



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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Like Lambs Among Wolves

In the last two days, I've seen a great outpouring of compassion, outrage, confusion and heartbreak in response to the mass murder that took place in Charleston's Emmanuel AME church. To this point I've written very little on the subject, other than to comment on the occasional Facebook post. While lying in bed this morning, pondering and praying with the Lord over this and other mass shootings, my mind returned to Luke chapter 10. Jesus is talking to the assembled followers. He appoints 72 of them and tells them that the harvest is abundant, but the workers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send workers out into the harvest. He then says in verse 3, "Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves." Through this whole discourse, Jesus never promises them that they will be protected or safe, he only says that the disciples are to extend peace to all and to stay where that peace is received. Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy!

This is not the first shooting that has taken place in a church, and probably won't be the last. People will spend their short media attention span on quickly assessing the problem and making the case for changes in our legal and political system. People seeking to further their careers, causes and personal ambitions will flock to this issue while it holds our attention, but the root problem in this and every other similar mass murder will likely be ignored. As my friend, Reverend Steve LaMotte, said on his Facebook page, "... The problem is not guns, or racism, or violence... if we say the problem is anything other than sin, we are merely stating the symptoms of the problem and not the root. We have a sin problem. No amount of legislature can solve a sin problem. Our world needs a remedy to sin. Our world needs Jesus." If Steve is right, and I believe that he is, then we need to take some time to talk about what sin is and how Jesus is the solution. If we don't, we surrender to the inevitability of these events, awaiting our own 'lambs among wolves' moment.

So what is sin? In preparing for my baptism, I was taught that sin was anything we say, do or think that displeases God. New Testament scholars will point out that the Greek word primarily used for sin has its roots in archery and carries a meaning of 'missing the mark'. Other places in the Bible use a word that carries a meaning akin to "warped or twisted from what it should be." Like a typical green cut 2 by 4 at Home Depot, sin warps what is straight and true into something twisted. I think we can all agree that the thinking of this young man was warped and twisted from what it should have been. The thing I like about the "warped or twisted" definition of sin is that I find it so much easier to identify structures that are full of sin based on the skew and warped nature of the structure. Southerners defending slavery before the Civil War had to work hard to convince themselves and others that what was a warped and twisted system was actually true and straight. Hitler had to work hard to convince the German people that Jews and racial minorities were the cause of their problems and therefore those twisted boards needed to be removed in order to return integrity to the German Nation. While in hindsight we see more clearly where sin resided in these two examples many people then and now are still convinced by these warped ideas of racial superiority. Racism, violence, prejudice, hatred, lying, name calling, bigotry, greed, lust... These are all sins, and they are only a small fraction of the problems that we face in this world.

If sin is the wolf of our existence, how is Jesus a solution for the lambs of the world? We've all heard that Jesus is the answer to the problems of the world, but the church has done such a poor job moving beyond that point that we've turned it into an empty platitude. I think we can all agree that "accepting Jesus as our Lord and Savior" doesn't automatically make us sin free, nor does it free us from the effects of sin around us. Not a single person from Emmanuel AME is living their "best life now!" If believing in Jesus doesn't bring security or prosperity or freedom from the consequences of the sin of other people, how then is Jesus a solution to the sinful brokenness of the world around us?

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9:30 am Worship 
 9:45 am Children's Church
 11:00 am Adult Sunday School



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

JOY Class in Room 206, Adult Bible class studying *God's Prophets Demand Justice* by Judson Press with Bill Carter

Sunday
 schools out
 for summer!

Sunday school will start again in September!



Men's Coffee

Monday Mornings at 6:30 am
 at Coal Creek, 110 Grand Ave

 Find us on
Facebook

Church @ First Baptist Church of Laramie
 Youth @1st Baptist Youth Group -Laramie



LOOK! Who is Taking
 A Break For Summer!



Handbells



Game Night



Inspired Women~



... Continued from page 1

Throughout Jesus' ministry, he proclaimed the good news of the Kingdom of God (KoG). This was his solution for the warped and twisted realities of the world God had made true. What is the Kingdom of God then? Imagine, if you can, a nation of peace, mercy and grace, where all the citizens care for each other. Each citizen is intimately known and loved by their king. Each citizen emulates the son of the king because of his perfect glory. There is no warp or sin in this kingdom, only love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Now imagine this kingdom without any land. Every citizen of that nation holds ambassador status with the country in which they physically reside. Essentially, the KoG is to be the people of God on Earth, who follow and emulate Jesus, living as a new Kingdom that does the will of God on earth, just as the angels do in heaven. As lambs among wolves, the KoG is to bring peace and love as vulnerable and exposed people to those who continue to choose the warped paths of sin. Emmanuel AME understands that as lambs among wolves we are called to open our doors and welcome the wolf in, despite the ravages we've received from other wolves in the past.



How then do we apply the solution of Jesus to the warped country that we are ambassadors in? There are at least three general ways to do this. First, we carry Jesus to the wolves and help them discover the power of being a lamb in the KoG! We evangelize and share the good news that the Kingdom of God is at hand! As Lincoln said, "Do I not destroy my enemies when I make them my friends?" Second, we stand as a group to name and work against the warp and twist of the world. When institutions and individuals perpetuate sin, we lovingly and peacefully name and seek to correct the sin we see around us. When Christian lambs unite to name the evil in racism, segregation, abuse, hatred and violence, we not only proclaim the love of God; we join with God in the work of bringing the KoG to bear in our world. Third, we live our lives as examples of people who do the will of God just as it is done in heaven in order to provide a visible witness to the beauty and majesty of the KoG.

What would happen if after each tragedy the churches around our nation would come together to pray for the victims, then seek ways to respond as the KoG? What if we allowed these responses to stretch beyond prayer to actively seeking to be the lambs among wolves proclaiming messages of peace, hope and love? This, I think, is what Jesus was talking about when he said the harvest was great but the workers few. I pray that we, the KoG, find the peace and courage to go beyond prayer to becoming Jesus' presence in the midst of the warp and twist of the world.

Blessings to you all this month!

Pastor Jeff



WOMEN'S SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

TUESDAYS July 14, 21, 28, and August 4 at 10:15 am

Come for coffee, tea and Bible Study on "Summer Psalms"

Mary Burman, Leader

Hostesses: Mary and Natalie Stoll

Address: 1267 N. 18th Street

Come for one or come for all four!



American Baptist
Women's
MINISTRIES

Wednesday, July 8 at Noon

ABW Planning Meeting at Norma's:

1321 Spring Creek

Anyone who would like to help is welcome!

Please RSVP to Norma!



Can you find 29 fireworks? Red, white and Blue Stars? 2 firecrackers?



4th of July Picnic

6:30 pm



Hamburgers/Hotdogs will be provided!

Bring a dish to share: salads, chips, fruit, desserts, etc.

Come enjoy Fellowship, Games & Fireworks!!!



Everyone from the church is invited to come to Mary's cabin any time after church/SS on July 19. Bring something to grill and a dish (salad, vegetable, cold drinks, chips, dessert) to hare. Eat about 1:00 pm. Afternoon: horse-shoes, basketball, hiking, sitting on porch to visit, lots of things for kids. Vesper service late afternoon.

**For Directions contact the office or talk to Mary Burman, there will be a handout on July 19 with directions as well.*



Missions



Greetings from Laramie,

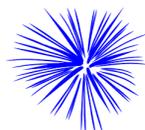
We have been back about 3 weeks now enjoying the 'cool' weather and the mountains. It is great therapy to relax with the snow and the trees.

We have finished the first year with the new science course, Earth and Space. We covered meteorology, astronomy and geology. Several of the students comment on the variety of material that we cover. It was a lot of fun, from field trips to a weather station, rock hunting, and a trip to the highest peak in the province (state) to look at the stars.

Thank you to all who contributed to the purchase the curriculum and the equipment. We really appreciate all of the financial support First Baptist Church of Laramie provides for our projects. Also the prayer support is essential for us to deal with all the spiritual problems the students and staff brings to us.

In Christ,

Jane and Morley Langdon





Vacation Bible School



June 8-12 saw First Baptist Church filled to the brim with a lively Cooperative Vacation Bible School! For the first time, SIX churches came together for VBS: First Baptist, St. Laurence O'Toole Catholic, St. Matthew's Episcopal, St. Paul's Newman Center, St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Trinity Lutheran, plus Hilltop Christian Child Care. The result: 136 kids daily, plus 45 youth, teachers, and others! Everyone received a teal blue T-shirt with the theme OUR HANDS ARE JESUS' HANDS on the back. The shirt was specially designed by Adam Huck of Trinity Lutheran.

Mission projects included kids' clothing for the Clothing Cottage; small food packets, juices, fruits, for the Soup Kitchen; diapers, detergent, and food for Interfaith/Good Samaritan; collection of aluminum cans with the \$10 received given to Interfaith. On a drippy Thursday morning, ALL walked down the hill to Spring Wind where the staff had moved all the chairs to the walls to make room for 135 children to sing, say their memory verse, and present hand-made bookmarks and doorknob hangers to the residents.

Staff from our church included Pastor Jeff, MC, joke teller, and leader of our closing program; Sandra Brown, registrar and "Jack-of-all-trades"; Norma Kirkaldie, registration; Diana Kocornik, Karen Steeve, teachers; Samantha Dunbar, assistant teacher; Phyllis Dunbar, crafts; Kate Harrop, Brenda Lundblad, kitchen; Jack Lundblad, Zane Lundblad, Harrison Steeve, youth helpers (and they were GREAT!), Maggie Harrop, photographer; Dave Dunbar who

hauled the aluminum cans and borrowed safety zones from the Wyoming Department of Highways (used to mark a safe crossing path to the play area;) and Mary Burman, coordinator.

FBC children included Bryanna Brown, Claire and Gracie Bunning, Sarah Lundblad, Jodi and Carren Odhiambo, Tristan and Aaliyah Rodriguez, Delanie Steeve, and Hannah and Hanne Lesley.

Because of the large crowd, the closing program was held in our sanctuary. Kids sang, recited the memory verse, and the 5th-6th grade class taught by Diana Kocornik presented dramas of three of the Bible stories. Afterwards, an offering was received to be shared by Interfaith/Good Samaritan and the Soup Kitchen. Each received \$211.68.



Mary Burman was honored at her retirement after 29 years of directing VBS at First Baptist with a card signed by the staff, a pen fashioned by Pastor Jeff, and a lovely bouquet of flowers.

Thanks to our Properties team for helping prepare classrooms, to those who gave \$280 to sponsor kids to attend VBS, those who provided cheese chunks, Ritz crackers, and apple juice for snacks, those who many tables and chairs; and those important folks who supported the effort by their prayers!



THANK YOU TO . . .

... Brenda, Jack, Zane, and Sarah, Jeff Lundblad; Louise Richardson, Elnora Frye, Bill Carter helped with the work day!

... Many thanks for everyone that was involved in VBS!

... Diana Kocornik, Carlie, Connor, Kevin & Helen for cleaning the Education Wing after VBS

... All those who provided food, came to the presentation and helped with Texas 4,000 group

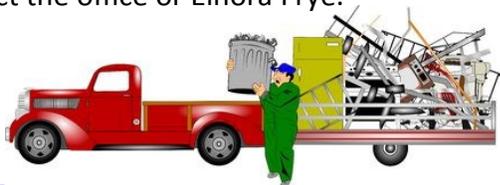
... All those who provided food, came to the presentation and helped with 4K for Cancer



Pastor David Mount (Our Interim Pastor before Pastor Jeff) will be here on July 5th to worship with us!

We will have a potluck lunch after church! So, make sure to bring a dish to share!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Anyone that has a pick-up or trailer to help take items to the dump! It would be much appreciated! If you can help, please contact the office or Elnora Frye.



Sunday school teachers need for the school year 2015-2016! If you are interested in a rotation schedule (teach a month or 2 out of the school year, or all year) please contact the church office, 745-4106 or Karen Steeve (CE Director), 742-9750.

There are a few trainings coming up, at Laramie Valley Chapel , 5:30—9:00 pm. For us as a church are fee is \$30 per class. If you are interested , please let the office know as soon as possible and we will make sure to sign you up.

CPR: July 9 or August 13

1st Aid: July 2 or August 6

**Do you need
CPR/First Aid
Training?**



JULY CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAY

- 1—Bob Trumbull
- 2—Aaliyah Rodriguez
- 3—Jodi Odhiambo
- 7—Edwina Gogo
- 10—Delanie Steeve
- 11—Sarah Lundblad
- 13—Glenda Hines
- 17—Louise Richardson
- 19—Jack Lundblad
- 23—John Stoll



ANNIVERSARIES

- 15—Dean & April Johnson

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

Our Article from Heart –to-Heart 's Spring Newsletter



First Baptist Church presented a beautiful live nativity scene at their church. Many people gave baby items to give to our clients as way of remembering Christ's birth.

* see our bulletin board for more

Camp Wyoba Info

There are scholarships for all camps! Early registration is already past., BUT you can still register with a late fee. More information and registration contact the office.

- July 5- 11 Junior Camp (grades 5 – 6)
- July 12 – 18 Junior High Camp (grades 7 – 8)
- July 19 – 25 Senior High Camp (grades 9 – 12)
- July 26 – 29 Primary Camp (grades 3 – 4)
- July 31—August 2 Young Adult Weekend
- August 7—9 AB Women's Retreat: "Rock Solid Living: The Foundation of the Sermon on the Mount"



**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
AN AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCH**



1517 East Canby Street
Laramie, WY 82072

laramiefirstbaptist@gmail.com
www.laramiefirstbaptist.org



Return Service Requested

Pastor Jeff Lundblad
Mary Jean Honeycutt, Music Director
Sandra Brown, Administrator 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.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship 9:30 am
Children's Church 9:45 am
Fellowship 10:45 am
Adult Sunday School 11:00 am

Mission Statement:
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FBC Upcoming Events



Mark Your Calendars

- June 30—5:30 pm, 4K for Cancer Chili Dinner & Presentation
- July 4—7:00 pm 4th of July Picnic, Games & Fireworks
- July 5—Worship & Communion with Gina Gibson and a Potluck lunch with Pastor Mount
- July 5—Camp Wyoba Starts and goes through August 9
- July 12—Worship with Dick Wynes
- July 14, 21, 28, and August 4 (Tuesdays) 10:15 am - Women's Summer Bible Study, "Summer Psalms"
- July 19—BBQ picnic at Mary's Cabin after Church/SS

