

THE PINNACLE

First Baptist Church of Middlesboro, Kentucky

P.O. Box 839 606-449-5564 office@fbcmiddlesboro.org



A Snowy Church Scene



Celebrating Bill Hunter's 30th anniversary



Anna Myers and Rev. Zach Bay

Seeing, Observing, and Serving

WRITTEN BY REV. ZACHARY L. BAY

Gratitude to Mark and Debra Watson! They've felt the nudge of the Spirit in response to some of our newcomers in worship. After talking with Kristy (and by extension me) about it, the Watsons will be hosting a welcome lunch at their home for college and graduate school-aged folks who've been connecting with our church. It'll be on Sunday, February 18th after worship.

Calling the Watsons by name does not mean that I am discounting the rest of you, either. I am grateful for all that so many of you do. For instance...

Without the faithful Flower Committee, there would be no Christmas decorations in the church.

What's inside our latest issue:

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Recognizing Bill Hunter in worship

If the Fellowship Committee disbanded, we'd certainly long for the days when we had that great 30th-anniversary party for Bill Hunter.

The Children's Committee keeps our kids growing in spirituality and making those magical memories at church that will stay with them for a lifetime. The Sanctuary and Handbell Choirs of the church make worship rich and textured, moving us in ways that spoken words cannot.

The Deacons provide pastoral care and connection among members, ensuring that we live toward Christ's mandate to "feed the hungry, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, care for the sick, and visit the captive."



“ [Watson:] “When I hear you give your reasons,” I remarked, “the thing always appears to me to be so ridiculously simple that I could easily do it myself, though, at each successive instance of your reasoning, I am baffled until you explain your process. And yet I believe that my eyes are as good as yours.”

“Quite so,” [Holmes] answered, lighting a cigarette, and throwing himself down into an armchair. “You see, but you do not observe. The distinction is clear. For example, you have frequently seen the steps which lead up from the hall to this room.”

“Frequently.”

“How often?”

“Well, some hundreds of times.”

“Then how many are there?”

“How many? I don't know.”

“Quite so! You have not observed. And yet you have seen. That is just my point. Now, I know that there are seventeen steps, because I have both seen and observed.”

And speaking of “welcoming the stranger and visiting the captive,” without the ministry of our Women's Circle, we would not have baptized Xzavier Toney last fall or had a Christmas party for the rest of the guys at the Middlesboro Juvenile Justice Center.

In a great scene in *A Scandal in Bohemia*, Sherlock Holmes teaches Dr. Watson (no, the other one...) the difference between seeing and observing. See the quotation above.

I don't know about you, but I want to be sure in this new year full of potential that I follow the great Sherlock Holmes in seeing and observing all that happens and all that is good in our shared life together as church.

And, once I begin to see and observe, I'm going to ask myself: Where can I serve? Will you join me?



Anna Myer's baptism



Sharing music in worship



Micah Lee helping with his hands

Delight: So Much to Celebrate

WRITTEN BY REV. DR. KRISTY L. BAY

Both Zach and I have shared with the Wednesday night folks the New York Times article that encourages us to take time to intentionally stop and notice the things that delight us. Far too often, we allow our mental, spiritual, and emotional energy to be bound up in all the negative things...after all, it is FAR easier to notice and point to all that is wrong in our lives and in our world.

But there is something deeply spiritual, and redeeming, about intentionally looking for the things that bring you joy (DELIGHT!). For one, it cultivates an attitude of gratitude within us. For another, it helps remind us that we are NOT God, and we are not in control of everything. Finally, it can help course correct the way we approach our entire day! Imagine how different each day would be if we taught ourselves to seek out joy and delight.

Beloved, the same is true in the life of our church. There is so much to celebrate and delight in right now if we can pause and really SEE it.

I'll name a few things that I have noticed, celebrated, and delighted in as of late:

- We are welcoming new faces in worship and on Wednesday nights.
- We are connecting with new groups about Appalachian Immersion experiences this summer.
- We are celebrating having some college, graduate, and professional students in our midst.
- Our children's ministry is ACTIVE (to say the least). Our kids are experiencing important faith formation and know they are loved and valued members of our church.
- We baptized Anna Myers!
- So many of you offer your time and talents to provide rich, beautiful, and creative music during worship.
- We celebrated Billy Hunter's 30 years of service!
- Our beautiful facility is cared for by many, decorated intentionally by many, and used by many for all kinds of different activities.

Now... it's your turn! What are you celebrating? What is delighting YOU right now? What are you experiencing in the lift of our church that brings you joy? Feel free to text or email the staff to share it with us :) .

Congregational Calendar

Sunday, February 4

10:00 AM Whirl (Children)
10:00 AM Fellowship in the Foyer (Adults)
11:00 AM 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Monday, February 5

6:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday, February 6

9:30 AM Yoga with Becky Bowling

Wednesday, February 7

5:45 PM Dinner is Served
6:00 PM Wednesday Study & Prayer
7:15 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 8

9:30 AM Yoga with Becky Bowling

Sunday, February 11

10:00 AM Whirl (Children)
10:00 AM Fellowship in the Foyer (Adults)
11:00 AM Transfiguration of the Lord
12:15 PM Souper Bowl of Caring Lunch
Bring donations for CCM

Tuesday, February 13

9:30 AM Yoga with Becky Bowling

Wednesday, February 14

5:45 PM Dinner is Served
6:30 PM Ash Wednesday Service

Thursday, February 15

NO Yoga

Sunday, February 18

10:00 AM Whirl (Children)
10:00 AM Fellowship in the Foyer (Adults)
11:00 AM 1st Sunday in Lent

Tuesday, February 20

NO Yoga

Wednesday, February 21

5:45 PM Dinner is Served
6:00 PM Congregational Business Meeting
7:15 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 22

NO Yoga

Sunday, February 25

10:00 AM Whirl (Children)
10:00 AM Fellowship in the Foyer (Adults)
11:00 AM 2nd Sunday in Lent

Tuesday, February 27

9:30 AM Yoga with Becky Bowling
6:00 PM Venture Women's Circle

Wednesday, February 28

5:45 PM Dinner is Served
6:00 PM Wednesday Study & Prayer
7:15 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 29

9:30 AM Yoga with Becky Bowling

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus...work out your salvation in fear and trembling, for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Philippians 2:5, 12-13

Congregational Birthday List

February 1 - Joel Parker

2588 Wildwood Street
Boise, ID 83713

February 7 - Star Kyle

366 Nottingham Road
Lexington, KY 40517

February 8 - Barbara Asher

107 Shetland Lane
Versailles, KY 40383

February 10 - Jennifer Brooks

175 Whisper Ridge Drive
Port Matilda, PA 16870

February 11 - Bob Edinger

314 North 25th Street
Middlesboro, KY 40965

February 11 - Beth Parker

3 Wellington Court
Middlesboro, KY 40965

February 13 - Sherry Brumbach

122 Willow Street
Middlesboro, KY 40965

February 17 - Chloe McMurray

254 Springcreek Drive
Springfield, IL 62702

February 18 - Grayson David Cook

3225 Cumberland Avenue
Middlesboro, KY 40965

February 18 - Bill Burchfield

8 Thaxted Lane
Middlesboro, KY 40965

February 22 - Jack Pennington

1419 Queensbridge Drive
Knoxville, TN 37922

February 23 - John Lane

374 Lanes Path
Rose Hill, VA 24281

February 25 - Mildred Alexander

P.O. Box 957
Middlesboro, KY 40965

February 25 - Blake Barnett

101 Hebrew Cemetery Road
Middlesboro, KY 40965

February 27 - Chalk Stapleton

202 Summit Drive
Middlesboro, KY 40965

February 28 - Madison Lawson

316 Sugar Loaf Road
Seymour, TN 37865

February 28 - Debra Davis Wilson

714 Worchester Avenue
Middlesboro, KY 40965

March 1 - Cherry Stamper

165 Wellington Drive
Middlesboro, KY 40965

March 8 - Bill Hunter

251 South 45th Street
Middlesboro, KY 40965

O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Psalm 139:1, 5, 14

Congregational Photo Album



Bapstism of Anna Myers



Pastor's Bible Study



Celebrating Bill Hunter's faithful service for 30 years



Our children learning the stories of Scripture and putting them into practice in Whirl!



Admiring the talent of the Crater Quilters after their annual retreat at FBC.

I thank my God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. It is right for me to think this way...for all of you are my partners in God's grace. Philippians 1:3-4, 7