



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
515 N. LADD STREET
PONTIAC, IL 61764

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FEBRUARY

The Family Tree

First Baptist Church of Pontiac
—Growing the Family of God

Pastor: James O. Wolfe III



The season of Lent, originated in the fourth century of the church. Lent spans 40 weekdays beginning on Ash Wednesday and climaxing during Holy Week with Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday), Good Friday, and concluding Saturday before Easter. Originally, Lent was the time of preparation for those who were to be baptized, a time of concentrated study and prayer before their baptism at the Easter Vigil, the celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord early on Easter Sunday. But since these new members were to be received into a living community of Faith, the entire community was called to preparation. Also, this was the time when those who had been separated from the Church would prepare to rejoin the community.

Lent is marked by a time of prayer and preparation to celebrate Easter. Since Sundays celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, the six Sundays that occur during Lent are not counted as part of the 40 days of Lent, and are referred to as the Sundays in Lent. The number 40 is connected with many biblical events, but especially with the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing for His ministry by facing the temptations that could lead him to abandon his mission and calling. Christians today use this period of time for introspection, self examination, and repentance. This season of the year is equal only to the Season of Advent in importance in the Christian year, and is part of the second major grouping of Christian festivals and sacred time that includes Holy Week, Easter, and Pentecost. (<http://www.crivoice.org/cylent.html>)

During Lent I want to encourage you to join me in short periods of reflection and prayer. Beginning at 6:30 pm on Wednesday 29 February through Wednesday 4 April you are invited to join me for a brief Lenten meditation and time of prayer. These gatherings will follow the time of open prayer in the sanctuary and will take place in the Kum Dubble room. We will be finished by 7:15 pm to accommodate choir practice.

In the words of the liturgy from the Book of Common Prayer: “You are invited, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s holy Word.”

It is to this observation of a holy Lent that I encourage and invite each of you.

Community Corner

Preschool Screening

The annual Pre-School/Kindergarten screening will take place on Feb. 7,8,9,and 10th at the First Presbyterian Church in Pontiac.

This screening is for children ages 0 - 6 and appointments may be made by calling 844.5448 starting on Monday, January 23rd between the hours the hours of 8:00 am and 4:00 pm.

Parents of children who are 4 - 5 years old and eligible for kindergarten are strongly encouraged to make a screening appointment for their children.

Visit Us on the Web!

For convenient access to the latest church news and schedule information, don't forget to visit us on-line at www.fbcpontiac.org. While there, you also have the opportunity to download recent services in MP3 format or browse our picture gallery and see just what we've been up to lately here at FBC! Also, don't forget to friend us on Facebook and receive all the latest church updates!

GRR - Area III Discipleship Summit 2012

On Saturday, March 10 2012 from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm the First Baptist Church of Bloomington, IL (2502 East College Avenue) will host the second annual Area III Discipleship Summit. The theme this year is "I Once Was Lost" and features speaker Don Everts, co-author of *I Once Was Lost: What Postmodern Sceptics Taught Us About Their Path to Jesus.*

There will be four sessions, a time of table discussion and a large group Q&A that will allow participants to focus on the presentations and bring the ideas back to their churches. The progression of the sessions will lead to contemplation and some prayerful envisioning of how to implement the ideas in your home church.

If you are interested in attending the Discipleship Summit, you may register on-line at www.abcgrr.org. Cost to attend this event is \$20 (\$25 if paid after February 11) - this includes the sessions, food and fun! Your checks may be made payable to Area II and mailed to:

Annetta Holt
Area III Registrar
c/o First Baptist Church
136 W Carroll St
Macomb, IL 61455

Winter Weather



A reminder as we make our way through a season of unpredictable winter weather, if Pontiac schools are closed or close early due to inclement weather, all church activities scheduled for that day will also be cancelled.

To the best of our ability, church cancellation notices will be broadcast on 98.9 FM (WJEZ), WMBD, WEEK posted on our website (www.fbcpontiac.org) and made available on our voicemail system.

WE ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO USE THEIR BEST JUDGMENT AND BE SAFE DURING HAZARDOUS WEATHER!

Financial Information

General Fund (1/1/11)	(4,125.75)
General Fund Receipts	248,961.12
General Fund Interest	572.04
General Fund Expense	(246,864.83)
General Fund (12/31/11)	(1,457.42)

SUNDAY MORNING NURSERY SCHEDULE

Feb. 5: Jan Miller
Feb. 12: Carol Stanton
Feb. 19: Diana Rich
Feb. 26: Teri Newsome



ATTENDANCE

Date	Worship	Sunday School
Jan. 1	118	74
Jan. 8	186	102
Jan. 8 (PM)	30	—
Jan. 15	185	105
Jan. 15 (PM)	30	—
Jan. 22	178	103

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Feb. 5: Megan Amdor
Feb. 12: Lynn Battice and Vicki McBeath
Feb. 19: Lynn Battice and Vicki McBeath
Feb. 26: Patty Gray and Mary Frobish

Thank You!



Thanks so much to our church family for the unique Christmas gift this year. Diana could put the bakeries out of business with her Angel food cakes. We shared with the staff on our floor at Evenglow and they loved it too. There was more than enough for all. I don't know what we'd do without all of you. You are truly a blessing in our lives.

Love,

Dave and Sandy Bailey

To Our Dear Church Family,

Charles and I would like to THANK each and every one of you who prayed for our great-granddaughter, Haylee Beth O'Neal. At a Doctor appointment Adam and Sarah found out something was wrong with her heart. As soon as my daughter, Rebecca, called me I called the church and had Haylee put on the prayer chain. It was not as bad as the doctors originally thought. Haylee was born with a hole in her

heart which is healing nicely on its own.

THANKS, THANKS, THANKS!

Prayer works!

Ruth Ann and Chuck Peck.

We would like to thank our entire church family for the many cards, warm wishes and the generous Christmas gift you shared with us during this Christmas season. We are deeply touched by your thoughtfulness. We love you all very much and feel blessed to be a part of this loving church family.

Jim and Janet Wolfe

Thank you for all the cards, calls and prayers at the time of my mom's passing (Alta Carroll Vitzthum) and Jim's sister (Frances Schott). It's nice to know we were remembered.

Bless you -

Jim and Marian Dixon

Text Message Updates!!!

As a part of our ongoing efforts to ensure that we communicate with our church family in the most efficient manner possible, we are excited to announce the recent addition of a text messaging option for important church news updates.

If you would like to opt in to receive our updates via text message you simply need to text **fbcpontiac** to 292929. That's it! When there is a schedule change or important information that needs to be passed along you'll get it delivered right to your cell phone.

**** Please note that standard text messaging rates will apply so be sure to check with your carrier to ensure you don't incur any unforeseen charges. ****

Girl's Night Out!

Thursday, February 16th

6:30 - 8:00 pm

Vineyard Sunday School Classroom

Shake off your winter blues and join us for an evening of food, fellowship and fun!!

Ash Wednesday



We will be holding our Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, February 22 at 6:30 pm. Please mark your calendars and make plans to join us for this very special service.

Newsletter Deadline

All articles for the March edition of our church newsletter must be submitted to the office **no later than Tuesday February 21st**. You may submit your items by phone (842-4321), by fax (844-6943), by e-mail: Rhonda@fbcpontiac.org or by leaving them in the black box outside the church office door.

Valentine's Day Cookie Sale!



Your Relay for Life team will soon be baking up a storm and creating delicious smells in our kitchen and it's time to order your Valentine Day cookies and/or brownies! Our Relay for Life team is now taking orders for our delicious giant (8") heart shaped cookies and brownies. Once again we will offer chocolate chip, oatmeal raisin and brownies - so there's sure to be something for everyone!

Order sheets will be available in the Narthex. The cost for the cookies is a donation of your choosing to support the American Cancer Society and our Relay for Life Team.

The cookies will be baked and ready to be picked up on Sunday, February 12th - just in time to share with your Valentine's Day Sweetie!



February

- 1-Lois Good
- 1-Doyle Hurd
- 1-Derik Poshard
- 1-Mike Poshard
- 2-Jan Jolynn Staley
- 2-John and Michelle Bohm
- 3-Larry Gilmore
- 3-Doris Pearson
- 4-Tyler Lind
- 6-Bill Battice
- 7-Rick Miller
- 8-Bill and Rosemary McBeath
- 9-Barbara Sancken
- 10-Leon Gray
- 10-Roger Gray
- 10-Patty Gray
- 12-Maxine Zytrowski
- 13-Patricia Gilmore
- 13-Joanne Perkins
- 13-Margaret Turner
- 14-Ron and Carol Poshard
- 15-Rebecca Rackozy
- 15-Harlin and Fran Dean
- 15-Alexis Kindred
- 18-Larry and Patricia Gilmore
- 18-Robert and Janice Harbin
- 19-Jerriann Byrd
- 19-Dean and Kay Sidfrids
- 20-John Bohm
- 20-Karen Gilmore
- 22-Marcia Harder
- 23-Jeff and Cheryl Stith
- 26-Keri Lewis
- 27-Bob and Sharon Matteson
- 28-Skip and Carol Jones

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:00 am ROMEO Club 9:30 am Ruth Circle 12:00 pm Esther Circle 6:00 - 6:30 pm Open Prayer	2 6:00 pm Men's Bible Study 6:00 pm Barb's Bible Study 	3	4 7:30 am Promise Keepers Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am Promise Keepers Study at FBC
5 Communion Sun. 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 4:30 pm Kid's Choir 5:00 pm Worship 5:00 pm ABY 5:00 pm Cherub Choir / ABK	6 7:00 pm Virginia's Bible Study	7	8 9:00 am ROMEO Club 6:00 - 6:30 pm Open Prayer 7:30 pm Adult Choir	9 7:00 pm Board of Ministries 6:00 pm Men's Bible Study 6:00 pm Barb's Bible Study	10 	11 7:30 am Promise Keepers Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am Promise Keepers Study at FBC
12 Food Pantry Sun. 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 4:30 pm Kid's Choir 5:00 pm Worship 5:00 pm ABY 5:00 pm Cherub Choir / ABK	13 7:00 pm Virginia's Bible Study	14 Valentine's Day 	15 9:00 am ROMEO Club 6:00 - 6:30 pm Open Prayer 7:30 pm Adult Choir	16 6:00 pm Men's Bible Study 6:30 - 8:00 pm Girl's Night Out 6:00 pm Barb's Bible Study	17	18 7:30 am Promise Keepers Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am Promise Keepers Study at FBC
19 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 4:30 pm Kid's Choir 5:00 pm Worship 5:00 pm ABY 5:00 pm Cherub Choir / ABK	20 President's Day 7:00 pm Virginia's Bible Study	21 Newsletter Deadline	22 Ash Wednesday 9:00 am ROMEO Club 6:00 - 6:30 pm Open Prayer 6:30 pm Ash Wed. Service 	23 6:00 pm Men's Bible Study 6:00 pm Barb's Bible Study	24	25 7:30 am Promise Keepers Fellowship at FBC 8:00 am Promise Keepers Study at FBC
26 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 4:30 pm Kid's Choir 5:00 pm Worship 5:00 pm ABY 5:00 pm Cherub Choir / ABK	27 7:00 pm Virginia's Bible Study	28	29 9:00 am ROMEO Club 6:00 - 6:30 pm Open Prayer 6:30 - 7:15 pm Lenten Study 7:30 pm Adult Choir			