

THE EVANGEL

May 2012

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, BILLINGS MONTANA

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Good news!

When you read the newspaper, *what really* grabs your attention----good news or bad news? We can choose everyday to focus on good news. For sure, we do not want to live in denial of bad things. That said, we usually spend far too much time on the bad news of institutions, people, and issues.

I want to highlight some 'good news' of our church! Not that anyone to my knowledge is casting 'bad news' of the church; I simply want to draw attention to encouraging God led things that are happening in personal lives and our church.

Yes, I run the risk of leaving something out! Forgive me in advance. And allow my possible mistakes in this article to be your invitation to include more 'good news' for future writing. *What can we celebrate?*

- How about those youth and several adults praying, working hard, and expecting a great missions trip to Haiti? We celebrate God's leading, people's obedience, and our team effort in funding them to bring good news to others.
- We celebrate graduations: Derek Tsukada on his recent graduation from MSUB. Joshua Lieuallen on his graduation from West High Sunday May 27th. And Kristin Principe Olson from MSU on May 5. We're proud of you guys! Way to go!
- Speaking of congratulations, we honor Andrew and Danielle on their upcoming wedding May 19th @ 6 pm. God bless you! Our blessing and prayers are with you!
- Our Wednesday night ministry is good news! Kids Club has been great! The food and fellowship is wonderful! The Bible Survey class has been very well attended.
- Our movie nights have been a great outreach! We had nearly 70 in attendance at our last movie...over half were new to our church! Our next movie night is May 11th.
- We have a wonderful seniors group, a growing youth group, and even now some getting senior deals @ McDonalds!
- We had some awesome Easter weekend services! Every speaker and special was awesome. Our attendance was great at all services. Everyone did a great job serving, preparing, and cleaning up at the breakfast!
- It's always good news to focus on the many dedicated people who do projects around the church; and make sure our building needs are accomplished.
- It's wonderful news about people's commitment to prayer for personal and corporate needs. We have a wonderful choir and worship team!
- There is good news about our finances! We have met our budget needs and more since the first of the year. We have faithful givers; and we celebrate His faithfulness to us through the many ways that people give financially!
- There is always the good news of the many acts of ministry, both seen and unseen, in our worship services and daily life that truly honor the Lord and others. From music to missions, there's a lot of people that do many things in Jesus' name that inspire many!
- It's great news we have many scheduled Bible Studies throughout the week for anyone. And Lord knows other studies that are going on! We have faithful children's and adult teachers who involve themselves and step out in faith.
- We have many involved in organized outreaches, as well as everyone lovingly communicating their faith everyday!
- Let's remember we have had many new people either check our church out or faithfully attend since the beginning of the year! We praise God for new folks!
- ABW and Am. Baptist Men are active serving mission needs; doing projects and providing places of encouragement!
- We are blessed with wonderful technology; a sound and power point system on both levels; website; and availability of CD's and other tools. Many churches our size don't have the variety of skilled folks and tools that we are blessed to have!

- We have several who take communion to our shut-ins every month.
- Let's not forget the good news of God's faithfulness to answer our prayers! I could not have had a better procedure this week and outcome to date without prayer and God's leading. I'll take that as good news any day! Many of you have gone through transitions, personal healings, surgeries, or difficult trials and have come through with victory! We rejoice in personal and church victories, both great and small!

We give all the glory to Jesus our Lord and Provider for what He does for and through us! Thank You Lord for good news!

Pastor Ross

Guarding our Hearts

Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life (Proverbs 4:23)

The computer saying, "Garbage in - garbage out" explains the fallacy about computers - they only produce what you put into them. Websites on the computer are capable of depositing "cookies" on our computers. A "cookie" opens a computer to receive and to generate things we did not ask for or even want, that's why a good virus protector and a firewall is essential for our computers today to protect computers from unwanted information

Our minds are more sophisticated, of course, but the principle is the same. Billboards, the internet, news media, television, magazines, movies and music "deposit" ideas into our lives often when we don't realize it. I remember the children's song, "Be careful, little eyes, what you see. The Father up above is looking down in love so be careful little eyes what you see." Other verses address what you hear or what you say! What we put into our lives is what comes out in our relationships with those around us.

Activities including prayer, worship, Bible study, Christian fellowship, service to others and witnessing help to build a firewall around our minds - filling our thoughts with good things and protecting us from evil. What we take in - we give out!

Blessings for your day - every day!
Pastor Barbara

It's VBS time again!! June 3rd through June 7th from 6-8 p.m. here at First Baptist and June 11th & 12th and 15th from 1-3 p.m. at Friendship House. We need you!! Please sign up with Barbara for at least two training sessions:

May 8, 22, 29 Tuesdays: either 4-5 or 7-8 pm

May 9, 16, 23, 30 Wednesdays: either 4-5 or 7-8 pm

May 20, 27 Sundays: 4:30 - 5:30 pm

ABW Ministries May Circle meeting: On Tuesday, May 8, the Circles will meet together in the dining room at Mission Ridge at 12:30 for a no-host lunch. All women are welcome. If you wish to eat the lunch provided by Mission Ridge, make a reservation by contacting Shirley Spildie at 252-8801 or Sandy Short 628-1600 by Sunday evening May 6. Cost is about \$6.50. Marcia, Lois and Pat will present a program on their trip to Greece.

All First Baptist men are invited to attend the American Baptist Men's May meeting, scheduled **Saturday, May 12, 10:00 AM**, in the Church Library. The ABM's meeting will seek to have fellowship, men's work reports on (Helping Hands, Templed Hills Camp, Friendship House and Team Mentoring), evaluate and review fund raising dinners, plus exploring additional ministry for church and community needs. Refreshments will be served. Please join us. Your attendance will be a blessing as we plan to share God's love. For further information, please contact Bill Clagg 245-8051, Chad Lutey 656-4299 or Jered Scherer 245-7289.

On Sunday, May 20th from 5-6pm Lacey Stovall will discuss her recent trip to Israel/Palestine and show slides in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited!

Big Sky Area ABM is awarding a \$500 academic scholarship. Applications are located on the bulletin board near the pictures. Deadline is June 4th. If you have any questions, please see Paul Mottram.

May Birthdays: 2: Joyce Hendricks 4: Betty Nefzger, Kyler Gappa 5: Tricia Burke Hauber 7: Margaret Fox, Dick Nevin 8: Majel Russell 16: Dennis Peterman 20: Roberta Love 22: Peggie Gaghen 23: LuElla Kiser, Win Seitz 24: Sal Principe III

If you have had a change of address/phone number since the last directory (1½ yrs ago) or if you were not included in the last directory, please call the church office 259-6546; (or email) the information.

Youth and Family Fishing Trip-June 13th, Wild Bill Lake

The AB Men invite all youth, parents, and friends, age 8 and up to attend the First Baptist and Yellowstone Church Youth/Family Fishing Trip on Wednesday, **June 13th, 8am-4pm** at Wild Bill Lake near Red Lodge. No one needs to have a Montana Conversation fishing license for this activity. Everyone should bring a sack lunch, 2 snacks, fishing gear (if you have it), sun-screen, bug repellent and proper outdoor clothing. Please dress warm. Fishing gear will be available along with bait and cold drinks. Fly fishing instructions will be offered. The trip will begin and end at the First Baptist Church parking lot. Please sign-up on the sheet on the information counter at the church and have a parent sign a permission slip the morning of the trip. For more information call fishing trip leaders, Hugh Huntley (652-2261) or Bill Clagg (670-6591).

We are gearing up for the online auction to benefit Tempel Hills which will go live May 14-28. This is the address for the auction: <http://xthc.neofillbids.com/>. Please remember that we are constructing the site and you will not be able to start bidding until the 14th. On the 14th, please send this site to everyone in your inbox—anyone can bid. The more bidders the better—happy bidding!

Please visit our website: www.firstbaptistchurchbillingsmt.com. Sermons and other references are on it for you to peruse or download.

Reminder: The first Sunday of every month is Food Bank Sunday. Please donate non-perishable food items. These items will be delivered to the Food Bank to help those in need.

*Andrew Fry and Danielle Stiff invite you to join them
in the celebration of their wedding on Saturday, the nineteenth of May
at six o'clock in the evening at First Baptist Church.*