

Ushers For January - Wanda & Ryan Wiseley
 Deaconesses For January - Joyce Hower & Ruth Miller
 Deacon For January - Fred Sebens
Special Events for January
 Quarterly Business Meeting is open to everyone. Please come on January 18, 2009, at 6:00 PM.
 Planning Council on January 22, 2009, at 7:00 PM



May your New Year be filled with all the good things you plan; all the dreams you wish will come true; all the tasks you hope to accomplish; and all the services you intend to do for the Lord.

Parsonage Phone Number—728-2761
First Baptist Website
<http://www.fbc61951.org>
American Baptist Churches Website
<http://www.abc-usa.org>

Reflections By Gladys Courtright

I AM THE NEW YEAR

I am the New Year. I am unused, unspotted, without blemish. I stretch before you three hundred sixty-five days long. I will present each day in its turn, a new leaf in the Book of Life, for you to place upon it your imprint.

It remains for you to make of me what you will; if you write with firm, steady strokes, my pages will be a joy to look upon when the next New Year comes. If the pen falters, if uncertainty or doubt should mar the page, it will become a day to remember with pain.

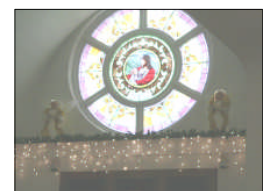
I am the New year. Each hour of the three hundred and sixty-five days, I will give you sixty minutes that have never known the use of man. White and pure. I present them; it remains for you to fill them with sixty jeweled seconds of love, hope, endeavor, patience, and trust in God.

I am the New Year. I am here—but once past, I can never be recalled.

Make me your best.

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2009 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES (Nominating Committee Report)

Moderator	Don Rogers
Vice-Moderator	Fred Sebens
Church Clerk	Linda Watson
Church Treasurer	Teresa Crawford
Asst. Church Treasurer	Roger Hughes
Financial Secretary	Pam Guyot
Asst. Financial Secretary	Karen Stathers
Building Fund Treasurer	Ben Guyot
Sunday School Superintendent	Jackie Godfrey
Asst. Sunday School Superintendent	Leslie Patient
Contact Communicator	Linda Watson
Deacons	Ben Guyot, Fred Sebens, Don Rogers, Paul Feist
Honorary Deacons	Bob Patient, Clint Fultz
Deaconesses	Betty Coventry, Judy Feist, Joyce Hower, Ruth Miller, Carroll Sebens, Nylene Hughes
Honorary Deaconesses	Mary Dugan, Erma Short, Lillian Schmidt
Trustees	Roy Book, Pam Guyot, Roger Hughes, Brian Crawford, Paul Riley
Flower Committee	Nylene Hughes, Donna Sparrow, Ina Waggoner
Christian Education Committee (Board)	Brandy Trussell, Heidi Feist, Leslie Patient, Mary Beth Dedman, Karen Stathers, Jackie Godfrey
Finance Committee	Teresa Crawford, Linda Watson, Pam Guyot, Mary Beth Dedman, Ben Guyot, Don Rogers
Entertainment	Patti Patient, Betty Mode, Karen Stathers, Sharon Dinger, Wanda Wiseley, Susan Matusas
Music Committee	Marilyn Book, Patti Patient, Nancy Vail, Linda Watson
Service Committee	Marilyn Book, Roy Book, Nancy Miller, BJ Miller, Ruth Miller, Lucy Fultz, Clint Fultz, Shirley Rogers, Nylene Hughes
Nursery	Ruth Miller, Ella Norris, Kathy Porter, Karen Stathers
Library	Karen Hughes, Anyssa Riley, Bev Robison
Ushers	Roy & Marilyn Book, Crawford Family, Riley Family, Frank & Mary Ellison, Paul & Judy Feist, Nylene Hughes & Family,

2009 Additional Committees

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Financial Review

Nancy Miller, Jim Stathers

Nominating Committee for 2009

To be appointed by the Moderator

Memorial (3)

Appointed by Trustees

Evangelism (as many as 6)

To be appointed by Deacons

Sound System

Appointed by Trustees

YEAR

**AVERAGE/
MEAN**

Total attendance
divided by # of
Sundays

MEDIAN
Value in
middle of group

MODE
Most frequently
occurring score

2006

65.8

67

71(4), 58(4)

2007

69.2

66

70(5)

2008

64.8

62

**67(4), 62(4),
60(4)**

In the next few weeks, a survey report will be distributed to members and friends of First Baptist. We appreciate the work of the survey committee and the excellent leadership of Mary Ellison. As mentioned many times on the Prayer List, we are concerned about our Sunday school and church attendance. A table above shows the central tendency of our church attendance over the past three years. This can be viewed as a form of trend data. The survey results may also provide us with a better understanding of areas needing improvement.

Many times the good things occurring in our church are overlooked and could be used as examples or guides for improvement by other standing committees. Just inside the foyer is a bulletin board with a wealth of information about the duties of the ushers. (See page 4) Dean Robison has a well organized committee of ushers and their duties are clearly stated and posted. Every month, Nancy Vail takes the music selected by Pastor Gene and organizes the music notebooks for the musicians and song leader. The three musicians practice together during the week. Patti Patient orders, selects, and prepares the choir music for the year. The music books and sheet music are ready for choir practice each week. I think we can all agree that our church has a very exceptional music program for church services and special services.

The Church Constitution revisions were accepted in the October 19, 2008, Quarterly Business Meeting. As we begin 2009, it is important that every committee review specific duties that are stated in the Church Constitution. (See pages 5 & 6) It is also important that committees maintain records of their plans and activities. These records will help those who serve the following year. There is an opportunity for every committee to present activities and events at the Quarterly Business Meeting. Communication is important. Additionally, if you are not serving on a committee and would like to offer your services, please contact a committee chair or Don Rogers (Church Moderator for 2009).

Let us make this year a special year at First Baptist Church.

See you at our first Quarterly Business Meeting on January 18, 2009!

GUIDELINES PREPARED BY USHER COMMITTEE

Ann Judson

Officers

- President Carroll Sebens**
- Secretary Wanda Wiseley**
- Treasurer & Love Gift Coordinator Joyce Hower**
- Personal Development Ministries Fern Patient**
- Missions Coordinator..... Marilyn Book**
- White Cross Coordinator Jackie Godfrey**

**Ann Judson Society meets the first Monday of each month.
First meeting - January 10 at the Parsonage. (4:00 PM)**

Library Corner

The last book by Dee Henderson in the *O'Malley* series: "The Rescuer" and "The Shock" by William Paul Young have been added to the library.

**Items of Interest from The Mainstream (GRR)
2009 Theme - Plant the Harvest**

1. Area IV Annual Meeting will be held at First Baptist Church in Benton on January 21st.
2. The Great Rivers Region (GRR) Mission Conference will be held on April 24-25, at Cherry Hills Baptist Church in Springfield. "Harvest Time: Here, There, and Everywhere" is the theme.
3. Special GRR workshop with Dr. Eddie Hammett to help churches "Reach People Under 40 While Keeping People Over 60". The workshop will be on May 28th, and will be for both pastors and lay leaders. The workshop will be at the FBC in Bloomington, IL.
4. Harvest Grants are available. These are matching grants to be used by GRR churches for just about any evangelistic effort during 2009. Evangelistic effort is any program or activity directed to those outside the church and including an intentional invitation to Christian discipleship.

**Remembering Our Members Who Are Now With The Lord (2008)
David Spellman, Duane Bragg, Edna Matheson, Betty Dedman**

Please remember the following with your prayers, visits, cards, and phone calls:

**YOUTH IN SCHOOL
COLLEGE STUDENTS**

Li Garvey, Kyle Ingram, Leslie Patient, Holly Matusas

HOME BOUND

Wilma Fishel

NURSING HOME

Bernice Franklin, Ola Grubbs

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Nick Booker, John Booker, Courtney Booker, Jake Hughes, Derek Ingram,
Brandon Davis, Josh Collins, Hywel Foley, and Mike Sims

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

Michael Butler	1-2	Billy Joe & Nancy Miller	1-14-56
David Spellman	1-12		
Witten Crawford	1-19		
Kevin Brownlee	1-23		
Jeanne Anne Dugan	1-27		
Dean Robison	1-29		

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

Jennie Sims	2-5	Kevin & Debbie Brownlee	2-8
Derek Ingram	2-5	Ray & Nancy Vail	2-28
Gladys Courtright	2-7		
Marilyn Book	2-18		
Patti Patient	2-22		
Fred Sebens	2-24		
Elaina Crawford	2-27		

Updated: August 2008
 Please contact Karen Stathers if we have missed anyone.

Blessings and Thank-You Notes to First Baptist Family

Choir
 Great Christmas Program

Float Committee
 Great float for the Christmas Parade

Church Decorating Committee
 The church is beautiful!

Shoe Box Gifts for Operation Christmas Child
 Everyone who contributed

PRAYER CHAIN FOR FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

If you have a prayer request please call the parsonage first **(217) 728-2761**.
 If there is no answer, please call the next person
 and keep trying down the list until you reach someone.
 Please contact Karen Stathers for online prayer concerns.

DAY TIME PRAYER CHAIN

- Gene Godfrey 728-2761
- Shirley Rogers 728-7792
- Fern Patient 728-8803
- Wilma Fishel 728-8145
- Lucy Fultz 728-4477
- Pam Guyot 728-7734
- Marilyn Book 728-3134
- Lillian Schmidt 728-4548
- Mary Dugan 728-4548
- Carroll Sebens 728-8037

NIGHT TIME PRAYER CHAIN

- Jackie Godfrey 728-2761
- Karen Stathers 728-8896
- Judy Feist 728-4997
- Wanda Wiseley 294-0006
- Brandy Trussell 521-4696
- Nylene Hughes 728-7645



MISSION OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF
SULLIVAN, ILLINOIS**

*215 East Harrison
Sullivan, Illinois 61951*

*Phone: 1-888-594-7273 & 728-2761
Web Site: <http://www/fbc61951.org>*

WORSHIP SERVICES
SUNDAY SCHOOL-Sunday 9:00 A.M.
CHURCH SERVICE-Sunday 10:00 A.M.
BIBLE STUDY-Wednesday 6:30 P.M.
YOUTH GROUPS – Wednesday 6:30 P.M.

WELCOME!

CHURCH MISSION

The mission of First Baptist church, Sullivan, Illinois is to increasingly know God as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and to continually make Him known through worship, witness, nurture and ministry.

YOUTH MINISTRY MISSION

The purpose of the First Baptist Youth Ministry is to invite young people into God's presence, minister to the young people's needs, stretch young people's faith while providing support from the church body and to worship God in all that we do.

**Pastor Gene Godfrey
First Baptist Church
215 East Harrison Street
Sullivan, Illinois 61951**