

Upcoming Events at First Baptist Church

- April 26** Youth “Charge ‘Em Up” service project
- April 27** Churchwide carry-in fellowship dinner following the worship service
- April 28** Children’s director search committee
- May 1** National Day of Prayer 24 hour vigil (begins on midnight in our sanctuary)
Prayer on the courthouse steps (noon)
Church council meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- May 3** Dollars & Sense Seminar (part 2) in the Crusader’s classroom
- May 4** Life Choice Center informational luncheon (following morning worship)
- May 5** Deacon’s meeting (6:30 p.m.)
- May 6** AWANA bowling party at bowling alley (this is in lieu of regular AWANA activities on May 7)
- May 11** Mother’s Day worship service - recognition of mothers and dedication of new babies
- May 14** AWANA appreciation banquet for parents (6:00 p.m.) and awards assembly for children (7:00 p.m.)
- June 8** Churchwide carry-in fellowship meal followed by a special business meeting to consider moving our church to team-based ministry (the regular May business meeting was moved to this date because of Mother’s Day and activities in May)

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504 W. Wall
Harrisonville, MO 64701
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Update

First Baptist Church of Harrisonville

Worshipping God ♦ Growing Together ♦ Serving Others

From Your Pastor

Last Sunday was a tremendous blessing! It was a thrill to honor our high school graduates and hear about their future plans, and it was wonderful to see God's Spirit work in the hearts of those who responded to His invitation at the end of the worship service. Pray for Chris Williams and Lisa Calhoun, who professed their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and for Ted and Mary Drysdale as they move their membership to our church from a congregation in Arkansas. Two weeks earlier it was wonderful to see God bring Joe and Jennifer Lackamp to join our church. They have three energetic young children, James, Julie, and Jacquelyn.

It's been very encouraging to see the response of our people as we've sought to support the ministry of the Life Choice Center for Women. To date 18 families have pledged a monthly contribution of \$10 or more to the center, and their total monthly contribution to the center exceeds \$600 per month. If you haven't returned your card, it's certainly not too late to do so! The center urgently needs our financial and prayer support. Please remember to sign up at the foyer table to attend a special informational luncheon for the center. The luncheon will be held following the worship service on Sunday, May 4. Several other churches in the Harrisonville Ministerial Alliance are also asking their members to consider making a monthly financial commitment to the center.

Our 24 hour prayer vigil for the National Day of Prayer will be held beginning midnight, May 1. I encourage you to sign up in the church foyer and pray for at least a half an hour for our city, state and nation. We desperately need to seek God's blessing for our nation. Also, don't forget that the sanctuary is open for prayer from 7 to 8 a.m. every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. There is no better way to start your day than to meet with God in the solitude of our beautiful sanctuary. Come and pray for ten, twenty or sixty minutes! You'll be glad you did.

Preparations are underway for our summer ministries. It won't be long until VBS and Sports Crusaders will be here (July 21-25), and we need church members to volunteer to help with these important ministries in a variety of ways. Call the church office or sign up this week in the church foyer. Also, I'm pleased to report that several people have volunteered to serve as assistant teachers for the Sunday morning children's classes, but we need more volunteers!

We received \$30,342 in tithes and offerings in the month of March, which nearly reached our monthly goal of \$30,833. We will need to receive \$8,000 in tithes and offerings this Sunday in order to meet our actual expenses

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for the month of April. Pray that God will bless our church financially as we serve Him in our community.

Recently two staff members from the Missouri Baptist Convention met with members of our church council, long-term planning team, and PLACE coaches to plan the next step of our transition to churchwide team-based ministry. It was a helpful and productive meeting that ended with the decision to form three leadership teams of 3 to 5 people that will initiate and oversee the ministries of the church in the three areas represented by our new church purpose statement:

First Baptist Church: Worshipping God
Growing Together
Serving Others

At our June 8 business meeting we will propose creating leadership teams in the areas of worship, spiritual growth and Christian service. Space in this newsletter doesn't allow me to fully explain what this change will mean for our church, so I urge you to come to the business meeting. We plan to hold the meeting following the Sunday morning worship service and a churchwide fellowship meal on June 8 so that as many church members as possible will have an opportunity to learn about and vote on this major change in our congregation.

This summer we will seek various ways to reach out to our community evangelistically, through our VBS and Sports Crusaders programs, through the Dare2Share door to door outreach ministry, and through various service projects. When you hear more information about these programs, don't be content to let others be involved in evangelistic outreach. Ask God what He wants YOU to do and act on His leading. Most importantly, remember to pray by name for the lost people that you know - your family members, friends, co-workers, and neighbors. God works most effectively through the relationships that we already have.

As I close I must thank you for the privilege of serving as your pastor. This month marks the tenth anniversary of my call to serve as your pastor and the eleventh anniversary of when I came as your interim pastor. Where has all the time gone? Much has changed over the years, as we would expect and as God would want. However, God has not changed. His love and faithfulness are constant. Let us thank Him for the life He has given us through Jesus Christ! - *Bro. David*