

The VISITOR

January 2024

“I Saw the Light”

It is fascinating how music merges with memory. While traveling on family vacation as a little boy, I can still hear the sounds of the Nashville brass blaring from the 8 track tape player. I can still see the worn yellow cover of the 8 track tape, the beautiful midnight blue of the Oldsmobile Cutlass, the sight of my Dad driving, my Mom in the passenger seat and me leaning forward from the back seat right between them. That was my spot,....right in the middle of the back seat, right between Mom and Dad. That spot was the source of about the only sibling conflict with my younger sister once she came along. That was my spot! And from that perch, the song I remember most while driving through the Smoky Mountains in Gatlinburg, Tennessee was “I Saw the Light.”

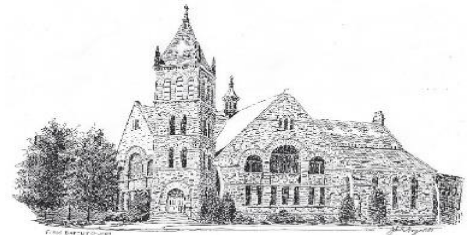
During the month of January through Sunday, February 11, we are in the season of the church year called Epiphany, the season of Light. Epiphany proper is the visit of the wise men from the East, men who saw the light and followed it until they saw Jesus, the source of that light and the light of the world. I suspect the wise men cherished and rehashed their journey to the light shining on and in Jesus for the rest of their lives.

Do you still remember the first time you “saw the light?” Who was there? Where were you? What did you hear? What did you feel? And how do you understand the light now compared to that first encounter? Is the light still lighting the way, transforming everything or is it time for a new journey of following the star?

I look forward to this season of Epiphany and our journey towards the light as we worship together.

May we arise and shine for our light has come!

Grace, peace and love,
Pastor Tiger



**JOIN US
SUNDAY MORNINGS
WORSHIP BEGINS AT 9:30
785-242-2713**

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Ottawa, KS 66067

Follow us on Facebook:

@firstbaptistchurchottawa

Live Stream of worship each week!

You are invited and welcome.



First Baptist Church of Ottawa is part of the American Baptist Churches of the Central Region (ABC/CR and American Baptist Churches, USA (ABC/USA).



*Sunday School following worship
for all ages!*

Communion January 7

Celebrating the Lord's supper.

Those of you worshipping with us at home, please have your elements ready so that you are able to take communion along with us.



Continuing this Sunday, whenever we celebrate communion, we will encourage giving to the deacon's fund for benevolence.

Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for the **February** newsletter is **January 24th**, please have any information emailed to the office by this date for inclusion in the newsletter. Information received after the deadline will be published in the next month's newsletter.



Our next Thankful Thursday gathering will be Thursday January 25th from 5-6:30pm.

Our annual business meeting will be Sunday February 4th after church.



PRAYER TIME: Wednesdays at 12:30 EH. If you have a prayer request for Wednesday let Pastor Tiger know or call or email the church office.

PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

Bob Lovett (Kim Randel's father); Norma Coble (Dana Coble's mother); Glenda Schmidt; Nathan Ball; Shelly Frank; Tom Lantis (Kelli Ball's father); Rachel Morsett; Mattie Willhite; Amber Fast; Mason Sweeney; Wayne Jones; Geneva Stocker (Cynthia's mom); Angela Audiss

Shut-Ins: Betty Bloomer; Dana Coble; Doris Grogan; Sylvia Starky; Bev Hughes; Golden Peterson; Gloria Terrill

Military Service People: Sgt. Nate Plaschka-Fort Hood Texas; Brad Davis (Bill & Janice Kern's grandson)-Kuwait; PFC Aaron Bigge (Sandy Holbert's grandson)-Fort Meade, Maryland

We make every effort to keep this list updated. Please inform us when there are changes.

TITHE ONLINE

It's simple!!

Through First Baptist's website (fbcottawa.org)



you now have the capability to make your contributions electronically using Tithe.ly. It can be a one-time gift or recurring. To make a contribution, go to the **Give** tab and click on **Donate**. Contributions will be

tracked through our membership software & reflected on contribution statements.



Hope House Needs

Canned beans, toilet paper, sugar, pancake mix, pancake syrup, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, instant oatmeal

*No longer needing plastic containers

Radio Ministry

First Baptist Church believes it is important to keep the Radio Ministry funded, as this is a blessing to many in our community.

Please designate contributions

to: Radio Fund.

We will be taking down the Christmas decorations on Monday, January 8th at 10:30. Volunteers appreciated.

Church Leadership



Fellowship Committee

Meeting is January 8th, 9:30am EH

Stewardship

Meeting is January 8th, 5:30pm EH

Outreach

Meeting is January 10th at 6:30pm



Church Council meeting is January 16th at 7:00 p.m. EH

Committee chairs, please have your previous meeting minutes emailed to the Church office.

January 27th at 9:30am in Elliott Hall there will be

time to fellowship with one another and discuss the book we have been reading, Loving People Who are Hard to Love by Joyce Meyer. Everyone is welcome to come join us! If you have any questions please contact Jordan Fritz at 785-342-0539.



Help Support Our Church



Price Chopper Gift Cards are available at the office for purchase. We get 5% for each sale and YOU get the FULL VALUE of each card you purchase.

Thank you for your support!

Price Chopper cards can only be purchased in \$100 increments.

M&M Thank You Offering

First Baptist, Ottawa gave \$981 in December. You may continue to give in the New Year and designate the gift for the M&M Offering. A portion of this offering is set aside for emergency needs of retired ministers and missionaries. The largest portion is distributed in Thank You checks to retired ministers and missionaries next fall. Thank you for the gifts you have given to this annual offering.

ABWM Book of the month
Romans

Key verse: “**Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.**” (5:1)

Paul, a Roman citizen, traveled many miles through many towns spreading the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, planting churches; converting Jews and Gentiles. He was consumed with the desire to meet the Christians in Rome, who the Jews who had come to faith during Pentecost had apparently joined the Roman church. (Acts 2).

The book of Romans is an organized, carefully worded statement of Paul’s faith. At the closing he sends greetings and mentions many members by name.

Facts gleaned for our reading:

(1:3) Paul presents the facts of the gospel.

(1:16, 17) Declares his allegiance to it.

(1:18- 3:20) Only God can fill the lostness of mankind.

The Good News is that salvation is available to all! Regardless of your identity, sin or heritage.

We are saved by **grace** (no strings attached)

Through **faith** (complete trust) in Christ.

[3:21-5:21] Thru Christ we are **justified** (not guilty)

[6:1-23] Freedom **from the power of sin.**

[7:1-25] Freedom **from the domination of the Law.** We are free to become like Christ.

[8:1-39] Free to become like Christ and Discover God's **limitless Love.**

[9:1-11:12] God made the way for Jews & Gentiles to be united in the body of Christ.

[12:3–8] God gives **spiritual gifts** to share.

[12:9-21] genuinely **loving others.**

[13:1-14] being **good citizens**

[14:1-15:4] **Unity** with each other and between Jews, Gentiles and **all** Gods chosen.

[15:23-28] The membership of the Roman church was mainly Jewish but also had a large number of Gentiles.

Welcome to **2024** with great anticipation!

May God Bless you and provide for you enough!

Lilly Coultis
ABWM Love Gift

AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S MINISTRIES will meet **Wednesday, January 17, at 9:30 a.m.** in Elliott Hall. Miriam Lemp will share about this year's Scholarship Recipients. Our project this month is an offering for the Central region scholarship fund. Women who can't attend may also contribute to this project.

Marsha Hermreck is hostess, and Jan Lee is Bible study leader. Vangie Webb will report on Missionaries.

The usual Love Gift will also be taken.

Hope to see you there.



Kent Markley 1-2

Brian Kane 1-3

Mark Seymour 1-4

Cheryl Seymour 1-6

Shanta Kemp 1-6

Charles Crawford 1-7

Paxton Dryden 1-10

Kelli Ball 1-12

Ryan Kemp 1-17

Parker Dryden 1-20

Glenda Schmidt 1-30

Last April Bethel Neighborhood Center celebrated their 112th anniversary serving the community near Strawberry Hill on 4th Street in Kansas City Kansas. BNH has a very positive mission serving the needy and providing training skills and aid where the need is so great. It is a loving, caring institution. I was very interested in the history of Strawberry Hill and the impact BNC has had on the community. Back in the 1800's immigrants from Eastern Europe settled near the Missouri river. A large number of immigrants came from Croatia and settled in an area called the “Patch”. During a 1904 flood many of the settlers’ homes were destroyed and the families moved uphill to rebuild. The area got its name as Strawberry Hill from wild strawberry vines that grew covering the hillside. Strawberry Hill has a rich cultural history. It is an ethnic community, primarily Croatian but with a representation of many cultures. 1918 Spanish flu killed many young adults, leaving behind single parents and orphans. A visit to Strawberry Hill Museum and Cultural Center sounds interesting plus stopping by Strawberry Hill Povitica Company, tasting the delightful pastry filled with ground walnuts and sweetened with honey and sugar, so good!

-Lilly Coultis

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Visitor

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fbcottawa.org

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Ottawa, KS 66067



On December 4, eleven people from FBC, Ottawa traveled to Bethel Neighborhood Center in Kansas City, KS. We carried with us the contents of the room that had been used by a very special ministry of our quilting group that no longer is meeting. Bethel has a ministry of teaching sewing skills to emigrants in their ministry. We appreciate the help of those volunteers who loaded the supplies and sewing machines on Sunday, December 3. Upon arrival at Bethel we were met by Mang Sonna, director and his wife Nem who teaches the sewing classes along with several volunteers. We had a wonderful tour of the facility which has been expanded and improved so much in recent years. A group of seniors was meeting and then we were able to join them for lunch. Several members of our group shared thoughts about the experience.

Pastor Tiger: I am so pleased to see this ministry that is part of our American Baptist Ministry.

Jan Lee: The sewing classroom had lists of the basic skills and the advanced skills the students learn. One of the advanced skills is alterations which give the women a marketable skill to earn money.

Phyllis Cunningham: I was very impressed with the Bethel Neighborhood Center. They have been able to do some impressive building projects that will allow them to provide more services to more people. What impressed me most was the attitude of the director. He obviously enjoys the work he does and enjoys the people he helps. He is a great asset to the center.

Evangeline Webb: Bethel has been a place of mission serving the needs in Kansas City, KS for many years. I first heard of it as a student at Ottawa University. While attending Grace Baptist in Kansas City, MO, I had the opportunity to be involved with services to seniors. What a joy to see the outcome of the thoughtful planning and updating. On this I observed a well planned and updated kitchen, a space for learning in which 64 women are learning a wide variety of skills in sewing arts, multi purpose rooms for exercise, playing games and sports activities. This is a wonderful expansion of services for numerous people from a wide variety of age, cultures and needs.

Marsha Hermreck: One summer day in the middle 1960s a group of Jr High students from FBC went on a trip to Bethel Neighborhood Center. I was a part of that group and I was excited to go with the group on December 4 to see what the center looks like now and where the sewing supplies would be used.

Lilly Coultis: see article above

Jane Smith: Even though I have visited Bethel on several occasions, this was a new experience in that the facilities have greatly improved over the years. The blessing of these facilities means more ministry opportunities.

Be assured that your gifts to American Baptist Missions are a worthy investment in Christian Ministry. Bethel is making a difference!

