



First Baptist Church

Of Traverse City

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

May 2017

244 WASHINGTON STREET

(231) 946-4727

May Church Calendar

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

Each Sunday at 9:15 a.m. **Adult Sunday School** series will be led by Joe Underwood.

Each Monday at 9:30 a.m. - Group Bible Study

Mon., May 1 –Pinterest Crafting Party. Snacks at 5:30 p.m. and crafting begins at 6. The craft is mosaic flowerpots and cup coasters – kits are \$5 – see Toni H.

Thurs., May 4 – National Day of Prayer

Sat., May 6 at 1 p.m. – Memorial service for Vadene Barshney.

Sun., May 7 – Communion shared and April birthdays celebrated.

Tues., May 9 – AB Women’s Missions Group meets at 12-noon at the church.

Sun., May 14 – Missionaries Jon and Amanda Good will be with us to share their work in Hungary. A potluck is planned following worship.

Sun., May 21 – Church Council meets following worship

Sun., May 21 – First FBC Beach Bums baseball game. See Tana Wilsey for ticket information

Mon., May 29 – Memorial Day

Looking ahead . . .

Tues., June 13 – Annual Women’s Bible Study series begins, led by Marilyn Shaw. Studies will focus on the Gospel of Mark.

Sat., July 22 at 11 a.m. – Memorial service for Margaret Underwood.



New Life in Christ

*A Word from
Pastor MaryBeth Robertson*

*“ . . . but this one thing I do:
forgetting what lies behind and
straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards
the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in
Christ Jesus”*

Philippians 3:13b-14

Recently I counted six cars using FBC parking spaces throughout a single day. Most stayed fewer than 30 minutes. I asked one young man if he were waiting as he sat in his car. He replied, “Yes, I’m waiting for my girlfriend who has to see her PO today.” At a different time two other cars had someone sitting, waiting. Wednesday, April 26, must have been a busy court day!

When I saw cars parked in FBC spaces, my first reaction was impatience, “Why do they have to park in OUR spaces?!” My second reaction was to prepare a card, similar to the one we distributed at the Craft Fair, inviting car owners to come to church. By the time I got back outside, the cars that prompted this reaction were gone. My third reaction—one that took me ALL day to arrive at—was an “Aha” moment: this is one of our mission fields! And it truly is right outside our door.

Dr. William Schiell, President of Northern Seminary, challenged and inspired ABC-MI pastors at our recent clergy retreat. Luke 10 (take time to read this chapter) reminds us Jesus sent out the 70 believers in pairs. Though people often gathered to hear this teacher Jesus, he still sent out his followers. We Christians are to go into our community, meeting people right where

they are. We are to go out to share God's love. When we go out and establish relationships with those who need to hear of God's love through Jesus Christ, there will come a time when our new friend wants to know what we believe, just not at first. As Dr. Schiell reminded us, "The church is not an organization set up to get people to come into the church. The church is a mission-focused organization, going out into the community to connect with those who do not yet believe in Jesus."

And the wonderful part of this is church size doesn't matter. We can be Christ's hands and feet, whether there are 12 of us (the first disciples) or 45 of us or thousands. We can start by showing hospitality—God's love—with those who need a parking space for 30 minutes to do business with the court. We can offer those who wait in their cars a friendly greeting, maybe even something to drink while they wait. And then we can show hospitality—God's love—to our neighbors and to those we encounter as we move about our day. The mission field is wide open and we are entrusted with sharing God's love with those who need it so desperately.

Let us leave behind our preconceived ideas of how to "evangelize" and ideas of how church "should be." Instead, let's press on, carrying the Good News of Jesus Christ into a hurting world beginning right outside our church doors.

Yours in Christ -

Pastor MaryBeth

May Birthdays



May 3 – Robin Murray
May 6 – Audrey Strait
May 8 – Sydney Yeoman
May 25 – Julie Wilsey
May 29 – Dan Bristol
May 30 – Anniversary of
Bill and Sallie Nelson

Upcoming Sermon Titles and Scripture

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



May 7 - *What Does New Life Look Like?*

Colossians 1:9-14

May 14 - Jon and Amanda Good - *Missions in Hungary*

Matthew 28:19-20

May 21 - *Drawing Near to God*

James 4:8

May 28 - *No Greater Love Than This*

John 15:13

FBC Financial Update

YTD General Fund Income: \$18,879.21

YTD Expenses: \$13,298.90 (through March)

YTD Missions Offering: \$6,356.25

Furnace Fund: \$7,595 to date

Church and Parsonage Capital Projects

Thanks to all who've assisted with routine and special capital improvement projects at the church and parsonage. Here's a list of completed and upcoming projects.

Completed church projects:

- Hot water is now available in both restrooms
- Coverings for stained glass window coverings repaired

Church projects in progress:

- Doorbell for front entrance
- Window replacement in baptismal area
- Drywall repair under balcony

Completed Parsonage projects:

- Bathroom remodeling
- Hot water heater replaced
- New doorbell installed
- Backyard fence dismantled (will not be replaced)
- Spring yard cleaning
- New washer and dryer installed

Parsonage project in progress:

- Front storm door will be installed

Lest We Forget
By Marian Larson

Memorial Day was first observed in May 1862 to commemorate the sacrifices made during the Civil War. After WW I it became a celebration of honor for those who died in all American wars, as well as those who are veterans. In 1971 it was declared a National Holiday.

As Memorial Day approaches, we think of those who have gone before and it is usually the little things that come to mind. That said, I want to tell you a little story of my own. My husband carried an old (old-old) picture of me in a little cardboard frame for years in his Bible. After his death, three years ago, it floated around my desk and one day it fell to the floor and the picture came out of the little frame. On the back of the picture he had written a message. It was a love note from him to me. Truly, it was an unexpected gift, a real blessing, three years in the making.

As a proud American, he would have been pleased to have his flag flying among those of other veterans on this Memorial Day.

My Prayer
By Velma Wiebe

Thanks to you, God, for you are my strength and everlasting portion. I thank you for the fact that you died on the cross for me and rose again the third day, triumphant over my sins. Thank you for your grace, which is all-sufficient for every trial.

And Lord, help us to be faithful to you in even small things, like taking good care of our bodies. Lord, we know that our bodies are the temple of the Holy Ghost, and therefore we should glorify you in our physical bodies. Help me to partake of healthy food, that I might not have regrets related to my body's health. Lord, help us to praise and thank you for everything! In Jesus' name, Amen.

Here are a few verses that will help us be stronger Christians:

Romans 12:1,2; Romans 8:1,2; and 11-16; I Corinthians 6:19,20; and II Corinthians 9:8.

"Prayer is the world's greatest wireless connection."

American Baptist Women's Missions Report
By Juanita Strait

Thanks to all for their hard work that resulted in our successful Craft, Baked Goods, and Rummage Sale. These and other funds raised by ABWM support local missions and American Baptist missions at state, national, and international levels. We welcome input from the congregation concerning specific mission support.

Discussion at the April 11 meeting included assistance with the meal that will follow Vadene Barshney's memorial service, and late summer or early fall plans to visit Friendship House in Hamtramck

Women of the church are invited to ABWM meetings, which are held the second Tuesday of the month. The next meeting is Tuesday, May 9 at noon in the fellowship room. Dessert will be provided.

Thanks and Reminders

- Thanks to all who provided and participated in the recent Craft, Baked Goods and Rummage Sale. The event provided excellent community exposure for FBC, and generated more than \$2,000 for missions.

- Thanks to Pastor MaryBeth for her participation in the annual Good Friday community service held at CUMC.

- Congratulations to those who were baptized on Easter Sunday: Mingo Garza, Mayda Garza and John Murray, and for a wonderful Easter Sunday service and generous potluck that followed.

- Thanks for your generous donations to the Hygiene Pantry collection for Love INC and Jubilee House. Further supplies will be needed beginning June 1.

- Plans are in the works for FBC "movie nights" that will be open to everyone. Please consider inviting friends and family to join us!

- Church council will meet on Sunday, May 21 following worship service.

Score Some Runs for FBC Missions!



Grab your ball cap and join others from FBC to support FBC missions AND our Beach Bums baseball team this season! As in past years, a generous donor has made this mission outreach possible. FBC will have a specific number of tickets available for game attendance.

Our schedule for the four 2017 games is similar to the schedule in 2016. Here are the 2017 dates:

- Tickets are again \$10 each – all proceeds are given to FBC mission projects.
- You're encouraged to bring friends and support this outreach effort.
- If there are unsold FBC tickets, FBC participants will be encouraged to give a ticket(s) to a person or family (1) does not attend FBC and *does not have a church home* and (2) you would like to invite to a church activity, such as worship.

- **Sun., May 21 at 5 p.m.**
- **Tues., June 20 at 7 p.m.**
- **Thurs., July 20 at 7 p.m.**
- **Wed., Aug. 16 at 7 p.m.**

Different days of the week were chosen so as many people as possible could attend.

***Mark your calendar – Have fun
while supporting the Beach Bums
and FBC Missions!***



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