

# Bridge Builders Newsletter

Issue 509

2018 May

## Search Committee Update

Interim Pastor  
Claudia McCain

Director of  
Christian Education  
Gee Min Glaue

Administrative Assistant  
Leann Walters

Custodian  
Lisa Barker

This past month of April, the Search Committee started its third search in the ABC Minister Profile Database, and also attended the *Face to Face* event in Anderson Indiana. The third search yielded us over 75 candidates who are located in various places nationally. The search committee has been reviewing those profiles to determine with whom we will make contact regarding FBC's full-time pastor position. The *Face to Face* event was very beneficial for the committee. We reviewed other churches' material. We met with the MMBB and ABC staff. We had short interviews with eight clergy candidates, and are considering those candidates as part of our third search. Those candidates are also considering our church. In this month of May, we will continue discussions with clergy candidates we met at *Face to Face*. We will also finish reviewing and making contact with candidates we obtained in our third search of the ABC Minister Profile Database.

Thank you for all of you who have contributed to support the Search Committee's trip to the Face to Face event. As we contact candidates, and potentially invite a select few candidates to visit our church, we will continue to incur expenses. We pay for candidates' travel and meal expenses when they visit Macomb, as directed to do so by the ABC regional procedures. We appreciate your continued prayer and financial support.

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We petition your prayers this month as we review and interview candidates. Please pray over the clergy candidates we will be contacting and meeting with. And please continue to pray over your Search Committee. It is your prayers that lead us.

Thank you.  
Russell Glaue  
Pastoral Search Committee Chair

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## Interim Pastor's Article

### Opening Prayer Leaders

**May 6**

*Judy Hurt*

**May 13**

*Gerald Jones*

**May 20**

*Bob Babcock*

**May 27**

*Justin Derry*

**June 3**

*Wayne Melvin*

**June 10**

*Jane Coplan*

**June 17**

*Judy Hurt*

**June 24**

*Richard Hurt*

### Candle Lighters

**May 6**

*Taylor Richardson*

**May 13**

*Mykel Glaue*

**May 20**

*Kyler Glaue*

**May 27**

*Celena Mangalaraj*

**June 3**

*Grace Chenoweth*

**June 10**

*Taylor Richardson*

**June 17**

*Abigail Wallace*

**June 24**

*Jaydn Glaue*



### New Life

I love spring; I love fall. I do not like winter – too cold, and I do not like summer – too hot. My husband and I laugh because I seem to have a 2-degree comfort zone. Anything below 76 degrees and I'm freezing. Anything above 78 degrees and I'm too hot. (But then again, you all know that I am somewhat different!)

Fall is my favorite season. I love the smell of the harvest. I love the angle of the sun. I love the fall colors. Closely behind fall is my love of spring. I love the promise of new life: flowers blooming, trees budding and I start to thaw from my long winter freeze.

Winter lasted far too long this year. I was afraid when I went to Florida last week, that I would miss spring entirely and return only to find summer in all of its heated glory. Thank goodness that was not the case. So now, I'm once again marveling at the miracle of new life. Yes, the flowers are beautiful and it is so good to see green grass again, but the trees...ah the trees! To me, they are the most fascinating part of spring. I understand the concept of trees being dormant during the winter months. But that doesn't diminish the miracle. The fact that tree, upon tree, upon tree can survive winter is a miracle to me. Consider that they are frozen solid, at least the portion above ground level, for most if not all of the winter. And yet, miraculously, when spring comes and temperatures warm, the tree "wakes up" and we see new life. That to me is a miracle that I never tire of seeing each spring.

You know, God does the same with you and me. You were once dormant. Your thoughts, your actions, your passion seemed suspended, slowed down. Your thoughts took you directions God would not approve, your actions did not reflect Christ, your passions were misdirected. That was BC – Before Christ. Then you met Jesus and He became your Savior. Paul writes: This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! (2 Corinthians 5:17, NLT) And the miracle of spring arrives but this time it was you who awoke to new life.

God describes it this way: <sup>26</sup>I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. <sup>27</sup>And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations. (Ezekiel 36:26-27, NLT) Spring arrives – new life, new you!

But, God is not done with creating new. John writes in Revelation 21:4-5 (NLT) <sup>4</sup>God will take away all their tears. There will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All the old things have passed away." <sup>5</sup>Then the One sitting on the throne said, "See! I am making all things new." Ah, we look to the day and the promise of yet another spring and, once again, new life.

To God be the glory!

Claudia McCain  
Interim Pastor

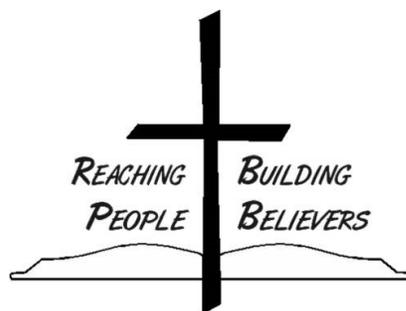
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## ***Sermon Series***

### **Dealing with the Tough Stuff April-June Message Series**

Despite our deep-seated and very natural desires for a trouble-free, happy and secure existence, people everywhere face family struggles, financial crises, debilitating diseases, and crushing disappointments. It is always something! Because we're human, we're all going to struggle with the tough stuff. Yet as Christians, we've been given all we need in order to face even the most frightening, unexpected, and overwhelming obstacles. During this series of messages, we will explore some of the fears that are holding so many of us back and ways we can better deal with the tough stuff.

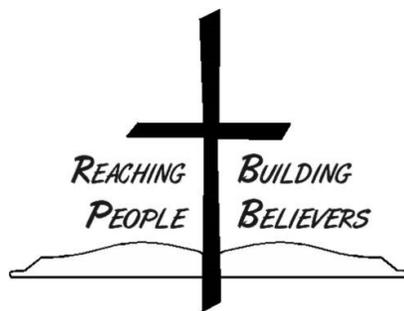
- May 6**      Dealing with Misunderstanding, Pastor Claudia
- May 13**     Mother's Day, Pastor Claudia
- May 20**     Dealing with Doubt, Russell Glaue
- May 27**     Memorial Day, Pastor Claudia
- June 3**      Dealing with Hypocrisy, Jim Richardson
- June 10**     Dealing with Pain, Pastor Claudia
- June 17**     Father's Day, Pastor Claudia
- June 24**     Dealing with Anxiety, Pastor Claudia



## **General Income & Expense Summary**

Month	Income*	Expenses
January	\$12,914.66	\$15,841.83
February	\$14,441.77	\$18,646.26
March	\$16,747.44	\$12,713.81
April	\$14,557.30	\$10,424.13

- Includes Tithes, Offerings, Gifts, & Interest




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## **Birthdays & Anniversaries**

**June**

**May**

2—Cavitt Hollis  
 7—**Steve & Lavon Smart (a)**  
 15—Tyler Geltmacher  
 20—Peggy Foulk  
 22—**Don & Kathy Garlick (a)**  
 23—Ashley Derry  
 24—Norma Blake  
     Mike Foulk  
     Kathy Garlick  
 30—Mykel Glaue

4—Annetta Holt  
 12—Sharon Brown  
 13—Lillian Cooper  
 14—Allen Walters  
 16—Deena Mangalaraj  
 17—**George & Pam Sewell (a)**  
     **Rob & Lora Wallace (a)**  
 18—Larry Duvall  
     Isa Molina  
 19—**Bennie & Alice Arvin (a)**  
     **Cavitt & Ruth Hollis (a)**  
     **Gerald & Pat Jones (a)**  
 25—**Russell & Gee Min Glaue (a)**  
 29—Pastor Claudia McCain  
     **Joseph & Cassandra Shoemaker (a)**

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## ***Building Update***

We are beginning the last six months of our 2015 New Beginnings Capital Campaign. Our pledge total was \$317,350.00. As of April 30, 2018, \$ 268,768.49 has been donated. You can contribute to the building fund by putting the amount of your donation on the line "Building Fund" on an offering envelope. Money designated there will go to our monthly loan payment of \$6640.12 and toward completing Phase I of the project. Be in prayer about what you can give. Let us work toward meeting or exceeding our goal.

Looking for volunteer opportunities? Come join us on Saturday mornings to help complete the east end of the building. Even if you can only spare a couple of hours, your help and encouragement are appreciated. Drywall mudding, sanding, cleaning and painting are some of the current tasks. We are also needing help moving material from some of the rooms to the storage areas and getting a floor prepared to seal. We have also started to do some outside work. You may have noticed the addition of 2 red maple trees and the filling of some of the potholes.

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."--2 Corinthians 9:7.

Judy Hurt  
Capital Campaign Follow-up Director

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## ***Church Board Summary***

This past month The Board met on April 10th. Items discussed/completed this month were:

- The board discussed the purchase of handrails for the platform in the sanctuary.
- The forms for member and non-member use of the building were updated. A set-up fee was added to the form to cover overtime costs. The amount will be determined based on the request.
- The cost of the *Face to Face* event was discussed. It was agreed to collect a special offerings to defray the cost. Thank you to everyone who has contributed.
- A church van use policy was adopted.
- Transportation of children for VBS was discussed. Policies and procedures need to be created to address this ministry before using the van for this purpose.

We would appreciate your prayers as the board conducts the business of the church.

Rich Sample  
FBC Board Chairperson

# Grace & Peace

News from Alan & Whitney in Athens Greece

April 2018

You may be wondering what has happened to us, but we hope you have been receiving our emails since our last newsletter! *If not, please let us know your email by writing to ours at [awbrown5@yahoo.com](mailto:awbrown5@yahoo.com).*

We have been busy traveling ever since we arrived back in November speaking at churches, getting additional training, and visiting family and friends along the way. We are often asked where we are "based." This is one of the first times in our 25 years of ministry that we do not have a "base," unless you are referring to our mini-van! We feel like traveling gypsies, amazed by God's provision and surprises! As we write this letter, we are finishing our longest visit in one place, enjoying the warm sunshine of Saint Petersburg Florida. We will spend most of our remaining time on the East Coast, making our way up to NY to help Amber get ready for the wedding this summer.



## Pray for...

- Safety and continued protection over our health as we travel;
- Opportunities to be best prepared for the ministry ahead;
- New partners, both in prayer and financially;
- Wisdom and direction to best help Amber prepare for the wedding and marriage;
- For the Greek churches to be faithful and bold; for the Muslim refugees to find Jesus as their Savior;

We have purchased our tickets to return to Athens at the end of August!

We originally planned to return in late July after

Amber's wedding, but we have a good reason to delay it! God has been leading us to look for an organization to partner with that focuses on providing member care to missionaries and pastors overseas through hospitality, and still stay with United World Mission for the administrative issues (receipting, medical insurance, etc.). We are excited that He has lead us to partner with **Life Impact Ministries** ([www.lifeimpactministries.net](http://www.lifeimpactministries.net)) to develop the dream we believe God has given us for helping all missionaries in Europe, as well as the Middle East.

Throughout the summer and fall, we were seeking direction from God and getting counsel from others about the passion inside of us to help missionaries get rest and restored to stay and thrive in the work God has called them to. We will be transitioning into a larger home outside of Athens that will provide privacy and rest for workers that need to get away from their environment and spend time with God. This space will allow them to process with someone who understands them and walk with them towards renewal. We will provide debriefing, coaching, spiritual direction, rest and a healthy breakfast!

Please pray with us for God's continued direction and provision. Thank you for being a significant part of our lives and His work through us!

*Alan & Whitney Brown*

To donate online, go to <http://uwm.org/missionaries/31235>



◀ Apr 2018		May 2018					Jun 2018 ▶	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
		<b>1</b> 1:30 p.m. – American Baptist Women's Ministries Meeting at Lafayette Sq. 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. – Crown Reunion Group Women's Emmaus Bible Study in Room 16 6:00 p.m. – CAM Meeting	<b>2</b> 6:00 p.m. – Children's Church Leader's Meeting	<b>3</b> 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. – Weight Watchers in Room 21 6:00 p.m. – FBC Praise Team Practice (Sanctuary)	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 8:00 a.m. – Work Day at FBC 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. – Mus-ikgarten in Room 6		
<b>6</b> 8:00 a.m. – Early Bird Sunday School class 9:00 a.m. – Prayer in Room 11 9:30 a.m. – Worship 10:45 a.m. – Sunday School classes	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 6:30 p.m. – Meeting of the Church Board in Room 11	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. – Weight Watchers in Room 21 6:00 p.m. – FBC Praise Team Practice (Sanctuary)	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 8:00 a.m. – Work Day at FBC 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. – Mus-ikgarten in Room 6		
<b>13 MOTHER'S DAY</b> 8:00 a.m. – Early Bird Sunday School class 9:00 a.m. – Prayer in Room 11 9:30 a.m. – Worship 10:45 a.m. – Sunday School classes 2:00 p.m. – Worship at Grand Prairie	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 1:00 p.m. – Staff Meeting 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. – Crown Reunion Group Women's Emmaus Bible Study in Room 16 6:30 p.m. – Children's Sunday School Leaders Meeting	<b>16</b> 11:30 a.m. – Lunch at Gelsosomo's	<b>17</b> 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. – Weight Watchers in Room 21 6:00 p.m. – FBC Praise Team Practice (Sanctuary)	<b>18</b> 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. – The Outlet at FBC	<b>19</b> 8:00 a.m. – Work Day at FBC 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. – Mus-ikgarten in Room 6		
<b>20</b> 8:00 a.m. – Early Bird Sunday School class 9:00 a.m. – Prayer in Room 11 9:30 a.m. – Worship 10:45 a.m. – Sunday School (LAST DAY)	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. – Weight Watchers in Room 21 6:00 p.m. – FBC Praise Team Practice (Sanctuary)	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 8:00 a.m. – Work Day at FBC 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. – Mus-ikgarten in Room 6		
<b>27 SUNDAY SCHOOL DIS-MISSED FOR THE SUMMER</b> 9:00 a.m. – Prayer in Room 11 9:30 a.m. – Worship	<b>28 MEMORIAL DAY</b> Church Closed	<b>29</b> 1:00 p.m. – Staff Meeting 6:00 p.m. – CAM Meeting	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. – Weight Watchers in Room 21 6:00 p.m. – FBC Praise Team Practice (Sanctuary)				

**First Baptist Church**

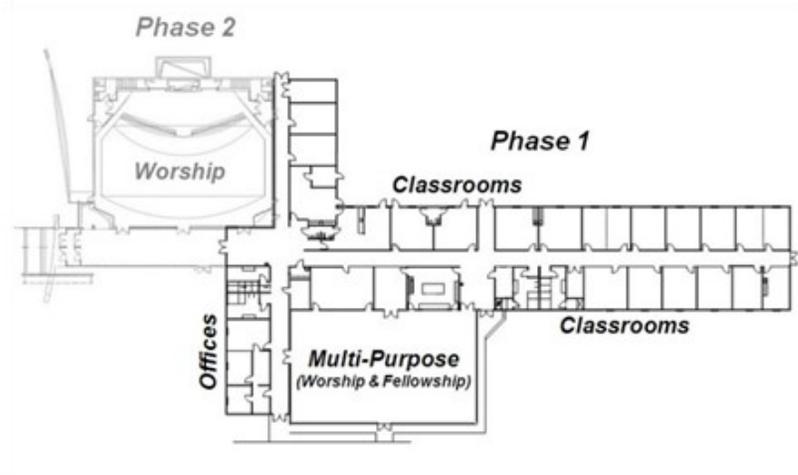
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Macomb, Illinois 61455  
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[www.fbcmacomb.com](http://www.fbcmacomb.com)



## Our New Worship Center

1515 S. Candy Lane, Macomb, IL



### Our Mission

*Reaching People—Building Believers*

### Our Vision and Purpose

*To encourage and empower changes within ourselves  
to meet the needs of the congregation,  
community and the world*

*Philippians 4:13, James 2:26*

### Please Join Us!

**Worship—Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m.**

**Sunday School—Sunday mornings at 10:45 a.m.**

**Find us on the web at [www.fbcmacomb.com](http://www.fbcmacomb.com)**

**Podcasts of the weekly message can be heard or  
downloaded by clicking on the Podcast link on the home page.**