

savings, equity from the sale of the old Immanuel Church property and an aggressive fund raising campaign led by Rev. Dr. Fenwich T. Fowler led to the church facilities we have today.

In 1968, Rev. Dr. Earl L. Riley established the First Baptist Foundation using his gifts in memory of his daughter and Mr. and Mrs. James E. Berkeley, in whose home our church was started so many years ago. Foundation gifts were to be invested with the interest income to be used for care and maintenance of church properties.

In those early years of the First Baptist Church Foundation, Dr. Riley felt that the Foundation should follow the successful model of other large churches where the Foundation organization was closely involved with daily operations of the church. Accordingly, all decisions regarding church maintenance, new facilities, operational costs, fund raising and stewardship were handled by the Foundation. The Foundation had a twelve member Trustee Board organized into three operating committees (Building & Property, Publicity, and Investment). The Foundation plus a three member Diaconate Board that led congregational based committees formed the leadership of the church. In 1979, the church organization changed from a Diaconate Board to a Council of Ministries structure having a moderator, a moderator-elect, a secretary, a treasurer and leaders of a dozen or more committees. Under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Stanley Smith, the Council of Ministries consolidated much of the Foundation duties into the Council of Ministries. The first Foundation committee absorbed was the Publicity group which led all fund raising efforts including stewardship. In 1991, the Council absorbed the Building and Maintenance Committee which included all facility decisions and bill paying duties.

With these changes, the Foundation By-Laws were modified to have a three member board of Trustees which performed the duties of president, vice president and secretary treasurer. The sole responsibility of the Foundation Trustee Board was to manage the investing and use of the Foundation's endowment fund.

Presently, the Foundation has grown into the role of a silent partner in the life of the church. Few congregational members are aware of past significant roles the Foundation performed. Fewer are aware of the support the Foundation provides quarterly to the Council of Ministries or its impact on the yearly budget and the life of the church. The February Beacon will highlight these Foundation efforts to support the church.

Mission Opportunities:

The Can is open for business in 2015! For the next 4 weeks we will be collecting for the Utah Aids Foundation. They are requesting a few specific items for their pantry. Please consider bringing the following items; instant coco, hot tea flavors, coffee, peanut butter, jelly and/or honey. These items are very seldom donated so Utah Aids Foundation and their clients would feel very spoiled if we can provide a few of these comfort items. Lets show our support!

Spiritual Growth Opportunities:

Breakfast and Christian Education begins on Jan. 11th.

Breakfast at 9:15

Classes at 9:30

A New Bible Study on Various Parables

Join Kelly Byrnes and Esther Chelsea-McCarty starting January 11 for a six-week Bible Study on the Parables of Jesus. We will look at one parable each week so you don't have to come to every session, but we hope you will come and add to the discussion as we delve into Jesus' stories and learn what they have to say to us today.

Ray Carter's bible study in the parlor.

Young Adult Class

College Class

Jr. Sr High Class

Kid's Class

Seekers and Sharers: The small group, Seekers and Sharers, will begin the New Year with a new study. They will be reading and discussing the book, The Girl's Still Got It, by Liz Curtis Higgs. It's the Bible story of Ruth and Naomi with a twist that brings the reader into their experience. New members are welcome. Just plan to come on Monday, January 12, from 1:00-2:30 to Rea Peterson's home at 1365 West at 6235 South. Call Rea at 801-268-2203 for more information or if you need to arrange for a ride.

Pastor Curtis' bible study continues the study of Mark on Wednesday mornings at 10:30.

Burnett's Bible study continues the study of Matthew at their home at 7 pm

A Look back on our church's Foundation:

In the first decade of First Baptist Church (1883 to 1893), the national ABC Ministry helped support the daily operations of the church and mission churches. The First Baptist Church quickly saw the need to establish a savings vehicle above and beyond collecting money for daily operations. Thus foundation-type efforts were begun as the church absorbed the full demands of operational costs and saving for new mission churches and new church facilities. These sporadic efforts continued right through the building of the Immanuel Baptist Church in 1910-1912. In the early 1950's, church

It is a great time to be Baptist as I think our focus on being an inclusive community and our love of freedoms make us better suited than most to navigate the future. It is a crucial time for the church to be the church and to share the love of God through Christ by faithfully living out the kind of world Jesus proclaimed to be at hand.

Join me in toasting and looking forward to 2015 with this "New Wine"

Grace and Peace

Pastor Curtis

January at FBC:

Jan 8: AB Women lunch at noon
Jan 16: Third Friday Bingo
Jan 18: Annual Meeting
Jan 19: Church and Child Care closed for holiday
Jan 20: Beers and Bros 6:30 at Fiddler's Elbow
Jan 24: Women's Lava Trip

Happy Birthday to: Jan 1: Christine Edmunds. Jan 4: Shannon Ellis. Jan 6: Robert Cook. Jan 8: Gary Mecham. Jan 9: Esther Chelsea-McCarty, Damon Medina. Jan 10: Phillippe David, Jan 11: Rachel Winzenried. Jan 12: Debra McBride; Jan 13: Ann Burnett, Beth Bruce. Jan 15: Kelly Newman. Jan 19: Nick Chaney. Jan 20: Hanna Henry Benham; Jan 22: Rev Curtis Price, Katie Carter, Jan 24: Eva Cardrino. Jan 27: Gary Felker. Jan 30: Karen Keck.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you to all those who made our Advent and Christmas services so wonderful. Thanks to the families that did the Advent Candle lightings, to all those who read, to Aaron Flood, Beth Bruce and the Choir for their wonderful music and to all those who donated poinsettia's for the church.

Our Annual Meeting will follow worship on Jan 18th.

Come join us as we take a look back on 2014 and look ahead to 2015.

We will say thank you to Kathy Felker who has served as treasurer for the past 3 years and to Lee Fry who has served as Member Care Chair for the past 3 years and to Kristen Carter who has served 2 terms as a member at large. We will elect the following officers:

Moderator Elect:

Treasure: Debra McBride

Member Care Chair:

Member at large:



The Beacon

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Pass me some new wine

There is an old adage that says, “The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results.” I have seen this play out in my personal and professional life over and over. Most often it is my own fault. I get married to a particular idea or a particular methodology and struggle to let it go. Or I get sucked into the same old unhelpful patterns that end in the same way they always do.

As a Church, I think one of the most difficult things for us is allowing old things to pass and to try new things. Jesus said, “Neither is new wine put into old wineskins; otherwise, the skins burst, and the wine is spilled, and the skins are destroyed; but new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved.” – Matthew 9:17. A church like First Baptist lives in a tension of building on a long tradition and history and reimagining the church in new ways. But the truth is, we would not still be here if we as a congregation didn’t adapt to the changes in the world around us. It’s a new day for every church as we do our best to live out the gospel in community and invite others to join us. So much of what used to be affective is not anymore and much of what is new in the world seems almost counter intuitive to what we are trying to accomplish. Take social media for example; social media seems anathema to building community yet, if we do not engage with it as a church, we are missing opportunities to connect people to this community. It is a challenge.

Add to that the challenges of the changing dynamic of First Baptist Church as we grow and add more ministry and become a reflection of the new people who worship here. Navigating a 200 member church is much different than navigating a 90 member church.

In this midst of all this there are blessings abounding. Being in a growing community is indeed a blessing and it means that we are on to something. Being a Church that is willing to evolve and grow and transform itself to better reach the world around her is also a blessing and a challenge.

As I look at these challenges we face I say, “Pass me some new wine!” It is exciting to be in Salt Lake City at this time. We are truly in a mission field as we invite people to reclaim faith.