



First Baptist Church

Of Traverse City

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

JANUARY 2017

244 WASHINGTON STREET

(231) 946-4727

Join us as we embrace
Pastor MaryBeth Robertson,
permanent pastor of
First Baptist Church,
effective January 1, 2017!



*A Word from Rev.
MaryBeth Robertson*

God Grants New Beginnings

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end. Lamentations 3:22

Recently, I've been thinking a lot about beginnings and endings. Of course, we think of a new year as the calendar changes from 2016 to 2017. We bring the old year to a close (how quickly the year passed!). We anticipate a new year with resolutions, determined to do or be better in the coming year.

But there is so much more to beginnings and endings. I like Marianne Williamson's statement, "Every ending is a new beginning. Through the grace of God, we can always start again." Each chapter of our lives, of our church's life, that comes to an end merely allows us to start a new chapter in our continuing story, in God's continuing story. FBC has been through two endings in the past three years: saying good-bye to the ministry of Tom and Donna Mansfield and then saying good-bye to the ministry of Jeremy and Aleesha Spence. Each ending offered opportunity for a new beginning.

For me, this will be the first move I have made since starting college when my family didn't move with me or when I moved to leave a very difficult relationship and situation. This is indeed a new beginning. In one sense, though, moving to Traverse City is not really a beginning: I am simply moving to be closer to my new family. Thank you for your friendship and your support for all of 2016. Yet, in coming to Traverse City, even in a position

January Church Calendar

Weekly Adult Sunday School on recess

Each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. – Worship gathering with children's program downstairs during the message.

Each Sunday at 4 p.m. and Monday at 9:30 a.m. -

Group Bible Study at the church. Resumes January 9

Mon., Jan. 2 – Pinterest Party. Snacks at 5:30 p.m. and crafting begins at 6 p.m. January's craft is a Valentine heart wreath wall art - \$5 for the heart kit or bring your own supplies.

Sun., Jan. 8 – Communion shared and January birthdays and anniversaries celebrated.

Tues., Jan. 10 – American Baptist Women's Missions meeting at 12-noon, weather permitting.

Sun., Jan 15 – Celebration luncheon for the 65th wedding anniversary of Leo and Donna Strait (no gifts)

Mon., Jan. 16 – Martin Luther King Jr. day

Sun., Jan. 29 – Church Council 2017 planning meeting
looking ahead . . .

Sun., Feb. 5 – Communion Sunday and February birthdays celebrated

Wed., Mar. 1 – Ash Wednesday, beginning of Lenten Season

of 30 hours per week, I am moving farther from my Michigan sons and their families. Most likely, I will be less available to help them. In that sense, my move is an ending, for now.

My ministry with you, the congregation of First Baptist Church, is changing: my role as transitional pastor comes to a close on December 31; my role as called-pastor begins on January 1. Many aspects of worship and of FBC will remain the same as they have been for the past 11 months, and some will be different. I look forward with great anticipation to how God will be moving among us at FBC. Let us hold on to those traditions that bring us closer to God in Jesus Christ. Let us hold on to those ministries through which we reach those beyond FBC with the Good News Christ brings. And let us begin new traditions that fit FBC in 2017 as we discover new ministries our Lord calls us to pursue.

God's steadfast mercies never cease AND they are *new* each morning (emphasis added). Together let us be ready to discover, as a congregation, what God is leading us to be and do in 2017: to discover our new beginning.

Yours in Christ -

Pastor MaryBeth



Love INC

Love In the Name of Christ

Thanks so much! A sincere "thank you" goes out to everyone who participated in the annual Love INC / FBC Adopt-a-Family Christmas gift program. The gifts were delivered on December 19. Your generosity and care for families in need is most evident. On behalf of Love INC, FBC, and our designated family – a heart-felt **thanks** goes to you!

*Join us each Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m.
Fellowship time follows the service.*

January 2017 Sermon Titles and Scriptures

January 1

Things Aren't Always What They Seem
Matthew 2:1-12

January 8

Resolutions and Possibilities
1 Peter 1:23; Ezekiel 36:27

January 15

Same Message! Different Methods?
Isaiah 43:18-19

January 22

Now That We Have A Called Pastor...
Ephesians 2:8-10

January 29

Did the Disciples "Get it?"
Matthew 17:1-13; Mark 10:37; John 6:5-7

January Birthdays & Anniversaries



Junior Garza – Jan. 1
Nicole Strait – Jan. 2
Steven Zuniga – Jan. 6
Rachel Wares – Jan. 14
Rev. Bill Nelson – Jan. 17
Scottie Stanley (Wares) – Jan. 19
Velma Wiebe – Jan. 27
Chip Underwood – Jan. 28
Rev. Mark Montie – Jan 31

Leo and Donna Strait – Jan. 16
Cliff and Sue Wares – Jan. 22

Year-End Financial Update (2016)

YTD General Fund Income: \$65,669.73
YTD Expenses: \$52,696.77
YTD Missions Offering: \$10,964.76
YTD Furnace Fund: \$7,300

Moving Forward with Faith and Optimism

It's time to take a deep breath. Say a prayer, and step forward into 2017 with eager anticipation.

Without a doubt, FBC has been blessed in 2016 with the help of Pastor MaryBeth Robertson. She arrived in January and initially wore three hats: our ABC-MI pastoral search committee liaison, conflict resolution facilitator, and interim pastor. We found it was easy to love, respect and pay close attention to MaryBeth. She's forever positive, most generous with her time, resources and talents, and fully equipped with church leadership experience that more than exceeds expectations.

In 2016 we moved forward with MaryBeth behind the pulpit while nurturing relationships in our congregation. She's worked at mission-building efforts; she's been faithfully attentive to small Bible-study groups, and later answered the call to be our permanent pastor. How blessed we are! We've witnessed a year of MaryBeth's faith in action!



Good things are in store for FBC. Later in January the church council plans to discuss a docket of possible initiatives for 2017. We'll be looking at ways to spiritually enrich the lives of attendees, and will also talk about community outreach ideas and ways to encourage visitors to return and claim FBC as their home church. Other ideas might include expansion of our music and youth

ministries, expansion of technology, and involvement with local missions. These initiatives don't come easy. Most require having a suitable infrastructure in place that makes worshiping at FBC enjoyable - these things often cost money and are dependent on the combined efforts of many people. It's safe to say that we may need to step out of our comfort zones and collectively learn and do new things.

Doing God's work in a small community church can be most rewarding. For many of us, the paybacks far exceed the investments. Together we can make a difference while *"furthering the good news of Jesus and reaching new people for the kingdom of God."*

Zeke Fleet

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11



Remembering Vadene Barshney

Dear friend and long-time church member, Vadene Barshney, passed away December 20 at Traverse Manor, where she had resided for several years. A memorial service will be held in the spring.

Vadene's 100th birthday was celebrated with family and friends at FBC on October 8 during the annual Craft and Baked Goods Fair – one of her favorite events. She'll long be remembered for her positive and supportive spirit and her gentle, loving ways.



First Baptist Church needs your time and talents!
Here is a short list of some of areas of need:

- Clerical (office) help
- Sunday morning greeters
- Communion preparation
- Adult Sunday School leader
- Snow removal and grass cutting help
- Junior Church assistance
- General cleaning of church
- Maintenance/repair at church and parsonage
- Coffeetime snacks
- Music – whatever musical talents you have
- Help with craft and baked goods sales

Please see Pastor MaryBeth or Zeke for more information.

First Baptist Church
PO Box 6733
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Bring a friend to
Junior Church!



Join the fun and
fellowship each Sunday
during worship service:
Bible Stories
Music and Singing
Crafts and Games

***SEE YOU AT CHURCH
THIS SUNDAY!***

