



First Baptist Church

Of Traverse City

Furthering the Good News of Jesus and Reaching New People for the Kingdom of God

August 2017

244 WASHINGTON STREET

(231) 946-4727

August Church Calendar

Join us for Worship each Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Adult Bible study is on recess until September 24.

Sun., Aug. 6 – Communion shared and August birthdays and anniversaries celebrated.

Sun., Aug. 13 – Greeter Training following worship. Please see Pastor MaryBeth for details.

Wed., August 16 at 7 p.m.– Final FBC / Beach Bums game Invite neighbors and friends to come with you. AND purchase one or more tickets for acquaintances you may not usually invite to something. Tickets are available for purchase from Tana.

Sun., Sept. 3 – Communion shared and September birthdays / anniversaries celebrated.

Mon., Sept. 4 – Labor Day

Sept. 11 and Oct. 2 – Crafting sessions from 4 to 9 p.m. in preparation for the Oct. 14 annual Craft and Baked Goods Sale.

Tues., Sept. 12 - AB Women's Missions Group at noon at the church



Encouraging One Another as Christ's Followers

*A Word from
Pastor MaryBeth Robertson*

"Let us not give up meeting together, as is the habit of some, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:25

Seven months! Time flies. It has been my privilege to minister with you for almost seven months as your called pastor, in addition to the eleven months I served as interim. It has been a time of change, and I hope a time of growth, for all of us.

Thank you for your friendly reception throughout those first few months. Thank you for your receptiveness to some possibly "crazy" inclusions in worship services.

Thank you for extending Christ's love to me.

At Church Council July 23, Zeke shared a summary of the recent pastor evaluation survey. He will give a report to church on August 13. Thank you for your gracious responses! I am humbled that you see many such positive aspects of my ministry. Your responses invite me to be a better pastor, and a better person, than I sometimes think I am.

As I was reflecting on what to say in this column, I was drawn back to that last realization: "Your responses invite me to be a better pastor and a better person than I sometimes believe I am." Isn't that what it means to be part of God's family? Yes, being in God's family means we have accepted Jesus as the Christ, as our Lord and Savior. Being a part of God's family does mean we love Jesus. AND it means much more. It also means being part of a group of people accountable to one another. A recent headline I read said, "I

"Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ."

Philippians 1:27

love Jesus but I don't love the church? ' Then you don't love Jesus.' Challenging!

God is certainly capable, without any human assistance, of perfecting us (Philippians 1:6, "... he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ."). Yet I believe we are created to be in community (as Father-Son-Holy Spirit are one yet three in community, three yet one in unity). So what is so important about being a member of God's family? Hebrews 10:25 exhorts us to meet together and to encourage one another. Family members care for one another; we encourage one another. We are available to be Christ's hands and feet: assisting, guiding, encouraging one another to be better people, to be more Christ-like.

In the closing worship service at the recent ABCUSA Biennial, I was asked to identify why ministry by each of us—pastor and layperson—is important. My response was, "We're all in this together." As you have invited me to be a better person through your kind words, may we urge one another to good deeds and encourage one another to become more Christ-like in the ways we live each day.

Yours in Christ -

Pastor MaryBeth



August Birthdays

Aug. 10 – Carla Wares
Aug. 13 – Mike Hains
Aug. 15 – Charlie Strait
Aug. 22 – Dick Peplinski
Aug. 24 – Tim Singleton
Aug. 25 – Abby (Mansfield) Shier
Aug. 30 – Jeremy Wares and Jan Stephens
Aug. 30 - Rev. Mark and Linda Montei anniversary

FBC Financial Update (through July 23)

YTD General Fund Income: \$36,135.10
YTD Expenses: \$30,573.73
YTD Missions Offering: \$9,996.97

Upcoming Sermon Titles and Scripture

Join us each Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m.



August 6 – *God's Family Has No Boundaries*
Galatians 3:28; Colossians 3:10-11

August 13 – *My Life--God's Work*
(Faithfulness, patience, self-control)
Galatians 5:22-25

August 20 – *My Life—God's Work?*
(Kindness, gentleness, goodness)
Galatians 5:22-25

August 27 *My Life—God's Work?*
(Love, joy, peace)
Galatians 5:22-25

Final FBC/Beach Bums

Baseball Game:

Wed., Aug. 16 at 7 p.m.

Cheer for the Beach Bums, support FBC missions and bring a friend! Tickets are \$10; please see Tana Wilsey for more information. Consider purchasing additional tickets for friends, family, neighbors or others. This is an excellent way to extend goodwill and introduce others to our FBC family!



Difficult decisions By Marian Larson

August 6 will mark one of our country's most important anniversaries.

On August 6, 1945, an American pilot flew the "Enola Gay", a B-29 bomber over Hiroshima, Japan and let loose the atomic bomb.

Thousands of young military men had been quarantined in a holding pattern, waiting for the planned massive land invasion of Japan named "Operation Downfall."

In 1945 President Roosevelt died, leaving his vice president with many heavy decisions. On the way back to Washington from witnessing the peace treaty for the European conflict, Harry Truman made the choice to drop the bomb. Willing to take the blame or the credit for his choice, he made his famous statement, "The buck stops here."

The dropping of the bomb hastened the end of the war, and by September, General MacArthur presided over the Japanese surrender abroad the US Missouri. Was it necessary? In my opinion, it was. It's estimated that a land invasion of Japan's homeland would have resulted in 1.2 to 1.7 million American casualties, and 5 to 10 million Japanese deaths.

In that holding pattern, waiting to be shipped to Japan for the land invasion was a young sailor, Glenn Larson, who declared from then on that Harry Truman was his hero.

Overcoming Life's Problems By Velma Wiebe

Do you ever wish you could be an "overcomer" when facing life's problems? If so, I think you will find the following Scripture references helpful. Please begin by reading Revelation 3:5.

God's Word says to first believe it in your heart before speaking it with your mouth. (Romans 10:10)

If God said it, then it is my duty and my joy to believe it. (2 Corinthians 9:8)

I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me. (Philippians 4:13)

Living in the flesh will lead to death, but being led by the Holy Spirit gives life. (Romans 8:13,14)

We don't want to be the carnal Christian, so let Him have control. (Romans 12:1,2)

Acknowledge Him in all your ways. (Proverbs 3:6)

According to Joni Erickson Tada, "Faith is not just believing God for something far off in the future, but believing Him step-by-step."

FBC Men: This is for you



At the past two Church Council meetings, the formation of a men's group has been mentioned. The group possibly could meet once a month, eat a meal together, have a short devotion and participate in a work project. Most importantly, this group would provide a time of fellowship among the men of FBC.

This week's report from Camp Lake Louise offers an additional, and important, ministry for a men's group: mentoring boys who do not have a father in the home. Some background is needed. Camp Lake Louise participates in the Psalm68:Five program, offering full scholarships for a week at camp to campers who do not have a father at home. The program was initiated by two brothers whose dad became missing in action during the Vietnam War. In information about last week's 7th-8th grade camp, three campers from Traverse City were mentioned. All three boys: do not have a father in the home, do not attend church, could benefit from guidance by Christian men.

What if FBC men organized and chose to become mentors, as a group, for these three middle school students (and perhaps others who might come to our attention)? Each of you could make a life-long impact on a youth who needs to see how men live as Christ's followers.

Talk with Zeke or Pastor MaryBeth about your willingness to participate in such a men's group. Two people already have volunteered to cook and serve the first breakfast... There is a ministry for YOU, when you open your heart to the Lord.

Sorry for the inconvenience!

The riverfront restoration project at Boardman Place Condominiums will continue for a few more weeks. Workers are accessing the site through our parking lot - thanks for your patience.



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP IN AUGUST!

Find the Love, Joy and
Peace that's available
for ALL of us
as we do God's work and
mature in our faith in
Jesus



244 Washington St.
PO Box 6733
Traverse City, MI 49685

Your Responses to Pastor MaryBeth's Ministry

In recent weeks, the congregation of FBC was invited to share their confidential thoughts about the ministry of Pastor MaryBeth Robertson. This survey has proven to be a useful tool as she works to fulfill her commitment to make your experience at FBC as meaningful as possible. Your responses help her shape this ministry and her effectiveness as she shares God's love and His way with you.

Survey respondents were asked to respond to the following:

- Identify two things about Pastor MaryBeth's ministry that you appreciate.
- Identify two things about Pastor MaryBeth's ministry that make you uncomfortable or that you dislike.

The following is a summary of the things you appreciate about Pastor MaryBeth and her ministry:

- She knows us by name, is upbeat, positive, organized, generous, patient, flexible, knowledgeable, kind, loving, caring, supportive, approachable, energetic, hard working and gracious.
- She has many abilities and shares excellent sermons. In her sermons she utilizes helpful visuals; the sermons challenge us, they're Biblically based, well thought-out, and visionary.

And what makes us uncomfortable about MaryBeth and her ministry? Well, the following response could be interpreted as a blessing:

"Sometimes I'm uncomfortable when she says some things that hit home."

Isn't that what Spiritual growth is about?

Thanks to the FBC Pastoral Relations Committee (Robin Murray, Dave Wilsey and Zeke Fleet) for coordinating this survey, and to Pastor MaryBeth for cheerfully listening to these responses.

Summary of the Sunday, July 23 Church Council Meeting

- We will seek to acquire a secure church credit card that is linked to our Fifth-Third bank account. It will help expedite FBC purchases.
- We are looking at possible missional relationship with a local group called “Before, During and After Incarceration.” The group supports the emotional, physical and spiritual needs of individuals and families that have experienced incarceration in local jails.
- We are pursuing participation with a Biblically based group called the “Apprentice Program.” Other GT-area churches and individuals have found this Bible Study experience to be Spiritually beneficial.
- Training for FBC ushers and greeters will take place following the service on Sun., Aug. 13.
- We will utilize services of A-4 Access to perform the mandated maintenance of our chair lift. The cost of this three-year commitment is \$850.
- We reviewed the recent congregational survey responses to Pastor MaryBeth’s ministry. A mid-year 2% compensation increase was approved.
- FBC YTD income exceeds budget by 13.36%, and expenses are below budget by 2.9%.
- Exterior windows and a new light/ceiling fan will soon be installed in the baptismal area. Sanctuary drywall under the balcony is in need of repair and a fall boiler inspection is planned.
- Pastor MaryBeth shared a report from the recent ABC Biennial Meeting in Portland, OR.
- The final FBC/Beach Bums baseball game is Wed., Aug. 16. Proceeds will benefit the Kalkman family missionaries.
- A late-summer picnic for our congregation and our neighbors from GT County and Boardman Place Condominiums was discussed and approved.
- Input is needed on a new FBC mission statement and logo.
- Joe Underwood offered to coordinate the FBC Christmas dinner.
- The next Church Council meeting will be held Sunday, September 24 following worship.

