. Just be there



The minister who officiated at my wedding more than half a century ago told me about his days at Crozer Theological Seminary in the Philadelphia area and about how one day he went into a class where the professor asked each student to go around in turn and answer the question, "What is your mission in life?"

Despite the nature of the school, to educate ministers, most of the students gave answers like "I've never really thought about it" or "I'm not sure" or "I don't know." Only one student in the class had an answer. "My mission," said Martin Luther King, Jr., "is to help black people to help themselves." Crozer is where Martin Luther King, Jr. went to seminary and received his divinity degree to prepare for ordained ministry.

Years later, on August 28, 1963, King stood before more than a quarter million people at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. It was noisy with people talking, kids playing, and radios blaring. But you could hear a pin drop when he proclaimed, "I have a dream." Since I learned about that classroom story, I have spent a good part of my life thinking about what it means to have a mission in life, and also guiding others to consider their own mission.

Early in my career, I served as a college director of career planning and placement, attempting to guide students toward finding fulfilling careers and discovering what vocation best utilizes their interests, skills, needs and values. Every once in a while, I discovered someone with a Martin Luther King, Jr. sense of vocation. Vocation means a calling, which is more than a career. A vocation defines career goals by what purpose to which you want to devote yourself. If done as a career, it is a vocation. If done outside of career, which is just as powerful and meaningful, it is an avocation.

Consider the differences between a job, a career, and a mission in life. A job is a way of earning a living. A career is a way of living. Having a mission in life is the pursuit of a value in service to others or to an important purpose. Perhaps this is best embodied by Jesus' message to his disciples: "The greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves." (Luke 22:26-27 NRSV).

One might choose a career in education to inspire children to reach their fullest potential or a career as an artist to fill the world with beauty. A person might choose a career as a hairdresser because they want to help people feel good about themselves. A person might work in IT but devote hours each week outside of the job to educate their community about climate change. A sense of mission does not require that we pursue any particular career, hobby or activity, but that we have a sense of doing it because of a higher calling to serve. Defining a mission in life need not be complicated but embraces the ability to define in a



## Hills Alive

Is a free 2-day Christian festival in Memorial Park, Rapid City SD with something for everyone. Each day up to 25,000 people will join us as we raise our hands together in praise and worship.

The Festival features some of the top names in the Christina music industry.

There will be activities for the entire family including inflatables and KidZjam shows for children. There will also be a variety of food and merchandise vendors.

July 20-21, 2019

simple and brief statement what it is we feel called to. For many people, that happens outside of their job or career. But it is more than a hobby or interest – it is truly a calling, felt from God, to go into the world to serve God’s beloved children. Unlike the career development target of identifying skills, interests and needs to be fulfilled, a mission in life identifies the value to which you choose to dedicate your energy and focus.

The Rev. Dr. W. Wilson Goode, Sr. gave the [commencement address](#) at Eastern University in May 2019. Wilson Goode served two terms, beginning in 1984, as Philadelphia’s first African American mayor and is an ordained Baptist minister. Dr. Goode spoke to the graduates, not about a career but about an assignment from God—an assignment to give of themselves to an important mission: “God has work for all of you to do. There are great challenges facing us. There is poverty, homelessness, hunger, AIDS, drugs, greed, inadequate education, dishonesty, and mass incarceration.”

“God expects you to be light in dark places. You are here to be an advocate for those some consider worthless, or not worth the effort. You are here to work on behalf of those some regard as useless, disposable, and forgettable. And never disregard those whom some think are unimportant because they’re poor, black, Asian, Latino, or immigrants. You are here to be an advocate for all the people and love them as God loves you.”

Dr. Goode concluded with these questions:

“Who among you will be the prophetic voice of clarity for justice and equality? With 15 million hungry children in this country, who among you will speak for them? With 14 million children living in poverty, who among you will carry the torch for them?

“With 7 million homeless families and children, who among you will take up their cause?

“With more black men and women being incarcerated today than there were in slavery in 1850, who among you will be challenged to do something about mass incarceration? With this country incarcerating more people than all of the countries of Europe combined, who among you will stand up for the children and families of the incarcerated?

“With more than 50% of blacks and Hispanics dropping out of school before they graduate, who among you will seek to change that statistic?

“Who among you will stand alone if necessary, to lift up your prophetic voice against discrimination because of race, class, gender, and sexual orientation? Who among you is willing to accept the uprooting and change God sends our way and say ‘I don’t know all the answers but I’m going to trust God nonetheless?’

Those haunting questions were directed to freshly minted college graduates, but they inspire each of us to wonder about our own mission in life. It need not be profound nor complicated, but it most likely will involve service or giving of ourselves to a value that is bigger than ourselves to leave the world a little better off than when we found it. Few things contribute to purpose in life more than having a sense of mission and carrying out our assignment from God





# Annual STEER Barbecue

Date: Saturday , July 20, 2019

Place: GracePoint Church

Address: 205 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Bismarck, ND

Time: 5:00 pm

You are invited to attend STEER's Annual Barbecue for delicious food, wonderful fellowship and inspiring music with the added bonus of an update on the STEER, INC. ministry. Be sure to invite a friend or neighbor. Doors will open at 4:00 pm. A free-will offering will be received to cover the cost of the event.

**Reservations for the meal are necessary.** In order to make sure there is plenty of food, we ask that you please reserve a meal ticket by July 17<sup>th</sup>. Reservations can be made by returning the form (found in the FBC church foyer) or by calling STEER office at 701-258-4911, [events@steerinc.com](mailto:events@steerinc.com) or through FACEBOOK.

Your reserved meal tickets will be available to pick up at the church upon your arrival at the Barbecue. Please feel free to come and enjoy the concert even if you don't wish to attend the meal.



When I contemplate my response to God's calling, I often think of Matthew 21. Speaking to his disciples, Jesus tells a parable of two brothers whose father asked them to do some work in the family vineyard. One said "Sure, I'll go"-but never went. The other said, "No way"- but eventually did as his father had asked.

My typical response to God's calling would fit right into this story. Eager to please my heavenly Father, I answer "Yes, I will go!". But when the initial excitement fades, my head gets in the way of my heart. I rationalize, "The timing's not right. I need to be better prepared. I'll go after I finish this one thing". Usually like the second brother, I eventually go, but not always on schedule, sometimes reluctantly and often with timid halting progress.

While serving in the Peace Corps in West Africa at age 22, I had a strong sense that God was calling me to serve in Africa as a missionary doctor and immediately answered "Yes!" and took steps to follow through on that

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be received during the month of July. Our goal this year is \$2355. Please give this your prayerful consideration.

## Did you know?

This offering began seventy years ago in response to the devastation of World War II. In March 1949, a national broadcast on a Saturday evening asked Americans to give generously the next morning in their churches. A remarkable assembly of national leaders and celebrities gave their efforts to the broadcast and more than 75,000 churches responded the next day.

Today, One Great Day of Sharing serves people in over 80 countries around the world. Sponsored by eight Christian US denominations and Church World Service, One Great Hour of Sharing makes sure that we can respond to needs as soon as they happen and that tens of thousands of people receive support for ongoing relief, rehabilitation and

development.

The World relief Committee of the American Baptist of General Ministries reviews each development project request funded by the One Great Hour of Sharing.

Offering received from the American Baptist. Gifts reached the ministries and people in need through a network of regional and international partnership with the following:

- American Baptist Foreign Missions Society.
- American Baptist Home Missions Societies.
- Baptist World Aid-the compassionate arm of the Baptist World Alliances, supporting three areas of ministries: relief, development and support of national partners.
- Church World Service-founded in 1946, church World Service is a relief development and refugee assistance ministry supported by 36 Protestant Orthodox and Anglican denominations in the United States. Church World Service transforms communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster.

calling. Seven years later, having completed medical school and my residency, I had the skills necessary to fulfill that call. But along the way, I had gotten married, had children, gone into private practice to pay off school debt and purchased a house. Not wanting to pull up my roots, I suggested to God that the responsible thing to do was to save for my children's college education, pay off my mortgage, get practical experience and then go to Africa.

One day, my wife, Ann, and I were traveling in upstate Vermont when, quite unexpectedly, our train stopped dead in its tracks. In the isolation of the moment, God led us to pray about the calling I had heard years earlier. By the time that train started to move again, we had told God, "Yes, we will go." Six months later, we set out with three young children and a fourth on the way. We remained in Africa for seven years before returning to the United States for our first furlough. At that point, the last thing I wanted to do was go back and keep serving. I was still haunted by the memory of war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which had torn me away from Ann and the children and kept us apart for 11 long months. Surely we had done enough; someone else could take a turn.

But after a year of visiting churches and sharing stories of God's faithfulness and provision. I couldn't shake the nagging call. I returned to the D.R. Congo on schedule, albeit reluctantly and with "conditions" that I shared only with God.

Over the next decade, the constant fighting in the D.R. Congo grew to engulf much of central Africa, claiming an estimated 1.2 million lives in what would become known as "Africa's World War." When Ann and I completed our assignment in this conflict-riddled region, we moved on to South Sudan, where yet another prolonged and violent civil war was coming to a head with the ethnic massacre of hundreds of thousands.

Today, we are living on the Congo-Uganda border, in the epicenter of Africa's second largest and deadliest outbreak of Ebola. I continue to contemplate our calling. Now that we are in our mid-sixties, our children ask, "Isn't it time for you to come home?" The simple answer is, "Not yet. We still feel called to serve." I am reminded of a gifted evangelist and educator whom Ann and I met recently as he was on his way home. His home, a town of half a million persons, has been under attack from rebel militias for the past several years. Armed elements infiltrate the town at night, raping, pillaging, murdering and burning homes. A United Nations force has been unable to prevent these horrific attacks. So we were surprised to see that the evangelist had a spark in his eyes as he talked about returning. We asked him, "What's your hurry? Why are you so eager to get back to a place that so many other people are fleeing?" "You see," he said, "Jesus is coming back soon, and when he returns, I want him to find me laboring in the field he assigned to me. I want to be where I am supposed to be—in the trenches—when Jesus returns!"