



# The Beacon

The Newsletter of First Baptist Church of Salt Lake City—

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## **The Number One Plan for Church Growth**

I have been looking at research on church growth lately. To be honest, I have been looking at research on church growth for years. Since first becoming a pastor over ten years ago I have tried to stay up on the latest analyses of what makes a church grow. Over the years there has been only one consistent element to growing and sustaining a church. It is not the size of the church. It is a myth that bigger churches are able to grow faster than small churches. It is not the age of the church. While newer churches seem to find it easier to attract people, sustaining growth is just as hard in an older established church. The age of the people in the congregation is not a large factor in church growth either; nor is denominational affiliation. Contemporary music versus old hymns also has virtually no effect on a church's ability to grow. Money, location and even theology all have little to do with a church's growth. The right advertising also does not make or break a church's growth.

The number one factor, the biggest contributor to church growth is: the people in the congregation inviting people to church. More than any other variable, churches that are growing and thriving are churches where the members themselves are actively inviting people to be a part of the activities of the church. It doesn't even have to be Sunday worship, These events can be a mission project or a social event or a small group study. The key is the invitation.

Now I can hear all of the arguments as to why this is a difficult thing to do:

“Most of my friends already have a church.” This may be true and we are not in the business of stealing from other faith communities, but there are often people within our circle of relationships who do not have a faith community and if we begin to tune ourselves to look for opportunities to invite them to something at church it can be surprising how easy it is.

“I don't want to be pushy.” I don't want you to be pushy either. What I do think we should be is authentic. When there are worthwhile events and activities happening at church that you are excited about, how can you help but talk about them? It would be natural for any of us to extend an invitation to someone to be a part of something we are excited about. Recently a friend was getting into yoga and invited my wife to come try it as well. Robbin went and loved it. There is no reason why church would not work the same way. The key is authenticity.

People know when you are genuinely excited about something and want to share it.

“Utah has made me leery of evangelism.” Believe me, I relate to this one. The last thing I would advocate is going door to door or even feeling the burden of converting people to the Baptist faith. I am not asking you to sell people on our brand of Christianity, but I am urging you to be inviting people to be a part of this faith community. Jesus will take care of any transformation that is needed.

In the months ahead, we will be looking for ways to make inviting people to church easier with special events or “bring a friend Sunday.” We will do what we can to make it a great experience for any visitors to be with us. But we will need to count on the people here to bring them in. There is no magic formula or program that will grow our church. At the end of the day, the church will grow because we are so excited about what is happening here that we are willing to share that excitement with others. I pray we do indeed feel that kind of excitement about what God is doing in our midst.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Curtis

### **Happy Birthday To:**

Aug 1: Mitchell Keysaw, 2: Ethan Huntsman, 3: Ryan Watson, 4: Carolyn Klassen, Thomas Hekking, 5: Ellis Keck, 9: Heather Brown, 12: Kristen Carter, 13: Anika Hample, Erik Hample, 14: Mary Burnett, Cazzie Brown, Jack Price; 15: Carter Aguilar, 21: Royce Moser, 22: Cydney Lyons, 23: Scott Huntsman, 24: Margaret Bond, 25: Gloria Peterson, 26: Olga Smith, 28: Christian Aguilar, 30: Kim Newman, 31; Tristen Walters

Sept 1: Doug Huntsman, 3: Evan Willett, Melba Mecham, Gordon Remington, 5; Gaylene Barnes, Vicky Willett, 9; Eliza Borysiuk, 15; Tricia Lyons, 17: Robbin Price 19; Jerry Chaney, Max Young, 20; Max Rothwell, 21: Edith Fulkerson, 22: Alex Kinghorn, Ida Painter, 23: Jackie Nielsen, 24: Ashleigh Thompson, 25: Ray Carter, Katelyn Klassen, Virginia Grace Price, 26: Robyn Roth 27: Maria Kinghorn, Robyn Rausher Fellows, 29: Maggie Chaney, Matt Winzenried.

**The Fellowship Team thanks** all the folks who made the Summer Millcreek Canyon Picnic a success: Jerry Chaney and Paul Ditton for the scrumptious Dutch oven cooking and Maggie and Pat for their organization. Also, the hike to Alta which included Cecret Lake, Sugarloaf Mountain and Albion Meadows offered a wonderful chance to enjoy tremendous wild flowers and really great exercise in the fresh air. We appreciate the Chaney family for organizing this.

**The staff of People Helping People thanks First Baptist Church** for the generous use of Keck Hall on August 17th for our Summer Awards Dinner. Our clients and their participating families are especially greatly appreciative of the wonderful spaghetti dinner prepared by Ken and Ann Burnett and 1st Baptist helpers with servers from Judge Memorial H.S. Please accept our gratitude for your kind community outreach.

**People Helping People is a successful employment program dedicated to reducing the number of children living in poverty by helping low-income women, primarily single moms, build better futures for themselves and their children through long-term successful employment!**

### **September Can Can Mission:**

We will be collecting non-perishable food items for Crossroads Urban Center food bank. Cans of tuna, chicken, bean, chili, instant oatmeal (individual packs) and other such items would be ideal. Let's see if we can beat last year's record!

## Happening At FBC:

Aug:

- 20: FBC Child Care Center 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Potluck Party at 5:30 pm
- 21: Chicken In the Courtyard Potluck following worship.
- 26: Gym Closes for a month
- 28: Rummage Sale moves to the gym following worship  
ABY Kick Off Party
- 31: Council of Ministries Meeting at 5:45 pm

Sept:

- 4: Last 10 Am Worship
- 5: Office Closed for Labor Day  
College Age Sunday School Class BBQ at Chaney's at 6 pm
- 9: Rummage Sale opens at 8 am
- 10: Rummage Sale continues
- 11: Celebration Sunday—SEE ANNOUNCEMENT—WORSHIP MOVES TO 11 AM
- 16: Rummage Sale Continues  
Bingo at 7 pm
- 17: Last Day of Rummage Sale
- 18: Clean up the Rummage Sale after worship
- 21: Council of Ministries Meeting at 5:45
- 25: Quarterly Business Meeting following worship.

### **Calling all Jr High and High School students!**

ABY is looking for you. If you are entering Grade 7 and up, you are invited to join ABY as we kick off our Fall meeting schedule with a pool party on August 28, and the first regular meeting on September 11. If you will be attending the pool party and haven't RSVP'd, please do so. It is open to all ABY members and their families. ABY will supply hamburgers, hot dogs, and buns. Everyone else is being asked to bring a favorite drink and something to share. Please RSVP to Esther Chelsea-McCarty at [echelsea.mccarty@gmail.com](mailto:echelsea.mccarty@gmail.com) or 801-582-7019 no later than Wed, Aug. 24.

Thank you for making ABY a great program at First Baptist Church. Esther

**Kick-off BBQ at the Chaney's for the College-age, 20-somethings** Sunday School Class. Monday, September 5, 2011 (2444 E 2100 S in SLC) at 6 pm. Bring a "side-dish" to share. Meat (or meatless entree) will be provided. Please let Maggie or Jerry know if you prefer a vegetarian choice. Please RSVP to Maggie & Jerry at [margaret.chaney@comcast.net](mailto:margaret.chaney@comcast.net) or 801-386-2022 or 801-633-6218

### **ABGIRLS NEWS:**

A.B. G.I.R.L.S. (for all girls grades 3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) will begin on Wednesday, September 7 6:30-8:30 p.m. Questions: Call Karen at 801-918-5104.

**BRAND NEW!** This will be an exploratory meeting to see if there is a need or desire for this ministry.

**Young Adult Women (ages 19-35 or so)** Wednesday, Sept. 7 8:30-? Come to the A.B. G.I.R.L.S. room. Questions: Call Karen at 801-918-5104

Reminder: A.B. G.I.R.L.S. collect hotel size toiletries; used eyeglasses (and eyeglass cases) and Labels for Education (Campbell's products/bar codes) for mission.

### **Church Ladies Book Club:**

**NEXT UP: The Help**, by Kathryn Stockett (The movie just opened to great reviews!) From all appearances, a kindle edition is available. The book on CD is wonderful! I hope you all take the time to read or listen to this book!

Date: September 12, 2011 at 7:00 PM

**Special Discussion Topic:** Mary Cosgrove is a career strategist who has taught diversity courses at DeVry University as an adjunct professor. She will lead the group in a special discussion on "privilege" and how we can't see it unless we take off our "lens".

Book Summary: Kathryn Stockett creates three extraordinary women whose determination to start a movement of their own forever changes a town, and the way women — mothers, daughters, caregivers, friends — view one another. A deeply moving novel filled with poignancy, humor, and hope, The Help is a timeless and universal story about the lines we abide by, and the ones we don't.

**The 21st Camp Pinecliff Weekend** (a camp for people with HIV/AIDS, their families and support givers) will be September 23rd - 25th at the Methodist Church's Camp Pinecliff site above Coalville. Registration is \$35 for the weekend which includes meals, accommodations and craft materials. For more information go to the CPW Face Book page or call Don Steward at 801-597-9844. **Great volunteer opportunities!**

### **UTABA Family Ties Camp**

Friday, October 14, 2011 to Sunday, October 16, 2011

Camp begins Friday evening, October 14th and ends Sunday afternoon, after lunch.

**Registration deadline is September 23, 2011**

One night- cost \$30 per person, two nights - cost \$50 per person

Children 5 and under free with a paying adult.

For special dietary needs, please contract Tracye Blank directly - 801-745-3570

Registration deadline will be September 23rd. After that date \$15 will added to the registration cost. Any Questions Call Camp Utaba 801-745-3570

### **Come and Raise a Joyful Song!**

The Cathedral Choir begins rehearsal on Sunday Sept 4 following worship. They will be singing on Sept 11<sup>th</sup>. ANYONE AND EVERYONE is invited to join the choir. Talk to Beth Bruce about this ministry.

**The Salt Lake Men's Choir** under the direction of Dennis McCracken with Todd Taylor, Steven Ireland, Chuck Payne, Leland Flinders and Scott Smith as members will be presenting the Patriots Day Concert at the Utah State Fair, Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm in the Grandstand at the State Fairpark on North Temple. Tickets are \$10 at the gate and you get admission to the Fair.

## **RUMMAGE SALE NEWS:**

**Lay the tarps:** We need muscle and help to lay the tarps in the gym on Friday, Aug 26 at 4:30. Talk to Paul Ditton if you can help.

***Please wait until Aug 29<sup>th</sup> to bring any items you wish to donate to the sale.***

***Your donations may be brought to the gym any day from Aug 29<sup>th</sup> to Sept 8<sup>th</sup>.***

**The Great Move** happens Sunday, Aug 28<sup>th</sup> following worship. Many hands are needed to clean out the storage rooms and move everything to the gym.

**Set Up The Sale** begins Aug 29 at 10 am and happens everyday with the exception of Labor Day. We need lots of help in sorting, folding and stacking. Come spend the day, or come work for an hour or two.

**Sale Days: Sept 9, 10, 16 and 17.** Sale opens at 8 am and closes about 5 pm. We need help staffing the sale table and in keeping the tables neat and orderly.

**Clean Up the Sale;** Sept 18<sup>th</sup> following worship.

This is one of the biggest events in the life of our church and all monies raised go to help with mission projects and the good works of ABW. Everyone is encouraged to come help with this project, and enjoy the fun and fellowship with members of your church family.

## **Bible Study for the Fall:**

**Wed Morning at 11 am—In the Beginning** a study of Genesis will be taught by Pastor Curtis in the Conference room.

**Wed Evening at 7 pm at the home of Ken and Ann Burnett.** This group continues its Bible study in a wonderful home setting. For more information talk to Ken or Ann.

**Feasting on the Word**—Thurs evening at 6 pm at the Pastor and Robbin's home (1888 S 1700 E). A small group that meets to share some food (gotta have food!), experience scripture and deepen our connection with others as we discuss life and faith

**Intentional Faith Development Table,** outside the Parlor door, has been restocked for fall with some great reading suggestions and self guided Bible studies.

**First Baptist Church  
In Case of Emergency Contact Form**

*Occasionally members of our church family have an emergency that requires a connection with your extended family or a local friend. We ask that each adult/family provide the church with contact information in case of an emergency. This information will be strictly confidential and will be kept in a secure and safe location in the office.*

**Your name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone: Home** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell** \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact Names and information:**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Relationship** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone: Home** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Relationship** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone: Home** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Relationship** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone: Home** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell** \_\_\_\_\_

*Optional: Special medical needs such as allergies, seizure disorder etc:*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

# jump in—the water's fine!

Celebration Sunday—Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>

**We begin at 9:15 with breakfast**

(Thanks Joel and Susan)

## **Christian Education at 9:30**

‡Nursery opens at 9:30 ages 0-4

‡Bible Dvd's and activity books in room behind stage ages 5 to 6<sup>th</sup> grade

‡Junior and Senior High Class taught by Ken Burnett

‡College and Career Class taught by Jerry and Maggie Chaney

‡Young Adult Class taught by Shirley Rogers

### **Adult Classes:**

**Running on Empty—Taught by Audrey Kenyon in Keck Hall**

(Refilling your spirit at the low points of life). It would be based on a work by the same title by Jill Briscoe. The blurb on the book reads, "A book for anyone who has ever felt burned out, depressed, frustrated hurting, guilty, grieving or just plain tired!

For those times in life when our resources are almost depleted--when you're out of energy with miles to go and no relief in sight.---- offers fresh word of hope and comfort."

**Inquiry Class—Taught by Pastor Curtis in the Library**

Want to know more about our Baptist Faith? Join Pastor Curtis for this informative class about what makes us Baptist. Good refresher course for some, a chance to investigate our faith for others.

**Bible Study—Taught by Ray Carter in the Conference Room.**

A lectionary based bible study using the readings for that week as a reference. This class delves into the meaning of each scripture passage.

**Kid's Praise Club—Christian Education for children ages 5 to 6<sup>th</sup> grade is held during worship every Sunday except communion Sunday.**

# Worship at 11 am

*We move our worship time to 11 am for the fall and winter  
The Cathedral Choir returns to Worship*

*A Special Sermon by Pastor Curtis  
"Jump In—The Water's Fine!"*

*Following Worship we will meet at  
The Mount Olympus Pavilion in  
sugarhouse Park—Enter off of 2100 South  
(Please note this is a different park than previous  
years)*

Doug Huntsman and friends will be BBQ  
Hamburgers  
Please bring covered dishes to share

Games for the Kids  
A Sing Along with Pastor Curtis, feel free to  
bring your instruments to join in.

Come Spend the Afternoon with your Church  
family.

