

First Baptist Church

1325 Chatburn Ave.

Harlan, IA 51537

The Extender

Mailed February 23, 2010

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage - PAID

Harlan, IA 51537

Permit #95

Address Service Requested

From the Pastor's Desk

There is a lot of courting and relationship news in the Extender this week. Our congregation is courting and proposing a marriage with a new pastor this weekend. One of our members has been courting and has proposed marriage to a young lady and that wedding and a shower are announced on the second page. I am sure it is no accident that I was scheduled for marriage counseling training on this week.

As I sat in the class all day, I couldn't help but relate what I was hearing to both of these situations in the life of First Baptist Church of Harlan. After all, the church is the Bride of Christ. Jesus' love for the church is our model for loving our spouses. And, I don't think it is too much of a stretch to say that the relationship of a pastor with the local church is much like a marriage as well.

One of the things that jumped out at me in this training was the response of a couple preparing for marriage to a question regarding their commitment to a lifetime together. One of the questions asked them to Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Undecided, Agree, or Strongly Agree with the statement: I am committed to making our marriage last a lifetime. Another statement was: I am open to doing whatever it takes to improve our relationship. To both of these statements, one of them answered "Strongly Agree." To the same two statements, the other one answered "Agree."

My question was, how can you answer anything but, "Strongly Agree?" In all my glorious lack of tact, I blurted out, "What is wrong with you? Have you not read the Bible?" My fellow pastors in the class and I had a good laugh, but it is not a laughing matter. Marriage to a church, or to another person, or to Jesus is not a relationship to be taken lightly. It is to be consciously, realistically, faithfully, and most important of all, honestly considered.

Believe me my beloved, I know what I am talking about. I have read it in God's Word. I have broken His law in this regard and remain penitent for my sin. There is nothing more important than our commitment to any relationship that involves God. A marriage is always among three entities - one of them is *always Jesus*. You can't divorce Him.

SERVICE TIMES & HELPERS

February 28, 2010

9:15 - SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR YOUTH

Nursery: Dan & Heidi Lotenschtein

Next Week: Ken & Edie Shetler

9:30 - SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS —NFH

10:30 - COMBINED SERVICE—SANCTUARY

Rev. Dan Hawn preaching

Greeters: Darrel & Sharon Mathiasen

Ushers: Stan Martens, Phil Perkins, Dan Martin, Brandon Martin, Jeff Hundt, and Karla Hundt

Nursery: Dan & Heidi Lotenschtein

Next Week: Walt Bernard & April French

Wednesday Lenten Prayer Breakfasts at 7 am

February 24 - Congregational UCC-Dave Swinton

March 3 - Assembly of God-Donna Ewert

March 10 - First United Methodist-Jeff Erlemeier

March 17 - First Baptist-Dennis Gaston (St. Michael's seminarian)

March 24 - Elm Crest McKee Room-Glenn Rankin

FOR THE RECORD

February 21, 2010

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Sunday School | 91 |
| Previous Sunday | 97 |
| Morning Worship -8:00... 113 | 10:30... 104 |
| Previous Sunday - 8:00... 117 | 10:30... 113 |
| Morning Worship A Year Ago | 213 |

TITHES & OFFERINGS

February 21, 2010

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| 2009 Budgeted Gen. Fund | \$5,875.25 |
| General Fund Offering | \$3,611.61 |
| Missions | \$407.50 |

PRAYER CONCERNS:

- Lucille Paulsen
- Bob Burton
- Viola Waddell
- Darlene Blakely
- June Schleimer's Aunt Bonnie
- BYF Ministry
- Our sister churches in Latvia
- Allyn & Bev Bartelson
- Eldora Peterson
- Geraldine Hansen
- Pastoral Search
- Lori Fast (Lucille Paulsen's granddaughter)
- Our troops
- SCCO

Schedule for Pastor Dan Hawn visit Saturday, February 27

- 10:00 am meet with Diaconate
- 5:30 pm Pot Luck to meet with congregation followed by questions and answers (plates, silver, and drinks furnished)
- Suggest to bring a main dish plus side dish

Sunday, February 28

- No 8:00 service today
- 9:15 Sunday School regular schedule
- 10:30 Combined worship service - Sanctuary
- Vote on calling Pastor Dan Hawn as Senior
- Pastor to be held after the church service.

(Because lower lot is covered with snow, carpooling would be a good idea!)

Pastor Hawn's church in Wichita's web page is: www.fbc-wichita.org/. Some of his sermons are online there under Resources-Audio

To our First Baptist Church Family,

**Mr. & Mrs. David Nyhof and
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Nelson
invite you to the marriage
uniting their children,
Anna Lynn**

**to
James Frederick
Saturday, March Twentieth,
Two Thousand and Ten
at two o'clock in the afternoon
at First Baptist Church
Harlan, Iowa**

Matthew 19:4-6

**Luncheon reception immediately
following in the church fellowship hall**

Bridal Shower

There will be a Bridal Shower for Anna Nyhof, future bride of James Nelson on March 7, 2010 from 3:00 to 5:00 pm in the New Fellowship Hall. This will be a come and go shower. All the Church family is welcome.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Monday

6:00 am - Promise Keepers Bible Study
7:00-9:00 pm - Fresh Start

Wednesday

7:00 am - Prayer Breakfast Congregational
6-8 pm-BYF

Saturday

10 am - Diaconate meets with Pastor Hawn
5:30 pm - Pot Luck with Pastor Hawn

Sunday

Helen Warren Piano Recital

Special Adult Sunday School Class Series

All the Adult Sunday School classes plus any other interested adults will combine for a short-term study on events leading up to the death and resurrection of Jesus. The class will run from this Sunday, February 28 until Easter Sunday on April 4. The class will be taught by Pastor Roger and be held in the New Fellowship Hall.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3-3 Brandon Vis
3-3 Viola Waddell
3-4 Trish Clays
3-4 Jenny French
3-6 Kent Morgan
3-7 Norman Mathiasen
3-7 Jim Heilesen
3-13 Doug Svendsen
3-13 Amy Keast
3-14 Bonnie Burton
3-14 Fred Nelson
3-18 Emily Hundt
3-18 Violet Lotenshtein
3-19 Vera Nielsen
3-21 Darle Pedersen
3-23 Terry Arentson
3-27 Misty Swensen
3-28 Dorothy Peterson
3-28 Rachel Burton
3-28 Elliott Britt
3-29 Chloe Brouillard

3-29 Kirk Welsh

3-30 Ben Schmitz

3-30 Rita Vis

3-31 Mike Schleimer

3-31 Heather Knudson

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

3-1 Randy & Pat Pash

3-5 Terry & Connie Arentson

3-6 David & Nancy Boettger

3-9 David & Lois Martin

3-12 Ralph & Ila Hopper

3-13 Duane & Leasa Brouillard

3-19 Mike & Lori Weisenborn

3-28 Chuck & Cindy Matthews

3-30 Mike & Tammy Kolbe

College Care Packages

It has been a long winter and probably extra long for our College Students. Lets let them know we are thinking about them by once again sending care packages to them. Please drop off your donations of candy, gum, drink mixes, trinkets etc in the Church kitchen by March 7. If you have a student who is an undergraduate or you know of a student who needs extra encouragement please let Joel and Karla Berndt know their address and we will see that they get a package. Because of the wonderful generosity of our Church family, 43 packages were sent out last year. Thank you so much. Contact Joel and Karla with any questions. Jkberndt@fmetc.com or 755-7302

**The purpose of the First Baptist Church is to bring people to Jesus
and to develop them to Christ-like maturity.**