

Baptist Beacon

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DIXON

PASTORS BUNYAN & RACHEL COCAR

815-284-6823 - FBCDIXON.COM



Pastor's Page

Walking With Jesus

It was a rainy overcast day as I walked back to the hospital from the mechanic. Rachel's car needed some work and we forgot to take it over there together. So she drove to work as usual and I came later that morning to switch cars. I drove her car to the mechanic then walked back to mine. As I walked back the half a mile or so, I realized I had not walked in too long. My legs were sore as I walked slowly up the hill by Oakwood Cemetery. The woodpeckers were in full volume and the trees were dripping from their early morning shower. Then I noticed it, a huge stump in a front yard of a random house. That tree must have been massive and very old. That tree must have seen some things. It was several feet in diameter so maybe 200 years old, maybe more. That tree was around during the hay day of Dixon. It was probably a young tree when Chief Blackhawk and his tribe lived in this area. That stump made me nostalgic for days gone by. It seems to me that history can lead us to faith.

In Ecclesiastes 3 we read, "He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. God wants us to search for Him, to know Him, to be curious. History makes us curious about the world. We want to know what was it like to live 200 years ago, 500 years? What was it like around the world back then? These things interest me tremendously. I believe that God made this world so wonderful and interesting, and beautiful. It is a shame not everyone appreciates it more. We can't understand what God has done, we can't grasp the wisdom or time it took to create this world. But we can appreciate and care for this world with all its trees and rivers and animals. We can preserve it and protect it from those who would exploit it.

(Continued on p.4)

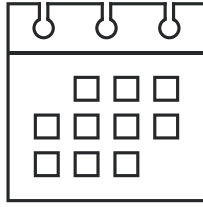
Weekly Meetings

Sunday Morning
Sunday School
9:15am
Worship
10:30am

Tuesday Morning Bible Study
9:00am

Wednesday Night Meeting
6:00pm

3rd Wednesday Dorcas Meeting
1:00pm



Coming Events

April

- 2nd - Joint Maundy Thursday Service at First Presbyterian
- 3rd - Joint Good Friday Service at First Baptist
- 5th - Easter Service 10:30am
Breakfast at 9:30am
- 25th - Trivia Night - 5:30pm

May

- 2nd - Men's Breakfast - 9am
- 4th - Elder Board - 6pm
- 7th - Women & Girls' Banquet
- 20th - DHS Bacclaureate Service
7pm
- 21st - Pentecost Prayer Vigil @ St. Patrick's
- 31st - Friendship Sunday

Men's Breakfast Change

The Men's Breakfast has changed from 4/25 to 5/2 and will be at the church instead of Mary's Diner.

9AM



- 12 - Jo Ann Jordan
- 20 - Bunnie Heath
- 22 - Susan Sperling
- 22 - LeAnn Angleton
- 24 - Bill Cruse
- 28 - Bill Flynn
- 30 - Connie Potter

We are working to update birthdays and anniversaries, please let us know if we missed you or a family member!



Meet Your Missionaries

Follow this link for a complete list of our International Ministries global partners:
<https://internationalministries.org/international-ministries-global-servants/>



Prayer Requests

New Health Issues

- Bunnie has an upcoming surgery
- Kaitlyn's friend Chelsea's dad has cancer
- Those with chronic illness and who are immuno-compromised
- Those struggling with mental health issues

Other Concerns

- Our nation
- Our service men and women
- Unspoken requests
- Food Insecurity
- Friends & family members of our church
- Peace around the world and in our country
- Those with depression
- That leaders would rise up in the church
- Those with financial concerns

Praise

- For Steve Spera and Glory Rogers on their baptisms on Easter Sunday and Genevieve Rogers on her dedication!



Continue to Remember

Condolences

- Deepest sympathies to Carla and Jerry Pauser for the loss of Jerry's father, Don.
- Deepest sympathies to the Taylor family for the loss of Duke.

- Bunnie & Darrel Heath
- Bill & Joyce Cruse
- Lance Lopez
- Kaitlyn Marschang
- Pat Soulon
- Jim & Arden Olsen
- Katrina Shirley
- Dale Beeman
- Angie Gomes
- Nina Mardaus
- Pam Vivian
- Devin Beard

Sunday Morning Statistics

February Giving

| | <u>Current Offering</u> | <u>Missions</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1 st | \$1,669.00 | \$75.00 | \$2,239.00 |
| 2 nd | \$2,019.00 | \$70.00 | \$2,089.00 |
| 3 rd | \$3,308.00 | \$50.00 | \$3,358.00 |
| 4 th | \$1,464.00 | \$160.00 | \$1,674.00 |

*For reference, we need approximately \$3,000 a week to stay on track with our annual budget

Pastor's Page (continued)

The Artemis II space mission has brought back some absolutely stunning pictures of earth and the rest of our solar system. But one thing it did not encounter is life. Maybe someday. As of now, all the life in the universe is located in one place. Life is found nowhere else. Earth is special, it contains all the life in the universe. All life is precious, from plants to animals to human beings because life is so rare in the universe. Can we appreciate that some things appear to be commonplace but are actually rare in the universe. Life is rare in the universe.

Wood for example, is more rare than gold. Wood might seem common to us; but across the universe it is not found. However, traces of gold and diamonds have been found in meteorites. Some scientists hypothesize that wood may be more scarce than gold in the universe. We don't appreciate wood but we continue to value gold and diamonds. Life is only found on this planet. God has made us special. God has also put a sense of curiosity in us. A curiosity about the past and the future and about life in general. What will 2030 be like, what about 2100, some of you might still be around. My sons would be in their 90s. Will our church still be here? I hope so.

I want to encourage us to look around, to be curious, to appreciate this good world. It is special, and unique. Some might call us privileged. It's a privilege to be alive, to have friends, to have a purpose, to be busy, to live. Each day we have choices to make, which are privileges. What should I do today? I get to choose my attitude, my words, my responses, and how I spend my time. We are privileged to be a part of God's family, and to know the love of Jesus. This is the world that Jesus made for us. He is the Logos of God, the voice of God. "Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made." (John 1:3) Jesus made this good world for us. I hope we can appreciate it, and take care of it. We ought to use our intellect to learn about the world, so we can appreciate it, and when we learn how beautiful it is, we realize it is no accident. This will often lead us to faith in God. No one who studies the intricacies of the human eye will ever claim it was an accident.

So, if you see a stump or a large tree today, let your curiosity lead you down the rabbit hole of thoughts about eternity. Then maybe go plant more trees.

Peace,

Pastor Bunyan



First Baptist Church's
Women & Girls' Banquet

Hats Off!

TO THE ABW



MAY 7TH

6pm

Tickets:

Adult: \$10

Grab your best hat and join us for a night of food, fellowship, and fun as we honor the legacy of the American Baptist Women at FBC Dixon



DO YOU NEED PERSONAL HYGIENE OR INFANT SUPPLIES?

DIGNITY DRIVE OF DIXON HAS:

- TAMPONS**
- PADS**
- LINERS**
- DIAPERS (FOR ALL AGES)**
- BABY FORMULA**
- WIPES**

Thanks to a collective effort made by the community and local churches, all of these items are available right now on an emergency need basis for free, no qualifying forms to fill out. There is a limit of one visit per month and in order to keep track of our donation supplies we'll ask for some very basic information, but that information will be kept confidential and not used for any other purpose.

The Dignity Drive is a ministry operated out of the First Baptist Church of Dixon in collaboration with the Church of the Brethren and The Worship Center.

For questions or more info, or to schedule a time to pick up supplies, check out our Facebook page **Dignity Drive of Dixon** and send us a message or call Pastor Cassie from First Baptist at **816-813-4925** (yes, 816, not a typo)

If you wish to donate any of the above supplies they can be dropped off in the blue tote outside the front doors of First Baptist Church (111 E. Second St. in Dixon) any time of the day.