

THE LINK

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

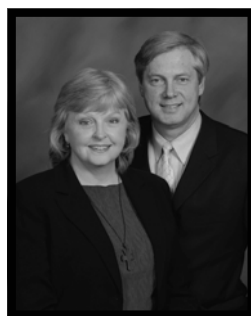
Parish Nurse	2
FYI	3
Angel Halo	4
Prayer Works	5
Thanks	6
Graduation	7
Notes from Barb	8
ABWM	9
VBS	10
Musical Notes	11
Missions	12
Spuds/Sweets/Songs	13
Word Centered Prayer	14

Sunday Morning
Services
8:15 am
Chatterbox Cafe
8:00 am
Worship
(Karen Language)
8:45 am
Sunday School
10:00 am
Worship
(English Language)

ATTENDANCE

April 17 174
April 24 230
May 1 143
May 8 209
May 15 133

LED BY THE SPIRIT



ble.

Sometimes the Holy Spirit seems to be the mystery person of the trinity. We can understand God as Father, and the stories of Jesus, reveal to us God the Son. But we're not so sure about the Holy Spirit. The bottom line: the Holy Spirit is the presence and power of God with us now. The Spirit is experiential. The fact is - if you want to follow Jesus, the Spirit is indispensa-

Jesus himself lived in the Spirit. Jesus was led and empowered by the Spirit as we see throughout the book of Luke. The Spirit descended in bodily form on Jesus like a dove (Luke 3:22). Full of the Spirit, Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested (4:1). As he began his public ministry he proclaimed, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free" (4:18). Full of joy through the Holy Spirit, he rejoiced that his disciples were spreading the Kingdom of God (10:21). He promised that the Father would freely give the Holy Spirit to whoever asked him (11:13). Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would give us the right words to say when we needed them (12:12).

Do you notice the progression in these verses? First of all, Jesus himself lived in the power of the Spirit and then Jesus proclaims and rejoices that the same Spirit is available to us as well. This leads us to a simple question: If Jesus couldn't live without the power and presence of the Spirit, WHY DO WE THINK WE CAN? Let's seek the power and presence of God in everything we do. When the Lord is present, this changes everything? Let's live and minister in the power of the Spirit. Is there any other way!?

God Bless You Abundantly,
Pastors Flint and Deb



NOTES FROM YOUR PARISH NURSES SANDY CLAERHOUT & BARB MILLER

Stop The Stigma

by Mary Hopkins (reprinted from Kentucky Psychiatrist)

I would never blame the parents or family of a person who develops kidney disease

I would never describe a person with Multiple Sclerosis as emotionally weak

I have never heard a newscaster describe a violent criminal as slightly asthmatic

I have never heard that a person with Arthritis has diminished learning and mental capacity

I have never asked a Cancer patient to "snap out of it"

I never describe a person with a heart disease as lazy because of the limitations of their illness

I would never fear a Diabetic because they might be contagious

I would never say that person with Leukemia is to blame for their own illness

I would never expect to attend a movie at a theater that is based on the unusual

antics of a person with Cerebral Palsy

It is after all, the year 2000 and we are far more knowledgeable and sophisticated than ever before. I would wager that you would never make judgments, either

But I live with a mental illness and all of the above have been attributed to me and to others in the same situation.

One of the best ways you can help someone with mental illness is by understanding what it is - and what it isn't. After all myths about mental illnesses contribute to stigma, which often prevents those who are living with it from seeking help.

The fact is, a mental illness is a disorder of the brain - your body's most important organ - and 1 in 6 adults suffers from brain-related illness including depression, bipolar disorder, PTSD and schizophrenia.



Like most diseases of the body, it has many causes - from genetics to other biological, environmental and social/cultural factors. And just as with most diseases, mental illnesses are not one's fault. The unusual behaviors associated with some illnesses are **symptoms** of the disease - not the **cause**.

Most importantly, mental illnesses are treatable through medication and psychosocial therapies - allowing those who suffer from them the opportunity to lead fruitful and productive lives.



WALK TO JERUSALEM

We have 45 participants on our Walk to Jerusalem. As of our 5th week, May 1, 2011 we have walked a total of 4931.53 miles and have made it across the ocean without losing anyone. We still have a few people who need to turn in miles. May 8th is the end of the 6th week, and we have only two more weeks to go. We might just make it to Jerusalem.

Barb Miller

Church Van Service

Do you need a ride to church? If so, just call the church office (309-762-4581) and we'll arrange for you to be picked up. Please be advised that riding the church van requires climbing two steps. If this is not possible, we'll look for alternate means of transportation.



Summer SNL@FBC is HOT!

SNL@FBC - our Saturday Night Life Praise Gathering is HOT this summer! We'll be in our cool Fellowship Hall, but the worship and fellowship is forecast to be warm and inviting. Refreshments for the summer will be cool as well - lemonade, ice cream, etc. The time is set for 6 p.m. on the second Saturday of the month, June 11, July 9 and August 13. For June, after worship we'll kick back and enjoy refreshments to the tunes of our awesome praise band jamming with jazz, blues and soft rock classics. Wonderful worship and great music! Don't miss it!

May, June and July Welcome Center Dates

	8:30-9:30am	9:30-10:00am/20 minutes after worship
May 22	Jane & Tom Olmsted	Laura Sierra
May 29	Donna O'Neill	JoAnn Parmley
June 5	Willie & Ron Newenham	Barb Chaney
June 12	Mulu Zerihoun	Mary Zahnley/Kathryn Yocom
June 19	Melba Moody	Ann Watkins
June 26	Willie & Ron Newenham	Jane & Tom Olmsted
July 3	Paula Newell	Marilyn Andeson/Lillian Dyer
July 10	Teresa/Paige Ewers	Laura Sierra
July 17	Donna O'Neill	JoAnn Parmley
July 24	Mulu Zerihoun	Mary Zahnley/Kathryn Yocom
July 31	Melba Moody	Ann Watkins

WEEKLY BUDGET EXPENSES

FOR 2011:

April 17	\$2,626.00
April 24	1,080.00
May 1	5,608.50
May 8	2,204.00

FUSION MINISTRY GEARS UP FOR SUMMER SEASON

All youth, Karen and Anglo, are invited to participate in the events and activities coming up!

- ▶ Vacation Bible School "SonSurf" needs helpers! June 13-17 Sign up NOW!
- ▶ Compassion Sunday with Youth Fellowship following, THIS SUNDAY May 22 @2p.m.
- ▶ End of School Party in June...TBA
- ▶ Black Hawk Camps
- ▶ Area 1 Mission Trip to Chicago July 17-23
- ▶ Pray for our Youth Minister Search Committee that God will lead us to the right person ASAP!



LOOK WHO WE CAUGHT BEING AN ANGEL!

A tip of the Halo to.....

THE PLANTERS

Thank you so much to Darrel and Hilda Fry for all of their hard work planting two rose bushes. One each was planted in honor of Mother's Day and Father's Day. They are beautiful

Darrel Fry and Dean Harmon have also planted our new hostas in the front and laid down mulch. They did it on one of very hot days that made you think summer was here already.

Bob Moody also worked on our grounds by trimming and weeding.

Thanks to everyone helping to add to the beauty of our grounds, and also for helping to make our workday a success.

A big thank you to Donna and Mike O'Neill for helping the pastors set up for the Maundy Thursday service. Mike helped to build a stand for our cross and Donna worked with the arrangements on the tables for the service. Mike also repaired our broken deadbolt on the side door.

PRAISE THE LORD FOR SUMMER!

Everything is in bloom and it is SO NICE to welcome the warmer weather. With the summer months, folks will be traveling more and maybe taking some vacation. Just a reminder - don't take a summer vacation from church! Your church family needs you! We depend on each for support and encouragement. Worship together is a vital part of following Jesus. Giving is a wonderful opportunity to show our love of God, and our dependence on him: the body of Christ displays the beautiful presence of Christ as we each use and exercise our gifts. So remember your church this summer. Together, we'll all be blessed.



Note: *If you are a teacher or leader and are going out of town, please make sure your responsibilities are covered.*

Compassion Sunday is March 22,
2011 at 2:00pm.

This is an opportunity for all members of the church to make a difference in someone's life. The Mission Board is sponsoring this event, and our church members will be the recipient of your Compassion Visit. If you went with us last fall, you found out that you received more than you gave. Just come to the church on 5/22/11 at 2:00 pm and there will be a list of individuals that need a visit, so that they know their church has not forgotten them. Two people may go together. We will meet back at the church - around 4pm to share your stories.



UPPER CLASS



This is an early reminder for the Upper Class Meeting and activity for the month of June. On June 20, we will be going to West Branch, Iowa to visit the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library.

We have scheduled a tour beginning at 12:30 pm. We need at least 15 people for the tour. We plan to take the church van(s) so reservations are requested. Plans for lunch, departure time, etc., will be announced later. Please call Don Phillis @ (309) 762-7172 or (309) 230-1902.



Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.



James 5:16 (NIV)

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

- Barb Miller—hospital
- Rev. Brian Fischer
- Beverly Ducey
- Chasity Lentz
- Cathy McGill
- Chris Dawdy
- Chuck Botkin (family member of Mary Anderson)
- Chuck Carlson (friend of Lillian Dyer)
- Dale Sholl (3 month old baby)
- David Miller
- Esther Fields
- Fran Hogue
- Gene Pool
- George Nelson
- George Rogan
- Jacob Schweitzer
- Jane Laedeke
- Jan Harmon
- Joe Turner
- Joel Buller
- Jeannette Wood
- Kari Bray Jackson
- Laura Brennan (Joan Holmes' Friend)
- Marilyn Anderson
- Marilyn Marye
- Michael from Florida
- Mindy Swank & Family
- Roy Harrington
- Ruth Eyman, (Johnson's Friend)
- Sharon Angelo
- Vera Mathis—hospital

IN MEMORIAM

Prayer and condolences are offered to Helen and Brad Dykeman upon the death of Helen's mother, Shirley Eddingfield, who passed away on Thursday, May 5th.

Also, for Charles P. Anderson, a long time member of FBC, who passed away on Sunday, May 8th. Our sympathy and prayers to Virginia, his loving wife of 60 years, and the entire family during this sad time.



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR EXTENDED FAMILY

- Dorathy Foster (Park Vista)
- Eleanor Lewis (Park Vista)
- Betty McBride (Park Vista)
- Kaye Duncan (Friendship Manor)
- Hulda Miller (Solon, Iowa)
- Gladys Williams (Home)
- Norma Strandlund (Hope Creek)
- Phyllis Boardsen (Hope Creek)
- Dee Bertelsen (Hope Creek)
- Gladys Reamy (Hope Creek)
- Myrta George (Texas)
- Cathy McGill (Home)
- Grace Orton (Home)

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| John Crowe Jr. MD | Dustin Hergert |
| Kristine Mattison | Nick Uzelac |
| Chris Ruff | Wm. Robert Crouch |
| Anthony Mathis | D.J. Gladfelter |
| Galen Ryan | Lauren Hugel |

REMEMBER OUR MISSIONARIES IN PRAYER

- HAITI
- Kihomi & Mabudiga Nzunga
- COSTA RICA
- Lillian Solt
- CENTRAL MEXICO
- Chuck & Ramona Shawver
- EL SALVADO
- Kim Kurshner
- OKLAHOMA
- MURROW INDIAN CHILDREN'S HOME,
- Betty Martin
- USA
- Duane & Marsha Binkley

Thanks

This is to thank my church members who made getting sick a lot easier with food, cards, prayers, and best wishes. I have a wonderful church.

Barbara Chaney

Thank you for the cards, the food, the support in the recent death of my mother. It was very appreciated.

Helen and Brad Dykeman.

Thank you to so many of our church family! Thank you for the planners, the table decorators, the Master of Ceremonies, the presenter of the fine music program, the men who served and cleaned up, the ladies and children who attended and Pastor Deb for the beautiful blessing. We are referring of course to another successful Mother Daughter Banquet. Again, thank you to all who had a part in our May 6th banquet,

The Women of American Baptist Women's Ministries

RED HAT LUNCHEON THURSDAY, MAY 26-2011
MEET AT CHURCH AT 11:00 AM IF YOU WANT TO CARPOOL

PAGALO'S

In Milan, formerly Pinocchio's
Just past Eriksen Car Dealership if coming from east
Pagalo's is across from stoplights in Milan on right hand side

Foods available: Pizza, Salad and Soups

RSVP

June Irwin @ 788-9614 or Donna O'Neill @ 762-9572

If you need more information



GRADUATION 2011



Ian Newell, son of Paula and Martin Newell, will be graduating from Moline High School on Sunday, May 22nd. He plans to attend Western Illinois University majoring in English Literature and Language.



During her four years in Decatur, IL, **Laura Bentsen**, daughter of Carol and Perry Bentsen, has enjoyed her music and accounting studies at Millikin University. The assistance of university academic and music scholarships as well as generous scholarships from First Baptist Church have helped her to concentrate on her studies and finish a double major in four years. Her sisters Abigail and Sarah were fortunate to receive FBC scholarships, also.

Laura is pursuing her career in accounting and will begin with John Deere this summer. Thanks very much to the FBC family for the prayerful and monetary support of all three Bentsen girls for many years.



Nate Trinrud, son of Marilyn Fields Trinrud and Rick Trinrud, has graduated from Northwest University.

Do you know of more graduates from our church? Let us know and we'll include them in next month's Link. Thanks!



Because I was ill last month and I didn't report on April's happenings, this month's column is full of news.

First I'll talk about yesterday and then go back in time. On Sunday, May 7, I felt the presence of the Holy Spirit in our sanctuary. Pastor Flint's message had great meaning to me. He said that Jesus asks us the question, "What do you want?" Many of us are fearful of asking that question. If He tells us, we might just have to follow-up on the answer! If He leads us to a certain path, we might think it's something we can't handle or maybe we're afraid to try. We're afraid to trust. He spoke of "Christian Fatigue Syndrome." I know it's something I have at times.



Barbara Chaney

I was happy that our congregation voted to begin the search for a part-time youth pastor. It's vital to the life and growth of our church. I felt the very generous bequest at a time when we are struggling with our finances was God telling us to go ahead with the search.

EASTER SEASON

On Palm Sunday our choir performed the beautiful cantata "Forsaken." It was one of the highlights of the Easter Season for me. We have a lot of musical talent among our congregation. The music was by Mark Hayes. Several years ago, Nancy Lee asked him to share his talent with our community. He performed at Centennial Hall at Augustana College.

On Easter Sunday it was wonderful to be in our sanctuary to reflect on Christ's death on the cross and His resurrection! As always the music was inspiring. It wouldn't have been Easter without Kevin Pierce singing The Holy City. We are fortunate to have Jill Barnhart as our Director of Music.



On Sunday, May 8, we honored our mothers on this Sunday. Pastor Flint and Hilda Fry sang a duet of "Precious Memories." Many of us have precious memories of our moms. Thank you for sharing your voices with us. The highlight of this service was the honoring of Roy Harrington with the Life Deacon Award for fifty plus years of service to our congregation. He's an example to all of us of a good Christian man. And those who know Roy enjoy his sense of humor! Thank you, Roy, for your service to our church and to others.

HOLY COW

Becky Hinton had an article in the April 2011 QC Family Focus. It was in reference to our church's annual mission trip to Costa Rica led by Bill and Nancy Lee. Sydney Hinton told her teacher, Mr. Neer, at Eugene Field School about our mission trips. It sounded like such a good thing to do that he's been on two. On the first trip, he learned about the Cow Project. Missionary Lillian Solt developed this program to end poverty and hunger and improve nutrition. Mr. Neer saw an important lesson in this project for his 4th Grade classes. He asked two of his classes to raise the \$500 needed to buy a cow. One child could only give two cents. Mr. Neer said the amount given wasn't important and what touched him most was their enthusiasm and willingness to help children in another part of our world. Mr Neer said, "This all began because I wanted my students to get more involved in social studies. This is a real practical applicationwhere they make a difference in the world. They will understand more than just reading from a book." It's nice to know that our mission trips reach beyond our church walls!

SPIRITUAL READING

Lately, the words "Lectio Divina" have been heard in our church. Though it's unfamiliar to many of us, it's an ancient Christian tradition of prayer and a way of meditating on the His word and *listening* to what God is saying to us. Gregory the Great (6th Century) expressed it as "resting in God." "Rest in the spirit" is another term often used. In a brochure describing Lectio Divina it says it's a traditional way of cultivating *friendship* with Christ. It says, "It is a way of listening to the texts of Scripture as if we were in *conversation* with Christ."

Another term we've been hearing lately is "centering prayer." It's a method of prayer in which we consent to rest in God's presence. It moves us beyond *conversation* with Christ to *communion* with Him.

So come join us on Monday evenings to experience this way of prayer. You'll be glad you did. **And please make a note to yourself that starting in June, Word Centered Prayer will be held on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm. We will continue on Wednesday evenings throughout the summer.**

Blessings,
Barbara Chaney

**SHELLEY GRADEL****SUE STARR TAYLOR****JOANN PARMLEY****2011 WOMEN OF THE YEAR AWARD**

On May 6, we had our annual Mother-Daughter Banquet. It was a evening filled with fun and fellowship. The catered dinner was tasty and the table decorations were pretty. It is always enjoyable to see the unique ideas that the women use to decorate the tables. The men of our congregation did a wonderful job of serving us. The highlight of the evening was the honoring of our Women of the Year. We honored Shelley Gradel and Sue Starr Taylor. JoAnn Parmley, Sue's mother, was our MC. Shelley and Sue are both more than deserving of this honor. We are so thankful for both of these women for all of their years of service in our Lord's work.

(Shelley Gradel is now residing in Florida, to be with her daughter, Sarah, while she is in college.)

LOVE GIFT SUNDAY IS MAY 29, 2011

Why do we give to LOVE GIFT?

God's goodness compels us to give! We cannot love without giving. LOVE GIFT is our tangible response to God's Love. LOVE GIFT continues to be part of the basic budget of American Baptist Churches USA. These expressions of love and thanks to God support the full range of American Baptist Mission in this country and around the world.

LOVE GIFT is distributed to American Baptist mission efforts that receive United Mission funding. LOVE GIFT supports the work of Regions, Educational Ministries, including American Baptist Women's Ministries, International Ministries, National Ministries Benefit Board and General Ministries.

You know, you just can't out give God.

LADIES: The American Baptist Women's Ministries Regional Retreat at Lake Williamson Christian Center at Carlinville, Illinois will be June 10, 11, and 12. Theme is: Women Destined for God's Purpose. The cost is \$160.00 per person. Please see Melba Moody for details.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2011 UPDATE

LET'S GO TO THE BEACH!



HI EVERYONE! "Sandy Beach" here giving you an update on the progress of Vacation Bible School 2011.

SonSurf Beach Bash is June 13th through the 17th.

FIRST, let me remind all you KIDS to visit the VBS Registration Table and fill out a registration form. You won't want to miss out on all the COOL things at this year's VBS!



SECOND, there is still a need for volunteers. Make sure you visit the Volunteer Sign-Up display near the foyer. We certainly can't let the kids have all the FUN! Think how AWESOME it would be to go to the beach this summer too!

And FINALLY, we're going to need some supplies for VBS. We can always use the usual, like PAPER PLATES, PAPER NAPKINS, APPLES, CHEESE CUBES, GRAPES, CHEESE CRACKERS, TEDDY GRAHAM CRACKERS, 100% FRUIT JUICES (bottles not juice boxes) AND CASH DONATIONS. So look for the STICKY NOTE BOARD coming soon to the Fellowship Hall. You may leave your donations on the marked donation table in the Fellowship Hall.



And don't forget the SonSurf Beach Bash Closing Program on June 17th at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall, or should I say at **SONSURF BEACH!** You'll have a Splish Splashin' time!

SonSurf Beach Bash - Where kids will come to know the living Jesus who said: "I am the way, the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6).

JUST AS I AM.....Charlotte Elliott

Charlotte Elliott was born in England in 1789. In her early thirties she became a bedridden invalid sinking into despondency and resentment against God. In the hope that Charlotte's attitude would mellow, her father invited a minister to their home in an effort to get her to open up about her fears. After one of her emotional outbursts at the dinner table, the minister, sensing her distress, said, "You are tired of yourself, aren't

you? You are holding on to your hate and anger and have become sour, bitter and resentful." In response to this spiritual diagnosis, Charlotte began unburdening herself, and released feelings and struggles she had held on to for years.



JILL BARNHART

Charlotte asked the minister how she could know the peace and joy of Christ. He replied, "You must come just as you are, a sinner, to the Lamb of God, with your fightings, fears, hates, quick temper and pride, and He will give His great love in their place." At that moment she began to trust God fully and found inner peace and joy despite the physical affliction that lasted until her death at eighty-two. In 1836, fourteen years after her conversion experience, she wrote her spiritual autobiography in the verses of "Just As I Am."



Just as I am, without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me, and that thou bid'st me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am, and waiting not to rid my soul of one dark blot, to thee whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt, fightings within and fears without, O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve, because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am, thy love unknown has broken every barrier down, now to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come!

This hymn is so beautifully written because it speaks to us on a very fundamental level - we can come to Christ at any time JUST AS WE ARE. He accepts us with all our doubts, fears, conflicts, anger and he "will welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve." I pray we can all find the peace and joy we so desperately seek through the one who takes away all our burdens.

Blessings and Peace,

Jill Barnhart

“When a woman or child begins to view her body as the only means of gaining livelihood, she begins to die. As we watch our women and children die, we die too as the fabric of our common humanity begins to tear apart.”-mgviloria, 1999



MARITA VILORIA, MISSIONARY TO THE PHILLIPINES

Marita De Guzman Viloria—Missionary, Development Practitioner, Advocate

Marita brings with her two decades of on the ground training and leadership in groundbreaking work with women and children trafficked into prostitution in South East Asia and with disenfranchised communities in the United States, in positions of advocacy, consultancy and policy-making in the international and local response to human trafficking offered by governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations

She works collaboratively with government, church, civil society and the academe to help bring an end to modern day slavery, exploitation and all forms of violence, crimes and atrocities committed against humanity, in the spirit of informed compassion, justice-making towards dignity and life flourishing.

Founding Executive Director, Kalinga Ministry (Kalinga means care)

A development-oriented outreach among women & children trafficked into prostitution in the Philippines and overseas

**THE COSTA RICA CHANGE JAR
IS GROWING WEEK BY WEEK,
MAKING THE TOTAL NOW \$70.53.
THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUING HELP!**

**ALSO
PLEASE SAVE YOUR BEVERAGE TABS
AND PUT THEM IN THE ROUND JAR
(THEY ARE WORTH MONEY)**



**THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE AND THE MUSIC COMMITTEE
INVITE YOU TO ATTEND . . .**

SPLIDS ♦ SWEETS ♦ SONGS



WHEN: SUNDAY, JUNE 5TH
**IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
THE WORSHIP SERVICE**

**WHERE: IN THE
FELLOWSHIP HALL**



**WHAT: LUNCH AND A
SINGSPARATION**

- **BAKED POTATOES WITH THE TOPPINGS:
\$6.00 WHOLE, \$3.00 HALF**
- **BAKE SALE ITEMS FOR DESSERT**
- **A SINGSPARATION WITH MUSIC SELECTED BY YOU!**

**ACCEPTING ITEMS FOR THE BAKE SALE.
YOU MAY DROP OFF YOUR DONATED ITEMS
ON SATURDAY, JUNE 4,
BETWEEN 2:00 AND 3:00 IN THE KITCHEN.**

First Baptist Church
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Parish Nurses

Sandy Claerhout Barb Miller

Church Musician & Choir Director

Jill Barnhart

Administrative Assistant

Joan Holmes

Custodian

Wayne McWade

First Baptist Church
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Barb Chaney, Editor

Joan Holmes, Publisher

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LOOKING AHEAD

JUNE 2011 Newsletter

(delayed a week because of VBS)

Deadline—JUNE 20

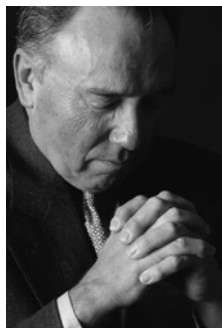
Mailing Date—JUNE 23

(one issue monthly)



We're on the web!

www.fbc-
moline.org



**Word-Centered Prayer Moving to
Wednesday Evenings at 6 p.m. for the Summer**

Do you need a spiritual boost between Sundays? Lectio Divina (Latin for "Listening to God's Word") at midweek is a refreshing way to soak in the scriptures. Here is how Dietrich Bonhoeffer, A German pastor martyred by the Nazis during WWII, described this practice:

"The Word of Scripture should never stop sounding in your ears and working in you all day long, just like the words of someone you love. And just as you do not analyze the words of someone you love, but accept them as they are said to you, accept the Word of Scripture and ponder it in your heart, as Mary did. That is all. . . . Do not ask "How shall I pass this on?" but "What does it say to me?" Then ponder this word long in your heart until it has gone right into you and taken possession of you."

It may sound mysterious but it is powerful and profound. Why not try something new? This is wonderful way to grow in love for God. It's as simple as listening, and really requires nothing else.

**Join us in the Prayer Chapel, 6:30 p.m.,
Wednesdays during June, July, and August.**