

Finance Transition Update

By Eric Wilmeth

There has been a lot of work going on in the background over the last many months to transition our bookkeeping / accounting to take advantage of various software tools, such as Tithely, QuickBooks, and Huntington's online banking tools. Transitions are rarely easy but this one has come along smoothly.

Karla and I have met many times and entered all our financial transactions into QuickBooks going back to November of last year up until the present. So currently we are keeping two sets of books. John's are the official books until the end of the year when QuickBooks will become the official tracking system. There have been minor variations between the two systems, but over time the numbers all line up. As an example of these variations; you adjust your bank register amount as soon as you write a check, but the bank doesn't adjust it till the check clears.

Through this process Karla and I have also worked on a financial policy and procedural document which was presented to the deacons and is presently being reviewed by the 2020 budget committee. It will be shared with the church family later this year once revisions have been made and the deacons have approved it.

Other things in the final stage of development:

- Updated Disbursement Authorization Form
- Document Retention Policy
- Updated job descriptions for staff

I want to thank John and Dave for all their work (and continued efforts) handling the finances. They are excellent stewards of the tasks and funds entrusted to them.

DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday:

- 4 Charlie Gosnell
- 22 Joyce Greetham, Don Jones & Adam Wilmeth
- 26 Jacy Wilmeth
- 28 Becky Nardi
- 31 Brent Smith

Happy Anniversary

- 3 Doug & Michelle Drake
- 9 Eric & Jacy Wilmeth



Join Us!

Harvest Dinner
Sunday, November 17th
after the morning service
Sign-up on the South Hall bulletin board



Joint Thanksgiving Service
Tuesday, November 26th, 7:00 pm
First Baptist Church of Strongsville
17444 Drake Road, Strongsville, Ohio 44136



Christmas Open House
at the Greetham's
Friday, December 13th 6 pm - 8 pm
4691 Kingsbury Rd, Medina, OH 44256



Secret Sister
Reveal Brunch
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14TH, 11:00 AM
BOB EVANS IN BRUNSWICK



Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service 6:00 pm

first baptist
BRUNSWICK

First Baptist Buzz

NOVEMBER 2019



II Corinthians 5:14-15 - For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

What a powerful statement. In a very practical, succinct way, I believe this statement, and the gospel truth supporting it, sums up the defining mark of a healthy church. A healthy church is a group of Christ-followers who are controlled by the love of Jesus. This helps us to understand that health of a church is not so much a destination marked by numbers, finances, facilities, and a full calendar of activity, but rather by a state of being, we are marked by the love of Jesus. Since this may seem a little hazy to us; here at First Baptist, we use the Biblical imagery of a tree: Rooted – Growing – Fruitful.

Rooted in Christ & His Word means that we whole-heartedly believe, proclaim and teach that Jesus Christ alone changes people. It means that we are not only gospel centered but gospel dependent. The Gospel is the main thing because it is how we are born again, it is the power of God to salvation, and it is the process of growth and sanctification. There is an obvious correlation between being Rooted in Christ & His Word and being controlled by the love of Christ.

Growing in Christ & His Body means that we are committed to God's process for growth: Discipleship. Discipleship is gospel growth, or more plainly moving people to maturity in Christ through the body of Christ. This means we are more committed to personal discipleship than to assembly line production. It requires each member of our church to be committed to both their own personal growth and investment in the spiritual growth of others in our church. It looks like obedience to the 'one another' commands scattered throughout the New Testament. The love of Christ compels us to not only grow in our love for our Savior but to love others like Jesus loves us.

Fruitful in Christ & His Mission means that we are both collectively and individually committed to living out the gospel before a dying world. This is the reproduction function of discipleship. It is seeing people the way that Jesus sees them. It is proclaiming the gospel by reflecting the love of Christ both through word and deed. It is living lives of personal holiness and sharing the love of Jesus with the lost in every sphere of influence that God has positioned you. It is launching people out of their homes and our church into a white field, both locally & globally, which is ripe and ready for harvest. It is the love of Christ that controls us to give of our very lives for the glory and furtherance of the gospel!

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30—10:15 am

- Adult Class
The Gospel Project - Rm 103
- Middle School—
Grades 6-8
Adam Laskos - Room 105
- Young Kids—Grades 1-3
Deanna Laskos - Room 203
- Pre-School— Ages 4-K
Jacy Wilmeth - Room 201
- Toddler Class—Age 2 & 3
Becky Nardi—Room 202
- Nursery—Infant to 24 mo
Michelle Drake - Nursery

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP 10:45 am

Children's Church—
Age 3 - K
First three Sundays
Jacy Wilmeth - Rm. 201

OCTOBER ATTENDANCE Worship Service: 229

OCTOBER OFFERING
Monthly Need: \$13,200
October Total: \$12,086
October Year to Date:
\$130,784

UPCOMING EVENTS

Harvest Dinner 11/17
Joint Thanksgiving Service
11/26
Christmas Open House at
the Greetham's 12/13
Secret Sister Reveal Brunch
12/14

Orphan Sunday - Foster Care Update



A Foster Care Update from Jody Greetham -

It is hard to believe that it was this month last year that we were in the process of becoming licensed foster parents and were knee deep in our 36 hours of training and paperwork. So much has happened in this past year that God has used to refine us, shape us, and grow us in ways we never could have imagined.

We became officially licensed in April & took our first placement shortly after. Looking back on those 6 weeks of placement, and our subsequent summer sabbatical, we see so plainly God's goodness and providence woven into every detail. While I will update you on our status as foster parents, I really do believe it is secondary to sharing the work God has done in our hearts throughout this process.

For us, moving along this path has truly been a walk of faith. We have never felt so keenly the tension between fear and faith, & control and surrender. It has been hard. There have been many tears, many moments of being confronted head-on with our selfishness, fear, and lack of faith. But He gives more grace (James 4:6) and uses these things to humble us, deepen our dependence on Him, and grants us increased faith. There is growth that only flourishes beyond the borders of our comfort zone, and to put ourselves in a position to experience it has been worth every difficulty. We praise God for the way He has grown us individually and the way it has impacted our family.

We have been open for placement again since September and we have been doing some short-term respite care while we wait. We have really been blessed by this format and the relationship setting it provides with other foster families and it has been a great fit for our family in this season. So, presently we have shifted our role from taking long-term placements to doing short-term respite care. We are able to provide foster families times of refreshing that we now know are so essential to being able to fulfill that role effectively. We will be in a position to connect with and serve a multitude of foster families and children in foster care and are looking forward to seeing the doors God opens for us in this capacity.

Prayer Requests from Juvenile Detention

From the Oaks Family Care Center Newsletter -

Every Saturday morning dedicated Oaks volunteers provide hope, love, and redemption through the Word with their weekly Bible studies at Medina County Juvenile Detention Center. Prayer requests are taken each week and here are just a few of the requests that we have received.

- Pray that I am out of custody of my dad's care...That when I get released I will no longer be hurt, manipulated nor abused in any way anymore...That I do get an opportunity to talk with JFS and CPS, go into a good family after residential, and that my grandparents will fight to get custody of me and my sister.

- I hope that God can accept me and forgive me for what I've done.

- Right now I feel lost and broken. I am slowly losing people. I recently lost my ex-boyfriend to suicide and I feel like it's my fault. I can't acknowledge he is gone and out of my life forever.

- Pray for me and my mother to reunite and get our life together.

Please raise these youth and their families in prayer. They need God's guidance and love more than ever. Also pray for the volunteers who faithfully minister to the kids each week.



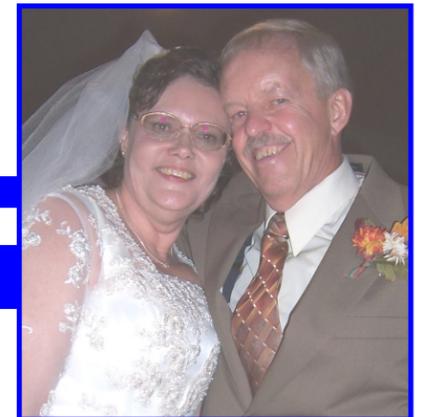
Missionary of the Month - Ed and Betty Walden

Ed and Betty Walden serve in southeast Missouri at Missionary Acres, a retirement community for Baptist Mid Missions missionaries. Ed was originally a member of First Baptist.

Betty served as a teacher at Fortaleza Academy in Brazil for 25 years. She also taught Sunday School, AWANA, and served in youth ministries and Vacation Bible School.

Ed joined BMM in 2004 to go to Missionary Acres to manage the facilities and maintenance. Houses are customized for each resident. He teaches and supervises missions trip work groups who come to serve. Ed often fills the pulpit for local churches. Missionary Acres has a close community in which the members participate in picnics, trips, parades, and 2 huge garage sales each year.

Ed and Betty were married in 2008 and have been serving together at Missionary Acres. They will be retiring at the end of this year and will continue to live there and serve in a volunteer capacity. Ed and Betty recently visited our church and shared Philippians 4:16-17, "...you sent me help for my needs once and again. Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit."



Serve on a Committee at FBC



Looking for opportunities to serve at First Baptist? Two exciting committees are currently seeking new members!

The Missions Committee oversees mission's program of our church by examining the needs and opportunities and making informed recommendations to the church. Our Missions Committee is not just focused on international missions, but local outreach as well. If you have a heart for missionaries or a passion for reaching the unsaved in both our community and across the globe, then the Missions Committee is for you!

The Building Committee serves our church by maintaining the church property inside and out on an ongoing basis, as well as planning for the future facility needs of the congregation. Construction or maintenance experience is always appreciated but not necessary, and this committee is open to both men and women. If you love fixing up, cleaning up, or sprucing up the world around you, then this committee would be a great fit!

If you have an interest in serving on either committee you can contact pastor Greetham or the church office.