

First Baptist Church  
100 E. Webster St.  
Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Rev. Regan Stoops, Pastor

[www.firstbaptistmp.com](http://www.firstbaptistmp.com)

#### How to Reach Us

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8-12 M-Th

Pastor's Hours  
8:30-4 M, T & Th  
1-4 W



# Great News

First Baptist Church Mt. Pleasant

January 2012

## RESOLUTIONS

Are you ready for a new year? 2012 is reminiscent of 2000 with claims of the world's end coming—this time—from the Mayans hundreds of years ago. But I'm not worried about that. Jesus will return when He returns.

Instead, I love the beginning of a new year because it is a chance to restart, refresh, and resolve to do some things better in my relationships with Christ, my family, and my work. And I'm really excited for some opportunities to do those things right off the bat in 2012.

So what are your resolutions?

**Do you want to grow your relationship with God?** We are offering an opportunity to grow in your individual Spiritual health through a book by Stovall Weems called *Awakening*. This book teaches about fasting as a way to connect to God and awaken our heart for Him. And then it guides you through ways of fasting for three weeks.

**Do you want to get healthier physically in 2012?** There are all sorts of ways to get healthier; whether with exercise, or diets like Weight Watchers, Jenny Craig, or P90X. But true physical health is tied to our emotional and Spiritual health as well. So come and join our study called Take Back Your Temple starting after the first of the year. This is a small group study that's not just about losing weight, but about being a good steward of the body that God has created for you. Come and join your Spiritual brothers and sisters and work together to better manage our bodies.

**Do you want to get into the Word more in 2012?** Starting at the end of January, our entire church will be working together to study our Bible more through 40 Days in the Word. We are going to be studying Scripture in Sunday School classes, small groups, and Sunday morning worship for those 40 days. And we're so committed to getting everyone involved in learning more about God's Word, that during that time, we will not have any scheduled committee, board, or ministry team meetings. We want everyone to free up their time to get involved in a small group and grow in your Biblical literacy.

**Do you want to do more for others?** We continue to work to make available information so that you can get involved in service throughout our community. At the back of our sanctuary and in our service, we will continue to encourage being the hands and feet of Jesus through service to others. We are always looking for more ways to serve, so grab a friend and go serve at Community Action, Fellowship Cup, Habitat for Humanity, ClubM Mentoring, or help a neighbor shovel their walk. Service doesn't just help others, it helps us to grow and makes us more like Christ.

So let's start out this new year right. Let's make some resolutions for the new year. And make sure you get involved with the opportunities we have available to grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ.

## ~ STUDIES ~

### Awakening Study

As you look forward to the new year, are you looking for a way to draw closer to God individually? After giving fasting a try this fall, you may be ready to try a 3 week fast at the start of the year.

“Awakening” by Stovall Weems is a great self-study book on the practice of fasting and praying. It includes a section on choosing our fast and 21 days of devotional readings. Sign up in the foyer for a copy of the book, \$12 each. Hear God’s voice and feel His presence like never before!

### TAKE BACK YOUR TEMPLE

"Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Let's learn together how to reach our best weight and maintain it for life. We will strengthen our relationships with God and renew our minds to transform our bodies and lives!! Please join us in this 8-week course!! Class materials are \$30. Please contact Lindsey Myers at 931-4773 for more information.

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### QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17  
7:00 PM

All are encouraged to attend.

Annual Reports will be handed out during the meeting.



**Watch** the after Christmas sales and pick up some good bargains for next year's Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes.

## Pure Water Essential in Haiti

Journal by *Dennis Shewell* December 2, 2011



Report 2 - This the second of a series of reports of my trip leading a team to Haiti Nov 14 – 21, 2011

### **More Pure Water Available in Haiti**

The Bible has a lot to say about water. In Matthew giving water to the thirsty was a show of our love of the Lord and likened to giving to Him. In John Jesus tells all that are thirsty to come to him and never be thirst again.

We know that water is essential to life but unclean water is the biggest killer on the planet, especially to young children. So many young children die before the age 5 that many developing country parents don't even name them until they reach that milestone. In Haiti it is common to call them “ti chape” which translates into “My little escapee”.

The Nzunga & Kihomi MPT is very fortunate to have Terry Bivens-Fry on our team. She was one of the first to volunteer to join us and is an expert in water purifiers. She has been part of New Life International water purifiers as both a volunteer and employee for many years. Her experience of installing these lifesaving devices and training locals to run them is extensive, traveling all over the world.

Since the earthquake 13 purifiers have been installed by Terry and another one of our MPT members, Les Roberson, who has been trained by Terry on the device.

We planned on checking the ones already there and to install two more that were sponsored by members of the group going with us. We installed one at a church that was making the water available to the residents of the area around their church. The second one was installed in a senior citizens home operated by the pastor of a near by church. Terry has trained a local to install and help with problems if they arise. This simple device can purify up to 50 gallons a minute using only a car battery and table salt. If you want to learn more go to

[www.waterfortheworld.com](http://www.waterfortheworld.com).

It was great to see the interest and enthusiasm of the Haitians receiving these purifiers. The cholera epidemic has made them all aware of the need for pure water. We work thru the Haitian Baptist Convention to decide where they are installed.

Please pray that the Haitians will continue to use them even if the cholera situation improves.

Pray that those receiving them will promote there use and keep them maintained.

Pray that the churches, schools and clinics that have them will use the unconditional love demonstrated by the Christian's who donated the purifiers to show Christ's unconditional love for them.

## The Influence of Missionaries - Report 1

Journal by [Dennis Shewell](#) November 27, 2011



I just returned from Haiti where I led a group of 10 others to learn first hand about Nzunga's and Kihomi's ministry there. We had a diverse group ranging in age from 26 to 75. Five ABC churches were represented along with one Catholic church, one large New Albany IN church and one large Louisville KY church. This is the first of several reports of my thoughts and observations of this trip.

### **The influence of long term missionaries.**

We were met at the airport in Cap-Haitian by Nzunga after a 2 1/2 hour flight from Ft Lauderdale. Nzunga wore a badge that allowed him access to anywhere in the airport. As friends of Nzunga we were quickly put thru customs and out of the airport. Our baggage arrived four hours later on another flight but again since we were with Nzunga there was no checking of bags and no fees.

For the remainder of the trip this was played out again and again. We were met most places we went by past students of his in their long sleeve shirts and ties. This is a status symbol in Haiti and means you are a college grad and have a position of responsibility. At the schools we visited, the new hospital being built, when we were at the border of the Dominican Republic it was the same; special privileges for friends of Nzunga.

Kihomi's work with the women of the Haitian Baptist Convention was also evident everywhere. Papa Fred was with us who is the husband of Mama Sharon. Mama Sharon supports Kihomi's work by sending large amounts of items that ladies love. Most items can not be purchased in Haiti or the ladies can't afford them if they are. When we would introduce Papa Fred and tell who he was we would get a big reaction. Many would hold up something they had received from her or point to their clothing.

It seemed as if we could not go anywhere, even driving down the street, that there would not be someone shouting a greeting to one or both of them.

In a country that it is easy to see the overwhelming problems, what a wonderful testimony of goodwill and love they have created in northern Haiti. Who they are and what they stand for was evident from when we landed to when we left.



May all the blessings of the Lord  
be yours at Christmas and in the  
new year.

From the Region Staff:  
*Marshall, Soozie, June, Becky*

### **Do You Like to Play with Kids?**

Great! We have some wonderful kids in the nursery that would love to play with you...just let Katie know and she'll put you on the schedule!!!



If the weather should become inclement on a Sunday, a decision to cancel Sunday School and Worship will be made by 8:45 that morning. It will be announced on KILJ 105.5 FM and 1130 AM. It will also be put on the church's answering machine and on the church's website.





# January 2012

## January Birthdays

Mark Crull	2
RuthAnn McKeegan	3
Jerratt Norton	3
Ethan Mullenix	9
Jim Scott	10
John Riley	11
Mersihda Dyer	13
Jeremy Mullenix	13
Jean Van Syoc	13
Dave Hennessee	14
Tina Kreutner	16
Nhoth Myers	18
Gerry Barton	19
Anthony Lentz	19
Karen Anderson	22
Bessie Smith	23
Mansel Beavers	27
Maxie Bagles	30
Kayleigh Septer	30

## January Anniversaries

Richard & Rama Dorothy	21
Thomas & Mersihda Dyer	23

*Please inform the church office of any birthday or anniversary additions or corrections.*

## January Communion

Preparer: Carol Collett  
Servers: Bob Messer, Marge Burden  
Paul Olson & Judy Septer

Sun

Mon


Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<b>1</b>  10:30 am Worship & Communion	<b>2</b> Office Closed 7:00 pm Discipleship Team Meeting 7:00 pm Reach Team	<b>3</b> 10:00 am Coffee Hour @ Tazza Bella 11:30 am Ladies Lunch @ Jerry's 7:00 pm Deacons Meeting	<b>4</b> 6:45 pm BYG	<b>5</b> 10:00 am Prayer Meeting 4:00 pm Praise Team Practice 6:30 pm Seekers Circle	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	<b>9</b> 7:00 pm Missions Team Meeting 7:00 pm Reach Team	<b>10</b> 10:00 am Coffee Hour @ Tazza Bella 5:00 pm Finance Comm Meeting	<b>11</b> 6:45 pm BYG	<b>12</b> 10:00 am Prayer Meeting 4:00 pm Praise Team Practice 5:30 pm Circles of Support in Fellowship Hall	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 8:00 am Men's Ministry Breakfast
<b>15</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	<b>16 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY</b> 7:00 pm Reach Team	<b>17</b> 10:00 am Coffee Hour @ Tazza Bella 6:00 pm Trustees Meeting 7:00 pm Quarterly Business Meeting	<b>18</b> 6:45 pm BYG	<b>19</b> 10:00 am Prayer Meeting 4:00 pm Praise Team Practice	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 2:00 pm Explorer Post in Fellowship Hall	<b>23</b> Newsletter Deadline 7:00 pm Reach Team	<b>24</b> 10:00 am Coffee Hour @ Tazza Bella 7:00 pm Outreach Team Meeting	<b>25</b> 6:45 pm BYG	<b>26</b> 10:00 am Prayer Meeting 4:00 pm Praise Team Practice	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 10:00 am Coffee Hour @ Tazza Bella	