



The Beacon

The Newsletter of First Baptist Church of Salt Lake City—April 2010 Vol 4 Issue 4

On My Mind

It seems that God has been noticeably present lately. (Of course God is always present, but more noticeably so of late.) I am experiencing a heightening of the Spirit in the lives of people and in the tenor of the congregation. What felt like the absence of the Spirit on a Sunday a few months ago offers a startling contrast to what is being experienced this Lent. New people are attending, especially some younger people... and they keep coming back. Let's give credit to those who pay attention and intentionally greet others they don't know. We see new people finding connections in various groups such as the Young Adults (you go, Shirley!), Bible Studies (go Ray, Ken and Gary!) and service projects (kudos to Ann and Stephanie!).

I write on the second anniversary of Scott Weisser's arrest and subsequent resignation as FBC's pastor. You have been through some difficult times in these two years. Even as we note this dark anniversary, our attention no longer focuses on those days in the past but rather to the bright future. As our Pastor Search Committee faithfully does its work the congregation is preparing for the new future with a new pastor. I am proud of the work our four ministry teams are doing in building the strength and service of FBC. The Bible tells us about Jesus coming again: "No one knows the day or time, so be ready." This is true of the search for a new pastor. We don't know when that will occur but we are fruitfully preparing for that day. Good Work FBC!!

Our Easter Invitation Post Card has already yielded results with visitors on Palm Sunday and phone calls in the office about Easter. I think one of the important aspects of this process that is little noticed is that everyone is needed to be good hosts. I encourage you to join our welcoming effort Easter Sunday morning. You need to realize how much you and every individual can contribute to the life of the congregation and to help mold its future with new people in our pews and in our work. Thank you to all who have stepped forward already. Gary Felker is coordinating the official greeters. Helpers are needed for the breakfast and the post-worship fellowship time. Please be a willing participant.

NOTE: I encourage those who are able to park a further distance from the church to use the nearby high school parking lots. This will allow our guests to park nearer the church.

WHAT'S COMING AFTER EASTER

I am planning two sermon series over the weeks of Eastertide. One is on the subject of Worship. I spent several days in late March reading and reflecting on why we worship and how the answer to that *why* question leads to the *how* we worship. My plan is to preach and teach on the basics and to form a group willing to study worship for the 21st century in more depth. I will address and lead conversations about some of the topics that are controversial and especially those that are misunderstood.

A second series will be on the three emphases we have chosen to identify what we are about. This will flesh out the Biblical, theological and practical implications of the values-based ideas:

FBC is a worshipping Community of Christ seeking to display God's love through being:

- a rich fellowship with mutual support and respect of one another
- a place where each can develop and foster faith in Christ that is encouraging and safe.
- a people loving beyond our congregation to the community and the world

Easter Is Early This Year, But...

Were you alive March 23, 2008? Then you experienced something no one alive today will experience again. If you were not alive, you won't ever experience it. We think Easter is early this year, 2010, but this is not the earliest date seen. Consider the following:

-Easter is always the 1st Sunday after the 1st full moon after the Spring Equinox (which is March 20). This dating of Easter is based on the lunar calendar that Hebrew people used to identify Passover, which is why it moves around on our Roman calendar.

-Based on the above information, Easter can actually be one day earlier than it was in 2008 (March 22). That is rare.

-March 23, 2008 is the earliest Easter any alive at that time will see for the rest of our lives. And only the most elderly have ever seen it that early (97 years old or above). And none of us has ever, or will ever, see it a day earlier!

-The next time Easter will be as early as it was in 2008 will be the year 2228 (222 years from now). The last time it was this early was 1913 (so if you're 97 or older, you are the only ones that were around for that!)

-The next time it will be a day earlier than '08's March 23 will be March 22, 2285 (279 years from now). The last time it was on March 22 was 1818. So, no one alive today has or will ever see it any earlier than it was in 2008.

April Events:

- April 1: Mary Martha Lunch at noon
April 4: Easter Sunday Breakfast 9 – 10:30 am
Easter Worship 11 am
Easter Reception and Egg Hunt following Worship
April 5: Office Closed
April 6: Ruth Circle 6:30 pm
April 7: Church Administration Team at 6 pm
April 13: AB Women General Meeting 7 pm
April 14: Child Care Ministry Team at 6:30
April 16: Bingo at 7 pm
April 18: ABGIRLS Spaghetti Dinner and Auction
April 19: Discipleship Ministry Team at 6 pm
April 21: Council of Ministries Meeting at 5:45
April 25: Youth Sunday

Pastor David Henry will be on vacation April 12-19
Dennis will be on vacation April 23-28

Happy Birthday to: Apr 2: Dennis McCracken, Apr 6: Al Mitchell,
Apr 9: Jean Peppinger, Judy Rausher, Apr 15: Jerry Kinghorn
Apr 17: Pat Huntsman, Apr 19: Loren Rausher, Apr 22: Jane Nelson
Apr 23: Paul Ditton, Caitlin Fellows, Bugs Jefferson
Apr 24: Thomas Burnett, Susan Robertson
Apr 26: Shirley Cannon, Ryan Winzenried, Hunter Dabel,
Apr 27: Jackie Mercado, Apr 29: Amber Barnes, Winnie Hollenbeck
Apr 30: Pam Gosdis

March Financial Picture

Amount needed for March: \$ 16,909.00
Amount received in March: \$14,780
Amount short March 31: \$2129.00

Amount needed for April: \$16,909.00

We thank God for our blessings and remind you to do all you can to help keep our finances in the black.

Easter at First Baptist Church

Maundy Thursday:

Communion Service at 7 pm

Easter Sunday:

Easter Breakfast will be served from 9 to 10:30 am in Keck Hall

Worship Service at 11 am

Easter Reception and Easter Egg Hunt will follow the worship service.

Order form for Easter Lilies will be published in the bulletin the middle of March.

Invite your friends and family to join us for all the activities!

AB GIRLS Spaghetti Dinner and Auction

April 18 following Worship

Tickets on sale: April 4. \$5.00/adults; \$20.00/family; Free/Children under 5.

Maggie Chaney needs all the information on the auction items by **April 9th**.

Join us for this fun event and help send our ABGIRLS on their annual trip to the National Gathering.

Auction items include tickets to events, original artwork, gift baskets and much more.

Youth Sunday

April 25th at 11 am.

Our Youth Group will be in charge of worship that morning.

As usual, an inspiring sermon, great music and our youth in action. This is a service not to miss.

Mission In Action

AB GIRLS delivered a large trash bag full of hotel toiletries (shampoo, soap, lotion) to the Homeless Youth Resource Center.

Wipe Out A Need Project

We built a tower of toilet paper almost 8 feet tall.

It contained **773 rolls of toilet paper
and 16 rolls of paper towels**

which were delivered to the Utah AIDS Foundation Food Bank.

They get supplies from the Utah Food Bank but of course it is not enough. They use their own supplies to help their clients stretch every \$\$\$. They are all low income mostly because they have lost their jobs and healthcare is so expensive as are the medications they must take to survive.

30 Hour Famine

ABYOUTH, fasting and hungry, learned many lessons during the 30 Hour Famine. They worked in the Community Garden and

raised **\$5002.00**

Way to Go!!!

Camp Utaba is going to hold its Spring work day on Saturday May 8, 2010

Breakfast at 8am--work starts at 9 am

You can come up Friday and spend the night. Then we will get started Saturday.

You can earn credits for your UAABC approved camp.

\$15 for 4 hours of work, \$30 for 8 hours of work

We are looking at doing a good spring cleaning in the lodge, painting the backs of the cabins, cleaning up the grounds, and putting a metal roof on Chinca.

Meals will be provided

Please let Tracye know if you are planning on coming.

801-745-3570

Mark Your Calendars—

May 2—Quarterly Business Meeting following Worship

May 7—Mother Daughter Dinner

Jackie Nielsen is still looking for volunteers to help with this event.

May 16—ABW Bake Sale and Clean the Church Day