

First Baptist Church
777 S 1300 E
Salt Lake City, UT 84102

Family Promise News

Our Family Promise service week begins March 15th. The only remaining slot is a need for someone to launder some towels and linens. Tracy Lewis at SCNC told Jim that she was jealous of how quickly we get our obligations filled. She does not have such an easy time. Jim expresses his gratitude for our service minded congregation making his job relatively easy.

VISION / SERVICE?

By Gary Felker, Foundation President

Ideally, organizational vision matches organizational actions. But sometimes they get out of whack and the organization suffers. A close church friend of mine experienced such an event. Last Fall, major storms knocked out his phone service three times over several weeks. His last contact with the company's help call center led to a conversation with a floor supervisor who told him to "tough it out." The supervisor then said "we're not a service company; we're a hedge fund company." Clearly, the bottom line profit vision did not match customer service expectations.

As a current and past president of the First Baptist Foundation, Inc., I am concerned that we are in a similar dilemma. Thirty years ago, the Foundation was involved in church investing, fund raising, stewardship and operational functions of the church. Now our By-Laws limit us to "must do" functions centered on fund growth and investing. The Foundation "may" assist the church in advancing Christian Faith primarily through operation, restoration and maintenance of church facilities and properties.

This separation of Foundation functions to church operational management has led to some negative issues. One such issue is that Foundation Trustees have no input to any of the "may" functions. These are Council based decisions. So, Trustees are left with the sometimes difficult role of approving or denying monetary support. To smooth out these conflicts, the Foundation created a long and short term loaning agreement with the church. Since its implementation, this process has provided a cash flow to the church of over \$200,000. It must be noted that the Church Administrator and present / past Church Treasurers have faithfully met their loan obligations.

Another issue is that our loaning service has extended beyond by-law limits. Trustees have allowed this in order to be cooperative and avoid negative confrontations. I, and past Foundation presidents, have wondered if we have done a disservice by helping the church avoid presenting the true operational stewardship needs to the church congregation.

An additional observation is that building project funds are kept in our credit union and not funneled through the Foundation's investment structure which had growth in value of over 4.6 % from Calendar Year 2013 to 2014. We wonder if we should offer such a service to the church.

We Trustees urge you to think about these issues and give us your feedback. Have we expanded beyond our role? Or should the Foundation get more involved?

Gary Felker, Foundation President

Lee Fry, Foundation Secretary

Ken Burnett, Interim Trustee and Vice President / Treasurer

The Can Can is back and ready for action. We will be making donations to the YWCA through the end of March. They are in need of women's and children's underwear (new items only) - all sizes. If you can donate to the Can the YWCA will be thrilled. Let's feed the Can and show our support for this local organization!

AB GIRLS Spaghetti Dinner/Silent Auction will be Sunday, May 17. If you can donate an item for the auction, contact Stephanie at 801-712-0451.

An Evening of Choral Music

The Lux Choir from Provo will be joining the Cathedral Choir from FBC in an evening of choral music on March 8 at 7 pm. Each choir will sing several of their favorite anthems then join in a combined anthem.

Mark Your Calendar for Holy Week:

March 29: Palm Sunday worship at 11 am

April 2: Holy Thursday Service at 7 pm

April 3: Good Friday Service at 7 pm

April 5: Easter Sunday:

8:30 – 10:30 am Our Traditional Easter Breakfast

11 am Worship

Easter Egg Hunt for the Kids and Easter Reception following Worship.

Help us decorate the church for Easter:

Easter Lily Order Form: Please return to the office by MARCH 29th.

Given by _____

in memory of _____ and/or

in honor of _____

Plants are \$10.00 each

Mention of the dedications will be made in the Easter Bulletin. Then you can take your lily home with you following Easter worship.

Church Lady Book Club will be meeting at the home of Laurie Willberg at 7:00 PM Monday, March 30. Kathy Felker will lead a discussion on the novel "Shanghai Girls" by Lisa See. Contact Carol Butler for details.

A Name Change!

First Baptist Church Child Care Center's mission is to help children develop skills they need to enter school. We provide much more than just child care. The Board has decided to change the name of the center. As of March 1 the center will be known as **First Baptist Child Development Center**. This name change reflects the mission of our center. Congratulations to Carol Wood and her staff and teachers for providing a great place for children to learn, to grow and to be loved. Our center truly is an amazing place.

Weekly:

Seekers and Sharers Mondays at 1 pm at Rea Peterson's home

Pastor Bible study Wednesdays at 10:30 in the Library

Bible Study Wednesdays at 7 pm at Burnetts' home

ABGIRLS Wednesdays at 6:30 at the church

ABYOUTH meets after worship on Sundays

Meeting Jesus! Lent At FBC:

March 1: Woman at the Well—Meeting Jesus at the Well John 4:1-42

March 8: Blind Man—Meeting Jesus on the Road John 9:1-41

March 15: Lazarus—Meeting Jesus in the Tomb John 11:1-46

March 22: Mary—Meeting Jesus in Front of Everybody John 12:1-11

Daylight savings time begins Sunday, March 8. Remember to turn your clocks ahead or you will arrive just in time for the closing hymn!

Soup for the Soul – Every Thursday during Lent--This class is for anyone who has abandoned many of the traditional approaches to Christianity and yet still have a longing for deep and abiding faith. Using Marcus Borg's book "The Heart of Christianity" we will explore such topics as the Bible, God, Jesus, Sin and living in a plural society. We will begin by enjoying a small meal together at 6:30 pm followed by an hour long experience.

Inquirer's Class--Thinking about officially joining First Baptist? Come join Pastor Curtis on March 15 following worship in the Library for a one time class. He will talk about everything you need to know about our Baptist faith and the church. This is a good refresher course too!

Daily Bread Devotional books are available on the table outside the Parlor. Grab yours on Sunday!

We are raising money for the new chair lift! Here is how you can help:

**Fourth Annual St Patrick's Dinner and Dessert Auction—
Saturday. March 14th at 6 pm**

Irish Dinner with Ken Burnett and crew in the kitchen Great Entertainment! And a fabulous Dessert Auction. Tickets go on sale March 1st--\$10 for Adults, \$5 children under twelve. We are looking for folks to make and donate desserts of all kinds for the auction. We will not be selling tickets at the door so get yours before March 12th

And—

Third Friday Bingo—March 20 at 7 pm

We are the chosen charity this month for Bingo. Get your friends, bring your dollar bills and spend two hour of hilarious fun. Bring your own refreshments—there is a prize for the best food. Bingo cards are \$5 for the first card and \$3 for each additional cards. Party fouls ask for at least a dollar each foul.

part.

- This is coupled with the third reason. When there is genuine, exciting, engaging and uplifting worship, people want to continue being a part of your church.
- Fourth is a strong sense of community, love and unity. Obviously, this complements the top priority of relationships. I suspect the difference is relationships are about a person's close network, and community is about the overall sense of the congregation.

Unhealthy, negative reasons people are not leaving your church

- The top negative, unhealthy reason is comfort.

This was significantly higher than any other answer. When people have been in a church most of or all their lives, they are afraid to leave this comfort zone. It is not that they do not want to go anywhere else. They are afraid to leave where they are comfortable.

- Second, people have a part in controlling this church. A lot of things in their life are beyond their control, but at church, they can control things. They may even be seen as a matriarch or patriarch within the church. They cannot be sure they could control their next church.
- Third is personal complacency. Beyond being comfortable, they have no motivation to go anywhere else. They can participate in the church passively, hide in the fellowship and feel they fit.
- Fourth is low expectations from their church. It is easy to be a member of their church. The church is complacent and does not place many expectations on them. For example, their church never confronts people individually with the need to grow spiritually. Why leave?

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March at FBC:

- March 3: Beers and Bros at Fiddler's Elbow at 6:30 pm
- March 8: Lux Choir and FBC Choir concert at 7 pm
- March 11: Child Care Team at 4:30
- March 12: AB Women luncheon at noon in the library
- March 14: St. Patrick's Day dinner and dessert auction 6 pm
- March 15: Inquirer's Class following worship
- March 17: Beers and Bros at Fiddler's Elbow at 6:30 pm
- March 18: Council of Ministries meeting 5:45 pm
- March 20: Third Friday Bingo 7 pm
- March 29: Palm Sunday
- March 30: Church Ladies book club at 7 pm

Happy Birthday to: Mar 2: Carol Wood. Mar 6: Sandra Clegg. Mar 7: Dustin Trent. Mar 12: Don Urry, Christopher Nelson. Mar 14: Christian Ellis, Kevin Wood. Mar 18: Peggy Keiffer. Mar 19: Matt Klassen. Mar 20: Carol Butler-Guilkey. Mar 21: Diane Cover. Mar 22: Lily Wood, Audrey Kenyon. Mar 25: Jurgen Beirwolf. Mar 27: Bertha Reyes. Mar 28: Bruce Burnett. Mar 29; Carlyn Chester Mar 31: Erika Roth.



The Beacon

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Kelly Byrnes shared this article by George Bullard and I thought it was interesting so in lieu of my article I thought I would share Mr. Bullard's. Enjoy.
Pastor Curtis

Why people are not leaving your church

February 23, 2015

By GEORGE BULLARD

The Internet is full of articles about why people are leaving church—or never attending church in the first place. Some are called “nones,” and many people use the term “dones” for those who are finished with church—at least for now.

A great deal of focus is on the generation known as Millennials. This fits the pattern that every few years, church leaders, prognosticators and the parents of young adults express concern that young adults are not as active in church as others think they ought to be.

On the other hand, I wonder why people are not leaving church. Why do people stay in their church, even when it is not serving them well and not helping them connect with the Triune God?

As I began pondering this question, I realized I had a few ideas about this, but not broad perspective. I decided to ask people in my network for help. I sent out a first-round survey asking participants to tell me the reasons they believe people do not leave their church.

I asked two questions. First: What are some healthy, positive reasons people are not leaving your church? Second: What are some unhealthy, negative reasons people are not leaving your church?

I heard from four-dozen people. They provided interesting insights.

From the responses, I came up with the top 10 positive and top 10 negative reasons people are not leaving church. I sent out a second survey and asked people to prioritize the top positive and negative reasons. This time, I heard from almost seven-dozen people. The result was the top 10 healthy, positive reasons in perceived priority order and the same for the top 10 unhealthy, negative reasons.

Let's be clear. I do not claim this is true scientific research. It is a beginning. It is the start of a conversation. It may actually be more hard data than many prognosticators have when they express an opinion on a subject.

Enough background stuff. What did I discover? Here are the top four positive and the top four negative reasons:

Healthy, positive reasons people are not leaving your church

- The top positive, healthy reason by far is relationships.

People who have deep, strong, long-term relationships that exhibit openness and acceptance within the church are not leaving your church. This is home to them. They want to be a continual part of this church. They are unlikely to consider going anywhere else because of the depth of the relationships they have in your church.

- Second, when there is high-quality, exceptional preaching and teaching in the church, people want to continue to be a