



# The Beacon

The Newsletter of First Baptist Church of Salt Lake City

January

Vol 4 Issue 1

## PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS AT THE BEGINNING OF A NEW YEAR

We ended the year 2009 in grand style! All our bills were paid with \$10 left over—but that was on a bare bones budget. Our efforts to invite neighbors, friends and relatives to Christmas Eve service were a wonderful success. (Thank you Barbie Willett!). And now we turn our attention to this new year of our Lord 2010 and its challenge and promise. I want to make three observations about this coming year.

#1 This congregation needs to take its future seriously. Business as usual just does not cut it for us. FBC members and friends need to be active in forming the patterns of our future. This includes implementing new plans and new directions that grow out of “The Weekend” held in November. Innovation and risking new things/new ways are imperative for us to move towards the new and rich future God has in store for us. For too long we have done the same things expecting different results. Now it is clear that we need to try new ways and new ideas and new programs to get different results. One of the big goals for us is to define what the result is that we desire so we can find the means to reach those goals.

This requires both long-time members and new participants to volunteer in multiple ways to embrace and build towards those goals we hold important. An example of a luke-warm response to a critical program was the mailing of invitations to Christmas Eve service to your friends, neighbors and relatives. By the deadline we had only 36 names to send cards to. That was far too few for what we were attempting. There needed to be strong support for this critical program and it wasn't there. This congregation needs to take its future more seriously as it has not done for many, many years. This is a tipping point that cannot be turned with vague and tepid participation.

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#2 The Council worked over several months to create a document that explains what the church expects of its members and what participants can expect to receive from the church. Stating such expectations clearly strengthens the ties between the church and its participants. This material is printed on a 4' by 4' poster for all to see and we will try to keep it before us through our various media so it becomes imprinted in our hearts and minds. Here it is again for your reading and commitment:

### **BEING A MEMBER OF FIRST BAPTIST INCLUDES:**

- Attending worship regularly
- Growing in my faith through prayer, study and devotional reading
- Giving generously of my resources (time, talent, treasure) to the church, community and world
- Engaging in the life of the church, its activities, well being and mission

- Respecting each individual's voice and appreciating their experiences.

## **YOUR FIRST BAPTIST COMMUNITY WILL SUPPORT**

- Meaningful worship experiences
- Opportunities to live out your faith in service to others
- Opportunities to develop deep and lasting friendships in community with others.
- Wise stewardship of your contributions of resources (time, talent, treasure) to the church
- Opportunities for lifelong learning as you deepen your own understanding of the Bible and your Christian faith.

[adopted by Council of Ministries on November 18, 2009]

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#3 Membership, participation and support are as low as they have ever been. We cannot continue on this trajectory of ever-lower participation and sustain this congregation. This is not saying the church is going to die, but if we don't rally our resources of faith in God, energy, imagination and commitment we will be making the decision to move towards death by default. It is saying we will no longer be able to be the church we want to be unless we grab our new vision and use our energy to build a healthy congregation and a strong witness to God's love and grace.

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I believe in resurrection and the possibility of transformation. We all need to recommit to build this congregation, then God will use each of us to that end. Everything necessary is already here for this to occur. Our job is to dedicate ourselves, our gifts and our resources to this end. The year 2010 can be and by God's grace will be a year of renewal and revitalization that will result in two critical dynamics: a healthy and vital congregation ready to receive a strong and dedicated pastor to lead FBC into a future that brings God glory and touches more and more lives in Jesus Christ.

*And another item...*

**Merging all our thinking from "The Weekend" retreat work in November & the youth's contribution & Council's reflections on 11/18/09 we arrive at this statement of who we are/seek to be as First Baptist Church. This conflates the four circles we had at the end of the retreat to three, refines them into three statements to guide us in managing limited resources, promoting programs that further our goals/identity, and informs the Pastor Search Committee in their work with those considering being pastor at FBC. Responses, reflections and comments are welcome. The Council will work this now into practical products and steps to grow in service of the kingdom of God.**

***"WE ARE A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY 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."*

**Christian Education for January**

Christian Education for January begins on January 10<sup>th</sup> with breakfast at 9:15.

Adult Education will meet in Keck Hall as FBC Café. The following classes will be taught by guests arranged by Ann Burnett:

January 10 - What can Faith and community...Bill Tibbitts  
January 17 – Understanding the Legislature...Sarah Martindell  
January 24 – Do We Heat or Eat?...Linda Hilton  
January 31 - Food Fight...Linda Hilton

These great classes will provide thought and ideas for mission projects and the opportunities we have to be of service in our community.

Sunday School classes for kids with Gordon Franks and Jeannette Flamming ages 5-12.  
Junior and Senior High with Ken Burnett  
College Age Class with Jerry and Maggie Chaney  
Young Adults with Shirley Rogers  
Bible Study in the Parlor with Ray Carter.  
Prayer Time in the Parlor at 8:30  
Nursery opens at 9:30 am.  
See You There!

**The Yes We Can, Can project is alive and well.** It's hard to believe that just a few months ago we talked about filling it with items and now we have managed to fill it twice!

The theme for the month of January will be items to support the Volunteers of America in their drive to help our local homeless youth. New underwear is needed for both male and female teens. Gift cards to fast food or grocery stores in the amounts of \$5.00 and \$10.00 have also been requested.

PLEASE ADD THESE TO YOUR WEEKLY SHOPPING LIST and bring them on Sunday mornings, remember the **Yes We Can, Can** project needs you!  
Serving God's people is truly a way to give thanks to God.

We should be thankful that we have the opportunity to meet the needs of God's people. We are blessed to announce we were able to participate in two hands on mission project over the past few months. Our first project gave us the opportunity to help elderly members in our own Church community around their homes. The second project took us downtown to the Rescue Mission where we were able to help serve a Thanksgiving dinner to many of the Salt Lake needy. **Please mark your calendars for Sunday January 31st** where we will join together to help those less fortunate and spread the true meaning of the gospel of Christ. The project will be announced the Sunday before and will involve gathering together, young and old, to put our Service Sunday projects on the map.

## Happenings at FBC:

Jan 10	Christian Education Begins at 9:30
Jan 15	Bingo at 7 pm
Jan 18	Church Office Closed
Jan 18	Discipleship at 6 pm
Jan 20	Council of Ministries at 5:45
Jan 24:	Annual Meeting following worship
Jan 29-31	Church Ladies go to Lava

Happy Birthday to:

Jan 4: Shannon Ellis, Bert Hewes. Jan 6: Robert Cook. Jan 8; Maya Zavala. Jan 9: Esther Chelsea McCarty, Damon Medina. Jan 11: Rachel Winzenried, Dick Dotson. Jan 13: Ann Burnett, Beth Bruce. Jan 15: Kelly Newman. Jan 19: Nick Chaney. Jan 22: Katie Carter, Marian Stephen. Jan 24: Dick Bond, Eva Cardrino. Jan 27: Gary Felker. Jan 30: Karen Keck.

### **CHURCH LADIES BOOK CLUB**

On Monday, January 11, we'll meet at Susan Robertson's home, 1360 East Emerson (1500 South). Plan to enjoy a warm bowl of soup, good company and discussion of The Kindness of Strangers by Katrina Kittle. Marian Stephen will lead the book discussion. Please RSVP to Susan at susanrobertson@xmission.com or 801-696-5464.

Next books: Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Society by Mary Ann Shaffer, discussion leader, Kathy Felker; That Went Well by Terrell Harris Dougan, discussion leader, Karen Carter; and Trespass - Living on the Edge of the Promised Land by Amy Irvine, discussion leader, Lee Fry).

**Ladies go to Lava:** Their annual pilgrimage will be Jan 29-31. Talk to Marion Deware for details and reservations.

### **The Penny Project:**

([www.nationalministries.org/CIP/penny\\_project/index.cfm](http://www.nationalministries.org/CIP/penny_project/index.cfm)) now has 63, 509 pennies. Only 30,491 more are needed. Thanks to those of you who give one dollar, five dollars and ten dollars at a time. All coins and bills are appreciated.

**Thank You to:**

***Our Fabulous AB YOUTH*** who with great skill and speed decorated the Sanctuary for Christmas, assembled all the candles for Christmas Eve, and then took down and packed all the decorations.

***Judy Rausher, Robyn Rausher Fellows, Caitlin and Meghan Fellows, Morgan and Taylor Hekking, Shirley Rogers, Kristen Carter, Karen Carter and the ABGIRLS*** for delivering care packages and song to our shut ins and TLC Folks for Christmas.

***Beth Bruce and the Choir*** for the beautiful music during Advent and Christmas.

***Barbie Willett*** who had a vision and volunteered to guide us through our first marketing project. Thanks for all your hard work and your enthusiasm.

***Shirley Cannon, Bill Cannon, Jackie Nielson, David Henry and Sandra Clegg*** who bagged all 500 sugar Cookies.

***Jerry, Maggie, Nick and Matt Chaney, Valerie and Henry Winn*** for assembling and lighting all the luminaria that lit the outside of our building Christmas Eve.

***To all those who helped on Christmas Eve to guide our guests*** into our building and the Sanctuary. We received many comments on how welcoming and helpful we were to our guests.

***To all of those who served as readers, greeters and ushers*** we thank you for reading God's word to us and for all the assistance you give us.

***Judy Rausher, Marian Stephen and Billie Tripp*** for their continual help in the office as volunteers. Their devotion to this service is appreciated more than they know.

***As we look forward to the new year, it is time for a new Council of Ministries to be elected and begin their work. But before we do that we must say thanks to:***

**Peggy Keiffer**

God puts people where He needs them. That statement has proven itself to be truth in the serving of Peggy Keiffer as our moderator for the past two years. Leading this congregation through some very dark days, when a person of lesser character would have resigned and run. Peggy, who through prayer and scripture, tears and laughter; guided us, taught us and strengthened us, kept us upright and focused. God has blessed us with her knowledge and leadership skills as well as the many prayers that she prayed on behalf of each of us. There really is no way that this congregation will ever know all of the things that Peggy did on their behalf nor is there any way we can ever say thank you enough to her. We can only pray that God in His own way and time will reward her for all she has done. We will miss your guidance but no one deserves a break more than you do! So enjoy your travel and your leisure and remember that we are grateful for all you did for us.

### **Shannon Ellis**

Shannon led our Child Care Ministry Team for 3 years. With great skill and her quiet and thoughtful presence she has had a great influence of her team. Under her leadership, she has helped our staff become even more professional and better trained. She is part of the reason that our Child Care Center has for the last two years been named Best Child Care in the City. Thanks Shannon for all your hard work!

### **Marian Stephen**

Marian served for four years as Chair of the Discipleship Ministry Team. This is a huge job—Christian Ed, Worship, Mission...all handled and guided with skill and grace. Marian taught us to build the plane as we flew it, but it was Marian who had the design in mind. With prayer, grace and blessing she has led her team to not only discover what God wanted FBC to do but what God wanted each of them to do also. Her dining room table had become a holy place where the Spirit flew around us as we ate, laughed, discussed, planned and prayed. Marian was also a valuable voice of reason during the past two years and we can only pray that God will reward her for all she did and continues to do for FBC.

### **Judy Rausher**

With skill and her love for FBC, Judy served as the treasurer for the church. This job is not filled with glamour. It can be frightening to stand up in quarterly meetings and report on the finances of the church, but Judy did it with class and grace. Judy's knowledge of the history and people of FBC is invaluable, and even in difficult times Judy was here. We pray for Judy, that God will continue to bless all she does.

### **Pat Ditton**

Pat had one of the most difficult jobs on the Council. She sits, with pen in hand, and listens as 14 people have lively and spirited discussions and then produces the most wonderful sets of minutes. Thank you, Pat, for all your diligent and hard work as our Church Clerk. Your ministry to us will remain vital for many years to come as Councils and church leaders far in the future will refer to your notes and records. Enjoy your retirement.

## CHRISTMAS EVE CELEBRATION

What a challenge! Thank to the efforts of Barbie Willett, the Council of Ministries and the Church Foundation, this church invited 46,000 persons to attend our Christmas service. We did this by mailing out invitations to everyone in zip codes 84102 and 84105. Involved church leaders organized teams that included almost 20 church members to direct guests from the parking lot to the Narthex entrance. To accomplish this was a huge undertaking and risk. This approach had not been tried in 30 plus years.

How did it work? Damon Medina manned the sidewalk entry with a greeting that drew people down the walk. Brett Ellis manned the upper lot. Blake Robertson handled the upper lot stair to the church. For those coming down by the childcare entrance, Josh Bower was pointing the way. Our ordinary entrance to the sanctuary was used for handicapped only. Paul Ditton and David Stephen took care of that responsibility. Down the hall, Susan Roberts was directing guests towards the Skaggs Chapel. Most of the Burnett family was there to direct guests through the south courtyard to the Narthex entrance. Chuck McCarty, Chris Nelson and Vickie Willett guided our guests through the courtyard to the Narthex entrance. Once entering the Narthex, the Willett and McCarty families welcomed our guests. After the service, people were guided through the Narthex exit where each person was given a Christmas sugar cookie as a thank you for coming to the service.

The final count of the Christmas Eve Service showed 305 attendees came. Our church family accounted for only about 80 persons of that number. Given that we expected an estimated 150 neighborhood attendees, an additional 200 plus attendance was a major accomplishment!

Moderator Elect,  
Gary Felker

### **Annual Meeting—January 24<sup>th</sup> following worship in Keck Hall**

The annual meeting will be **your** opportunity to hear about the state of the church and to vote on the new members of the Council of Ministries and the Foundation.

#### **New Council Members are:**

Moderator—Gary Felker

Discipleship Team Chair—Ray Carter

Child Care Team Chair—Carol Butler Guilkey

Clerk—Julia Watson

Treasurer—Doug Huntsman

#### **Returning members of Council:**

Member Care Team Chair—Sandra Clegg

Church Administration Team Chair—Josh Bower

ABW—Jackie Nielsen