

The Evangel

April 2014 | The Monthly Newsletter of First Baptist Jackson



Inside this Issue

Letter from the Pastor
page 2

Letters from the Staff
page 3

Ministry and
Financial Updates
page 4

Ministry Schedule
page 5

Missions Highlight
page 6

Upcoming Events
page 7

REASONS...

For the last three months our focus, as a church, has been on excellence. God calls us to be a church, a people, and a community of excellence that reaches a culture in dire need of a loving Savior.

The month of April begins our new sermon series entitled: *Reasons*. Each week we will focus on some popular questions or ideas of our faith and what we believe. Pastor Lucas will deliver messages that answer some these questions and allow us to be more prepared to defend and support our faith. In 1 Peter 3, St. Peter encourages though sometimes troubled and intimidated, simply "*sanctify Christ as Lord in our hearts*" (3:15) and if someone asks you about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it.

Also this year, we will be pushing our visibility within the community for our Easter services. We are sending out postcards, advertising in the newspaper, and having stories published about our new facility, staff, and vision. This is an exciting time for our church... are you ready?



FIRST impressions

Starting April 13, we will be launching our First Impressions Greeting Ministry. We will have people strategically placed in the parking lot, at the doors and welcome desk, in the children's facility, and even in a designated coffee area. The goal of the ministry is to create an atmosphere that is comfortable, safe and friendly. Heather Hensley will be heading up the ministry, so if you have any questions or would like to be a part, you may contact her through email at heather.hensley31@gmail.com, or simply fill out the tear off portion of your bulletin and drop in the offering plate.

Know that 40% of visitors make up their mind about a church before they even see the pastor, according to Barna Research. Within two minutes of the beginning of a service visitors have formed an opinion about whether the congregation is friendly.

**"Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity."
Colossians 4:5**

Letter from Pastor Lucas

Church Family,

I am always overjoyed to write to you about what God is doing at First Baptist Jackson. The remodel process continues to move forward toward completion. I am very proud of the Remodel Committee's work through this process as well as the many volunteers who have made Sunday Worship possible by sacrificing their time each Saturday to clean the sanctuary. I know everyone is excited to see the completed project.

In addition to the sanctuary remodel we are now beginning to work on our children's area. The Sunday morning programming has already been restructured and soon the facilities will reflect the new focus. We hope to complete the project within a month. Know our efforts are accomplishing God's will and I am glad to report how positive and affirming our young adults are of our new emphasis on the children's ministry.

The ministerial staff is continuing to work through our strategies for reaching out to the community and ensuring that new faces are welcomed into our church. The first impressions ministry training served as a good start for beginning to help newcomers become involved in the ministry. Additional ideas and strategies are being discussed as well. The switch to a two-service format has also been helpful in attracting visitors, a few Sundays ago we counted at least 7 new families visiting our worship service.

Please remember that on Easter Sunday we will have a very special opportunity to reach the community and the focus will primarily be external. The ministerial staff is planning for mass advertisement for the Easter Sunday worship. I want to encourage you to make a conscious effort to invite family and friends to our Easter Sunday Worship. I love all of you so much and continue to be amazed at your warmth and affection. Also, I am very proud to serve as your pastor and confident First Baptist Jackson is filled with people who have hearts focused on glorifying God through fulfilling the Great Commission.

Letters from the Staff...

Remodeling has begun in the children's wing. On the first level, the indoor playground for our toddlers and preschoolers has been ordered. With bright colors, slides and an adorable purple caterpillar to climb on, this room will be a huge hit with our youngest kids and teachers. The welcome station and check-in systems will be coming soon and we will begin training a crew of people to help parents check-in their children for our programming.

The remodeling of the second level is also in progress. We have listened to your children and are striving to place things in our facility that will encourage fun while building healthy friendships. We will have a small climbing wall, gaming areas, small group areas and a café area complete with a large chalkboard wall.

We are continuing on with the Gospel Project for Kids. We have almost completed our first session. We have introduced new worship music and games to your kids as well. We hope they have been enjoying themselves as much as we have! If your child did not receive the Gospel Project Cards, please let their teacher know. We will also be sending home a CD of our current Kid's Worship songs for your listening pleasure.

Lindsey Hutson

The calendar says "Spring," and it's actually beginning to look that way. It's has taken a longer time to get here, but that's all right, for I know it's worth the wait. Spring is beautiful and filled with promise, hope and new life. "To everything there is a season...." Ecclesiastes 3.

The calendar also says it is time for our renovations to be complete, but the hammering in the auditorium tells me it may be just a bit longer. And that, too, is all right, for I know it will be worth the wait. It has actually been pretty amazing to watch our 48-year-old auditorium move into the 21st century. "And a time to every purpose under heaven...." Ecclesiastes 3.

One Sunday, Pastor Lucas commented on the remodeling ... and on how pleased he was with all the patience exhibited throughout the process. He went on to say, "Do you know why you can do this as a church? Because you have your hearts in the right place."

I would like to "amen" that comment, for I have also been very proud of our church and our senior adults. Your desire to grow God's kingdom and prepare a place of worship for future generations has surpassed nostalgia & familiarity. I know this has been tough for many and that it has taken many of us out of our "comfort zone." But praise God! Through heart's desire, prayer and patience, we are almost there. The transformation is nearly complete. A new season awaits us...filled with promise, hope and new life for First Baptist, Jackson. "He hath made everything beautiful in His time...." Eccl. 3:11

Hopefully your have received your Senior Moments Newsletter. Note the S.A.M. breakfast (April 9,) JOY choir's schedule, the Branson Trip (April 21 - 24) and several upcoming May events. In addition... invite family, neighbors & friends for Sunday, April 13, as we celebrate Palm Sunday & the completion of our renovations and Easter Sunday, April 20 as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Jean Schweain

I love this time of year! I can official say "Spring is in the air". I look around and am in awe of the brilliant colors, the budding trees and the annual flowers that are emerging from the ground. New life is present all around us and it only brings hope and excitement for what's to come in the year.

In the same way, I am excited as I look around the church. Obviously, I am amazed at the transformation of the facility, but more so in the hearts and voices of my church family. We are beginning to see more and more new families visit that are wanting to know about the new vision and happenings of First Baptist Jackson. If I could offer any encouragement to you, it would be as the season changes, let there be a newness with your prayer life. Pray daily for your church, your family and for yourself. My prayer is that you realize God's light is beginning to shine brilliantly from our church, our facility is budding with newness and First Baptist Jackson is emerging in our community as a place that worships and honors the one true God. It is an honor to be a part of such an amazing community of believers.

Josh Hensley

3

The Personnel Committee has narrowed down the candidates for Minister of Students and Missions to one top candidate. The committee has been frequently meeting, calling references, and been in fervent prayer about the search and candidate. Please continue to pray that God sends the right minister to disciple our students and advance the local, national, and global missions of the church.

March Financial Information

Needed Weekly: \$12,836

March 2
CHURCH WAS CANCELLED

March 9
Attendance: 292
\$19,557.90

March 16
Attendance: 307
\$16,873.27

March 23
Attendance: 296
\$11,002

March 30
Attendance: 320
\$10,070.55

THE ANNIE ARMSTRONG MISSIONS OFFERING

First Baptist Jackson's goal: **\$10,000**
National goal: **\$70 million**

SO...Who was Annie Armstrong?

Each year we honor the life and work of Annie Walker Armstrong (1850-1938) when we give to this offering to support missionaries in our own country and Canada. We are remembering a Christian woman who was a tireless servant of God and an avid supporter of missions. She led in the formation of Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) and served as the first corresponding secretary of that organization. She was an avid letter writer for the support of missions and in 1893 she hand wrote 18,000 letters to churches and individuals asking for more money to support missions.

She was a woman of prayer always interceding for missionaries. She rallied churches and WMU groups to GIVE more...PRAY more...DO more to reach people for Christ.

Her missions theme was
"GO FORWARD!"

Please pray about what YOU WILL GIVE!

Prayerfully consider:

100% of this offering is given in support of North American missions. When we consider that 260 million lost people live in the US and Canada...that is 3 out of 4 people...shocking but true!

A missionary once said, "If you send your money and don't pray, that's of limited assistance. Money can do only what money can do, but prayer can do what God can do."

Ask God to help you consider the NEED and your abundance that you are blessed with and then give with a cheerful heart! Let's surpass our church goal again this year.

If you would like more information on the ministry, mission and the affiliate organization of the North American Mission Board, visit www.anniearmstrong.com.

FIRMLY PLANTED

Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23

4

ROOTED IN THE GOSPEL

Preschool Ministry

Date	Toddlers	Bed Babies
Sunday, April 6	Cassandra and Kendra Bollinger (Morning) Kim Williams (Night)	Avis Bollinger and Clarice Jones (Morning) Heather Hensley (Night)
Wednesday, April 9	Kim Williams	Heather Hensley
Sunday, April 13	Lauren Simminger and ????? (Morning) Devin Mauk (Night)	Patty and Kati Schlosser (Morning) Avis Bollinger (Night)
Wednesday, April 16	Angie Kelley	Jessie Breckenridge
Sunday, April 20	Angie Kelley and Emily Hill (Morning) Diana Prince (Night)	Danny and Debbie Cook (Morning) Conna Pate (Night)
Wednesday, April 23	Angie Kelley	Sharon Frankum
Sunday, April 27	Kyle and Staci Glass (Morning) Jean Norman (Night)	Alison Mauk and ???? (Morning) Clarinda Unger (Night)
Wednesday, April 30	Jean Norman	Sandra O'Loughlin

Youth Breakfast Cooks

April 4	Hutson and Oldham
April 11	Hurst
April 18	NO SCHOOL
April 25	Nelson and Watson

Sunday Van Ministry

April 6	Arvie Odom, CDL	344-4361
April 13	Marilyn Hamilton, CDL	243-5185
April 20	Dennis Hurst, Van	243-2148
April 27	Darrell Kuntze, Van	833-6620
May 4	Jim Litzelfelner, CDL	270-5350

Food Pantry Volunteers

<u>April 7</u>	Barb Crane Edith Prater Clarinda Unger
<u>April 14</u>	Edith Prater Carrie Trentham Clarinda Unger

Wednesday Night Meals-Fellowship Hall

Serving time is **5:00 pm** for attendees of Wednesday night ministries or committees that may be meeting. All others will be served at **5:15 pm**. Take-outs will be ready at **5:30 pm**.
Prices: \$3 per person, children under 5 are free.
 Please call the church office by noon on Monday for reservations and/or cancellations.

<u>April 9</u> Fried Chicken Veggies, Salad, Biscuit And Dessert	<u>April 16</u> Baked Ham Veggies, Roll and Dessert	<u>April 23</u> Lasagna Salad, Garlic Bread And Dessert	<u>April 30</u> CANCELLED
---	--	--	------------------------------

5

MISSIONS | highlight

The United States of America is still welcoming many refugees into our country. Iranians, Armenians, Farsi people are a few of the groups who now live here and need to hear the gospel message of Jesus Christ!

Meet Ara and Anet Torosian, currently church planting missionaries with the Armenian Fellowship Church of Burbank, CA. Ara says, "Life is short and I want to use my time to spread the gospel." Ara was born into an Armenian Orthodox family in Tehran, Iran and a refugee himself, so he has a unique understanding of the situations facing these newcomers to our country. Loneliness is a major problem and wanting to connect with others from a similar background is a desire...the church is a great way for the refugees to do this. Teaching English as a second language is one tool used to reach the people. "If they will come to our church, we'll love them and let them know they are not alone", says Ara.

Ara shares his story with many, how he accepted Christ as a teenager in Iran, he connected with Southern Baptists in Central Asia and began a church in Turkey and later went home to Iran to

begin a church which proved costly to him. The underground church grew rapidly in six months and believers would travel 12-18 hours to worship with other Christians.

The church was discovered and Ara spent time in prison in Iran before he and his wife were able to come to the US in 2009.

Ara has a heart for taking the gospel to Muslims and others around him he asks us to PRAY that his love for Christ can continue to be shown to the refugees and help them overcome their fears of going to the church.



Ara and Anet Torosian
Church Planting Missionaries
Armenian Fellowship Church of Burbank
Burbank, California

Other Weekly Prayer Needs:

Week 2:

Pray for the WORD to be translated and recorded into the Naxi (NAH-shee) language so that the people can know the truth and have access to God's wisdom in their heart language. This people group lives in China. Also pray for Naxi believers to grow and that leaders will guide their flocks and plant more indigenous churches.

Week 3:

Young deaf believers need spiritual deaf leaders to teach them God's Word in their heart language. Pray for Adrian (not his real name) a deaf leaders, to have wisdom and discernment as he teaches in a new deaf church.

Week 4:

Babs and Alan Dial, North American missionaries in Tok, Alaska request prayer for the Suicide Prevention Program they plan to present to the five Athabaskan villages in April.



Spring into Action with WMU...

Ladies Banquet

Please join us for an evening of delicious food, fun and an inspiring presentation by Bettie Moeller, IMB Missionary in Russia. This event is open to all women (you don't have to be involved in WMU). Tickets cost \$9.50/person and Hickory House will be catering the event.

Fill out and return a registration form to the church office no later than May 1st with your check payable to First Baptist Jackson.

Questions? Contact Lisa Crites (243-5253) or Barbara Popp (243-2560)

6

Upcoming Events

April 13th - Celebration Sunday

We will celebrate the completion of our renovations during both services. Committee members and volunteers will be recognized for their hard work and dedication to the project. Join us as we give God praise for His favor and ask His blessings for our future. Please invite your friends and family.

April 18th - Good Friday Service

First Baptist Jackson will host the annual Ministerial Alliance Good Friday service.

April 20th - Easter Sunday

Easter 2014 will be focused on family, community and outreach. With the completion of our renovations to the sanctuary and children's facility, we are primed to exhibit all that First Baptist Jackson has to offer. We will be offering free family photos and a free Easter basket to all children (up to 4th grade). Please invite friends, neighbors, and family to be a part.

April 30th - Nolan Weber's Celebration of Life

The family of Nolan Weber will be hosting a celebration of life at 6:30 pm in the Event Center at Jackson High School. The doors open at 5:30 pm. There will be live music, a message of hope and believing, a presentation by the Nolan Weber Foundation, and a lantern release in honor of Nolan. Everyone at First Baptist Jackson and in the community is invited to be a part. All services and activities will be cancelled at First Baptist Jackson during the night of the event.

May 4th - Children's Musical

The children's choir will be presenting their spring musical, "Go, Go Jonah" at 6:00 pm. During the month of April, the children will practice in the sanctuary from 6:00—7:15 every Wednesday.

August - VBS

The Vacation Bible School/KidJam is tentatively schedule for August. Please pencil in a reminder on your calendar and begin praying how you may be involved and that many children are impacted for the gospel of Christ. Watch for a more definitive date in the near future.



CHURCH INFORMATION

Lucas Clabough
Senior Pastor

Josh Hensley
Minister of Worship and Media

Jean Schweain
Senior Adult Ministry

Lindsey Hutson
Director of Children's Ministries

www.firstbaptistchurch.tv

Church Office: (573) 243-8415
FAX (573) 243-2730

Email: fbcj@sbcglobal.net



THE EVANGEL (USPS #019483)
is published monthly by First Baptist Church,
212 South High St., Jackson, MO 63755.

PERIODICALS
POSTAGE
PAID
JACKSON, MISSOURI
63755

Weekly Schedule

SUNDAY: 8:30 am - Blended Worship
9:45 am - Sunday School
11 am - Modern Worship
6:00 pm - Evening Worship

WEDNESDAY: 5:00 pm - Fellowship Meal
6:00 pm - Bible Studies/Prayer

