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Lifelines

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

First, let me thank you for the privilege of a call to serve you as your interim pastor and the wonderful welcome I have received since I have been here. I have made a genuine attempt to meet as many of you as I can, and it has been a warming experience. The effort to get to know all of you will continue in the coming weeks. Please, let me know what I can do to enhance our ability to get to know one another.

It is important that we get to know each other, for we have much work to do in the coming weeks and months. 2012 will be a year of preparation for your congregation. The foundation for a new pastor and the ministry you will do together must be established and solidified. That means that there is much self assessment to be done, both personally and by the congregation. There are issues that must be dealt with, not the least being the ongoing drain on your cash reserves.

Questions like, "Who do you want to serve? What ministry model best serves where you as a congregation sense God is calling you to go? To whom do you feel called to reach out? What is your personal commitment to the congregation?" will



need to be answered before a new pastor can be successfully called. You have too much ministry to do and God has gifted you with too many gifts for you to fall short. God has a pastor chosen for you, but you may not call that pastor until you are prepared and aligned with God's plan for FBC Midland.

2012 will be an exciting year for you all. It will be for me as well,

as I facilitate your discernment of God's call for you. Take a breath, pray a lot and let's get going on God's work. May the coming year be for you a blessed one. May you feel both the peace and excitement that only God can give to you.

Talk to me when you get a chance and let me know what you are thinking.

Yours in Service to Christ,

Pastor John,
Rev. John W. Landis
Interim Pastor



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First Friends



With this writing, we are lifting up **Dan McCallum** in our prayers, who has been battling cancer for some time now. He is not a candidate for more radiation, so chemotherapy is going to be the method of treatment. Congratulations go to **Emily and Jeff Richards**, on the birth of their new daughter, **Alexa Suzanne**, born on Dec. 13, 6 lbs. 14 oz., and 19 inches! **Tom Moeser** spent several days in the hospital, and is now home recovering. Let's keep he and Rhonda in our prayers for a full recovery. Let's also continue to remember **Irene Jeong**, a 5th grade Korean girl who has severe health issues. Her family is very appreciative of our prayers. If you know of other church friends who you would like to mention for prayer, please contact the church office.

Thank You Notes...

I would like to thank all of you who sent me Christmas cards, and special notes this holiday season. You have no idea how much receiving these have brighten my days, and made me smile! I cherish each and every one of you and deeply appreciate your caring and thoughtfulness!

~ Blessings, Audley Bruce



Spiritual Care Conference



Every year, Mid-Michigan Medical Center hosts a Spiritual Care conference. This year, the date is Thursday, Jan. 26. The special speaker is Elana Rosenbaum, from the University of Massachusetts Medical School. She will discuss how "mindfulness" is an innate human capacity to pay wise attention to what is happening in one's life. There will also be a time to experience and learn a meditation on compassion and loving-kindness.

These conferences are always excellent. They are also free! However, you do have to register your attendance, by simply calling 837-9090. Pastor David Brown is planning to attend. How about you?

Alma College Choirs



Alma College Choirs are coming in concert to First Baptist!! Saturday, Feb. 18 in the evening, we will be treated to a choral concert with about 95 college students. They will be singing for us, helping us celebrate our 2nd annual Skidmore Concert Series. One of our responsibilities is to provide a meal for the students.

If you are interested in helping out in this manner, please contact David Brown.

Save the date and plan to invite your friends. This is an excellent college choral program!

3 on 3 Is Coming...

No, it's not a basketball tourney. It's more like a social "get-to-know-you" opportunity! The idea is that 3 different families sign up to meet with each other over a 3 month period, once a month in each family's home, or out at a restaurant. "Families" is defined loosely; you can be single and still

be a "family". Sign-ups are anytime now through January, to begin Feb - May.

There will be sign-up sheets in the narthex on the Welcome Center table. One family needs to be the "initiating family" who will help get the 3 families' calendars together and decide on a first

meeting. "Initiators" please sign on the first line. Then others can sign up after you.

The whole idea is that you sign up with folks you might not know very well, and would like to know better!



Returnable Can & Bottle Drive



Is that pile of empty pop cans building up in your garage? Why not donate them to the FBC Youth Mission Trip! As you may have heard, the youth of FBC will be going on a mission trip to Tennessee this July. We will be collecting all returnable cans and bottles beginning this week and continu-

ing up until July. All proceeds will go towards the cost of the trip. If you would like to drop them off at the church, it would be very much appreciated! If you need the youth to come and get them please contact Rich.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

TEACHERS NEEDED!



Teachers Session 1

During Worship

Storytellers



Prek-1st Grade - Jan (_____) Feb (_____)
Mar (_____) April (_____)
May (_____)



2-5th Grade - Jan (Karen Baker) Feb (_____)
Mar (_____) April (_____)
May (_____)

Assistants Session 1

Prek-1st Grade - Jan (_____) Feb (_____)
Mar (_____) April (_____) May (_____)

2-5th Grade - Jan (Rena Walker) Feb (_____)
Mar (_____) April (_____) May (_____)

Teachers Session 2

After Worship

Storytellers



Prek-1st Grade - Jan (_____) Feb (Roger Bergman)
Mar (_____) April (_____)
May (_____)



2-5th Grade - Jan (_____) Feb (_____)
Mar (_____) April (_____)
May (_____)

Assistants Session 2

Prek-1st Grade - Jan (_____) Feb (_____)
Mar (_____) April (_____) May (_____)

2-5th Grade - Jan (Rena Walker) Feb (_____)
Mar (_____) April (_____) May (_____)

Youth News



Great Escape Winter Retreat

Thursday Jan 19—Sun. Jan, 22nd



Itinerary: We will leave from the church, at two different time (TBD) depending on Thursday night skiing, which is optional, and return back to the church by 4 PM on Sunday. We are hoping to ski on Thursday night and Friday. Friday is open to go snowshoeing, sledding and tubing. We will be skiing/tubing at Shanty/Schuss/Boyne and snowshoeing at Pine River or Tahquamenon Falls State Park. Students will be expected to help in the kitchen, participate in devotions and have fun. Students do not have to ski, tube or snowshoe to come on this event. We'll have time for games, reading, conversations and all kinds of fun.

Leaders: Our adult leaders and drivers are Jim & Debbie Hitt and Rich & Sue Williams.

Lodging: The Hitt's have opened up their cottage to us for the long weekend. We will be in Central Lake, MI. The group can be contact by cell phone .

MORE information is on the youth bulletin and in your email or snail mailboxes

High School Sunday School January - May 2012: We will be working to build community, accountability, spiritual growth and spiritual habits. Each student has a daily devotional book that we will use throughout the year. Students are expected to spend 5-10 minutes each day on the devotional thought, scripture and prayer. Each Sunday students will check in on their week, share thoughts about the devotionals and pray for one another. We will meet up in the Youth Room every Sunday except January 22, February 19, April 1 and 8.



2012 Summer Mission Trip & National Baptist Youth Gathering - Immense: The Team has nailed down a number of items. The Mission Trip will be to Washington, DC. We will be working with the Center for Student Ministry July 14-21. We will minister in shelters, missions, children's programs, clubs, churches, parks, residential hotels, food banks, soup kitchens, and neighborhood centers. The Immerse experience in Washington, DC is from July 24-28. Between this experience students will have an opportunity to do some sight seeing in and around Washington, DC. More details will be available on January 8.



Upcoming Events

January & February Youth Calendar

Jan 8 - 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Jan 15 - No Youth "Finals Weekend"

Jan 22 - No Youth "Great Escape Weekend"

Jan 29 - 5:30-7:30 PM Sledding at City Forest

Feb 5 - Super Bowl Party

Feb 12 & 19 - No Youth

JANUARY



Dates To Remember!

Date	Time	Event
January 1	9:30 AM 12:00 PM	Worship Service in the Hearthsides Room Midland Chinese School
January 2	ALL DAY	Church Office Closed
January 4	7:00 PM	Chancel Choir
January 8	9:30 AM 11:00 AM 12:00 PM 4:00 PM 4:45 PM 5:30 PM 6:00 PM 6:30 PM	Worship Service Sunday School Midland Chinese School Youth Bells Youth Choir Youth Activity & Concert Bells Youth Meal ALL Youth
January 9	9:30 AM 3:45 PM 7:00—8:30 PM 7:00—8:00 PM	Circle 1 (Harmony) Take Note! Boy Scouts (Hearthsides) College Prayer Night (Chapel)
January 11	12:00 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Article Submission Deadline for January 15th Newsletter Stewardship & Finance Mtg. (Media) Chancel Choir
January 12	7:30—10:00 PM	Midland Chinese Christian Bible Study (N. Wing Classrooms)
January 13	9:00—5:00 PM	Scrapbooking (Hearthsides)
January 14	9:00—5:00 PM	Scrapbooking (Hearthsides)
January 15	9:30 AM 11:00 AM 12:00 PM 4:00 PM 4:45 PM 5:30 PM	Worship Service Sunday School Midland Chinese School Youth Bells Youth Choir Concert Bells



FBC Church Services and Functions may be Videotaped for Shut-in distribution and broadcast on MCTV. If you are interested in viewing our services, they will be broadcast on Charter Cable MCTV Channel 99 at 2:00 PM Thursdays, and on Channel 99 at 8:30 Wednesday evening.