



The Beacon

The Newsletter of First Baptist Church of Salt Lake City—May 2010 Vol 4 Issue 5

Pastor's Musings for May 2010

May feels like being a teenager and experiencing that first crush of silly love. The memory of the hard winter lingers as a dark memory, yet the bright days are no longer hints of what is to come but the joy of what has come. New flowers, trees budding out, enough warmth to ride your bicycle or scooter every day. The heart beats faster. We wish it would stay just like this and never change. Breathing in the air is more than an automatic body function but an experience bursting with happiness and satisfaction. We look forward to each new day!

Catholic theologian Father Andrew Greeley suggests in his novels that the love of one person for another is a small experience of what God's love of us is like. He would call it a sacrament, God with us. As Baptists we don't talk about sacraments but you know what he means.

In the same way, I think spring suggests God's warming love for you. This hint of God's love is not dependent on what you do or how you act. God loves you, period! Go outside: breathe the air, open your arms to the warmth of the sun, feel the breeze on your face, take time to really see the flowers in all their glory. Take it all in, experience it all and then think to yourself THIS IS A HINT OF GOD'S LOVE FOR ME.

The average person overlooks or fails to experience this truth of God's love, care, encouragement in her/his life. Our faith becomes the background scenery of our lives that we fail to experience unless something magnificent happens such as a glorious Easter Sunday or an exquisite Spring day or something else that takes the background and makes it foreground.

This is the purpose of worship each Sunday. The weekly practice of worship is something that can take the faith that is just part of the ho hum of life and, each week, bring that faith into our consciousness once again. Worship can refocus our attention on ultimate and eternal things such as God's love for each of you, personal and individualized. I don't mean this to be some kind of sappy, puppy love by saying "God loves you." Rather, I want you to find something that reminds you of the reality that has been proclaimed since the resurrection occurred.

I invite you to enjoy the days of May as a reminder of that ultimate reality. Listen to the birds, watch for the butterflies, study the halo of a willow tree budding out its green leaves. Breathe deeply, take in the breath of life, the Spirit of God, the blessing of the love that passes all understanding and continue to live the abundant life of grace and hope as a gift from God.

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This month concludes another “program year” at First Baptist, so we celebrate all our programs. Many programs continue year-round, but as summer approaches and some programs end, May is a good time to thank all who worked to offer our programs this past year. It is also a good time to evaluate what worked and what did not. Our ministry teams will be taking stock of what has happened and make plans for the future. Now is a good time for you to let them know what spoke to you or helped you grow this past year.

Administration: Josh Bower  
Discipleship: Ray Carter  
Member Care: Sandra Clegg

Thank you to all who provided and all who participated in our programs. I trust you were blessed and enriched by your experience.

### May Worship Themes

#### May 2 Scratching Where You Itch

We all come to worship with an itch for something to happen. Where do we need to scratch to take care of that itch in our spiritual life? Sometimes we have to use calamine lotion to stop the itch. What might be the contents of such a spiritual lotion? First Sunday Communion will be celebrated.

NOTE: The next three sermons will lift one of our emphases from our identity statement. I call them “Nag Tags” meaning that I will not let these statements drop from our consciousness. I am nagging you to recall them and make them part of our corporate life.

#### May 9 Nag Tag 1: A Rich Fellowship

We are to be a rich fellowship with mutual support and respect of one another. What does this mean and how do we live like we mean it? Ray Carter says we need to be passionate about Christ and passionate in our love for one another. This is a growth area for FBC. Let me water and fertilize your commitment.

#### May 16 Nag Tag 2: This Is The Place.

We are each responsible for our own faith development. FBC intends to be a place where each can develop and foster faith in Christ that is encouraging and safe. Let us consider what values lead us to make this part of our identity.

May 23 Nag Tag 3: Not Self-Centered.

**Pentecost Sunday—WEAR RED**

Let us be a People Loving Beyond Our Congregation to the Community and the World. Spiritual navel gazing is not a vocation we can embrace. Compassion for those beyond our walls is a prime mark of Christian love. This is an area to celebrate and embrace.

May 30 Memorial Day Is Remembering—

**First Sunday of Summer Worship at 10 am**

This lost holiday needs to be reclaimed in the Christian context of remembering all who sacrificed so we can be who we are today. Let us give thanks for our forbearers who blazed trails we now follow, who sacrificed so we can live as free people. We begin our new worship time of 10a.m. through the summer.

"Top Ten Reasons for Going to Church"—Shannon Ellis during a Children's Moment:

10. It doesn't really cost anything to get in.
9. Your parents are going to church and they aren't going to let you stay home by yourself.
8. There isn't anything good on TV Sunday mornings anyway.
7. It's a great place to show off your smile.
6. There's a fantastic social with yummy treats in Keck Hall afterward.
5. It's a good place to meet with and visit your friends.
4. The choir sings some really cool music.
3. If you get sleepy, you can just take a nap during David's sermon.
2. You might have a test in school tomorrow and you could ask God for his help.

And the #1 reason for going to church is....

1. If you don't you just might miss something really important!

## **May Happenings:**

- May 5: Church Administration Team at 6 pm
- May 7: Mother Daughter Dinner at 6:30 pm
- May 9: Mother's Day
- May 12: Child Care Team at 5:30 pm
- May 15: Murray High School Concert at 7 pm
- May 16: ABWomen Baked Goods and Seed Sale  
Church Clean Up Day
- May 17: Discipleship Team at 6 pm
- May 19: Council of Ministries Meeting at 5:45 pm
- May 21: Bingo at 7 pm for People Helping People
- May 23: Pentecost Sunday
- May 30: First Sunday for 10 am Worship for Summer
- May 31: Office Closed for Holiday

Happy Birthday to:

- May 1: Jose Zavala Jr, May 2: Hattie Layton, Billie Trip, May 4: Joyce Urry
- May 6: Julia Watson, May 9: Jeff Norris, Pat Schoenwolf
- May 10: Tom Klassen, Bishop Brown, May 12: Christine Medina
- May 15: Ken Burnett, Rebecca Hample, May 17: Betty Burnett,
- May 19: Meghan Fellows, May 23: Wilma Nichols, Al Heitman
- May 24: McKenzie Nelson, Al Deware, May 25: Megan Roth, Augustine Tutonda
- May 26: Bob Brown, May 31: Stephanie Gosdis, Guy Tutonda

## **Worship Changes to 10 am for the Summer**

Following tradition, we will begin worship at 10 am for the summer beginning on May 30<sup>th</sup>. There will not be Christian Education during the summer. The Nursery will be open at 9:30 each Sunday.

*Dear Church Family:*

*Thank you for your prayers, calls, cards, love and caring support. My daughter kept her courage and faith as she battled the cancer for the past year and a half before God called her home. Her family has been comforted by the caring concern of everyone.*

***Georgine Parmeter***

## THANK YOU TO:

All those who helped to make Easter the great celebration that we all enjoyed. To the cooks who fed us a great breakfast, those who set up and cleaned up after us, the ABYouth for the Easter egg hunt, those who donated the lilies and to Dennis for the flowers that filled our Sanctuary with beauty.

To Donna and David Henry for the extraordinary banners that grace the Chancel of the Sanctuary.

To all of those who served as guides and ushers for our guests on Easter Sunday.

To the readers who made God's word and the Easter story come alive for us.

To the Choir, Beth, Dennis and the soloists for the beautiful music for Holy Week.

*A special note to the Choir—Much appreciation for all your efforts this entire year. The choir's last Sunday for the season will be May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Thank you for your devotion and for lifting our hearts and spirits. You are a very important part of our worship.*

Thanks to all who have contributed as teachers and leaders in our Christian Education program, for those who do Children's Moments, Kid's Praise Club, Sunday School Classes—both Childrens, Teens and Adults, and those who lead Bible Studies.

**Thanks to XMISSION for hosting the Church website. We appreciate their kindness to us.**

**Camp Utaba Work day is next Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>.** Breakfast at 8 am, work starts at 9 am. You are welcome to come stay on Friday evening. Please contact Tracey at 801-745\*3570.

**May 16—ABWomen's Baked goods and seed sale.** Donations welcome. Talk to Jackie Nielsen if you can donate baked items for the sale.

**May 16—Clean the Church work day.** Plan to stay after worship and help us wash windows, doors and light switches and dust the beams in Keck Hall. Want to help organize a project? Talk to Larry Wanner or Josh Bower.

## **ABGIRLS NEWS:**

### **Young Women's Experience at the United Nations Headquarters in New York**

First and foremost, I would like to sincerely thank the congregation for the donations and funds that helped me cover the cost of attending this event. I was deeply moved at how willing everyone was to help me out and I am tremendously grateful. I also received personal affirmations that kept me encouraged and determined. I would also like to give a special thanks to Karen Carter and my mother Bertha Reyes who did everything in their power to

make sure I had everything I needed and that I arrived there and home safely. I couldn't have done it without everyone's support and blessings. Thank you!

Second, for those of you who are confused as to what exactly I participated in you are not alone as I went in with just a glimpse of it myself. I attended the 54<sup>th</sup> Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) held at United Nations Headquarters in New York, New York. The Commission is made up of UN member state and government officials and they meet yearly to assess the status of women in the world. In addition, thousands of members of NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations) from around the world meet alongside of them to advocate for and enforce resolutions that are signed.

I attended with a young women's group sponsored by the National Council of Churches of Christ, USA (NCC). There were eight young women who participated with me and we were all from different denominations and places around the country. NCC is an active participant in Ecumenical Women, an international coalition of church denominations and ecumenical organizations which have status with the Economic & Social Council (ECOSOC) at the United Nations.

It was a lot of alphabet soup with the acronyms but my experiences at the UN certainly added to my insight on the fight for gender equality and social justice in the world. There were thousands of incredibly educated, passionate, determined, and culturally diverse women present from around the world; women worthy of being admired. I met with respected women leaders and created connections with women from other denominations. And yes! There were men present too because their purpose is to create alliances for a better change. I came to many realizations while present and can honestly say this experience has broadened my perception of the kinds of changes being made around the world and different ways people are getting involved. The whole event was organized and VERY informative. I am truly grateful I was given the opportunity to participate in this event.

And to get home safely despite some challenges. ☺

Abby Reyes

You can hear Abby Reyes talk about what she learned at the "United Nations Commission on the Status of Women" on American Baptist Women's Ministries "Real Women, Real Leaders Podcast Series" at <http://abwm.libsyn.com>

**A.B. G.I.R.L.S. appreciate the support** of the members of First Baptist Church. Another successful fund raiser was held on Sunday, April 18!

We raised approximately \$2,600.00. This will help Abby and Stephanie Reyes, Kaitlin Ellis, Ashley and Erica Roth, Stephanie Gosdis and Karen Carter attend the National Gathering for A.B. G.I.R.L.S. in Columbus, OH this July.

A gigantic thanks to Maggie Chaney (with helpers Nick Chaney, Ann Burnett and Stephanie Gosdis) for setting up and managing the silent auction. Thanks to everyone who provided items for the auction, especially Patty Beaty, Ken Burnett, Jerry Chaney, Esther Chelsea McCarty, Sandra Clegg, Jeanette Flamming, Stephanie Gosdis, Jayne Guyse, Kevin Winn, Pat Huntsman, Scott Huntsman, Jeff Lensman, Gary McCarty, Robyne Roth, Dave Stephen, and

David Winmill. Another huge thank you to Pat and Paul Ditton (with helpers Julia Watson and Lee Fry) for cooking the spaghetti, and generally managing the stove and oven. Thanks to Ashley and Erica Roth, and especially Lynn Christensen for helping with clean-up. Thanks to all the girls and other adults who help set tables, serve dinner, etc. Thanks to Karen Carter for commanding the troops.

### **MEMBER CARE:**

Sandra Clegg reports her appreciation for the following endeavors that caring "First Baptisters" do almost daily: Prayer Requests via email by Maggie Chaney, Prayer Tree via telephone by Pat Huntsman and her faithful "branches" and Greeting Cards sent parcel post by Georgine Parmeter. Thanks to all of you and the folks who are helping you.

Thanks, Sandra

### **MISSION NEWS:**

#### **Missions News:**

#### **Fill the Barrel:**

Our project this month is the Utah AIDS Foundation Food Bank. Their needs are very specific as they serve folks who are either out of work because of their illness or have tremendous expenses due to the medicines they have to take. Below is a list of the items that are needed— So let's get busy and fill the barrel once or twice for these folks.

#### **Here are the items they need:**

Bath tissue, Kleenex, baby wipes, shampoo, conditioner, hair spray, cotton rounds, Q-tips, hydrogen peroxide, rubbing alcohol, mouthwash, laundry soap, dryer sheets, fabric softener, air freshener, lotion, OTC meds (aspirin, ibuprofen, Tylenol, antacids etc.)

#### **Service Sunday (s):**

Question: What's more fun than one Service Sunday in a month? Answer: Two Service Sunday projects in a month! But even better is one Service Sunday and one Service Saturday and that is just what we have for the month of May!

**Please join us on Saturday May 8th** to give a helping hand to Crossroad Urban Center's annual Postal Workers Food Drive. We will be meeting at Church at **2 pm** and then carpool down to the Center. Our mission will be to help unload food. Please email or call Ann Burnett at 801-558-8076 or [annburnett@rowlandhall.org](mailto:annburnett@rowlandhall.org), or Stephanie Gosdis at 801-712-0451 or [imstephonator868@yahoo.com](mailto:imstephonator868@yahoo.com).

**On Sunday May 23rd** we will have our monthly Service Sunday project. We will be going to Maurine McKellar's house to help in her yard and repair a fence. All abilities welcome. Meet

in the Church parking lot at 1:30, bring work gloves and tools if you have them. More details to follow so stay tuned.

**Mission Survey:** If you did not get a chance to fill out a survey during People Need People lunch Stephanie and Ann really want to know what you are thinking and what direction you might suggest the Service Sunday projects go. If you are not in attendance this Sunday they have created a survey that you can complete on line. Its very simple so take a moment and click on the link below and answer these 10 easy questions. If neither of these work for you please free to call Ann or Stephanie to give them your feedback.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/M7GZKBZ>

If the link doesn't work when you click it, please copy and paste into your browser. And remember, you only need to fill out the survey once.

## **KID'S CAMP 2010**

X-TREME Adventures  
Adventures in Christ at Camp Utaba  
July 11-17, 2010

All youth completing grades 3 to 7 are encouraged to come. Bring a friend from school or your neighborhood. Fun adventures, games, singing, camp fires, worship and fellowship

Wendy Winzenried, Director,  
contact info: 801-944-8734  
[wendywinzenried@aol.com](mailto:wendywinzenried@aol.com)

**Congratulations to Caitlin Fellows**, whose article about the 30 Hour Famine was published in *Muse Magazine*, a national magazine for teens. A copy of the article will be posted on the bulletin board outside the office.

## **Quarterly Meeting Report**

The Quarterly Business Meeting was held on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. We heard that the Pastor Search Committee is working. The church finances are doing OK; they could always be better.

The exciting parts of the meeting were:

We got to see the 50" TV that is the grand prize of the Parlor Project. Tickets are \$10 and available from Josh Bower.

We heard more information about the new organ that is resting for a time in the narthex of Skaggs Chapel and the possibilities for the use of that instrument.

Judy Rausher presented the proposal from AB Women about the renovation of the kitchen.

We heard about the plan to start on the new floor project for Keck Hall.

We heard from Pastor David about staying on task with our goals that came from our meeting "The Weekend."

We celebrated the progress of our church family and the things we have accomplished.

We heard about funding opportunities for the projects above and how a task force will be formed, work hard the next 30-60 days and present a plan and a list of priorities to the congregation.

All in all it was one of the most positive uplifting business meetings we have had in a long time. It is great to be part of a church family that can gather and work together with each other.