

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FBC?

July 18, 2010

Dear Church Family,

Doesn't summer remind you of baseball? When I played 7<sup>th</sup> grade baseball, I won the golden glove (best defensive player), but after quitting for two years I lost a lot of skill. I played a decent game at backup outfield and pitcher, but would have given anything to make up for those lost years and get into the game at short stop again.

God has blessed us so much with opportunities to see Him get more glory at First Baptist Church. Are you sitting by and watching? *Don't waste your years on the sidelines.* You ask, "What is God doing?" We've seen five people come to faith in Christ so far this year through the church's ministries, and a baptism! Have you noticed the other ways God has been working? For example:

- **My Friend's House**—Wrapped up until this fall, but not before completing another successful year. There were kids who made eternal decisions to follow Jesus. They need your prayers. Kids are welcome to call Nichole for some hang out time this summer.
- **June 1, Russ and Nichole Paul celebrated 5 years serving at First Baptist Church.** That happens rarely with a Youth Pastor and Children's Pastor. Be sure to thank them for their service, and support them with your prayers. (*Here's a way to get into the game*)
- **June 11–20, Youth Mission Trip to Calais, Maine.** 3,500 miles, service projects, hearts changed, and God was glorified.
- **June 13, Riverside service** with 79 in the tent, 20 outside, and more spectators. Congratulations Jerry Leborde on your baptism and membership. Thanks to the Republican Journal for the great picture and publicity, and to the Canoe Fest committee for your generosity. Thanks to everyone who helped the worship service, baptism, water bottles, and testimony to go so well that day.
- **June 21–25, Vacation Bible School.** Over 60 kids came and heard the good news of Jesus Christ, learned how to glorify God, had fun, and made friends. Thanks to everyone who helped make that possible (many, many hands working for many, many hours).
- **Church van**—Thanks to everyone who helped make the van purchase possible (and Ryan and Russ for going to get it).
- **Weekly Ministries:** Women's Ministry teams have been serving faithfully, Worship teams, greeters, ushers, nursery workers, indoor and outdoor maintenance, Sunday School teachers, and everyone lending a hand as they can to make things work!

*You aren't on the sidelines, are you?*

There are more things that have happened. We have seen God's hand working miraculously to help as some were hospitalized, and even in my own family as God blessed us with Caleb Edward, baby #4. Now with one girl and three boys 6 and under, I think we might have a full quiver (?). No, I'm sure we do! That's some of what has been happening.

During our Retool process, our Vision Community felt that our church is about average in some areas, and above average in some areas. Solutions to fixing the areas that were deemed average are going to be presented in the church wide meeting this fall. Keep listening for information regarding that.

*Here's some of what's coming up . . .*

- **Prayer meetings**—Every part of every ministry should be covered with prayer. Sunday morning 7am; Monday night 7pm. "You have not, because you ask not."
- **Sunday morning worship**—"Knowing God in 2010" Many hands work every week giving their voices, instruments, technical expertise, decorating expertise, and labor so we can focus on glorifying God publicly. Are you gifted in an area that would glorify God in public worship? We have over 15 positions of expertise that are needed every worship service, up in front and behind

the scenes. **WE NEED YOU!** Let us know in the connection folder, by phone or email. If you'd like a list of potential serving opportunities on Sunday mornings, see me.

- **Sunday School**—all of our classrooms are used every Sunday, as well as a class meeting in the Sanctuary. Everyone, of every age, has opportunities to study the Bible. My class (Pastor's Class) is studying "That the World May Know," video series. Are you growing spiritually?
- **Cross Trainers**—women meeting monthly for encouragement and spiritual growth. Right now they're studying *Don't Waste Your Life*, by Jon Piper.
- **Women's Class**—coming soon, stay tuned . . .
- **SMASH Meals**—by the pool. Didn't get a chance to sign up? Show up 6:30pm Wednesdays.
- **Picnics 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month for August and September**—Guys cooking (ladies getting served). We need help setting up, taking down, and preparing food.
- **Women's Conferences**—September 18<sup>th</sup>, Rosemont IL; September 23–25, Indianapolis, IN; October 1–2, Milwaukee, WI; November 5–6, Rockford, IL (see bulletin insert). Contact Karen Gill or Marleen Knuteson for more information on these great opportunities.
- **Thursdays 7pm**—Media Team meetings and training. See Mark Ranum, Executive Assistant.
- **July 19–20**, Six Flags Great America Youth Trip
- **July 30–31**, 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade lockin at FBC, 8pm–8am
- **August 6–8**, Green Lake Campout
- **August 19–20**, Mall of America Youth Trip
- As I take time to rest with my family for vacation, and we worship away at Green Lake August 8, you don't want to miss the messages God will bring through other preachers:
  - o July 25, Rev. Tim Swigart, "The Great Paradox," Mark 8:31–38
  - o August 1, Jef Riley, Board Moderator, "It all Started With a Kiss," Genesis 1. Pastor Russ Paul, Youth Pastor officiating communion.
  - o August 8, Pastor Russ Paul, "Knowing God: David, pt 2," 1 Samuel 17:1–11; 20–58
- August 15 I will return and pickup our series "Knowing God"
  - o August 15, "Knowing God: David, pt 3."
  - o August 22, "Knowing God: Solomon"
  - o August 29, "Knowing God: Elijah"
- **Finally, another highlight from First Baptist Church's Retool Process**—Right now our Vision Community is divided into two groups: *Church Assessment* and *Community Assessment*. The Community Assessment Team is figuring out the "hole," and the Church Assessment Team is discovering the shape of our "peg." We don't want a square peg in a round hole, so be in prayer for those working on this. Our next retreat is September 10–11.

(for a more detailed calendar, see the calendar at [www.firstbaptistdarlington.com](http://www.firstbaptistdarlington.com), or look in the church office)

As you can see, the answer to "What's Happening?" is "A lot of great things!" Keep praying, keep serving, keep reading God's Word, keep praying for me and the rest of our leadership team, and if you're on the sidelines, get in the game!

My time sitting out for baseball set me back to a point where I lost a lot. Don't let that happen to your spiritual life. Please join us and make your church a priority. Help us glorify and enjoy God.

In Jesus,

Nate Whiteside

Galatians 6:9, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."