



**June 1, 2017**

## **First Things**

A Monthly Newsletter for Members and Friends

Our Vision: *"We are a church partnering with God by intentionally building the Kingdom of God, through abiding in Christ, discerning God's will and discipling others in the power of the Holy Spirit."*

## **Prayer Partners**

**Prayers for those that Grieve:** The families of Tom Moeser, Eleanor Stenger, and Gail Struble (Ben Struble's mom).

**For the health needs of many of our church family:** Thayer Bradish, Wayne Crosby, Denny Franklin, Jim Funk (Sue McCallum Funk's husband), Dale Green, Pastor Lara and the Heise Family, Jenny Kendrick, Betty King, Emma Mantel, Ruthie O'Dell, Elaine Parsons, Dave Pellegrom, Joyce Phillips, Anne Poindexter, Joyce Poland, Andrea Ross, Jan Sutherland and Family, Ned Sweebe, Marilyn Walker, and Bob Winchester.

**And the needs of loved ones:** Acacia (Walter's granddaughter), Carter (Mary Lou Sperry's nephew), Jared Engleman (Mary Lou Sperry's nephew), Terry (McCourt friend), Tim Richard & Family (McCourt friends), Wayne (John Williams' friend), and Molly Young (friend of Jilian Struble).

**Praise:** Elaine Parsons' recent scan shows the cancer is stable--nothing is moving or growing.

If you know of other folks in our church who need special prayer, please contact the church office by phone: 835-6731 or by email: [office@midlandfbc.com](mailto:office@midlandfbc.com).



**Rev. Lara Heise** joined our pastoral staff, in December 2012, as the Pastor of Preaching and Teaching; in June 2015, Lara transitioned into the role of **Lead Pastor**. Lara has a passion for preaching and teaching God's word and for walking with people as they discover who God has created them be. Lara is active in the Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force, Mid-Michigan Health Advisory Council, and Faithwalking. She and her husband, David Heise, have two children: Lola and Devin.

## LEAD PASTOR

In a moment of weakness today, I found myself seeking wisdom from the internet about what the latest summer fashions will be. As I glanced at the pictures, I realized two things: 1.) Again this summer, I will not be “trendy.” 2.) It seems as though the fashion industry feels as though they have to re-invent themselves every season!

It can be exhausting trying to keep up with fashion, but I think most of us would admit that there is a time to change. For instance, I think we all know that the mullet hairstyle of the 80s needs to stay a thing of the past. Or what woman misses the days when we were expected to wear heels ---all the time? The point is, sometimes change is VERY good.

As a church, I think we are entering into a season where we are in need of some changes. I believe (with the support of Team Network and Leadership Development team) that it is time for us to re-think our mission and our vision. “Why?” you may ask. The answer is in the form of a story, which for me is pretty typical! I recently read an article where a millennial visited several churches and shared his experience. What he pointed out was that the most “successful” churches he visited were ones where everyone knew and used the mission and vision of the church. After reading that, I could help but wonder, “How many of us at FBC can recite our mission and vision?”

In recalling our “Healthy Congregation” workshop from last year, our presenter asked that very question! And few, if any, from our church, or any other church, were able to recite them! This began to make me wonder why that was the case. Perhaps we don’t “own” the current mission as our own? That is a problem, because a mission that isn’t owned by the people carries little weight and has even less impact.

This led me to have an idea, which I shared with Team Network and Leadership Development team and now with you! This summer, from June 25 through August 3, we will go through a process, as a congregation, of developing a new mission (why we exist) and vision (what we look like when we are accomplishing our vision). The process will have several parts. First, there will be a sermon series which follows the process and gives it a theological foundation. Second, after church each Sunday, during the Sunday School hour from 11am–Noon, we will do the work together of developing the mission and vision. In addition to these regular meetings, I also am thinking about having an additional time or two for those who haven’t been able to regularly attend to meet together to share their ideas and thoughts. The goal of this task will be to have a new vision, which is approved and “owned” by the congregation by Rally Day, this September.

For some of you this may seem like a step backwards, and I can see that. I want to invite you to imagine with me the energy this process can bring to our body as we work together toward one goal. I want to invite you to think about how it will feel to have a mission and vision that you “own” as your own, one that perhaps you will be passionate enough to share with others outside the church.

I also want you to know that this mission and vision will not just “sit on a shelf”. The next step will involve getting out into the community and asking key leaders in the community how we can live out our mission and vision here in Midland. More details about that process will be revealed in the coming months.

I want to personally invite you to attend worship for these eight weeks this summer, so that you can take part in the development of this new vision and mission. We need **every** voice and mind working together on this. Each of us has a unique perspective and insight, which together makes us stronger. In fact, this is so important to me, that we are going to try and make it as easy for everyone to stay connected to the process as possible; so, those who cannot make it to church will be able to stay connected with where we are through the weekly highlights and will be invited to respond.

I am excited about what God is doing here at FBC. I believe we are seeing the beginning of something amazing and this is just one small piece. I hope you will join us!

~Rev. Lara Heise

Youth:

June 4 – Graduation Sunday



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 digital box Channel 191 on Wednesdays at 5:30PM and on Thursdays at 2:00PM.

Church services in video format may also be viewed at <http://www.awincom.com/church-movies/>

## THANK YOU

I want to thank you for all the prayers, while I was in hospital. I had two back surgeries. I don't know what a person would do without prayers; Kathy Burch, my sister, said you all were saying prayers for me. I thank you so much. I spent six weeks in hospital. I'm doing pretty good and am home now. The doctors told me it would be a long recovery. But I have God on my side and will be alright.

~Thank you all again, Evie Knouse.

## THANK YOU

This Pastor Emmanuel Obani the Administrator / Account Officer of the Baptist Vocational Training Centre -Frankadua Ghana West Africa.

I have been directed by Rev. Mrs. Grace Akunor the Centre Manageress to send the attached letter to you and your Church.

We thank you for your good work. God bless you.

Pastor Emmanuel Obani  
Administrator BVTC



## JUNE CALENDAR - 2017

### Regular Schedule

<u>Regular Schedule</u>		<b>ABIDING SCRIPTURES JUNE — 1 SAMUEL 3:1-20</b>
Sundays	9:30 AM 11:00 AM	Worship Service - Communion Service is the 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month Summer Sunday School (Begins June 25, 2017)
Mondays	10-11:30AM 4-5:00PM 6:30 PM	Staff Meeting (2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday staff meeting is on Tuesday @ 11AM) <b>Missions Team Meeting - Harmony Room - June 12</b> <b>Team Network Meeting - Media Rm - June 12 - <u>All church is invited!</u></b>
Tuesdays	7:30 AM	Men's Breakfast at M's Café at 5103 Eastman Rd.
Wednesdays	12-2:00PM 5:55-7:30PM 6:30 PM	Pastoral Connection/Worship Planning Meeting <b>CONNECTIONS @ Plymouth Park-Pavilion "H"</b> <b>Leadership Development Team Meeting - Media Rm - June 13</b>
Thursdays	5:30 PM 6:15 PM	<b>Stewardship &amp; Finance Meeting - Media Room - June 15</b> <b>Property Management Meeting - Media Room - June 7</b>
Saturdays	10AM-2PM	<b>FBC Serves at Open Door - June 10</b> (2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday of Every Month)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Special Event</u>
June 1	9AM-12NOON	<b>Office Closes at Noon - Office Manager on Vacation</b>
June 4	9:30 AM	<b>Graduation Sunday Service</b>
June 10	10AM-2PM	<b>FBC Serves at Open Door - see Chuck McCourt</b>
June 21	5:55-7:30PM	<b>CONNECTIONS @ Plymouth Park - Pavilion "H"</b>
June 22	-	<b>July Newsletter Deadline</b>
June 25	10:30 AM	<b>Summer Sunday School begins</b>
June 28	5:55-7:30PM	<b>CONNECTIONS @ Plymouth Park - Pavilion "H"</b>
July 5	5:55-7:30PM	<b>CONNECTIONS @ Plymouth Park - Pavilion "H"</b>
July 12	5:55-7:30PM	<b>CONNECTIONS @ Plymouth Park - Pavilion "H"</b>
July 19	5:55-7:30PM	<b>CONNECTIONS @ Plymouth Park - Pavilion "H"</b>

### June Ushers

Jim Hitt  
Bob Clarke  
Jo Clarke

### SAVE THE DATE!!!

July 4 - Office Closed  
August 2 - Block Party

### June Church Greeters

7 Wayne & Karen Crosby  
14 Carley Hitt & Ceonni W.  
21 TBD  
28 TBD

[CLICK HERE to Connect to Church Calendar](#)



## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

*Serving with Love*



### **Meet Gale & Thayer Bradish:**

Picture this: The Village Inn in Tawas, MI, music playing and a young man, Gale Bradish, approaches a young woman, Thayer Arlene Brownell, and asks her to dance. About a year later, this young couple married on October 19, 1974, in Flushing, MI. And thus began years of relocation and travel with Gale's career in the US Air Force.

Gale's career spanned 24 years after enlisting right out of high school. His career field was "Aircrew Life Support". He worked on crew members' equipment: helmets, oxygen masks, parachutes, survival equipment, etc. Gale LOVED his job and wishes he was STILL doing it! He was stationed at several locations during his career including: Texas, Michigan, Hawaii, Viet Nam, Mississippi, Colorado, California, Arkansas, Germany, England and Illinois, where he retired from the US Air Force. Perhaps you will want to give Gale a huge Thank You for his years of service.

Gale and Thayer had two children Alison, now 36, and Joel, 32. Thus, Thayer was a stay-at-home mom for most of those years. She developed interests in paper crafts, gardening, reading, biking, second hand store "bargain hunting" and "repurposing" projects. Occasionally, Thayer took on part-time positions in retail, restaurants as wait staff and as a parapro at Parkdale Elementary here in Midland. Maybe you have some of the same interests and experiences as Thayer.

Throughout Gale's retirement he has developed many interests: deer hunting, gardening, reading military history books, biking and golfing; he also presently serves as Financial Secretary here at First Baptist. Gale and Thayer both are part of the Coffee Team on Sunday mornings.

Forty-three years later, Gale and Thayer Bradish are with us at First Baptist.

Perhaps you have things in common that you never realized. Hope you take the time to talk with this couple and learn even more about their walk together, with the LORD and with us here in Midland.

We'd like to thank them both for the various ways they serve us at First Baptist Church...which also includes the Funeral Food Organizing Team--thank you, Thayer.



We'd like to send Warm Birthday Wishes  
to all who have birthdays in May!

July's Newsletter deadline is June 22 at Noon.



Date: June 1, 2017

Newsletter for Friends and Members  
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### Sunday Schedule

9:30AM Worship Service  
11:00AM Sunday School



Communion served 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Month

*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!*

**If you do not wish to receive this mailing, please contact us to remove your name: 989-835-6731 or Email: [office@midlandfbc.com](mailto:office@midlandfbc.com)**

Website: <http://www.midlandfbc.com>

Lara Heise: Lead Pastor (Cell: 815-690-8476)

Jan Sutherland: Music Minister

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