



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

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PONTIAC, IL 61764
Permit No. 126

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

January

The Family Tree

First Baptist Church of Pontiac
—Growing the Family of God

Pastor: James O. Wolfe III



I have prayed for as long as I can remember. For years a plate hung on the bedroom wall with the very familiar “Now I lay me down to sleep” emblazoned on its face. Prayer was something that we did as a family; at meals, bedtime and in the evening as we gathered to read a Bible story. It wasn’t an activity to which I gave a great deal of thought—it was simply what we did.

When we started reading the “Unbinding the Gospel” series together I realized the power of intentional prayer. When we do something with intention we take that action with a determined outcome in mind. In this case I *intend* to strengthen my relationship with God through prayer. I *intend* to discipline my life around a daily time set aside to listen, read scripture and talk with God. Just as one must discipline oneself to be successful in athletics, music or the arts one must practice spiritual disciplines to deepen one’s relationship with God.

Prayer is too easily relegated to an activity engaged in only at church or in times of crisis. Prayer is not often enough seen as a joyous celebrative activity which builds relationships with God and with other people.

During the next twelve months you are invited to join a spiritual pilgrimage—a prayer journey. You are challenged to take a few minutes during the day to stop by the church and pray specifically for the church and her ministries. For example you may have a passion for youth; a burning desire to see Sunday school grow; you would be overjoyed to see more young families involved in the church; your passion may be kindled toward the disadvantaged and you want to pour your prayer energy into the food pantry or “Blessings in a Backpack”. The challenge is to take a few moments out of the day, drive to the church and pray *intentionally* for our church. If you don’t have access to the church, call the office and we will make sure that you can access the building.

Yes, you can pray at home. However, there is greater power when we pray in spiritual agreement. Hear the words of Jesus as recorded in the Gospel according to Matthew 18:19-20: “Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

Notice in this passage the words *agree*, *ask* and *gathered*. This is *intentional* prayer. This is the

From the Pastor (cont.)

kind of prayer that moves mountains, transforms lives and renews churches. It is the kind of prayer that is necessary for our church to grow in bringing people to Christ and building the kingdom of God on earth as it is heaven.

We are intentional about prayer.

Life Line Screening

DID YOU KNOW?

- 80% OF STROKE VICTIMS HAD NO APPARENT WARNING SIGNS
- ULTRASOUND SCREENINGS CAN HELP YOU AVOID A STROKE
- STROKE IS A LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH AND PERMANENT DISABILITY
- SCREENINGS ARE FAST AND PAINLESS

On Thursday, January 26 we will be hosting the Life Line Screening event sponsored by St. Mary's Hospital of Streator.

The Life Line Screening event offers fast, painless and convenient testing for some commonly undetected health problems like blocked carotid arteries, irregular heart rhythm, abdominal aortic aneurysm and peripheral artery disease. If left untreated these conditions may lead to a stroke or other debilitating medical issues.

You can get any vascular screening for just \$60.00 or get all 5 screenings for only \$149.00. If you are interested in taking part in this screening you need to pre-register with the Life Line company. Please call: 1-800-324-1851 and use priority code HSC4166.

For more information on the Life Line Screening process, please visit their website at: www.lifelinescreening.com

Winter Weather



A reminder as we make our way into 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	230, 228.57
General Fund Interest	543.41
General Fund Expense	(227, 151.87)
General Fund (11/30/11)	(505.64)

ATTENDANCE

Date	Worship	Sunday School
Dec. 4	168	104
Dec. 4 (PM)	27	—
Dec. 11	185	109
Dec. 11 (PM)	24	—
Dec. 18	190	99
Dec. 24	240	—
Dec. 25	140	—

SUNDAY MORNING NURSERY SCHEDULE

- Jan. 1—Julie Amdor
- Jan. 8—Carol Stanton
- Jan. 15—Deb Golliday
- Jan. 22—Norma Miller
- Jan. 29—Juanita James



CHILDREN'S WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

- Jan. 1: Pam Lind and Lindsey Lind
- Jan. 8: Pam Lind and Lindsey Lind
- Jan. 15: Rick Golliday and Tayler Lind
- Jan. 22: Rick Golliday and Tayler Lind
- Jan. 29: Megan Amdor

Thank You!



Dear Church Family,

Bless all of you. I am so thankful to have such a great church and a pastor who must be "Superman" because he sure does cover a lot of territory and people. Thanks so much Jim for your wonderful, blessed visits. My thanks also to all of you who came to visit me and a special thank you to Diana Rich and her "food train" for all the wonderful meals!

God bless you all for the many great cards. I hope you have a blessed New Year.

My love,
Rita Watson

Thank you all so much for the delicious cake for Christmas! It was very much appreciated.

Lois Reinmann and Terri Miller

A most appreciative Thank You for all the cards, phone calls, prayers and remembrances

during my "time out". A BIG Thank you!

Jim Perkins

A sincere and special thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Jubilee Christmas such a resounding success. All of you from the wrappers, to the hosts to the people who donated baked goods helped to make this special season a bit happier for our guests.

Love,

Fran Dean and Patty Gray

A big thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make this year's Children's Christmas play such a resounding success. A special thank you to everyone who helped with making cookies, punch, decorating, etc. for the Seeing is Believing Party.

Love,

Fran Dean

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. ****

New Year's Eve at FBC!

Saturday, December 31
6:00 pm - ???



Need something fun to do on New Year's Eve? Bring the family to our annual New Year's Eve Family fun night! There will be plenty of food, fun and games (complete with prizes) for both children and adults! Harlin will be making his famous sloppy joes and everyone is encouraged to bring appetizers and snacks to share.

If you would like to join us as we greet 2012, there is a sign up sheet in the Narthex!

Newsletter Deadline

All articles for the February edition of our church newsletter must be submitted to the office **no later than Thursday, January 19**. 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.

Office Notes

Please note the church office will be closed on Monday, January 2nd in honor of the New Year's Day holiday.

Angel of the Year



Our sincere congratulations to Rich Halford who has been named this year's Angels on Wheels 'Angel of the Year'

Rich has worked tirelessly taking members of our church family to the hospital, doctor's appointments and helping with the food pantry. He is always willing to help wherever needed, with a warm heart and a loving smile.

We thank you for all you have done and wish God's blessings on our Angel of the Year!!

Christian Unity Service

On Sunday, January 22nd at 6:00 pm we will be hosting a Service of Christian Unity for our community. We warmly welcome Pastor Heidi Punt as the speaker and look forward to sharing in music from both adult and children's choirs. We will not be conducting 5:00 pm worship that Sunday evening and encourage everyone to make plans to join us for this special service.



