



VISITOR

Our mission: to share the Good News of Christ's love - in word and deed!

First Baptist Church
An American Baptist Church
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VOLUME 26 ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2013

The Gospel writers tell us that Jesus preached a message with one central theme, the Kingdom of God. Mark says Jesus came preaching, “The Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe the good news.” Let’s look at the word “repentance” for it has a far deeper meaning than we commonly associate with it.

As it is commonly used, the word refers to a feeling of sorrow for sins committed. When we sin we are to repent so that our sins can be forgiven. Without repentance, there is no forgiveness. It also entails resolving not to continue the behaviors and thoughts considered to be sinful. This is the understanding I grew up with and lived with most of my life. Lately, however, I’ve found a much deeper meaning to the word.

In the Old Testament the Hebrew word we translate “repentance” means “to turn” or “to return”, conjuring up images of the return of the Jewish people from exile in Babylon to their homeland (where God is). To repent is to begin a journey of return to God after being away for a time.

In the New Testament the word retains its Old Testament sense of returning to God after leaving Him for a time, but there is an added dimension. The New Testament was written in Greek and the Greek word used means “to go beyond the mind we have.” The mind we have is the mind, or way of thinking, that we have acquired by virtue of growing up in a particular culture. For example, in our culture it is assumed that wealth is a value to be pursued. Jesus, on the other hand, warned of its dangers, saying “O how hard it is for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God.”

So to go beyond the mind we have means to see things in a new way, to let God change the way we look at the world. This is not an easy task because the way we see the world is engrained in us. It is something we took in with our mother’s milk, so to speak, and have had reinforced over and over. The only way we can go beyond the mind we have is to spend time with God through Bible study and prayer. This is why Sunday School or weekday Bible studies, along with private devotions, are so important to our spiritual growth.

Paul spoke in similar fashion in Romans 12:2 when he told us not to be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing our minds that we might be able to discern God’s will. Check out Philippians 2:1-11 for a beautiful passage describing the mind of Christ which Paul encourages us to have as well.

The Bible does speak of repenting for our sins. But the emphasis is not so much on feeling sorry. The emphasis is on behavior. We are to return to God and go beyond the mind we have, letting God reshape the way we view the world, our lives and what it is God wants us to do.

One final thought. Forgiveness is not dependent on repentance. God’s forgiveness is offered long before we come to repent. Just as we forgive our children so God forgives us. This is grace and grace has no strings attached, otherwise it’s not grace. Repentance--- returning to God and going beyond the mind that we have--- is the path that leads to transformed lives.

Pastor David Mount

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR PASTOR DAVID MOUNT
Church: 307-745-4106 (Church)
Cell- (478) 731- 1899
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Office hours: Monday & Tuesday 8:30 am—12:00 pm;
or by appointment



SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES!

9:30 a.m.



Sunday School

Child Care for babies to age 2 in Room 106; Trudy Moe, Child caretaker

Preschool for children 3-5 not in Kindergarten, in Room 109; Maggie Harrop, Teacher.

Discovery Kingdom for children 5 through 5th grade; in Room 108; Diana Kocornik and Sandra Brown, Teachers

Junior High, grades 6—8 in Room 115; **Grapple**, Christy Oliver, Teacher

Senior High, Grades 9—12 in Room 112; Russ Oliver, Teacher



College/Young Adult— in Room 102; Eric Moorhouse, teacher

Friends of Christ - meet on the stage. **Seeking a Closer Walk with God**; Jackie Carter, teacher.

JOY Class— Room 206, Adult Bible class studying the International Bible curriculum— **Jesus Is Lord**; Bill Carter, teacher.

Class for Adults of all ages – meet in the Library, studying **Gospel of Mark**; David Mount, Teacher





YOUTH GROUP

 Youth Group – Grades 6-12

Sunday evenings from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

All kids grades 6-12

Devotion, Food, Activities,

Service Projects

Russ & Christy Oliver, Leaders

 Come and Invite a Friend!



COLLEGE STUDENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS



Welcome to a weekly Bible Study for you!
Monday nights at 7:30 pm at Hastings.

We are studying

Life Unlimited: When Average Just Isn't Enough

For more information contact:

Sarah Lange at 307-760-8322 or
Maggie Harrop at 307-760-0305





AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Bible Book of the Month: Ester



Wednesday, Feb. 6 at noon—
 Hostesses: April Johnson and Margaret Prine



Program: Speaker Molly Adami from Laramie Reproductive Health, United Fund

NOTE: Remember to bring your donations of combs, brushes, toothbrushes and toothpaste for Mini Shower for Interfaith

Wednesday, February 13 at 9:30 am—
 Dorcas Hands-on Mission Circle meets in room 112. Roll bandages, knit, put together an afghan, visit!
 All ladies are welcome!






For the next few months, we will be featuring "Super Kids" in the church.



Claire Elizabeth Bunning

Siblings: Grace, Benjamin Birthday: April 14, 2007
 Grade: Kindergarten School: Laramie Montessori School
 Favorite Subject: Art
 Favorite Bible Story: Moses & the Exodus
 Favorite Food: Candy
 Favorite Sport/Activity: Going to the carnival

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart."
 Deuteronomy 6:5*

High School Graduate

Derrek Powell

Derrek Powell is the son of Stacey Powell and his sister is Sienna. He is the grandson of Leland and Pat Powell. Derrek graduated from Laramie High School January, Friday 18, 2013 and will come back in May to walk with his class. He is looking into the University of Denver or Studying abroad in Spain. He would like to become a Spanish Professor. He is very active in the Laramie Ice Skating club and has competed in Denver, Colorado, Rapid City, South Dakota and Gillette, Wyoming. Derrek is in the Honors Spanish Society and they went to Spain last year. He hopes to get scholarships to go to college. He has enjoyed Youth Group here at First Baptist Church. Derrek really enjoyed Youth Group and thanks Russ and Christy Oliver, the Youth directors for a great time.



Valentine's Day and Anniversaries

Go Green, \$ave Green

When telling the one you love how much he or she means to you on Valentine's Day or an anniversary, consider the following environmentally friendly practices.

- 1) Cards—Why pay \$4 or \$5 for a card that someone else wrote when you could lovingly make your own for little or no cost? Chances are it will capture your loved one's attention more than a mass-produced card.
- 2) Flowers—The floral industry uses the highest level of pesticides of all agricultural sectors. Long before that beautiful bouquet reaches your sweetheart, pesticide runoff from flower farms pollutes waterways. So if you choose to say "I Love You" with flowers, buy fresh or dried flowers or grow your own!
- 3) Buy fair-trade and organic—Although it is more expensive, certified fair-trade chocolate does not use child labor and pays a living wage to workers on plantations, helping them meet their basic human needs. Try to support a fair-trade company such as Newman's Own Organics, Rapunzel's Pure Organics, and Green & Black's Organic Chocolate.
- 4) Say it with Pictures—Want to express your love creatively and score some bonus points in the love department? If your computer has simple video-editing equipment, make a three-minute film or slideshow that tells the story of your love. Your significant other will surely treasure this original creation—throw in humorous photos and share a few laughs!



Thank You Notes:



Thank you so very much for your help with getting our son home to Alabama for Christmas. Your generosity was more than any of us could have ever imagined. I appreciate all that your pastor has done for Nicholas as well as your members in being a Christ centered body of believers that helped a young man that needed to just get home to his Family. Most of all THANK YOU for helping him to get home to me because I needed him home for Christmas.

Endora Spradlin (Nick's Mom)



Check out our "Family News" Bulletin located outside the office. There are articles of members, Christmas Cards and letter, Thank you Letters, Etc.

Christmas Cards Received after January newsletter:

Tom Burman—Donation for the Edward Burman Fund
Molly T. Marshall— Central Baptist Theological Seminary
Kevin & Marylin Eichner— Ottawa University
Mary Beth & Bill Mankin—Former pastor



Dinner & Slide Show

Instead of 4th Thursday game night in February, there will be Dinner & Slide Show on *Saturday, February 23, 6:00pm*. Dinner is provided. Donations are welcome and will go to our Deacon's Fund. Slides from Carlie Moe's Fall 2012 trip to Africa.





RETIRE MINISTERS AND MISSIONARIES OFFERING

Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) was received in January. We received \$541.02.



Thank You For...

Dear Friends,

I see you are receiving the RMMO offering in January. As a recipient of the offering I wish to thank you for your generosity. Besides receiving a check just before Thanksgiving, the offering is used to help those American Baptist ministers or wives who have served 15 years or more who have unexpected expenses, such as medical bills, dental bills, hearing aids, etc. During my husband's life he received grants for a hospital bill, rent money for an apartment when we had to stay in Denver for 8 weeks after his heart transplant, and 2 sets for hearing aids. It is comforting to know that we can count on the offering if need be.

On a more personal note, I will be celebrating my 80th birthday this month. I have recently moved back to Fargo, ND. I am learning to live in the cold country again. I am attending the FBC Church where Mel was pastor for 14 years.

I send my love to those who remember me. We loved Laramie.

Lolita Moyer



Missions



The Deacon's Fund

Do you ever wonder what happens with your contributions to the Deacon's Fund? Recently we have helped people in crisis with rent, utilities, gas money and food. We are blessed to be able to help those in need. We are also donating \$200 monthly to the Backpack program!

Our new policy is to help the community only on Mondays from 10am —12pm!



BACKPACK FOOD PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL KIDS

There are high needs for food in this program for the Children. Please help over fill the tub! The need for weekend food for some children is so great, we have decided to continue to support the Backpack program through our Missions in Action focus. Bring peanut butter, small containers of fruits, puddings, flip-top soups, ramen noodles, mac 'n cheese, juices, healthy snacks or other kid friendly food. They have been sending out 129 backpacks. The need is increasing every week. Thank you for your generous and ongoing support!

UPDATED CHURCH FAMILY DIRECTORY



The updated directory will be available at the beginning of February! Make sure to pick yours up in the back of the sanctuary . If you need one and can not make it please let the office know and we can get you one.

NEW NEWSLETTER

Do you have email? Would you like to get the newsletter by email? Please let the office know if you still would like to get the newsletter in either hard copy or get it through email!



Take a look at the new prayer wall in the main hallway. All current prayer request, ongoing prayer requests, Special Ministry of the month, Sunday school class and teacher of the month, our missionaries, etc. Pictures are posted of different people and groups as well.

If you would like to you can add a card, prayer, testimony in a Prayerful like manner.





Need Help Around the House?

Do you have tasks around the house that have become impossible for you to do? Or has it become somewhat risky to attempt certain things? Call the office and let Sandra know what the task is. The men of the church are organizing to begin work one Saturday morning a month. Call and give them a try! They'll work for a "Thank You!"



Prayer Requests



"But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit..." Jude 1:20

Health: Briana Bare; Steve DeVries; Bonnie Dumler; Don Hines; Glenda Hines; Don Jones; Bev Kagel; Bonnie Lankford; Ruth Mahaffey; Rick Pantier; Connie Pliley; Leland Powell; Lois Wiseman; Carolyn Wynes; John & Edwina Odhiambo's daughter Carren, burn on her arm

Out of Town: Mary Barbour; Doug Barry; Frances Beisly; Esther Langdon; Sharon McGurn; Donna Wheeler

Iverson Home for Ladies: Irene Buckles; Natalie Stoll; Lois Wamhoff

Spring Wind Assisted Living: Willard Leedy; Phil Trumbull

Laramie Care Center: Dorothy Crout; Sharon Moody; Don Jones; Ruth Mahaffey

Afghanistan: Justin White **Kuwait:** Ryan Campbell

Special Ministries: Soup Kitchen

Sunday School classes and teachers— Nursery and Trudy Moe, Nursery Care taker

Our Region: Region staff; Missionaries Tom and Terry Myers, in Bulgaria; Dan and Estela Schweissing, Region missionaries to refugees in the Denver area; Jane and Morley Langdon, in Thailand; Gutierrez Family, South Africa

General: Our country and its leaders; families in stress; people who have lost jobs; refugees throughout the world; victims of violence; for peace in our world. Inauguration of the new president

Please contact the church office with your prayer requests.



FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

Feb. 1— Brett Heggie
Feb. 6—Rick Pantier, Joleen Pantier
Feb. 7—Norma Kirkaldie, Alicia Meredith
Feb. 9—Leon New
Feb. 11—Mary E. Stoll
Feb. 12—Jeanette Pulley
Feb. 13—Lindsey Rodriguez
Feb. 15—Kaleb Wilson
Feb. 26—Sandra Brown
Feb. 28—Reed Stoll



ANNIVERSARIES

Feb. 1—Sandra & Keith Brown

Please let the office know if we missed your birthday or anniversary so we can add it to our list!



The New family in the passing of Leon New on January 14, 2013.

The Lange family in the passing of Bruce's mother, Marge Lange on January 16, 2013.



Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the wonderful meal after Dad's [Leon New] service. Everyone really enjoyed it.

It was so good to see all of you again and meet your new pastor. Our love and thankfulness go out to all of you.

In Christ, The Guffey Family

"ANSWER THE PHONE! IT MIGHT BE LARRY!"

A true story of a beautiful Christmas experience, written by Norma Kirkaldie. If you would like to read it, you can pick up a copy in the church office or on the back tables in the sanctuary! It is a delightful story of a trucker that came to the church for Christmas Eve service.



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AN AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCH**

1517 East Canby Street
Laramie, WY 82072

laramiefirstbaptist@gmail.com
www.laramiefirstbaptist.org

Pastor David Mount
Mary Jean Honeycutt, Music Director
Sandra Brown, Church Secretary and
Newsletter Editor
Office Telephone: 307-745-4106
Hilltop Christian Child Care: 742-2822
Church Office Hours
9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

WINTER SUNDAY SCHEDULE
Sunday School for all ages 9:30 am
Worship 11:00 am
Children's Church 10:15 am
Fellowship 12:00 am
Youth Group 6:00 pm

Mission Statement:
To share the Good News of Christ's
love—in word and deed!

FBC Upcoming Events

Mark Your Calendars

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|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Feb. 4 | 5:30 pm Pastoral Search Committee |
| Feb. 6 | 12 pm Noon ABW Women's Luncheon |
| Feb. 13 | 9:30 am Dorcas Circle |
| Feb. 23 | 6:00 pm "Dinner & Slideshow" |
| Mondays | 6:30 am Men's Coffee; 7:00 pm Adult Bible Study and Prayer;
7:30 pm College Bible Study |
| Thursdays | 5:45 pm Handbells |
| Fridays | 8:00 am Prayer Circle |

