



"Lord, remind me how brief my time on earth will be. Remind me that my days are numbered, and that my life is fleeing away. My life is no longer than the width of my hand. An entire lifetime is just a moment to You; human existence is but a breath. We are merely moving shadows, and all our busy rushing ends in nothing. We heap up wealth for someone else to spend. And so, Lord, where do I put my hope?"

## SCRIBBLINGS FROM SCOTT

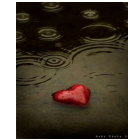
### LIVE FOR WHAT MATTERS

My only hope is in You." *Psalm 39:4-7*  
Over the past year we have experienced much loss at First B. Many people that many of us know well have died. That is flat out exciting for those folks who belong to Jesus! For us here, it leaves a hole. But one blessing for us is that in being close to death, we are reminded of the gift of life. We are reminded of what matters.  
David actually sang about death, prayed about death, that God would

remind him about it so he wouldn't waste the life that he lived. Psalm 90:12 puts it another way, "Teach us to make the most of our time, so that we may grow in wisdom."  
A good question for all of us—What am I living for? Let the question sink in. Ponder it in prayer. To help us answer the question, here are some other questions: What do I think about a lot? How do I spend my time? What do I do with money? What do I talk about the most? I am so glad our vision at

First B is simple, yet it matters—***With all we are loving God and loving people through Christ.*** I want to live for this! If we live for loving God and loving people in the name of Jesus, I believe we will have lived a life that matters, both now and eternally. The reality is that life here on earth is short and fragile. God is our only hope!  
What are you living for?  
-SCOTT  
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ISSUE 7

VOLUME 1

May-June 2009

# First Baptist Church

WITH ALL WE ARE, LOVING GOD AND LOVING PEOPLE THROUGH CHRIST

From the Desk of  
Pastor Rich...

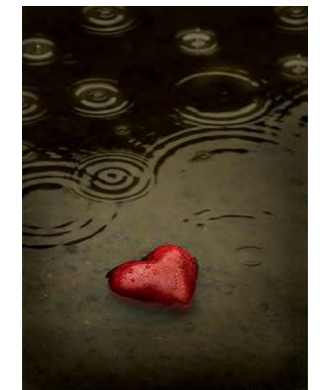
## Bodylife-#5 "Heart Cries"

Over the last year here at First B. we have witnessed an unusually concentrated time of grief. It has been an intense opportunity for all of us to demonstrate the reality of the Body of Christ. We would not have written such a script, but the Lord's ways are not ours.

We prefer to make choices that avoid pain and escape suffering, but God knows that only through such a matrix can we genuinely draw close to Him with a level of faith achievable in no other way. Paul's

eloquent summary of this is found in II Cor. 12:9—*"My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness."* Therefore," Paul concludes, *"I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me."*

These days remind me about the preciousness of God's plan to equip His people to serve one another in the Body. We are each different. We carry unique personalities and diverse gifting—all integrated by



God to enable us to become ministers of His grace.

Of the twenty spiritual gifts named in the New Testament, we know some were temporary and are no longer extant (I Cor. 13:8-12), but the rest provide the mechanism for the Body's growth and edification until the Day of Christ (Eph. 4:11-16).

Some people excel at teaching; others encouragement. Some organize; others serve. Some show

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mercy; others provide spiritual help. Gifts represent special areas of the Spirit's enabling, not exclusive ministries. Every one of us is equipped to engage others, and thereby exhibit our love for God as we love His people (I Peter 4:10).

How gratifying it has been through repeated cycles of grief to observe members of the Body nurturing one another. This is the Lord's heart—that "...the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together" (I Cor. 12:25-26).

What might the Lord be doing? Is He preparing us for an accelerated time of growth? Are we being trained through a season of sorrow to carry out our vision better than before?

We have set His calling before us: "With all we are, loving God and loving people through

Christ." Indeed, this reflects the law of Christ by which we live: *Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ* (Gal. 6:2). This reflects the commandment of Christ we are called to obey: *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another* (John 13:34). We dare not turn back.

I would remind each of us, as I remind myself, of one essential element. In the midst of heartbreak, in a storm of sorrow, we must be ever vigilant about loving the newcomers, the less familiar faces, whom God brings through our doors. They may be strangers; they may be folks "on the fringe." But, they are not accidental participants. Speak to them; make them welcome; ask how we can serve them.

In a season of elevated emotions, we must not become inwardly focused. For reasons sufficient unto Himself, God will bring other people to observe us in times of trial and stress. To these dear ones, we must be

conscientious and attentive representatives of God's love and grace.

When the Lord allows heartbreak, it is an opportunity for God to exhibit volumes about our faith and His sufficiency. There are many around us who need to better understand both. The patriarch Job has not been honored for thousands of years because he was faithful in the good times.

Whether we are the sufferers, or the ones watching others suffer, God has a purpose He is working out. Remind yourself that when Jesus was about to enter excruciating anguish in the Garden of Gethsemane, He invited three men to watch Him go through it (Matt. 26:38). They fell asleep. Let's make sure we don't!

Pastor Rich

# First Baptist Church

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## Please pray...

† For grieving families

† For our nation, the election

† For our military and families

Tyler Budge  
Michael Humphrey  
Chris Patchen  
Jon Roberts  
Brian Garrison  
Jason Stewart, nephew  
of Jane Kranenberg

† For those undergoing surgery, cancer treatments, medical care and ongoing health issues

† For world leaders

† For our missionaries - at home and overseas

## Upcoming Events...

For further details, refer to our weekly bulletin.

- May 4 AWANA Grand Prix! All are welcome!
  - 10 *Mother's Day* Baptismal Service during 9am Worship service
  - 14 Elder Mtg. @ 5:30pm; Diaconate Mtg. @ 7pm
  - 14-17 *Women of Faith* conference in Billings
  - 15 Gals' Nite, 6-10pm in Fellowship Hall
  - 17 Hymn Sing @ Wes & Jennifer Flanagan's
  - 18 AWANA Awards Night
  - 24 Worship at the Living Center
  - 25 Memorial Day
  - 30 Elders' Breakfast @ Steeg's Yard Sale @ First B for Youth Ministry Fundraiser
  - 31 Communion Service \*note special date change VBS meeting @ noon in Fellowship Hall
  - June 5 Gal' Nite, 6-10pm in Fellowship Hall
  - 6 Hiz Kids Kingdom Celebration during both services (no communion)
  - 6-7 Carwash Fundraiser for SOS Mission trip
  - 21 *Father's Day*
- June 29—July 3 **CAMP EDGE** Vacation Bible School!



Pastor Rich teaches weekly at our Compass Bible Study each Wednesday evening at 5:45p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The current series is entitled "Dispensations."

Come join us!

### Weekly Events You Can Count On...

#### Sundays:

- 9:00 am: Morning Praise, Adult Sunday School Class
- 10:30 am: **TRADITIONS** Hiz Kids Kingdom Sunday School (ends for summer June 7) Young Adult Study
- 5:00 pm: Junior High Youth

#### Mondays:

- 6:15 pm: **Monday Nights @ FBC** Infant care provided

#### Wednesdays:

- 7:30 am: Hour of Prayer
- 5:45 pm: Compass Bible Study
- 7:00 pm: High School Youth

### A Note from our Church Leaders...

The thermometer is rising. Not just the one outside, but also the one that is measuring our progress towards our goal of \$80,000 dollars for our building renovations. It is with God's blessing that folks have given generously, enabling us to begin with the actual placement of carpet, chairs and tile.

Charged with the task of presenting the Elder Board with options, it's been discovered the chair and carpet committee have been just sitting around these past few months! Sitting in this chair and that one. Looking at size and fabric styles, analyzing foam padding and carpet backing. Coordinating colors and materials, styles and tiles and the all important negotiating and pricing. With an eye for practicality, longevity, neutrality and economy

and after several months of hard work and effort, the committee presented their short list of recommendations to the Elder Board for a final selection. Our heartfelt thanks go out to all the volunteers for their many hours given to this labor of love.

With careful thought and prayerful reflection the Elders made the final choice. A slate tile will welcome worshipers' in the front doors and up the stairs and also in the west door, to the entrance of the fellowship hall. A beautiful new green carpet will quiet footsteps into the sanctuary and down the hall past the offices. The carpet will also be laid down the stairs on each side of the dais in the front of the sanctuary. A neutral earth-tone carpet will replace the old carpet in the fellowship hall

with new vinyl flooring in the kitchen and serving area.

All of this transition will take place in June, once the chairs have been built with the fabric coverings, chosen to coordinate with the carpet. It will be a small miracle in and of itself to get all the work done in one week so we're ready to welcome folks for Sunday worship services. We are all very excited to see this first part of the renovation come to fruition and know that it will be a great addition to our church in our continuing ministry to the community.

In His Service,  
Dave Kaufman, Elder

**On the above note...** We are putting together a crew of 10-15 men who would be available to help remove pews and old carpeting immediately following the 10:30am Worship service on June 21. That is Father's Day, we know, but if you are able to give a few hours to the cause, it would be greatly appreciated! Call Gary Gieck @ 699-2293 for more information.

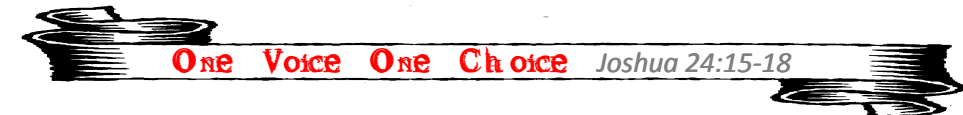


#### Precepts Class to begin soon...

Ladies! Please consider joining us for a Precepts Bible study on the book of Ruth to begin on Tuesday, May 12, 9:30am-11:30am here at First B! Babysitting will be provided. The class will be led by Becca Block and will be a great opportunity for fellowship and growth in the Lord together. For more information, please call Becca at 690-8749 or Irene at 734-8598.



Women of Faith conference is coming to Billings on May 15-16. This is a wonderful opportunity to join with Christian women for a blessing! Please keep our women in prayer as they travel and share this fantastic experience together! Check out the website: [womenoffaith.com](http://womenoffaith.com)



Our friend Jeff often told us that young people today are desperately seeking authentic relationships, and they're constantly watching for people who authentically love Christ. They can tell in an instant if someone is just going through the motions, or conversely they could tell right away if someone was shooting straight with them. They've seen enough people with two faces; they need to see Christians with integrity now more than ever.

For all of us who knew Jeff, even if not extremely well, we knew he was the real deal. He loved his Lord and he was fiercely dedicated to Christ. The youth he ministered to knew this as well. Kids have told us that when Jeff approached them to take them out to lunch, or just spend time with them, they thought it was going to be "super weird" going out with an adult (and a pastor at that). But when they went, they were completely comfortable with Jeff. It was his authentic nature and love that allowed kids to trust him.

Now we've lost our friend Jeff to our Lord Jesus, and we are left to carry on in the race he ran to the end. And although we know that our God "works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according

to his purposes" our hearts still ache for his friends, the young people he loved and who loved him, and especially his family. The only consolation is in the hope that our Lord offers. It is also a small consolation to us that we can continue to watch Jeff's love for Jesus and integrity continue to lead the many young people he reached out to for Christ sake.

Joel Ahlum and Nick Craig  
High School Ministry

P. S. Please keep the high school students and the ministry team in your prayers as we navigate this difficult period.

#### Below are some thoughts from our students involved in First B's Youth Ministries...

"You will always be in our hearts."  
"G—Thanks 4 supporting us in everything we did. We will all miss you and we will see you again."  
"You brought me and my friends closer to the Lord. You also were nice to everybody and always smiled. You love for God showed and I want to change to be like that."  
"You will always be in my heart because you've made me look at life differently. I will always remember the things we used to do and the way you made me change. I will always love you."

"You encouraged me to do so much, such as the guitar. It won't be

the same walking thru the door and not seeing you dance and laugh. I love you so much. I'll never forget you."

"You were an amazing guy. Everything you did was full of passion and love. I'm going to miss you so much. You were always there for me, no matter. Can't wait to see you again."

"G—Squirrel fishing...next time."

"You meant more to me than you knew. You were a godly role model and I looked up to you. I loved hangin' out with you whether it was playing football or getting lunch. Jeff, you have taught me to love people more and to love our Lord God more..."

"What we do in life echoes in eternity!"

**Watch the bulletin for details** on upcoming fundraising events to help defray medical and travel costs for the Eiden family. Eddy Eiden, one of our high school students, was injured in the accident that took our Jeff. As a church family, we want to come around his family and support them as they take care of Eddy's needs. Funds can be donated through the church by making checks payable to First B and designating "Eiden Family Fund" on the memo line.