

Pastor Search Update

About 20 strong candidates were selected from the 100-plus resumes that we received. Confirming interest and availability, then checking references has led us to a list in single digits. One could well be an answer to our prayers. We will continue to narrow the list.

We are at a point where we must commit to the financial support of a full time pastor before asking a pastor to commit to us. Consultation last month with the Deacons and the Finance Committee revealed that our current financial situation is not healthy enough to make those commitments. After careful consideration and with the Deacons' full support we are prayerfully continuing with the pastor search process. We will actively support the Deacons and the Finance Committee as they lead our congregation toward filling the financial gap between where we are and where we need to be if we are going to hire a full time pastor.

Committee members are grateful for the strong lay leadership of this church and the inspirational influence of our interim pastor. These factors make it possible to work through this lengthy pastor search process.

New Member

We joyfully welcome our newest church member, Janet Itambo. Janet has been faithfully attending First Baptist for several years. She is from Kenya, where she attended a Quaker church. However, she finds our service more like what she experienced in Kenya. A baptism service will be scheduled. Janet's address is 13404 Elevation Lane, Herndon 20171. Her email address is janetabuka@yahoo.com and her phone is (571) 278-2372.

WEEkday News

The young artists of the WEEkday Preschool invite you to tour the WEE Gallery and view their take on Monet's water lilies and irises. The exhibit begins tomorrow; the gallery is in the first floor hallway leading to the preschool office.

The preschool has a handful of openings in the 4- and 5-year-old class (TTh) and in the 2 ½ year old class. Direct interested families to Linda Dhar or Sheila McConnell in the WEEkday office at (703) 435-6397.

Sunday School Survey

Revitalizing our Sunday School and Bible study program will be the Teach Team's 2010 focus. Linda Soller is leading this effort. She has put together a two-page survey (second page is optional) to help determine priorities and needs. The survey is available in the foyer or from Linda. Please return completed surveys to Linda as soon as possible. Prayerfully consider whether you could lead a class. Please plan to make Sunday School attendance one of your 2010 priorities.

New Deacons

FBC members approved new deacons at the recent business meeting. We welcome Nancy Schult and Bob Walker back to the Deacon board for three-year terms. Staying on for one more year are Burke Adkins and Laurel Scarry. The rest of the Deacons are Cyndy Eller, Laura Greenspan, Becky Henson, Linda Soller and Tim Tate.

Thank You

We extend a heartfelt thank you to outgoing Deacon Chairman Todd Weiss. Todd joined the Deacons in 2006 and was chairman for the last three years. He served during an extremely busy time in the life of our church, with Ray's retirement, church incorporation, the partnership with McLean Baptist, major renovations (to the building and the stained glass window), hiring of our interim pastor, and establishment of the Pastor Search Committee. At the same time, Todd was an active member and sometimes head of the Properties Committee. He has been the liaison with the Hispanic congregation, as well as with the other congregations that have utilized our facility. Through it all he has smiled and quietly gotten the job done, often behind the scenes.

We have been blessed by his leadership during this period and pray this truly will be a season of well-deserved rest for him and Linda. Well done, Todd. You have been a good and faithful servant, and we are grateful.

2010 Budget and Pledge Drive

The congregation approved a \$330,000 budget for 2010 at the Jan. 3 business meeting. Our 2009 budget was for \$260,000. Copies of the new budget are available in the foyer. The largest single item in the new budget is a proposed \$96,000 salary and benefits package for our new pastor. While we do not know if this will be the amount the Finance and Personnel committees ultimately will recommend, it gives us a realistic target for planning purposes.

It is clear that our current income must increase in order to meet this new budget. The Deacons are planning a pledge drive. The Deacons' goal for the pledge campaign is to make everyone aware of the need for increased giving and to give the Finance and Personnel committees a solid financial foundation for the salary and benefits package they must put together for the new pastor. Watch for more details in the coming weeks.

Did You Know...

...that Amy Eller is going to lead a Wednesday night Bible study for the Youth and Young Adults? What a blessing to see someone who has grown up in our church take on a leadership role! Thank you, Amy, and may God continue to bless you and all you do.

Missions Reminder/Update

Later this month we will be sending tuition funds to the families in the Kenya Orphan Project. The balance is currently below \$150, so please consider contributing this month....Ken Creeley is planning a spring mission trip back to the Harrisburg PA church where we have visited twice before. Watch the bulletin and website for more details.

Congratulations!

We did it! The Raise the Roof fund ended 2009 in the black, thanks to an outpouring of donations in response to the anonymous matching challenge and to a \$5,000 donation from WEEkday Preschool. The final total for the fund is \$5,842!

Picture Directory

The Care Team will begin taking photos for a new church directory later this month. The Pastor's Office will be the photography studio. Watch for details in upcoming bulletins.

News from The Closet

Thanks to your support in the form of donations, volunteer hours and your shopping dollars, The Closet was able to make the following donations last month: \$900 to each member congregation for their benevolence funds (\$15,300 total); \$2,250 to LINK; \$2,500 to the Good Shepherd Alliance; \$1,000 to Kids R First; \$3,000 to Just Neighbors; \$4,500 to Herndon-Reston FISH; and \$4,500 to the Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic.

For all of 2009, The Closet donated \$84,900 in grants and scholarships. That is \$10,000 more than The Closet gave back to the community the previous year. Check the bulletin board across from the church office for more details.

Don't forget!

Fun Night will be Saturday, Jan. 23. Dinner and a movie (pizza, popcorn, candy and a drink; movie will be a classic comedy).

Yarn Yarn Sisterhood meets the second Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m. in Room 200. Next meeting: Jan. 12. Bring your current knitting project or come to learn how to knit!

Lunch Bunch Book Group is back, discussing Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World. Join them at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 12, in Room 200. Bring your lunch and anticipate a lively conversation.

The Closet needs volunteers from FBC on Tuesday, Jan. 12, and Saturday, Jan. 30. Sign up for a two-hour shift on the list across from the church office.

Please sign up to help in the nursery and extended session! See Linda Dhar for available slots.

Youth/Young Adult Activities

- Roller skating after church on Jan. 31. Cost is \$5. Leave directly from church.
- Super Bowl Party, Feb. 7. Seeking a host!
- Skiing at Whitetail, Saturday, Feb. 27. Check out <http://www.skiwhitetail.com/hoursandrates.htm> for hours and rates. Chaperones welcome – it's free to sit by the fireplace in the lodge!
- Senior High Weekend, Friday, March 5-Sunday, March 7, at Eagle Eyrie Conference Center, Lynchburg. Cost, \$156. Contact Blaine Newlon as soon as possible as slots will go quickly. This is for grades 9-12.
- Lock-in, Friday, March 19 at the church.
- Overnight Bible Study Retreat in Massanutten. At the Kozups. Specific date in April to be announced.

January-February birthdays

Jan. 4, Louise Jones

Jan. 12, Brooklyn Rains

Jan. 13, Rev. David Fox, Darren Walker

Jan. 17, Bob Walker, Victoria Garcia

Jan. 21, Kerrie Miller

Jan. 22, Colin Bowers Sr.

Jan. 26, Mary Grace Eller

Jan. 28, Christaline Wallace

Feb. 6, Jerry Spears

Feb. 12, Adam Lauck

Feb. 13, Robbie Lauck

Feb. 17, Rishi Dhar

Feb. 21, Lafayette Stuart

Feb. 21, Nancy Craven

Feb. 23, Jason McConnell

Feb. 24, Nicole Welch

Church schedule/activities

- Worship, Sundays at 10 a.m.
- Sunday School, Sundays at 11 a.m.
- Deacons meeting, first Sunday of the month
- Communion, first Sunday of the month
- Benevolence collection, second Sunday of the month
- Prayer meeting, 10 a.m. Tuesdays, Room 211
- Handbells, 6 p.m. Wednesdays, Room 202
- Choir, 7:30 p.m. Thursdays in the sanctuary
- Youth/Young Adult Bible Study, 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays at the Newlons, 731 Old Hunt Way, Herndon