



Newsletter  
of the  
First Baptist Church  
of Pittsburgh

October 2009

WORLD MISSION OFFERING 2009  
Pastor Gary Denning

WHAT'S INSIDE?

Bible Studies.....pg. 4  
Calendar.....pg. 5  
Fall PBA Event.....pg. 6  
New Church.....pg. 7  
New Member.....pg. 2  
Repairs.....pg. 2  
YAG News.....pg. 3

October is the month we receive gifts for the World Mission Offering, as American Baptists seek to support the efforts of some 2500 long and short-term missionaries in over 70 countries. The theme this year is, "Be Surprised by Walking in Different Shoes". Jesus did that. Paul writes "In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus...He gave up his place with God and made himself nothing. He was born as a man, and became like a servant." (Philippians 2:5,7 NCV)

Jesus knew what it was like to walk in our shoes. So too we gain greater appreciation for the lives of countless numbers of people around the world, because our missionaries are walking alongside them. Our combined efforts help people come to Christ, grow in Christ and change their lives and the world around them. Not only are their lives changed, but we become transformed ourselves when we share in their ministry.

When Jesus sent out the 70, he gave them instructions that can be summarized: seek their well being; eat and drink whatever they offer; meet people's needs; share the Good News.

Since 1814 American Baptists have been sending out followers of Jesus in the same way. We have been guided by the wisdom of Jesus' instructions to the 70, even as the way we do things has changed to reflect shifting political, economic and social realities in the world. International Ministries has made changes to help match churches and individuals with meaningful opportunities in global mission. Hundreds of churches and individuals are now benefitting through their active involvement with international missionaries as part of Missionary Partnership Networks. This relationship-based model supports missionaries with prayer, with encouragement, and resources.



Seven Focus Areas have been identified, and each missionary is connected to one or more:

- Leading people to faith
- Training church leaders
- Abolishing human trafficking
- Promoting health
- Creating economic opportunity
- Opening the mind and the heart
- Seeking peace and refuge

This year, as we receive gifts for the World Mission Offering, we also want to examine the possibility of partnering with an individual missionary, learn more specifically about the work that missionary does, and help to support those efforts. Building this connection will not only change lives abroad, but deepen our faith that we are partners in mission.




#### STONE RESTORATION & ROOF REPAIR

The Trustees have retained Alex Restoration to repair the mortar joints and damaged stonework especially to capstones. This will involve roughly two months of work, with the goal of securing stone and reducing the risks of water damage to the interior of the building. Considerable roof repairs have also been undertaken by the Rick John company.



We welcome to church membership, Eleanor Anderson, from the Crossroads Community Church in Erie, PA. Eleanor is particularly interested in women's work and missions, having spent years communicating with ABC missionaries in various parts of the world. Her partnership in ministry with her late husband, Andy Anderson, an ABC pastor and former Area Minister in West Virginia, leads her to seek out ways we can partner to create greater support of missionary efforts through our church. You will want to get to know this strong woman of faith. Yes, she uses email too.

NEWSLETTER OF THE FIRST BAPTIST  
CHURCH OF PITTSBURGH  
159 N. BELLEFIELD AVE. PGH, PA 15213  
TELEPHONE 621-0500  
FAX 621-3136  
REV. GARY DENNING, PASTOR  
ALBERT JOHNSON, SR; PUBLICITY  
GUSSIE BOSS, EDITOR  
E-mail:  
information @first-baptist-pittsburgh.org  
Church Web Page:  
<http://www.first-baptist-pittsburgh.org>



...that you can get a preview of the Sunday Bible discussion and sermon? Go to the FBC website, [first-baptist-pittsburgh.org](http://first-baptist-pittsburgh.org), >Sunday>What's On This Sunday>"Questions We're Asking".

## FBC OFFERS YAGERS OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Sonya Stewart

On May 24<sup>th</sup>, Anthony Hita delivered his first sermon at First Baptist Church and on September 13<sup>th</sup>, he delivered his second one. Anthony is a senior at the University of Pittsburgh, enrolled in the School of Arts and Sciences, majoring in Political Science with a minor in Religious Studies. He graduated from Hickory High School in 2006 in his hometown of Hermitage, Pennsylvania, and is currently a candidate for ordination to ministry in the Western Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church. He plans to attend seminary after graduating from Pitt, is the third-generation of his family to attend Pitt and the fourth-generation of his family to answer the call to ministry. His father and stepmother are both doctors, and he is the son of a first-generation immigrant from Mexico and still has many relatives living there. His mother and stepfather, with whom he was raised, are both teachers and his stepfather is a college football coach for Thiel College in Greenville, PA.

He recalls that: "I first heard about First Baptist Church from a friend who had attended here but found it didn't quite meet his spiritual needs. I was looking for a traditional place to attend, and was displeased with most of the other churches around the area as they seemed to be more like Sunday social clubs, and less like spirit-filled Christian communities. I first sent my girlfriend, Megan, to scout the church, and when she reported back that it was somewhere I would likely feel comfortable, I decided to give it a shot, and haven't left since. First Baptist has been a crucial component in developing my own ministry as the fellowship and experiences I have gained here have helped me to grow and refine my faith. Dr. Edwin Floyd and Pastor Gary Denning both wrote me very detailed and helpful critiques after my last sermon and I have used those to improve my techniques and speaking abilities. It is always an honor to share the word of God, and I am very grateful for all the fellowship, love, and experience the congregation at First Baptist has given me over the past year."

We encourage other Young Adults like Anthony to let us know about their talents and interests whether it is in speaking, scripture reading, music or in some other area so that they can have new experiences and grow spiritually. Please let any young adults in your life know that there is a place for them at FBC and don't forget to visit <http://fbcpgh.org/YoungAdultGroup.aspx> to see photos and summaries of the YAG activities as well as the growing collection of biographical sketches of the entire FBC family.

While we hope that Young Adults find opportunity for learning, the Wednesday night study group often "teaches the teacher". At one recent meeting, as I asked the group a hard question, I suddenly realized that it was the question I needed to answer for myself. Their eagerness to hear God's voice in the study of His word is a strong medicine to an old heart like mine – a reminder that no matter how many miles we walk with the Lord, He still has some thing new to teach us. Please pray about the possibility of YOU working with this fine group of young people. While I know you would nurture them, I think you would find that their presence in your life to be the real blessing. If you feel God leading you in this direction, please contact Pastor Gary or me to discuss how your talents may best be used. They need you and there is a good chance that you need them!



## Fall Bible Study Series

COME ONE COME ALL

BIBLE STUDIES CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS.

So far, the young adult group is studying First Corinthians and the alternative study is in 1 Samuel. If you haven't come, don't worry, you can start anytime. Don't want to come by yourself, that's okay, bring a friend. We always have room for more.

Here is the schedule: 6:15pm – Light meal

7pm – Study Begins

8:30pm – We try to be finished by this time, especially since most of us have work or school the next day.

Take care and God bless

Chad

### NOTES FROM THE FALL PBA EVENT

ON HEALTHY CHURCH GROWTH...

Maintenance churches conduct evangelism to save themselves.

Missional churches conduct evangelism to save others.

Introducing a visitor to four other people, upon arrival will significantly increase the likelihood of their return the following week.

- Jeff Johnson, ABC/USA National Director of Evangelism speaking at the Pittsburgh Baptist Association (PBA) Fall Special Event, Personality-Based Evangelism, Sept. 26

### NEW CHURCH FORMED

Dr. Shirley Smith

Dr. Stephanie Smith Myles, daughter of Dr. Shirley P. Smith, along with her husband, Mr. Larry Myles and their Christian friends have joined together to begin new church. The Living Bridge Community Church will launch its first worship service at 10:00 am, Sunday, September 27th. Services will be held at 10am each Sunday at the Pine Richland Youth Center, located at 5554 Community Center Drive, Gibsonia, PA.

Worship and activities will also be offered for children ages preschool through 5th grade. The child care workers have all the required clearances and lots of experience.

They would love to see you for their Grand Opening Worship Service!

Email: [info@livingbridgepittsburgh.org](mailto:info@livingbridgepittsburgh.org)

Web: [www.livingbridgepittsburgh.org](http://www.livingbridgepittsburgh.org)



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
10 am Bible Study 11 am FBC Worship 1 pm Spanish	8:30 am Headstart	8:30 am Headstart 9:30 am Japanese	8:30 am Headstart 7 pm FBC Bible Study 7 pm Spanish Bible 8 pm Glee Club	8:30 am Headstart International Women 6 :30 pm FBC Choir 7 pm Chinese	8:30 am Headstart 5:30 pm Wedding Rehearsal	2:30 pm Wedding
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10 am Bible Study 11 am FBC Worship 12:30 pm Deacons 1 pm Spanish	8:30 am Headstart	8:30 am Headstart 9:30 am Japanese 7:30 Planning	8:30 am Headstart 7 pm FBC Bible Study 7 pm Spanish Bible 8 pm Glee Club	8:30 am Headstart International Women 6 :30 pm FBC Choir 7 pm Chinese	8:30 am Headstart 4:30 pm Wedding Rehearsal 5:30 pm Wedding Rehearsal	11 am Wedding 2:30 pm Wedding
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10 am Bible Study 11 am FBC Worship 12:30 pm Trustees 1 pm Spanish	COLUMBUS DAY 8:30 am Headstart	8:30 am Headstart 9:30 am Japanese 7:30 Church Council	8:30 am Headstart 7 pm FBC Bible Study 7 pm Spanish Bible 8 pm Glee Club	8:30 am Headstart International Women 6 :30 pm FBC Choir	8:30 am Headstart	1 pm Third Sat. Prayer & Praise 7 pm Rachel Otieno
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10 am Bible Study 11 am FBC Worship 1 pm Spanish	8:30 am Headstart	8:30 am Headstart 9:30 am Japanese 7:30 pm Planning	8:30 am Headstart 7 pm FBC Bible Study 7 pm Spanish Bible 8 pm Glee Club	8:30 am Headstart International Women 6 :30 pm FBC Choir	8:30 am Headstart 4 :30 pm Wedding Rehearsal	2:30 pm Wedding
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
10 am Bible Study 11 am FBC Worship 12:30 pm Cong. Meeting	8:30 am Headstart 7 :30 pm Archeology meeting	8:30 am Headstart 9:30 am Japanese 7 pm PBA Board	8:30 am Headstart 7 pm FBC Bible Study 7 pm Spanish Bible 8 pm Glee Club	8:30 am Headstart International Women 6 :30 pm FBC Choir	8:30 am Headstart	Baby Dedication Halloween

The First Baptist Church of Pittsburgh  
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Pittsburgh, PA 15213

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