The Messenger

June 2013

Auto messaging service will keep everyone informed

An auto messaging system will soon be in service for the members of First Baptist. Similar to the auto notification the school has in effect to warn parents of a school cancellation, this system will allow us to update anyone enrolled, on prayer requests, meeting reminders and changes, and any weather related cancellations. No more missing a prayer chain message or inaccurate details—everyone will hear the same message in the manner they want.

You’ll be able to choose how you wish to receive your message—by email, by text, or by phone. We will even be able to break things into groups such as Choir only, or S.W.A.T. only, or Kid’s Club parent notification. Watch for a sign up list coming as soon as we get the final details!

Meet Jacob...

I was asked to write a bio of sorts and an introduction of myself for the newsletter this month and so here is a short bit about me and my intentions for the youth program this summer. I am 22 years old; I will be a senior this fall at Trinity Christian College, where I major in Theology with a minor in History. I hope to go into full time youth ministry after I graduate. I’m from Danville, IL although growing up in a military household I have also lived in North Carolina, Texas and Washington. I began working with youth the summer before my junior year of high school. I graduated from Danville high school in 2008 and then attended community college while I worked full time and continued to work with the youth group at my home church Ridgeview Baptist. I met John and Kelsey in the summer of 2011 when I worked with them at Lake Springfield Baptist Camp. The summer after I worked with them I counseled for both of them when they were directors, this lead to the opportunity for me to come to Virden this summer.

I am greatly looking forward to what God is going to do through the youth ministry this summer, and I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to be here. I am very passionate about youth ministry because of the impact that my youth leaders had on me while I was growing up. My ultimate goal for this summer is to better equip the youth to confidently articulate what they believe, as well as equipping them with the bible knowledge to know what the Bible says about those beliefs and why the church holds them. I look forward to being grafted into this church family and worshipping the one true God together in communal worship with you this summer.

Grace and Peace,

Jacob Chase

North Mac Moms

Watch your Sunday bulletin for notifications regarding the summer schedule for the North Mac Mom’s Support group. As of newsletter publication, there is no meeting scheduled for June.
**Only a Dad**

Only a dad, but he give his all
To smooth the way for his children small,
Doing, with courage stern and grim,
The deeds that his father did for him.
This is the line that for him I PEN,
Only a dad, but the best of men.

—Edgar A Guest

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“Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; Courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.”

— Winston Churchill
Fresh eggs for sale

Just in case you didn’t already know, Drew and Alicia Hawkins raise laying hens in their back yard. Drew also works as a landscaper. They’ve found a way to incorporate both those activities into one unique fund raising idea for the church.

In the east church kitchen refrigerator you will find several dozen eggs. Drew and Alicia are the donating eggs, and have placed a donation can near them. For a suggested donation of $1-2 per dozen, you can help yourself to fresh eggs at any time. The money raised will be used to help with the maintenance and improvement of landscaping the church property. Thank you Drew and Alicia for your vision and for sharing your resource with all of us!

Church Historian sought

First Baptist Church is looking for someone with a passion for preserving and maintaining the history of this church in this community. Are you that person? It will take some research through old newsletters, photos and other items to pull it all together. That person may even want or need to dig through old newspaper articles or even conduct an interview with a local historian.

There is of course, plenty of history already recorded, but there are also plenty of “blanks” that need filled in. Are you the person with the time and the attention to detail to become our church historian? See Pastor John or one of the Deaconate board members if you have any interest in pursuing such an adventure!

VBS and Back 2 Mac planning meeting set

Anyone is welcome to attend a “dual purpose” meeting on Monday, June 10 in Pitman Hall beginning at 6 PM.

For the first 30 minutes the Virden Community VBS coordinators will be meeting to receive this year’s material “Son West Roundup” and to discuss final preparations for this year’s VBS that will be held July 21-25.

At 6:30 anyone from any church in the North Mac School district is invited to attend a planning meeting for this year’s “Back 2 Mac” back-to-school event which is typically held in early August. (Yeah, I know—they’re just getting out and we’re already talking about them going back?? You know how the summer flies!)

This will mark the 4th year that the churches of the North Mac School district have come together to help every child get the supplies they need to go back to school in the fall. And each year we learn something from the previous event. Please help spread the word so that no church or child is left out of this most important mission!

I just want to say “Thank you” to all of you who wrote the notes to me. I really enjoyed and appreciated them all. Very kind of you!

Thank you,
Betty Wallace
Friends,

The last few weeks at our church have been fast-paced, and filled with excitement. The worship has been filled with the Holy Spirit’s presence, and we have had lots to get excited about. We saw a full house and fun-filled service with our Cardinal/Cubs Sunday. I was so moved to hear the interaction of you all, in the participation of singing along and getting excited about worship. Our fellowship time afterwards was exciting as well, and we saw a glimpse of what the future of our church looks like, as many of you are gathering together to play softball this summer.

The following week we had an awesome morning of worship as we celebrated and honored the important women in our lives on Mother’s Day. We celebrated the appreciation of all women, especially our mothers, and all the ups and downs you all have experienced. I was particularly moved at the end of the service when all of us men gathered around the ladies, and assured them of their importance and showed appreciation for all that they do for us.

And last week, we had an amazing time worshipping in the morning as we started our new series on the book of Philippians entitled; Christian Living 101! As we grow as a church family it is important for us to make sure we are living as the light, and becoming imitators of Christ, and what better instruction than that of this letter from Paul. We also welcomed Jacob Chase as our Summer Youth intern, and got him acclimated in Gloria and Roger’s home. He will be with us through August 18.

And last Sunday evening we had a contemporary service, which we focused and honored our graduates. It was an awesome evening where we celebrated with all of those graduating or promoting, and we were all reminded to consider the question, “What’s Next?” in our lives, and challenged to live for Christ.

I don’t know about you church, but that is a lot of excitement and buzz surrounding what God is doing at 157 W. Jackson Street in Virden, Illinois. And you know what? I don’t think, no I know—He isn’t done yet! We are, because He is! Let’s continue to grow closer to Him, by developing a love for His word and hiding it in our hearts. Let’s be Christ to all we encounter.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor John
Cottage Prayer meetings continue

This month’s Cottage Prayer meeting will be held at the home of Mike and Janis Hawkins at 80 Sugar Creek, at 7 PM on Monday, June 17.

If you have not attended one of these special prayer times, please plan to come. No one is asked to pray unless the Holy Spirit moves you to do so. It is an opportunity to share your own prayer concerns and join together with others in the larger community of fellowship and prayer.

Supporting Summer Church Camp

You can help support the children of First Baptist Church who want to attend Summer Church Camp at Lake Springfield Baptist Camp.

All you need to do to make a donation is to make a notation in the memo portion of your offering check as to how much of the amount of your giving you want applied to the Camp Fund.

We have at least 5, maybe more children and youth who have already committed to attending camp this year. The church has a budgeted amount available to help them with their camp expense, but more is always needed to help make sure that every youngster who wants to attend, can.

How can I help?

There are numerous projects and plans ahead for First Baptist, and many of those are born at church business meetings. On the first Wednesday after the first Sunday of the odd numbered months, the church membership is asked to help in making important decisions that may affect our church for years to come. Recently, Gloria Smith researched old church minutes and in fact, preserved those records on flash drives so that generations to come may be able to research our church’s history. We are extremely grateful to Gloria for her hard work. In the process she discovered some old motions that for various reasons, mostly lack of funds—have caused the project to be delayed or even forgotten about. Some of these old motions include:

- Memorial Plaque that includes room to record past and future memorials to the church.
- Chair lift for Pitman Hall
- New Storm windows for the sanctuary
- New Carpet and refinishing of the sanctuary floor
- TV monitor for choir/pastor mounted in the back of church
- Basement remodeling

At a recent business meeting, a discussion centered around making a concerted effort to mark off some of these items. The much needed carpet and floor refinishing, is now slated to be finished by year end.

How can you help? By keeping these projects in mind as you are shopping or as you are browsing the web for your own household, you may be able to help the trustees check something off the list above. Or, you may know of someone who gave you particularly good service or offered a great product in one of the areas above—if so, get their name and number and give it to Pastor John or someone on the Board of Trustees so that they can in turn contact them for a bid.

Together, we can make a difference!

The Softball season has begun! If you haven’t already, see Pastor John for a schedule of games and times.

You are welcome to play for team First Baptist or you are welcome to simply come and cheer them on!

Watch the Sunday bulletin for more details on each week’s game(s).
Kids are free

A little boy in church for the first time watched as the ushers passed the offering plates.
When they neared the pew where he sat, the youngster piped up so everyone could hear:
“Don’t pay for me, Daddy. I’m under five.”