



Newsletter
of the
First Baptist Church
of Pittsburgh

September 2009

THE ENGINE

Pastor Gary Denning

This past Sunday someone observed to me that my short time away at the end of July seemed to have done me some good. I looked a bit rested and my smiles were more frequent. I have to admit it felt good, not just to have family time with my oldest daughter and to see her doing so well after her traffic accident back in June, but to enjoy the out-of-doors activities I was doing on a farm near Harrison, Arkansas.

My brother-in-law Joe has a 900 acre farm, made up of hillsides where cows graze, steep ravines, a creek deep enough in one spot that it is the official swimming hole for the neighborhood - and a railway line that passes through. He is an engineer with a freight company, as is his youngest son. I recall my sister saying that when her daughter was 14 years old, he asked what she wanted for her birthday, and she said she wanted to skip school that day and take a train ride. He organized it so that the train stopped at the crossroads that connected two sections of the farm, picked her up, and off they went for the day.

I got my chance on July 28. A tour company in Branson Missouri has a tourist train that runs on that same line, and is required to use official engineers from the freight companies to operate the engines. It is a fairly short ride of about 25 miles each way, passes no breathtaking landscape, stops at the end of its trip on a high bridge then reverses direction to return to the station. But I was riding in the engine, which had a door in the front left side which they left open so the wind could blow on us. He pulled out of the station slowly, a crewman exited to switch the rails for us to enter the freight lines, we pulled ahead until the last passenger car cleared the junction, and a second crewman at the other

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end switched the lines back so freight trains would not be diverted to the station. We crossed several bridges, and drove through two tunnels about the same length as our Liberty Tubes. It was fun to feel the air turning colder several hundred feet before entering the tunnels, to see the various stages of repair work that had been done inside, to choke on the built up diesel fumes that darkened the air, and then to see the small circle of light in the distance grow bigger as we approached the exit.

For Joe's 65th birthday, my sister had taken him by plane to Chicago, where they began a train ride that stopped in Pittsburgh. They visited me, and then went on to that area near Altoona, PA known as Horse Shoe Curve. He came back a like a small boy who had just got his first train for Christmas.

I don't know why some of us like trains so much, but even writing about it makes me smile. On my last visit, I got to drive a bulldozer. When my daughters show pictures of me, they always include that one where I have broken down into giggles trying to manage that monster. I guess the time away was refreshing.

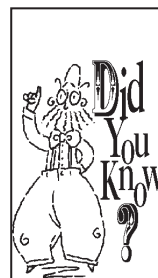


The next issue of the Newsletter will be the October issue. Now is the time to start thinking about October events. We will plan to set the deadline Sept. 23 and plan to print the next week. Plans subject to change!

NEWSLETTER OF THE FIRST BAPTIST
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Thirteenth Anniversary: Third Saturday Prayer and Praise

September 14 marks the thirteenth anniversary of our Third Saturday Prayer and Praise, which Sister Lula Butler has hosted so faithfully. The program begins at 1:00 and ends around 3:00 with a fellowship meal. People from some 20 various Pittsburgh churches have become loyal participants, and from the extension of that group and the efforts of Rev. Ida Henderson, we have been blessed to share in the baptisms of several people. Two more are preparing for baptism at FBC on Sunday, September 15 at 3:00 p.m. Please join us whenever you can.



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

Best Wishes
to the
Ira & Nicola



Congratulations to Ira Hill and Nicola Pioppi, Pitt students who began worshipping at FBC early in their studies, and who were married at FBC on August 15. They are living in Gainesville, FL where Ira is doing doctoral studies in mechanical engineering. What made it so special was that Pittsburgh FBC was “their” church, while Nicola’s family came from Easton, PA and Ira’s had to travel from Alabama. Many made the trip, from as far away as Wisconsin to celebrate this couple, but what a pleasure it was that they chose us as the place where their love had grown to be the place where they wanted to seal their vows and hear words of blessing once more.



Welcome
Our *New*
Members

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

On August 9, 2009 we welcomed D.J. and Margo Quirin into membership at First Baptist Church.

It is great to have these two wonderful people join us at FBC.

A BIG THANKS

I want to thank all those who donated food to the picnic. We had the first rained out picnic but everybody pitched in and helped to move inside. I thank you all for your flexibility. Remember, we grow closer as a community when we can spend time together.

Sincerely, Chad Zoll



YOUNG ADULT GROUP (YAG) IN ITS SECOND YEAR

Sonya Stewart



ANGIE HOLMEN BECKY ASHER

This coming fall Becky Asher will represent the YAG undergraduates and Angie Holmen will represent the YAG graduate students as leaders. While Becky and Angie formally accepted their titles this summer, both had already been key in leadership as they faithfully contributed their ideas and insights during Bible Study and assisted with birthdays and other activities like cookie baking, window painting at Children's Hospital and Tea and Trivia. Angie shares her thoughts about First Baptist below.

"I initially came to FBC because I went to a Baptist church in my hometown of Dayton, Ohio, and also because of FBC's close proximity to where I work and live. The first Sunday I came I was warmly welcomed by the whole congregation and I decided to return. I soon found out about the Young Adult Group, which made me even more interested in FBC. I started attending Bible studies and really enjoyed growing deeper in faith with a small group of people, a different experience than worshiping in church on Sunday mornings. Getting other peoples' perspectives on Bible readings is always eye-opening, and the praise songs we sing help put me in a worshipful mindset. I also enjoy the different service projects and fun events that we have done, including painting windows at Children's Hospital and trivia night. This coming year I will be one of the student leaders for the Young Adult Group. I feel this is an important role because it was the YAG that sparked my initial interest in FBC. I hope that in the coming year we can reach out to even more young adults in the area and show them what is special about FBC and our Young Adult Group".

from prev. page

Please let any young adults in your life know that there is a place for them at FBC. The Young Adult website has FINALLY been revamped thanks to Rohit's patient instruction. Visit <http://fbcpg.org/YoungAdultGroup.aspx> to see photos and summaries of our previous activities. We are working hard to collect photos and biographies from new Young Adults as well as members of the congregation so we can get to know each other better. If you are not contacted in the next month or so, please see Sonya Stewart to have your information added to the website. This is a time consuming project but one that will really help ALL visitors get to know others in the congregation.

NEW PROGRAM OFFERED

We have always loosely defined "young adult" and continue to do so but starting on September 18th, FBC will offer meeting space in the fall to F-Cubed (F3), a new community group for singles from 40 – 49 to help alleviate some of the loneliness that people in this age group often feel. Please help spread the word about this new group. Details are at

<http://fcubed.web.officelive.com/default.aspx>. For further information on either group, please contact Sonya Stewart at 412.403.7997 or sonya_stewart@yahoo.com.



FALL BIBLE STUDIES ANNOUNCED

Friar Chad announces that Bible Studies will start on September 2 there will be the Young Adult Bible Study which will be on 1 Corinthians. There will also be a study of the book of 1 Samuel led by Chad Zoll .

The evening will begin with a light meal at 6 p.m. followed by the Bible Studies.

Have you noticed that the pew Bibles and Hymnals have been patched and the envelopes and pencils replaced in the pews? We understand that Rohit Patnaik spent some time accomplishing that task.

Thanks to Rohit for a great job. Rohit has now gone to Texas for new job and the next stage of his career. We wish him well, but he will certainly be missed.

Although he is not going so far away we will miss seeing Thomas Raglin as often. He has left for California of PA University. Keep up the good work, Thomas.



With Deepest Sympathy

MARY LOUISE WRIGHT

August 19, 2009

On Wednesday, August 19, Mary Louise Wright passed away at the age of 97. She died in her sleep at the home of her daughter Diane Arimoto in Mt. Lebanon, where she had lived for many years. She was the organist at First Baptist for thirty years. She retired at age 85. In addition to being an accomplished musician she was also had many other talents. She enjoyed wood working and cooking. She made wooden toys for her grandchildren and also put a wooden floor in the choir loft at First Baptist. She cooked for the choir on the nights that they had rehearsal.

Although she retired as the FBC organist fourteen years ago she leaves us with many memories. Mary Louise was 97 years old. She is survived by her four daughters, Josie Sheldon, Diane Arimoto, Carol Strom and Jane Anderson, nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

The family will have her body cremated, and take the ashes of both parents to Martha's Vineyard where they had a summer house and the children and grandchildren spent many years vacationing.

We will celebrate her life at a memorial service on Saturday, November 7, 2:00 p.m. We invite you to connect with Betty Batie to help with refreshments for the reception afterwards.

DR. EDWIN TULLER

August 24, 2009

Tuesday morning about 2:00 a.m. Dr. Tuller passed away at Presbyterian Hospital. He was 95 years old. Dr. Tuller was General Secretary for the ABC USA in the 1960s and early 70s, and although he had not personally wanted our national headquarters to move from Riverside in NY, supervised raising the funds and building the facilities at Valley Forge, PA. It is Dr. Tuller, who went on to pastor the International Protestant Church in Paris, France, and who ultimately came to us as his daughter, Kittie Verdolini-Abbott began teaching Speech Pathology at the University of Pittsburgh.

Sonya Stewart described Ed very well in her message to the Young Adult Group; "Dr. Tuller was a fine man committed to the cause of Civil and Human Rights. He sat on the platform with Dr. King during the "I Have A Dream Speech" (he is in the famous video clip) and was a driving force in supporting the movement behind the scenes through the American Baptist Association where Dr. King was dually aligned. He was also a strong supporter of the Young Adults in the church and will be sorely missed!"

His memorial service was Saturday, August 29 at FBC. Thanks to all who helped with the service and reception.

Deepest Sympathy cont.

MARY KAY MOSELEY KAMATH
August 22, 2009

Mary died at her home in Santa Barbara, CA.

She was the daughter of L. B. Moseley, a former pastor of First Baptist Church. She and Sanjiv Kamath were married at FBC March 16, 1957 with her father officiating.

Mary Kay was active in her community serving on the school board and the board of Santa Monica Junior College.

She is survived by her husband Sanjiv Kamath and children Tara Kamath, Kathy Kamath Mitchelson, Keshev Kamath and Shanta Kamath as well as three grandchildren and two brothers.

We send our thoughts and prayers to the family.

We celebrate the lives of these people and are blessed that we have been part of their lives

A poem taken from a funeral program was included here in the newsletter. We have been notified that the poem is copyrighted.

PICNIC PICTURES



Sonya, Becky and Kyle
Anyone else coming?



C.T. looks so serious about that
conversation.
Pastor Gary, C.T. and Hanna



So many
good choices!



SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
10 am Bible Study 11 am FBC Worship 12 pm Ice Cream Social 1 pm Spanish Worship	Pitt Classes Start 8:30 am Headstart	8:30 am Head Start 9 am Japanese	8:30 am Headstart 6:15 pm Bible Study Pizza & Games Night 7 pm Spanish Bible Study	8:30 am Headstart International Women 7 pm Japanese	8:30 am Headstart	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10 am Bible Study 11 am FBC Worship 12 pm FBC Cookout 1 pm Spanish Worship	8:30 am Head Start	8:30 am Head Start 9:30 am Japanese 7:30 pm Planning	8:30 am Head Start 7 pm FBC Bible Study 7 pm Spanish Bible Study	8:30 am Headstart International Women 6:30 pm FBC Choir 7 pm Japanese	8:30 am Headstart	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
10 am Bible Study 11 am FBC Worship 12:30 pm Trustees 1 pm Spanish Worship	8:30 am Head Start	8:30 am Head Start 9:30 am Japanese 7:30 pm Church Council	8:30 am Head Start 7 pm FBC Bible Study 7 pm Spanish Bible Study	8:30 am Headstart International Women 7 pm Japanese	8:30 am Headstart	1 pm 3rd Saturday Prayer & Praise
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
10 am Bible Study 11 am FBC Worship 1 pm Spanish Worship	8:30 am Head Start	8:30 am Head Start 9:30 am Japanese 7:30 pm Planning	8:30 am Head Start 7 pm FBC Bible Study 7 pm Spanish Bible Study	8:30 am Headstart International Women 7 pm Japanese	8:30 am Headstart 5:30 pm Wedding Rehearsal	2:30 pm Wedding
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
10 am Bible Study 11 am FBC Worship 1 pm Spanish Worship	8:30 am Head Start	8:30 am Head Start 9:30 am Japanese 7:30 pm Planning	8:30 am Head Start 7 pm FBC Bible Study 7 pm Spanish Bible Study	8:30 am Headstart International Women 7 pm Japanese	8:30 am Headstart 5:30 pm Wedding Rehearsal	2:30 pm Wedding

The First Baptist Church of Pittsburgh
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TIME VALUE



**Comfort those in any
trouble with the comfort
we ourselves have
received from God.**

2 Corinthians 1:4