

# First Baptist Church of Macomb

## Bridge Builders Newsletter

Issue 426

May 2011

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*Inside this issue:*

Senior Pastor's Article	2
Birthday's & Anniversaries	2
General Income & Expense Summary	4
Sermon Series	5

### BUILDING UPDATE

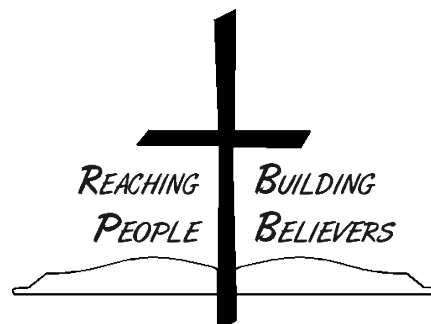
The building team is scheduling a meeting to present its progress to the congregation on May 22nd at 6:00pm. FBC must come to a conclusion on the construction plans before we can break ground and begin construction.

This past month the building team has continued to work with the architect and other professionals to devise the best plan and most cost effective solution for building the new church. There has been progress in devising the technical implementation in the building plans. It is in every effort that the new building is wisely planned, but also efficient and able for service on the first day we open the doors.

We have secured grants, are looking into obtaining more grants, and are beginning to receive money from other ABC churches. The team is connecting with other groups in the state which provide assistance, or which FBC can partner with in the design and construction of our building. Also, now that we have obtained grants, FBC is under a timeline for construction.

We pray earnestly that FBC follows close to God's will so that we are prepared and ready to serve wisely with the resources He has given us.

Please pray with us, and for us, now. Please make every effort to attend the May 22nd meeting, and be ready to ask questions. God will speak His will through our Unity. Let's work together to bring this planning stage to a close so we can move forward towards breaking ground this year.





## Senior Pastor's Article

God's blessings for me (us) are like the sand by the sea

The Bible says in **Genesis 22:17 (NLT)** <sup>17</sup> **I will certainly bless you. I will multiply your descendants beyond number, like the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will conquer the cities of their enemies.** Through that passage of scripture I believe that God is saying that His blessings for me (us) are like the sand by the sea. Blessings are special gifts from God, including special things he does for people. Abraham wanted God to bless him with children. God told Abraham that his kids and grandkids, great-grandkids and everyone else born into his family would number more than the grains of sand by the sea. God has blessings for us too. He

gives us jobs to supply us with income and family and friends to love us. God also gives us his Word to guide us and encourage us. With all of that in mind, I would like to challenge you to write down your blessings from God. Be specific: list each friend separately, name each person in your family, and so on. Each time you think of a new blessing, add it to your list. God gives everyone who believes in Him as many blessings as there are grains of sand by the sea. Isn't that amazing? Start counting your blessings today.

I do look forward to working and worshiping with you this month.

Pastor Wally

### Opening Prayer

#### Leaders

May 8

*Rob Wallace*

May 15

*Lora Wallace*

May 22

*David Harman*

May 29

*Dustin Lambert*

June 5

*Mike Foulk*

### Candle Lighters

May 8

*Tara Geltmacher*

May 15

*Johnson Wu*

May 22

*Brooks Wallace*

May 29

*Abigail Wallace*

June 5

*Leanne Jones*

## May Birthdays & Anniversaries

5—Wilbert & Mary Hoff (a)

7—Steve & Lavon Smart (a)

15—Tyler Geltmacher

17—Sandra Martin

18—Bill Sanders

20—Peggy Foulk

22—Don & Kathy Garlick (a)

23—Ashley Derry

24—Norma Blake

Mike Foulk

Kathy Garlick

28—David & Christina Harman (a)

29—Zelma Harman

### June

4—Annetta Holt

Jerry & Mary McKamy (a)

6—Robin Pittman

## Missions Corner by Meryl Cook

\$1029.04 has been received for the America for Christ Offering that was held during March. Our goal was \$1200. Thank you!

During the past 2010-2011 school year, scholarships were given to 7 students from the Sally Peck Memorial Fund by American Baptist Women's Ministries of the Great Rivers Region. Four of these students are graduating in May. Melissa Vivian and Chelsea McDonald are graduating from Judson and Megan Redden from Ottawa. Aldena Butler of Quincy completes her studies from Northern Baptist Seminary.

Sharon Farral of East Moline is Regional Associate of Student Aid and all applications go to her.

At the Missions Conference held April 8—9 at Cherry Hills in Springfield, Revs. Katie and Taku Longkumer, endorsed missionaries to Northeast India, spoke and announced they have above 90% of funds needed to go to India, hopefully this fall.

Over 100 boxes of books were given to the Used Book Depository to be distributed to Christian workers around the world.

Jack Smith had a van load of non-perishable food collected for Murrow Children's Home in Muskogee, OK. Betty Martin, Director of the Home, conducted one of the workshops. Bacone College Gospel Choir shared in worship Saturday morning.

Dr. Stanley Slade, Global Consultant for Theological Education, International Ministries, preached both days.

The Rev. Taku Longkumer was born in Northeast India in the 1950's in the jungle where records were not

kept. In contrast, Catherine Longkumer (Katie) grew up in Springfield, IL. They feel that God brought them together and each received a missionary call before they met.

Taku prepared for the ministry at the Eastern Theological College in Jorhot, Assam in Northeast India and was commissioned to work with the Nagaland Missionary Movement (NMM). He also served in Nepal, Sikkin, Bhatan and many areas in India. As part of his work, he was sent to Hawaii to partner with another mission organization, Youth With a Mission (YWAM), in 1982.

In the meantime, Katie was with YWAM in Brazil. She worked with churches in outreach ministries in the largest city in Brazil. She then worked in a day care program in the southeastern region of Brazil. She returned to the University of Illinois and completed her Bachelor of Social Works Degree before going to Hawaii for training with YWAM in 1982.

Taku and Katie then became part of a team that traveled to Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia and finally South India helping pioneer the YWAM short term evangelism discipleship training program. They were married in 1983.

In 1985 they moved to Northeast India where Taku held executive positions with the Nagaland Missionary Movement, and the Council of Baptist Churches. For the past 10 years they have lived in the US where both have earned seminary degrees. Presently, Taku is pastor of FBC in Farmington, IL and Katie is Interim Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in the same community. They are parents of three children, two sons born in Nagaland and a daughter in the US.

The once headhunting Nagas embraced the gospel with zeal and carried the good news to their neighboring tribes until all became Christian. In the early 1950's, missionaries were forced to leave the region, but the passion for mission was instilled in the new believers. They sent out their own missionaries and evangelists, planting churches throughout India and neighboring nations.

India has recently made changes in visa regulations which have limited the number of International Missionaries allowed to enter. Because Taku is a citizen of both India and the US and Katie is his wife, they have the privilege to live and work without visa problems. They provide training and counseling to prepare missionaries for cross-cultural ministry in reaching throughout India. This is the fulfillment of American Baptists Missionaries vision more than 170 years ago when they first ventured into the jungles of that part of the world.

American Baptist Churches USA Biennial June 24-26, San Juan, Puerto Rico

Pre-Biennial Mission trip to Haiti June 17-24

Post Biennial Mission trip to Dominican Republic June 27-July 5

### Birthdays:

May 5—Tom Myers, Belgium, Agricultural Missionary

May 7—Ed Noyes, Congo, Teaches Agricultural Students

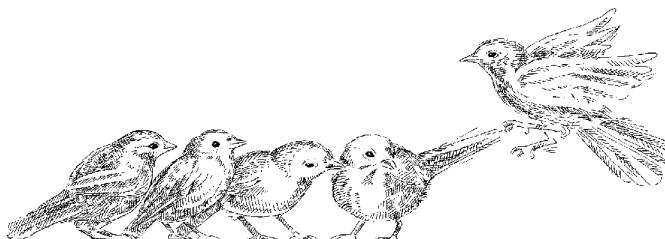
May 12—Mabudingle Nzunga, Haiti, Teaches Theology and Adm. Of Eye Clinic.

**Bible Book for May — Nahum**

## General Income & Expense Summary

Month	Income*	Expenses
January	\$13,707.38	\$16,565.06
February	\$17,235.90	\$16,077.06
March	\$16,362.72	\$16,414.93
April	\$13,081.73	\$15,649.54

- Includes Tithes, Offerings, Gifts, & Interest



## OUR CHURCH WELCOMES

### *New Members*

Please welcome new member Mantobaye Moundigbaye. He was born on December 22, 1980 in Maibogo, a family village in eastern Chad in Africa. He worked for the Chadian government as a statistician before coming to Macomb to pursue a Master's degree in Economics at Western Illinois University.

His conversion to Christianity took place in October of 1992, when he started high school at a protestant school in Bassada. In April of 1994, he was baptized and became a member of the Apostolic Church of Bessada. He was a choir member in his local church in N'Damena, and loves singing to God.

Please welcome new members Jack & Lori Clark. Jack works at Whalen Manufacturing driving the outside forklift loading and unloading semi-trucks. Lori is a housekeeper for the Elms Nursing Home. They have 2 children and 4.5 grandchildren. They were baptized at the Victory Baptist Church in Macomb. Their hobbies include going to late model car races and being with family. They met at the Macomb Race Track and started dating and the rest as they say is history. Jack is from Plymouth, IL and Lori has lived in Macomb her entire life.

#### Nursery Assistants

May 8  
Samantha Clark  
May 15  
Cassie Jones  
May 22  
Annetta Holt  
May 29  
Angie Richardson

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## Sermon Series

**May 8th**

*A Mother is Born*

### How to Strike It Rich

Perhaps there is something in all of us that wants to “strike it rich.” How else can one explain our compulsion with gambling, our obsession with the stock market, and our greedy search for more? A quick click on the Web will offer you numerous sites guaranteeing you the chance to get rich on the internet. Over the next few weeks I’d like to talk about “striking it rich”. I want to lead us not on a gold rush, but a soul rush where we will experience the incomparable riches of God’s grace. I want to remind us of the kindness of Christ Jesus, the one who satisfies our greatest hungers and quenches our deepest thirst. I would like to invite you to come and feast on the riches of God’s grace.

**May 15th**

*Encountering Incomparable Riches*

**May 22**

*Making Disciples—Intentionally*

**May 29th**

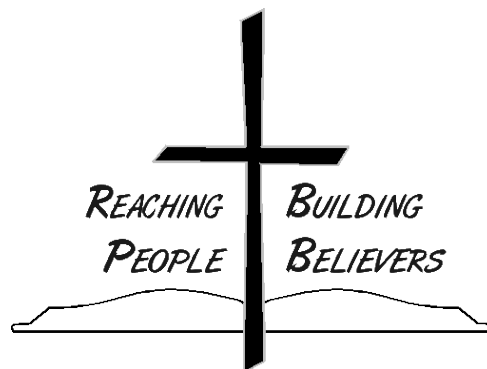
*Serving the Poor—Compassionately*

**June 5th**

*Developing Humble Leaders*

**June 12th**

*Reaching Up—Reaching Out*





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# THANK YOU!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

I want to thank everyone who helped and provided for the dinner that was given for my family after the funeral of my sister.

Thank you so much and God Bless You!

In Christ,

Vy Lucas and Family



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## ***Adopt a Highway Program***

We would like to alert you to the Men's Ministry *Adopt A Highway* program that we assist with four times a year. It involves our picking up trash along a two mile section of Route 67 South. Participants must be at least 10 years of age and be accompanied by an adult.

Won't you please consider joining us for such an important task? Just call the church office. There is a ten minute orientation film to view prior to your first clean up activity. Please contact Leann to set up a time to view this film.

Present Members of the *Adopt A Highway* program if you do NOT wish to take part this year please call the church office and let us know.

Thank you for past and future services to this Community Outreach Program.

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## **Opportunity to Serve**

Do you enjoy children? If so, would you be willing to assist in the nursery one Sunday every other month? There are no special qualifications, except that you love kids! If interested please sign up on the bulletin board outside the office or talk to a member of the CE Board!

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## ***Fall Rummage Sale***

September 23 & 24, 2011

At the 4-H building

Times to be announced

**First Baptist Church**

136 W. Carroll  
Macomb, IL 61455

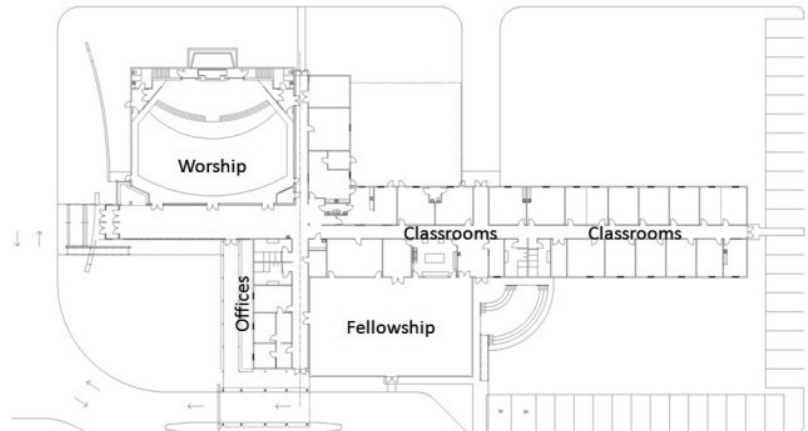
Phone: 309-833-2479  
E-mail: fbcsecretary@macomb.com

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



**Our New Worship Center**

1515 South 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 at 10:45 a.m.**

***Up With the Son*—Weekday mornings at 6:20 a.m. on K100—100.1**

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

**Podcasts of the weekly message and *Up With the Son* can be heard or  
downloaded from [podcasts.fbcmacomb.com](http://podcasts.fbcmacomb.com)**