

FIRST CHRONICLES

AUGUST 2018

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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August 2018
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Barbie and I start vacation a few days before August. We'll be in Canada for the NAB Triennial and then go through the Rocky Mountains, visiting Jasper, Banff, Glacier, and Yellowstone on our way back home.

In Canada, vacation is called "holiday." They are "holy-days." Our word indicates vacating our normal routine and place. Their term proposes a divine connection, although most people in Canada use it without acknowledging a sanctified concept.

Then again, we don't always "vacate" during our vacations in the USA. We even have the term "stay-cation" to indicate we are not leaving our area for our time off. A large part of the German population vacates to Spain and locales in August as a national experience.

One term or the other, the times when we experience change-of-pace, change of location, distance from normal life pursuits, and breaks from routine prove healthy for us. In fact, vacations are a recent phenomenon in human history. In the distant past (and in some parts of the globe today), pace of life allowed less need for such breaks. Everything moved slower. Relationships and conversations were more important.

The First Testament instructs on Sabbath, festivals, and sacred days. They are holy to the Lord. But they were also holy to persons who celebrated them. They were community-oriented, change-of-pace, playful times. Interestingly, they drew the community into God's presence and into healthy interchange with each other. The NT assumes these holy days.

We tend to neglect the value of holiday or vacation. Sometimes we vacation so hard that we come home more tired than when we left. Other times we think we don't need such changes to routine for health.

I believe God is pleased with refreshment periods of time. His goal is rest for all who trust him. Perhaps we need to see vacation as a little taste of our final redemption. It certainly energizes me, so please pray for us (and others) who seek vacation times in August.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



August 4 Bill Middendorp
5 Joan Boneschans
10 David Eben
Rachel Sizemore
12 Ernie Villanueva
14 Ashley Eben
15 Miley den Hoed
Mike Hagan
18 Ted Doorenbos
Ashley Van Tubergen
19 Helen Eben
21 Timothy Kruse
22 Lindsey Lujardo
22 Lila Walters
24 Lesli Kramer
26 Emily Eklund
Tyler Fluth
Barbie Hagan
27 LeAnn Doeden
Esther Kostopoulos
29 Kayla Reck
30 Jeff Eben

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



August 1 Alan and Judy Eben
5 Harold and JoAnn Schneiderman
9 Jason and Connie Christians
12 Paul and Sharilyn Reemtsma
15 Kelly and Sandy Doeden
19 Stan and Marlene Fluth
22 Ryan and Cricket Arends
23 Ross and Amber Kooiker



SCHEDULES

GREETERS



Sunday, August 5

Dennis and Gracia Schrick

Sunday, August 12

Alan and Terresa Wagenaar

Sunday, August 19

Gayle and Carolyn Wagenaar

Sunday, August 26

Kevin and Lynette Wagenaar

NURSERY WORKERS



Sunday, August 5

Terresa

Sunday, August 12

Lynette

Sunday, August 19

Jolene

Sunday, August 26

Amber



**Step By Step He'll Lead Us
The Middendorps
August, 2018**



We're in the midst of summer busyness. Each week The Salvation Army sends off a new bunch of campers to our overnight camp in Wisconsin and welcome them back on Thursday. Each kid may attend multiple weeks. All in all, Deb has registered over 60 campers, many attending 3-4 different weeks this summer.

We have also been busy lining up homes/projects to work on for the 2 mission teams from NW Iowa. Last week, we were blessed to host RISE on the Road mission team to join us in Des Plaines. They worked tirelessly on some challenging projects. They showed the love of Christ to everyone they came into contact with. We put on a fun block party for the entire mobile home community next door to us. We worshiped together each evening and heard some amazing messages from Rob Roozeboom. Each night, we all shared about our day's experiences. We saw God working around us, and hopefully in each of our own lives.....we laughed, we cried.....our hearts are full!

Now we have a week to rest up, celebrate Billijo and BobbiJo's 13th Birthdays, and gear up for the next mission team to arrive from Hope CRC in Hull, IA. We look forward to lots of painting and fun with this next group coming to serve! God is so good, and it is so exciting to see the many ways He has planned for each one of us to be part of His master plan!

Street outreach has been really hard this summer. In the last newsletter, we wrote about the elderly lady that we helped get into the assisted living facility. She walked out of the facility as soon as she knew that her son was out of jail and out on the streets. We haven't seen much of them because they are in a little different area than usual and they are in and out of the hospital emergency departments. They are both in the worst physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual shape we have seen them. It is actually heartbreaking to meet with them knowing that they could both be in so much better conditions all around.

(continued on next page)

We have had a couple guys coming out of corrections that cause a lot of trouble on the streets. One of the most dangerous guys, Sean, got paroled and within hours of hitting the streets had given 4 of the homeless guys a beating and black eyes, all because they wouldn't give him a buck to go buy a beer. All of the people came to the truck looking over their shoulders and really nervous that Sean would show up for sandwiches; to be honest, Bill was even a little nervous when he heard the stories and seen the damage on the guys faces.

A couple years ago, before his last sentence, Sean was almost to a point of making a decision to turn his life around and go to our Salvation Army Addiction Recovery Center (ARC). He asked for prayers and asked me to pick him up the next day to go to the ARC for help. When Bill came to pick him up the next day, he was drinking and said he just couldn't do it, even though he knew that it was the best thing for him. Sean grew up in a Christian home and knows the Bible very well, but just can't get control of his addiction to drinking.

Whenever he is drinking, he becomes a fighting monster, often hospitalizing multiple people before someone presses charges and he is sent to prison again. Most of the homeless ladies just go hang out in the library and straight to the police station at night whenever they hear that he is out of prison, mostly out of fear for themselves getting hurt. Sean is now back in jail after the police witnessed him assaulting another individual a block from the police station. We know that Sean is not beyond the grace of God and we will continue to try to get him directly into an ARC program when he gets out next time.

Prayers and Praise:

~Please pray for the next mission group coming, and for our family as we host them.

~Please pray for Sean and others living on the streets in the strongholds of addiction.

~Praise God that Brandi has had an amazing summer being a camp counselor at The Salvation Army Camp in Wisconsin. She has made so many good friends. Pray that that she can continue to keep in touch with these friends.

~Praise God that we've had some moments to relax in between all the busyness.

*Bill, Deb, Darien, Brandi,
BilliJo, and BobbiJo
420 West Touhy Ave ~ Lot 149
Des Plaines, IL 60018*

THANK YOU

Thank you for serving supper on July 9th. Your group served 414 adults and 90 children. The guests of the Banquet are grateful for your ongoing support.

God Bless!

~The Banquet

Thank you for sending us to camp. I had a great time. I made a lot of friends. I learned a lot about Jesus too. Thank you so much.

~Cole den Hoed

Thank you for sending us to camp. I had a great time.

~Kody den Hoed

Thank you for sending me to camp. I had a lot of fun and can't wait to go back next year.

~Caleb Kooiker

CE Board & First Baptist Ladies

Thank you so much for blessing the youth group by helping and leading the fantastic Easter breakfast! You are all so loving and kind and we greatly appreciate it.

~ FB Youth Group

Dear First Baptist Church CE Board,

Thank you for your generous contribution towards Caleb's camp registration. He had a wonderful time and is already excited to go back again next year. If you ask him what his favorite part of camp was, he will tell you chapel. He chose archery and free swim for his activities. I am so thankful that my children have the same opportunity to experience VCBC as I did every year I could. I think camp and AWANA are some of the only exposure that many kids have to church and Christ.

God Bless

~Cody, Sara, Caleb, Charlie & Brylie Johnson

One Thessalonians 5:18 "give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

I would like to thank those that came to see me in the hospital. Special thanks to Pastor Hagan for his visit and for praying with us, it was greatly appreciated. Herm and I have felt your prayers these past weeks and thank you for them, along with the words of encouragement. It means a lot to us knowing others care.

In Christ's love

~Herm and Linda



There will be an Awana Leaders Meeting on Sunday, August 19th at 11:30 AM. Pizza will be served. Family members are invited. Text or email Donna with the number that will be attending, by Sunday, August 12th. All personnel involved in Awana need to attend.

Awana Kickoff will be on August 29th from 6:30-7:30 PM. This will be a short night for registration and an informational meeting for parents. Ice cream will be served!



Ted and Dawn Siemens are missionaries working with TWR (Trans World Radio). They have worked with TWR for more than 25 years. At the end of June, they were getting ready to move from Vienna, Austria, to Cyprus. Cyprus is located south of Turkey, and west of Syria and Lebanon. Due to funding issues and problems getting banking arranged, the move was put on hold.

Ted and Dawn do their ministry through radio throughout Europe and now the Middle East. This Spring Ted conducted online classes with participants from Netherlands, Sweden, and Romania. Dawn has been spending time working with refugees from other countries. They have been working on a program called "Youth on Mind" which reaches the youth, especially from Syria, touching the heart, mind and soul with the heavenly word of God. They are attracting children and young adults via calls, emails and texts.

In July prayers were answered and they were able to fly to Cyprus and begin their work. The Siemens children, Tabitha and Kerith, are attending Moody in Spokane and Micah has just finished his last year at ICSV (International Christian School of Vienna).

Please continue to pray for the Siemens successful move to Cyprus and their new beginnings. Pray that they will be able to obtain a car which will be needed in Cyprus. They also need prayers that God will provide the funding needed as this move has cost more than the monthly support will cover. There is a new letter on the bulletin board so take a moment to check it out.

~Mission Board

Poured Out Gospel Concert



**First Baptist Church George, Ia
Sunday, August 5th at 7:00 pm**

Coffee & cookies will be served following the concert!