

# FIRST THINGS

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**Our Vision:** "In the spirit of our compassionate Christ, we are a family of growing believers serving all of God's people in an ever changing world!"

## PSALM 8 (The Message)

**As we look to a new year, I invite you to reflect upon the beauty and challenge of the 8<sup>th</sup> psalm. 2010 affords an opportunity to begin anew and to understand that we are in a partnership with the God who created us and his Son who sustains us. Find in these words from Eugene Peterson's modern translation your call to steward the good earth while worshipping and honoring the "brilliant Lord" who calls us forward once more. It's going to be a fantastic new year, dear friends... *Pastor John***

<sup>1</sup> GOD, brilliant Lord, yours is a household name.

<sup>2</sup> Nursing infants gurgle choruses about you;  
toddlers shout the songs  
That drown out enemy talk,  
and silence atheist babble.

<sup>3-4</sup> I look up at your macro-skies, dark and enormous,  
your handmade sky-jewelry,  
Moon and stars mounted in their settings.  
Then I look at my micro-self and wonder,  
Why do you bother with us?  
Why take a second look our way?

<sup>5-8</sup> Yet we've so narrowly missed being gods,  
bright with Eden's dawn light.  
You put us in charge of your handcrafted world,  
repeated to us your Genesis-charge,  
Made us lords of sheep and cattle,  
even animals out in the wild,  
Birds flying and fish swimming,  
whales singing in the ocean deeps.

<sup>9</sup> GOD, brilliant Lord,  
your name echoes around the world.



January 1, 2010

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## First Friends



We are very pleased to share the good news along with a word of congratulations to **Aubrey Snyder and Joel Studebaker**. Aubrey and Joel were recently married in a small, private ceremony and look forward to celebrating their vows with family and friends later in the spring. Best Wishes, Aubrey and Joel!... Our prayers have been traveling with **Dale and Carrolyn Green** who hit a hard patch during their time away in Colorado with their son and grandchildren. Both Carrolyn and Dale ended up in the emergency room but they have returned safely home to Sanford and are doing well... Our prayers also embrace **Larry Williams** who has been facing a series of tests as well as some surgery. Blessings to you,

Larry... Hasn't it been fantastic to see our college students home for the holidays! It is always such a pleasure to see them again. Thank you for blessing our holiday season with your presence...

## Thank You from Members & Friends



Carrolyn and Dale want to thank you for the extended prayers, over the miles, for their health concerns while in and traveling from Colorado. Thankfully the medical services in Colorado and Kansas met our needs, although we would prefer services from home. Knowing our church family was providing God's watchfulness, means a lot and we thank you. We are getting stronger, and wish keep from spreading or receiving unnecessary germs. We will certainly enjoy viewing the televised Church services here at home,

~ Blessings, The Greens

## African American Celebration



Plan now to be part of this year's African American History Celebration. It is going to be held on Sunday, January 31 at 4:00 pm in the afternoon. The theme is *Remembering Our Heritage in Song* and our featured guests will be the Chancel Choir of the Bethel AME Church in Saginaw. They will be joined by the Heritage Singers and the First Baptist Chancel Choir. Following this stirring program, we will adjourn to the Hearthside Room for a time of refreshment and visiting. Please mark your calendar now as we plan to host our friends and neighbors from neighboring communities as well as from Midland.

## Valet Parking



Our church would like to offer a new service to members and friends of the congregation who have a difficult time parking and getting into the building on Sunday mornings. We are prepared to offer valet service to those with this special need. You are invited to drive in the circular drive off the Washington St. parking lot. Someone will meet you near the front door to the church, take your car and park it. Then when the service is over or when you need your vehicle, someone will retrieve it at your convenience. Special thanks to Neal Langley who will be orchestrating this new ministry. The initial plan is to run this program through the Easter Season and then evaluate its effectiveness.



There is a need for a large sized wheelchair at the church. We have a member who would like to come to worship on occasion and this would facilitate his ability to be with us from time to time. If you have access to a used large sized wheelchair no longer in use and are looking for a new home to store it, First Baptist would be pleased to have it. Thanks in advance for your consideration...



## Help The Ghana Mission Team



The Ghana Mission Team wishes to thank those who are helping us through use of their Kroger Card! We received our first check in the amount of \$140. Now we're hoping that more of our Church Family will be willing to obtain and use a Kroger Card in coming days.

Through Kroger's program, funds are contributed to FBC for our Mission Team as a percentage of grocery dollars spent. To participate, follow 4 easy steps:

1. Get a Kroger Card from the Service Desk while in the Kroger store (free, no obligation)
2. Create an online account at [krogercommunityrewards.com](http://krogercommunityrewards.com)
3. While logged in to your online account, add our organization number, 84651, to your profile as your community organization of choice for contributions from Kroger.
4. Then just shop, remembering to have your card swiped at the checkout each time.

If you prefer not to do the online account (steps 2-3), see Louise Bergman for a barcode you can present at the Kroger Service Desk. The Kroger staff will use this to connect your Kroger Card to our organization.

## Church Greeters For January

- Jan. 3 Fran Sias and Bruce Rogers  
 Jan. 10 Betty Spiker and Emma Mantel  
 Jan. 17 Sharon and Dave Bussell  
 Jan. 24 John Shi and Lian Huang  
 Jan. 31 The Ofori-Darko Family



**ON SUNDAYS...**from 9:00AM to 12:00 the parking spaces by the kitchen will be designated for people who need handicap parking or are in need of parking closer to the building. Any other time they can be used by anyone. On special Church evening events such as Christmas Eve or hanging of the greens they will be used for the same purpose. We hope this doesn't inconvenience anyone.

-Property Management



## NEW Bible Study On James



Miraculous...Revolutionary...Greatest Ever"... We are inundated by a flood of extravagant claims as we flip the television dial or magazine pages. "Jesus is the Answer...Believe in God...Follow me to Church"... Christians also make great claims but are often guilty of belying them with their actions. With energetic style and crisp, well-chosen words, James confronts this conflict head-on. "What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save Him?" (James 2:14). Read James and become a doer of the Word....Interested??? Monday nights at First Baptist starting January 11 at 7 pm (there will be homework!!!). A signup sheet is on the Welcome Center table!! Facilitators: Neil Langley and Marla Moore.



**SUPPORT DIET GROUP...** January 1, 2010..."Wow, another year has gone by and I still have not lost my weight." Sound familiar?? Well, let's finally do something about that. If it is for health reasons, because you want to be in better shape to serve our Lord, or just because you are tired of looking in the mirror and not liking what is looking back at you....Now is the time to do this. A VERY INFORMAL weight loss "support group" is going to be meeting every Thursday starting January 7 at First Baptist at 7 pm for an initial period of 3 months. There will be a weigh in and then a small discussion on a "weight related" subject. Signup on the sheet that will be on the Welcome Center table!!! Facilitator: Marla Moore.



### Youth Calendar January & Big Events

Youth Group will Meet on Jan 10, 17 & 24, not on Jan 31

Jan 27-30...Ski Trip

March 21...Rock the House Worship Concert

May 1-2...30 Hour Famine



### Youth Meal Sign Up

Starting January 17, 2010 we will need volunteers to prepare meals for our young people on Sunday Nights at 6 PM. A sign up sheet will be on the brown table in front of the youth bulletin board in the narthex. The meal can be anything you'd like to prepare for about 25 people. The youth will setup tables and chair. All the silverware, plates, cups and napkins are provided.



### Ink Cartridge Fundraiser

Making Money & Helping the Environment...Help the youth and other mission teams raise money by keeping laser and ink jet cartridges out of the trash. We are starting a new recycling program at FBC that will earn us \$1 to \$4 on cartridges placed in our Cartridge World Recycling box. We hope to have our recycling box before Christmas, but until then you can find a cardboard box by the youth bulletin board that you can place the cartridges in. We hope you will think about how you can help us earn more by recycling cartridges from work, friends, family or maybe you know a local business that would allow us to recycle their cartridges. If you have any questions please contact Rich at [r\\_williams@ameritech.net](mailto:r_williams@ameritech.net).



### Youth Leader Team Meeting

The team will meet January 10 after youth group in the Harmony Room. We will be working on the Winter, Spring and Summer ministry events.



### Mission Trip 2010

A team is forming to work on a mission trip with Friendship House in Hamtramck, MI, which is near Detroit. We are looking for adults to oversee work projects, food & fundraising. The group would leave sometime late June on a Saturday and get back the following Saturday. If you are interested in being on the leadership team please let Rich know.



### Joyful Rebellion Diving Deep Overnight Coming Soon

The senior high group, Joyful Rebellion, will have overnight opportunities on Friday night to Saturday afternoon where they can grow deeper in their relationships with one another. We are working on dates and a location that would allow us to be close and still getaway from the distractions of Midland. Stay Tuned for more information.











### GREAT ESCAPE WINTER RETREAT/SKI TRIP...Dates are Wed., Jan 27 - Sat., Jan 30, 2010

**Itinerary:** We will leave from the church, possible at two different times (3pm & 4pm) depending on Wednesday night skiing, which is optional and return back to the church by 12 PM. We will ski most of the day on Thursday. Friday is open to go snowshoeing and tubing. We will be skiing/tubing at Shanty and or Schuss and snowshoeing at 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. **Leaders:** Our Adult Leaders and drivers are Jim & Debbie Hitt and Rich Williams. We're looking for someone who would be interested in coming as a non-skier, who would be available for emergencies and general contact. **Lodging:** Hitt's have opened up their cottage to us for the long weekend. We will be near Central Lake, MI. and will get contact information out to those attending. Students will need to bring sleeping bag, toiletries and smiles. Last year's event was great and hope to be even better.

# Dates To Remember...



Date	Time	Event
January 1	ALL DAY	OFFICE CLOSED in observance of New Years
January 3	 9:30 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Sunday School 1:30 PM Midland Chinese School 4:00 PM Youth Bells 4:45 PM Youth Choir 5:30 PM Youth Activity & Concert Bells 6:00 PM Youth Meal 6:30 PM ALL Youth	 
January 4	3:45—5:55 PM	Take Note!
January 5	9:30 AM Support Staff Mtg. 9:30 AM Prayer Fellowship (Harmony)	
January 6	7:00 PM	Chancel Choir
January 7	7:00 PM	Diet Support Group
January 8	9:00—5:00 PM Scrapbooking (Hearthside) 7:00 PM Tiaze Service	
January 9	9:00—5:00 PM Scrapbooking (Hearthside) 12:00—5:00 PM Lacey Wymer (Kitchen/Harmony)	
January 10	 9:30 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Sunday School 1:30 PM Midland Chinese School 1:30—4:00 PM 4-H Group (M. Imhoff) 4:00 PM Youth Bells 4:45 PM Youth Choir 5:30 PM Youth Activity & Concert Bells 6:00 PM Youth Meal 6:30 PM ALL Youth	
January 11	9:30 AM Circle 1 (Harmony) 3:45 - 5:55 PM Take Note! 6:00 PM Stewardship p & Finance Mtg. (Media) 7:00 PM Bible Study Group (Langley's)	
January 12	 9:30 AM Full Staff Mtg. 9:30 AM Prayer Fellowship (Harmony) 12:00 PM Article Submission Deadline for January 15th Newsletter)	
January 13	7:00 PM	Chancel Choir
January 14	7:00 PM	Diet Support Group

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



Etheljean Carroll needs transportation to the wound specialist doctor on Tuesday mornings. The appointment would be to the Wound Clinic, Covenant Cooper Hospital. You would leave Midland at 8:30 am for the 9:30 am appointment and be home by noon. Etheljean will need this assistance for a few weeks. Are you able and willing? Please call Pastor John (835-6731) or Ethel Jean (631-4005).