

The Messenger

A Monthly Newsletter of First Baptist Church of Rochester

July 2016
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175 Allens Creek Road . Rochester, NY 14618 . (585) 244-2468

www.fbcrochester.net

Keep watch over yourselves
and all the flock...

Act 20:28

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In his book, *Wishful Thinking*, Frederick Buechner lists three basic views of pastors.

First, pastors are nice people. They'll take a drink if you offer them one, and when it comes to racy stories, they can tell a few right along with the best of them. They preach good sermons, but they're not like those religious fanatics who think they've got to say a prayer every time they pay a call. They make people feel comfortable in their presence by showing them they've got their feet on the ground like everybody else. They reassure them that religion is something you should take seriously, but not go overboard with.

Second, pastors have their heads in the clouds. Their morals are unimpeachable, and if you should ever happen to use bad language in their presence, you apologize. They keep things like sex, politics, race, and alcoholism out of their sermons. Their specialty is religion, and they're wise enough to leave other matters to people who know what they're talking about.

Third, pastors are as anachronistic as alchemists or chimney sweeps. Like Tiffany glass or the queen of England, their function is primarily decorative.

Where do you rest on this continuum? What is your view of pastors? Buechner goes on to remind his readers that the first pastors were the twelve disciples. He says there's no evidence that Jesus chose them because they were brighter or nicer than other people. In fact the New Testament record suggests they were continually missing the point, jockeying for position, and, when the chips were down, interested in nothing so much as saving their own skins. Their sole qualification seems to have been their initial willingness to rise to their feet when Jesus said, 'Follow me.'

I personally like that last description best. Pastors are human beings, with different likes and dislikes, different strengths and weaknesses, and yet all of us are willing to rise to our feet when Jesus calls.

Marshall Shelley is director of the Doctor of Ministry program at Denver Seminary and contributing editor of CTpastors.com. Shelley points out that the term 'pastor' comes from the Latin word for 'shepherd,' the metaphor used in both Old and New Testaments for one responsible for God's people. The primary shepherd/pastor is the Lord himself (Psalm 23), but the Bible also recognizes human under-shepherds.

The New Testament instructs pastors to be good shepherds. "Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock," writes Paul. "Savage wolves will come in among you. ... So be on your guard!" (Acts 20:28-31).

Peter tells pastors to willingly be "examples to the flock. And when the Great Shepherd appears, you will receive a crown of glory" (1 Peter 5:3-4).

So the Bible presents pastoring primarily as protecting and feeding God's people and being an example to them of a living faith. Over the centuries, these functions have developed into specific and distinct roles.

Leith Anderson says, "Pastors have always faced high demands, but in the last two generations the level of expectations has rapidly risen. The internet has given easy access to the country's best preachers—and local pastors are often expected to compete. Pastors are expected to be masters of leadership, counseling, communication, management, finances, biblical truth, theological expertise, and current social issues. In a country with polarized politics, pastors struggle over which side to take or try to keep neutral—and, no option seems acceptable to all parishioners."

So the task of protecting and feeding the flock has widened, as has exemplifying a living faith.

Shelley believes pastors today should lead, preach, pray, disciple, reach out to people in the neighborhood, and manage. He says it's no coincidence that the root word of 'administration' is 'ministry.' Taking care of people means caring for the health of the congregation, and keeping the flock safe, legal, and financially sound.

FBCR is about to begin a new season of ministry under the leadership of a new pastor, Rev. Brent Bowden. As Rev. Bowden settles into his ministry here, I encourage you to pray for him each day. Remember – he is only human, but God has given him an inspired desire to serve God with you in the greater Rochester community. Together with God's help and your support, I am sure he will be able to define the realities FBCR is now facing, know the resources FBCR has for ministry, determine what direction God would have the church go in the future, and help all of you know what steps to take to get there.

The New Testament instructs him to protect and feed you and to be an example to you of a living faith. Pray earnestly for him and God will enable him to fulfill these responsibilities.

And please trust me when I say it has been a privilege for me to stand alongside you during this time of transition. Karen and I both thank you for the varied ways your love has touched and blessed our lives.

Blessings,

Cliff Houston
Interim Pastor, FBCR

OUR COMMUNITY

REACHING OUT TO OTHERS



The Brighton Food Depot

Consider purchasing one extra item each week when you shop. If each family donates four items a month we are sure to reach our goal each and every time.

For July 2016 we are collecting:
Mac 'n Cheese and Spaghetti Sauce

REMINGTON HUBBELL CIRCLE

Mission giving for over the summer months.

As you prepare for your travels over the summer, please consider picking up a few hygiene items for kits for Cameron Community Ministries(CCM). Next fall, they will be handy for packing new kits.



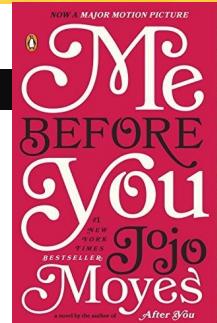
CCM is always seeking regular sock and underwear donations. For those who knit or crochet hats for children through adult, there is always a need come winter. All donations may be placed in the bins under the Vitality Table.

Remington Hubbell will meet again in October. See you then!

FBC BOOK CLUB

TUESDAY, JULY 26

The FBC Book Club will meet on the fourth Tuesday, July 26, at 11:30 AM at the church. The book for discussion is *Me Before You* by Jojo Moyes. It is a fictional story about a young woman who strives to make life meaningful for the quadriplegic in her care. You are invited to bring a sandwich and join the discussion.



Like a butterfly evolving, we must love each stage we pass through.

Please join the congregation of
The First Baptist Church of Rochester
as we celebrate Pastor Cliff Houston.

July 31, 2016 at 11 am
BBQ Style Lunch

Please RSVP: Sign up on the Vitality Table or contact the church office.

GOINGS ON

OCCURRENCES OF INTEREST

We will accept your
One Great Hour
Of Sharing gifts for
one more week.



Sunday, July 3
Worship 10:00 AM
Fellowship Time

Monday, July 4
Office Closed

Tuesday, July 5
Welcoming & Affirming Meeting 6:30 PM

Thursday, July 7
200th Anniversary Meeting 6:00 PM

Sunday, July 10
Worship 10:00 AM
Fellowship 11:00 AM

Monday, July 11
Library Team Meeting 9:30 AM

Thursday, July 14
RPC Dinner & Vespers 4:00 PM

Saturday, July 16
Rochester Gay Pride Parade
Marching 12:00 PM
Watching 1:00 PM

Sunday, July 17
Worship 10:00 AM
Fellowship 11:00 AM
Mission Meeting 11:00 AM

Sunday, July 24
Worship 10:00 AM
Fellowship 11:00 AM

Tuesday, July 26
Book Club 11:30 AM July's Book is *Me Before You* by Jojo Moyes

Sunday, July 31
Worship 10:00 AM
Celebration BBQ for Pastor Cliff & Karen Houston 11:00 AM

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THERE'S ACTIVITY!

As we work on the labeling and sorting phase of the library upgrade, please check around your home to see whether there are any FBC books that may need processing. You may leave them in the bin on the table in the library.

Library Team

PASTORAL SEARCH

OUR SEARCH LED TO A CALL

It is with great joy that the First Baptist Church of Rochester announces that Rev. Brent Bowden has accepted the call as our senior pastor. His first day of ministry with us will be August 1, 2016. Please join us in prayer for Pastor Brent and Anna and their ministry at First Baptist—Rochester. Also, add an extra prayer to ours for the purchase of their new home, with the packing, traveling, and setup that is to come, and for them as they get to know their new community.

Pastoral Search Committee

Richard Wien, JoAnn Trolley, Ken Hines, Rose Welch-Sparnecht, Amy Dickason, and Sarah Oaks

WELCOMING & AFFIRMING

GAY PRIDE PARADE—JULY 16, 2016

Come and celebrate gay pride.

The Welcoming and Affirming Committee of First Baptist Church will be marching in the Rochester Gay Pride Parade on **Saturday, July 16, 2016**. We will be behind the banner announcing "American Baptists in the Rochester Genesee Region." At this time, Lake Avenue Baptist, Immanuel Baptist, and First Baptist Church have indicated they will participate in this parade.

Parade Details: The parade route is Park Avenue from Alexander Street to Culver Road. **Line-up begins at 12:00 PM and Step-off is 1:00 PM** at Culver Road. From there it is a short walk to the Pride Festival in Cobbs Hill Park.

We expect to have vehicles for those who would rather ride than walk. One can be a spectator anywhere along this route. There is a sign-up sheet on the Vitality Table. There will be more information available as the date gets nearer. Come and join other members of First Baptist for this exciting event.

For more information: Committee members you can talk with: Lynn McClellan, Marge Forth, Chuck Sparnecht, Rose Welch, Don Hawbecker, Marcia McCarthy, and Mark Harnischfeger

Rochester Pride Parade at <http://www.gayalliance.org/pride-parade/>

RENOVATIONS UNDER WAY

Around the second or third week of July, the parking lot will have some repair work completed. During this work and as it "cures," the Allens Creek Entrance and in front of the clothing shed will be closed for about one week. We will send out a notice when we know the exact days. Thank you for your patience as we all use our Clover Street Entrance. The Trustees