

First Baptist Crossings

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SMITHVILLE
AUGUST 2015 – VOLUME III ISSUE 07

VIEW FROM THE PULPIT

Dear First Baptist Family,

It is with deep sadness that I share with you that I have accepted a call to serve as the Senior Pastor at Crossroads Church in Kansas City. Often ministers part with congregations because they have hit a wall of sorts, no longer seeing eye to eye, but that is in no way the case with First Baptist. I was not actively seeking a new congregation, but rather this is a church that was made aware to me by some of my fellow ministers who thought I would be a good fit for the congregation. My ministry at First Baptist has enriched my life greatly and I am so very thankful for the ways God has moved within our congregation. That being said, the decision to accept this new call has not been an easy one. I have spent time in prayer, discerning the Spirit's leading in my life and in the life of both congregations. I faced my concerns that my work was not done at First Baptist. I was reminded, however, that God's work is never done in our lives and in our churches, and I know God's transformative work will continue on in each of us. As I head towards this next chapter of ministry, I am surprised by the mystery of how and where God leads us in life.

As many of you know, I have been substitute teaching on the side this last year while I have served as your bi-vocational pastor, and that has weighed on me and my family, as well as my ministry. This opportunity at Crossroads is a full-time pastorate and will allow me to fully live out and serve my calling as a pastor. As I got to know the new church I discovered places of deep resonance with my theology and my philosophy of church and ministry. Leaving a place that I love and adventuring somewhere new and unknown can be unsettling, but I have confidence in God's direction in my life. I am bracing myself for this bittersweet transition as I am torn between heartache and joy.

First Baptist has been a loving church that has fully embraced my family and for this I will always be thankful. You have accepted me as pastor, allowing me to minister to you and alongside you. You have given me opportunities to grow and be formed further by God into the pastor I am today. And you have loved my family! You have embraced Charles, even when he isn't able to be with us in worship and you have deeply cared for Finn. One of my great joys these last three years has been to witness the moments of church members playing "imaginary" baseball with my son,

sitting with a sick Finn in my office while I preach, scooping him up for a big hug, and the like. I cannot express in words what it has meant to me to see you care for and love Finn.

I am also thankful for our ministry together. For the healing and spiritual growth we have seen within the church body. For the ways we have reached out into the community, with welcoming hearts seeking to meet the needs of others. For the spark that has been reignited in this church family. God has done a great work in each of you and in the church collective and I am confident that God is already envisioning further ways for the good news to be lived in and through the First Baptist family. I have great faith in God and in the leadership at First Baptist who will help lead you through this time of transition.

My final Sunday with First Baptist will be on Sunday, September 20. The personnel team and I feel this additional time will allow me to help the church move forward with current ministries and our new Dawnings initiatives so that a healthy transition plan can be in place before I leave.

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I am thankful for this additional time and the opportunity to celebrate with you when we open Bridge Street Ministries on September 6.

A mentor of mine in divinity school once told me that it is better to leave a church when your heart will break for them, rather than

when it is turning to stone. There is no bit of stone within me. I am full of love and thanksgiving for each of you and I know that leaving will be difficult and heartbreaking. My prayer for the next two months is that we can share our thanks for God's good work in this church and that we can continue to minister alongside one another, further living out God's calling on our lives to

share the love and grace of Christ with others. May we find comfort and understanding in God's leading in the coming months, and embrace the ways in which God moves in and through us.

With love and affection,
Pastor Stephanie

Bridge Street Ministries Update

August Building Work Schedule

Wednesdays from 6-8 pm

August 5	Clean the floors, Clothes Sorting
August 12	Clothes and Food Organization
August 19	Clothes and Food Organization
August 26	Final Prep & Run Through

We need everyone's help this month! Clothes racks and shelving are going up so it's all hands on deck as we put things in place. And the air conditioning is on so you'll stay nice and cool!



Undie Sunday Sunday, August 30

We are collecting new underwear and socks for our clothes closet. Help us out on Sunday, August 30 by bringing in new packages of both to worship!

Sizes Needed:

Mens and Womens, all sizes
Toddler Sizes, 2T-5T underwear, infant-5T socks

**We do not need items for school age children as students can get clothing at Smithville's Warrior Closet at the school.*

Bridge Street Ministries Workers

We are ready to sign up and train our weekly volunteers to run the food pantry and clothes closet for when it opens in September.

Bridge Street Ministries Hours (Beginning September 6)

Tuesdays	10 am—12 pm 6 pm—8 pm
2nd Saturday each month	10 am-12 pm

If you are interested in volunteering, please sign up on the bulletin board and indicate your preferred time slot and frequency of volunteering.

Bridge Street Ministries Grand Opening Sunday, September 6, 9:30 am

Join us for worship and as we celebrate the grand opening of Bridge Street Ministries directly following worship as we tour the renovated space and have a cake and punch reception in the fellowship hall. An abbreviated Sunday School time will follow in your regular classes.

Promotion Sunday

Sunday, August 16

Children and youth will be promoted up to their new Sunday School classrooms on August 16. In worship we will honor our children entering 1st grade and they will receive a new Bible.



Deacon Nominations

Deacon Nominations are now available at the church. Please take time to pray and nominate members of our congregation that you feel would be well suited to the role of deacon. Forms will be accepted at the church office through September 6.

Unidiversity Youth Camp

Thank you for your support and prayers as our youth travelled to Knoxville, Tennessee in July! We had a great week discovering more about our relationships with one another and with God. Thank you!!!



Volunteers in August

Nursery Department

August 2	Christen Doerzbacher, Sahria Aden, & Cara Campbell
August 9	Dorothy Allen, Shyanna Badami, & Carla Berner
August 16	Cassidy Hopkins, Jennifer Edwards, & Kathy Petty
August 23	Linda Frazier, Carol Shaffer, & Pam Petty
August 30	Michelle Stephens, Donna White, & Ruth Hiatt

Greeters

August 2	Darlene McMillian, Carolyn Forsyth
August 9	Dorothy Huntley, Rosalie Swaney
August 16	Judy Asher, Betty Shuler
August 23	Betty Shuler, Dorothy Allen
August 30	Rosalie Swaney, Lois Earlywine

Children's Sermon Leaders

August 2	Jenny Holmes
August 9	Ruth Hiatt
August 16	Randy Kelly
August 23	Stephanie Swanson
August 30	Randy Kelly

Deacon of the Week

August 2	Randy Holmes
August 9	Lee Huntley
August 16	Randy Kelly
August 23	Jim Long
August 30	Joan Pence

Communion

August 16	Team 3
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Hospitality

August	Pam Petty
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Church Pizza Night



Wednesday, August 5
5:30 pm

Join us for fellowship and delicious Pizza Hut in the gym!
Reservations required.
\$5 adults, \$3 age 4-12, under age 3 is free.

Save the Date:

Next Church Pizza Night: September 2

Deacon Ordination

Save the Date

Sunday, September 13

Join us in worship as we ordain those that have completed their year as Deacons in Training:

Laura Bush
Ruth Hiatt

Joan Pence
Rosalie Swaney

Calendar

- August 2 Teams Meeting, 11:30 am
- August 5 Church Pizza Night, 5:30 pm
- August 16 Promotion Sunday, 9:30 am
- August 19 Youth Programming Resumes, 6:00 pm
- August 30 Undie Sunday (See pg. 2)
- August 30 Deacons Meeting, 11:30 am

Save the Date:

- September 6 Bridge Street Ministries Grand Opening
- September 13 Deacon Ordination
- September 20 Pastor Stephanie's Farewell Sunday

In our Prayers

Our Church Family:

Randy Holmes	Audrey Tygart
Dorothy Perkins	Linda Thomas & Mother
Bill Edwards	Joyce Teegarden
Georgia Callaway	Lloyd Wilson
Gary Teegarden	Mike Jensen
Joyce Denton	Mark Bush

Financial Figures

July Offerings \$7,180.75

First Baptist Church

300 South Bridge Street

Smithville, MO 64089

Phone: (816) 532-0164

Website: firstbaptistchurchsmithvillemo.com

Email: office@firstbaptistchurchsmithvillemo.com

August Birthdays

August 1	Dorothy Huntley, Rylee Robinette
August 2	Stephanie Swanson, Wyatt Hopkins
August 3	Carolyn Forsyth
August 7	Bert Pierson
August 12	Joyce Denton
August 21	Brian Petty, Karen Youmans
August 22	Lloyd Wilson
August 24	Charles Smith
August 25	Glenn Petty, Mikayla Herrod
August 26	Judy Asher
August 27	Betty Shuler, Darlene Wilson
August 28	Curtis McDowell
August 29	Donna White
August 30	Tammy Kelly, Stan Howard



Weekly Schedule

Sundays

- 9:30 am Worship
- 10:15 am Coffee & Snacks
- 10:30 am Bible Study

Tuesdays

- 1:00 pm PEPPi Exercise Class

Wednesdays

- 6:00-8:00 pm Bridge Street Ministries Work
- 6:00-7:15 pm Youth Group (Resumes August 19)

Ministers & Staff

Rev. Stephanie Swanson, *Pastor*

Cody Wilson, *Youth Director*

Betty Shuler, *Secretary*

Tammy Kelly, *Secretary*

Margaret Fales, *Music*

Athena Gillespie, *Pianist*

Office Hours:

Mondays 9am-1pm

Tuesdays 9am-1pm

Thursdays 9am-1pm