

Ushers For February - Paul & Anisa Riley  
 Deaconesses For February - Ruth Miller & Joyce Hower  
 Deacon For February - Don Rogers  
Special Promotions For February 2008  
 Valentine's Day  
 Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering

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 Ushers For March - B J & Nancy Miller  
 Deaconesses For March - Ruth Miller & Joyce Hower  
 Deacon For March - Don Rogers  
Special Promotions For March 2008  
 Celebration of Easter  
 Palm Sunday - March 16  
 Easter Sunday - March 23



Parsonage Phone Number—728-2761  
**First Baptist Website**  
<http://www.fbc61951.org>  
**American Baptist Churches Website**  
<http://www.abc-usa.org>

**OUR CHURCH COVENANT**

(Arranged for Responsive Reading)

**Pastor**—Having been led, as we believe, by the spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior; and, on profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost,

**Congregation**—We do now, in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

**Pastor**—Paul says that Christ loved the church and gave himself for it.

**Congregation**—We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry; the expenses of the church; the relief of the poor and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

**Pastor**—Striving to walk worthy of the vocation where-with we are called,

**Congregation**—We also engage to maintain family and secret devotion; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting and excessive anger, to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drink as a beverage and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

**Pastor**—And because we are one body in Christ,

**Congregation**—We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior, to secure it without delay.

**Pastor**—And inasmuch as we are exhorted to remain steadfast, ever abounding in the work of the Lord,

**Congregation**—We moreover engage that when we remove from this place we will as soon as possible unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's word.

**All in Unison**—Now unto Him that is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever, Amen.

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**First Baptist Welcomes New Members**

Brian Crawford  
 Teresa Crawford  
 Witten Crawford  
 Alice Miller  
 Paul Riley  
 Anisa Riley



The Wright brothers could not invent the airplane without having faith that humans could fly. But the creative process requires imagination as well as faith. To stop war, we must first imagine peace. To eliminate poverty, we must imagine abundance. To paint a masterpiece, we must imagine beauty. To change, to make a fresh start, and to live up to our highest, fullest potential, we must not only imagine a better future for ourselves, but imagine it over and over at each step of the way, knowing that the sun still exists even when it is night.

—Naomi Hoshino Horii

In the year of 1883, it was decided a Baptist church needed to be located in Sullivan. A constitution was adopted May 27, 1883 at a meeting held at the armory hall, which was located upstairs in the building on the southwest corner of the square. Several people came forward and pledged to walk together in the Baptist articles of faith. On June 29, 1883 a council was called by moderator Rev. W.C. Barker. The following Elders and Deacons were present:

Elder: S.S. Graham of Springfield

Elder: W.C. Barker of Cooks Mill

Elder: Shelton Boyer of Cooks Mill

Deacon: Levi A. Hicks of Cooks Mill

Deacon: F.W. Sharp of West Prairie

Deacon: .J. Whitacre of West Prairie

Deacon: .J. Luttrell of Whitley (Gays)

These Christian men were dedicated to have made the trip and gone to such lengths to help locate a Baptist Church in Sullivan. The mode of transportation was by horse or horse and wagon over dirt roads or perhaps gravel roads. Road oil was not used on roads until about 1920, and then only lightly to keep down dust. The elder from Springfield probably came by train, since the Illinois Central Railroad was completed from Decatur to Mattoon in 1872.

At this time there were only 5 other churches in Sullivan. They were First Christian, Presbyterian, Methodist, Catholic and the Church of Jesus Christ founded by the Hagerman and Harshman families. Our church was first known as the Baptist Church of Christ.

The first baptisms took place in the river back of the Jim Lehman farm located east of Sullivan. This place is now part of Lake Shelbyville.

In 1885 the church met in the hall over what was at one time the Index Notion Store. And in 1886 a Sunday school was organized and the first song books were purchased. These books only contained words with no music.

In 1889 the church met on the courthouse lawn and inside the courthouse in bad weather. Later they met in the old Presbyterian Church which was located on Jackson street where McDonald's is now located. The church approved the name 'First Baptist Church' on November 16, 1889.

In 1890 the members felt the need of a church building and asked the American Baptist Home Mission Board for a loan of \$1,000 to help build the first church. The members and townspeople helped raise another \$1,500. The location was chosen at the corner of Hamilton and Adams streets and the land was purchased for \$175. The building was designed like the Pleasant Grove church at Cook's Mill. When the building was completed, the Ladies Aid held a festival and made enough money to purchase old style opera seats. Until this time they had sat on boards.

The church was dedicated on November 23, 1890. E.S. Graham, president of Shurtleff College, preached the sermon and Rev. Barker gave the prayer of dedication. The Cook's Mill Church donated the first secretary book and the Methodist Church gave the first pulpit chair. Four hundred dollars was raised at this meeting to pay on the building, with Rev. Brown of the Home Mission Board taking a mortgage for the remainder due on the building.

In June 1916, the building was damaged by fire caused by lighting. At this time the bell tower was taken off and the green shutters were removed. Rev. J.L. Watson began his pastorate June 28th and most all meetings were held in his home until the church was repaired.

In 1925, with only four families left in the church and no pastor on the field, the church was closed, and the building rented to the Church of God.

In 1930 the church was reopened due to the efforts of Rev. James Lively of Mattoon First Baptist and Harry and Alfreda Sumner of Sullivan. Rev. Skinner of Arcola and Mrs. Bessie Winchester Smith of Champaign conducted worship services for three churches located at Cook's Mill, Coles Station and Sullivan.

In 1933, Rev. Harold Ranes accepted a pastoral call and served all three churches for four years. During his pastorate the first furnace was installed and the platform was changed from the north wall to the west wall and the seats all turned to face the west. Mrs. Eleanor Ranes died during this period. The Ann Judson Missionary society was organized under her leadership in 1936 and named by her. The society had wanted to name the group for her, but she declined the honor.

Rev. Francis Strobel was called as pastor for the Cook's Mill and Sullivan churches in September 1938. This same year \$1,000 was left to the church from the Delia Kensil estate, making it possible to build a basement and furnish it. The Strobel's daughter, Lois, was killed in a car accident on August 12, 1941, and is buried in the Cook's Mill cemetery. Rev. Strobel resigned March 1944.

Rev. Joseph Hoy was called as pastor of both churches on September 10, 1944. He encouraged us to become independent of state aid, and in 1949 we called him to be our first full time pastor on the field. During his pastorate a new parsonage was built beside the church and dedicated. He passed away September 1952.

Rev. Richard Krell served as pastor from January 1, 1953 to April 19, 1959.

Rev. Donald Brown accepted a call from our church in September 1959, moving on to the field about Thanksgiving and served until June 30, 1963 when he resigned to enter the Army as a Chaplain. The Brown's son, Mark, was born in the car in front of the old parsonage. He lived only four months and is buried here in Greenhill cemetery. During Rev. Brown's ministry our church had a very strong young people's program.

September 1, 1963, Rev. Fred Schmidt began duties as our pastor and served our church four years. He went home to be with the Lord on July 12, 1967, leaving our church the living legacies of his wife and family. Mrs. Lillian Schmidt has shared many times her praise of God who led them to this field of service. She told of the love and kindness of the church and community shown her and the family and how God provided a job and home enabling her to raise her family. We are thankful for Lillian and her faithfulness to our church.

Rev. Norris Hamblin was called as pastor in 1969, and served our church until April 1, 1973. He died of cancer after a long illness. Our church library was dedicated in his memory.

In June 1973, the present church building was purchased and completely redecorated and new pews installed. Rev. Gary Warner filled our pulpit from June 29, 1973 to March 11, 1976.

Jim (James) LeMat filled our pulpit from June 14, 1976 to November 1977. He was an excellent gifted teacher of the scriptures.

Rev. Scott Johnston served our church from September 5, 1978 through December 12, 1982. During his ministry the pastor's study was redecorated and new furniture purchased. Also we installed air conditioning in the church.

Rev. Wayne Turner began his pastorate July 31, 1983 and resigned in 2000, after 17 years of service. In 1983 we celebrated our 100th anniversary with a two day program and a large dinner on Sunday. During Rev. Turner's pastorate a new bus garage was built in memory of Louise Huntsburger. In late 1990 and early 1991, the present parsonage was built and the pastor and family moved in on March 29, 1991. In March of 1994 at a Miracle Sunday service, \$10,641 was raised and designated for the purchase of three new stained glass windows and for the repair of the old ones in loving memory of so many. Over the years there have been many gifts to our church given to honor those who are now at home with the Lord. Later an elevator was installed, making our church handicap accessible on three levels.

Rev. Gene Godfrey was called to fill our pulpit in 2001. During this pastorate the church kitchen was renovated with new cabinets, sinks, stoves and refrigerators installed and paid for by donations from several members. Also a new van was purchased. The interior was redecorated and the bell tower repaired.

The First Baptist Church has now been in existence for 122 years. During this time the church has been a member of four different associations, they were Mattoon Association, Bloomington Association, Champaign-Urbana Association, and presently Area IV of the Great Rivers Region.

The mode of transportation no doubt was the main factor in determining the size and area of an association.

The church body has been blessed with many fine pastors, both former and present. Our top priority has always been the spreading of the gospel and the enrichment of our Spiritual lives. God has used us and blessed us greatly, so now with faith in our hearts we must continue to pursue the tasks God has given each of us to do. That task is to make known to all the way to obtain salvation thru Jesus Christ and the blood He shed for the remission of our sins.

**Quarterly Business Meeting  
January 20, 2008**

Mary Ellison, Sunday school superintendent opened the Sunday school meeting with prayer. She presided over the Sunday school meeting portion of the quarterly business meeting and provided minutes of the Christian Education meetings.

1. The issue of candy and gum is being addressed by the board.
2. The issue of proper footwear is being addressed by the board.
3. Van drivers and helpers are needed for youth groups.
4. Supervisors are needed while the van delivers the first load after youth groups.
5. Camp dates will be announced.
6. VBS date is set for last week in July.
7. Volunteer teachers include: Karen Stathers, Ruth Miller, and Jackie Godfrey.

Moderator Fred Sebens opened the Business Meeting with prayer. There were 21 present.

1. The minutes for October 21, 2007, were approved. **Membership - 235, Active members - 84, Inactive members - 127, Non-member friends - 24.**
2. The updated list for January 2008 has been placed in the Membership Records book in the church office.
3. Roger Hughes presented the Treasurer's Report. Ben Guyot presented the Building Fund Report. Both financial reports are posted on the hall bulletin board each month.

**The following committee reports were presented:**

1. Deacons Report by Paul Feist  
Pastor Gene will be gone on February 10. John Plummer will speak.
2. Trustees Report by Jim Stathers  
none
3. Annual Report Booklet was presented. Reports include:  
Quarterly Business Meetings, Pastor's Annual 2007 Report, Trustee Report, Memorial Committee Report, Christian Education Board Report, Deaconess Report, Flower Committee Report, Service Committee Report, Ann Judson Report, Sunday School Treasurer's Report, Church Treasurer's Report, 2008 Budget, Building Fund Report, Officers and Committee Members for 2008.

**Appreciation is extended to Karen Stathers for an excellent booklet.**

**Unfinished Business:**

There was none.

**New Business:**

1. The following committees and members were announced:  
Constitution: Cindi Klukis (Chairperson), Ben Guyot, Wanda Wiseley, Jackie Godfrey  
125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Fern Patient, Shirley Rogers, and Linda Watson

A motion was made by Roger Hughes and seconded by Mary Ellison to adjourn.

Pastor Gene dismissed the meeting with prayer.

2008 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

<b>Officers</b>	
Moderator	Don Rogers
Vice-Moderator	Fred Sebens
Church Clerk	Linda Watson
Church Treasurer	Roger Hughes
Financial Secretary	Pam Guyot
Asst. Financial Sec.	Karen Stathers
Building Fund Treas.	Ben Guyot
Sunday School Supt.	Mary Ellison
Asst. S. S. Supt.	Leslie Patient
Contact Communicator	Linda Watson

<b>Trustees</b>	<b>Finance Committee</b>
Judy Feist	Roger Hughes
Roy Book	Linda Watson
Nancy Miller	Pam Guyot
Pam Guyot	Mary Beth Dedman
Jim Stathers	Ben Guyot
Roger Hughes	Trustee Chairperson
Marvin Mode	Don Rogers

**Music**  
Patti Patient, Nancy Vail, Gene Godfrey  
Marilyn Book, Linda Watson

<b>Service</b>	<b>Nursery</b>
Ruth Miller	Ella Norris
Marilyn Book	Ruth Miller
Roy Book	Kathy Porter
Nancy Miller	Karen Stathers
B.J. Miller	
Clint Fultz	
Lucy Fultz	

**Sub Committees**  
To be appointed by the Trustees  
Church Vehicle (2)

<b>Ushers</b>
Roy & Marilyn Gook
Paul & Anisa Riley
Frank & Mary Ellison
Paul & Judy Feist
Nylene Hughes
B.J. & Nancy Miller
Marv & Betty Mode
Dean & Bev Robison
Jack & Donna Sparrow
Brian & Teresa Crawford
Robb & Brandy Trussell
Wanda & Ryan Wiseley

<b>Deacons</b>	<b>Honorary Deacons</b>
Ben Guyot	Clint Fultz
Fred Sebens	Bob Patient
Don Rogers	
Paul Feist	

<b>Deaconesses</b>	<b>Honorary Deaconesses</b>
Betty Coventry	Mary Dugan
Carroll Sebens	Erma Short
Joyce Hower	Lillian Schmidt
Judy Feist	
Lucy Fultz	
Ruth Miller	

<b>Christian Education</b>	<b>Entertainment</b>
Mary Ellison	Betty Mode
Leslie Patient	Patti Patient
Brandi Trussell	Wanda Wiseley
Wanda Wiseley	Karen Stathers
Heidi Feist	Shirley Rogers
Mary Beth Dedman	Cindi Klukis
Karen Stathers	
Sunday School Secretary - Wanda Wiseley	
Sunday School Treasurer - Mary Beth Dedman	

**Flower Committee**  
Nylene Hughes, Donna Sparrow, Ina Wagoner

<b>Library</b>	<b>Sound System</b>
Shirley Rogers	Fred Sebens
Karen Hughes	Paul Feist
Bev Robison	Jackie Godfrey
	Cindi Klukis

**Evangelism**  
To be appointed by the Diaconate

**Constitution Revision Committee**  
Cindi Klukis                      Ben Guyot  
Wanda Wiseley                  Jackie Godfrey

<b>Financial Review</b> Nancy Miller, Jim Stathers
<b>Nominating Committee for 2008</b> To be appointed by the Moderator
<b>Memorial (3)</b> Appointed by Trustees
<b>Evangelism (as many as 6)</b> To be appointed by Deacons

### Ann Judson

#### Officers

- President ..... Carroll Sebens
- Secretary ..... Wanda Wiseley
- Treasurer & Love Gift Coordinator ..... Joyce Hower
- Personal Development Ministries ..... Fern Patient
- Missions Coordinator..... Marilyn Book
- White Cross Coordinator ..... Jackie Godfrey

**Ann Judson Society meets the first Monday of each month.**

The ABW theme for this year is "Come To The Edge".

### Library Corner

We now have three books in the Restoration Series by Terri Blackstock:

*"Last Light"*

*"Night Flight"*

*"True Height"*

*"How to Pray When You Think You Can't"* by Marci Alborghetti



Books dedicated by Marilyn Book

*"Right Romance Fiction"*

*"Lasso Her Heart"*

*"There Comes a Season"*

*"A Mommy in Mind"*

*"The Winding Road Home and Fool's Gold"*

**Remembering Our Members Who Are Now With The Lord (2007)**

**Clovis Franklin, Carl Elder, Joyce Bragg, and Nora Mummel**

Please remember the following with your prayers, visits, cards, and phone calls:

#### **YOUTH IN SCHOOL**

#### **COLLEGE STUDENTS**

Kyle Ingram, Brandy Trussell, and Matthew Richardson

#### **HOME BOUND**

Lillian Schmidt, Betty Dedman, Mary Dugan, Edna Matheson  
and Wilma Fishel

#### **NURSING HOME**

Bernice Franklin, Ola Grubbs

#### **THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY**

Nick Booker, Courtney Booker, Jake Hughes, Derek Ingram,  
Josh Collins, Hywel Foley, and Mike Sims

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES**

Derek Ingram	2-5	Kevin & Debbie Brownlee	2-8
Gladys Courtright	2-7	Ray & Nancy Vail	2-28
Marilyn Book	2-18		
Patti Patient	2-22		
Fred Sebens	2-24		
Doug Booker	2-26		
Elaina Crawford	2-27		

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES**

Ivan Dugan	3-6
Amy Winings	3-9
Nancy Vail	3-11
Bob Patient	3-17
B J Miller	3-21
John Ingram	3-21
Nylene Hughes	3-25

**APRIL BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES**

Jamie Stathers	4-6	Kyle Ingram	4-27
Leslie Patient	4-7	Samuel Richardson	4-28
Susan Dedman	4-8	Lucy Fultz	4-29
Mary Dugan	4-9	Matthew Richardson	4-30
Jordan Richardson	4-13		
Trenton Guyot	4-15		
Teresa Ingram	4-24		

Updated:  
August 2007

**ANNIVERSARIES FOR APRIL**

Don & Shirley Rogers	4-13
Marvin & Betty Mode	4-25

**Blessings and Thank-You Notes to First Baptist Family**

**Sullivan Junior Singers**  
We are proud of your accomplishments!

**Karen Stathers**  
Thank you for an excellent 2007 Annual Report Booklet

**Chair & Tables for Fellowship Hall**  
Chair rack given by Virginia Butler  
Tables in memory of Junior Elzy  
Chairs in memory of Clovis Franklin,  
Pearl Miller, and Carl Coventry

**Everyone Who Said. "Yes!"**  
When nominating committee asked you to serve on a committee or as an officer.

**125th First Baptist Church Anniversary**  
**Volunteers are needed!**

**PRAYER CHAIN FOR FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

If you have a prayer request please call the parsonage first (217) 728-2761).  
If there is no answer, please call the next person  
and keep trying down the list until you reach someone.  
Please contact Karen Stathers for online prayer concerns.

**DAY TIME PRAYER CHAIN**

Gene Godfrey	728-2761
Lillian Schmidt	728-7445
Mary Dugan	728-4548
Fern Patient	728-8803
Cindi Klukis	728-2354
Marilyn Book	728-3134
Lucy Fultz	728-4477
Carroll Sebens	728-8037



**NIGHT TIME PRAYER CHAIN**

Jackie Godfrey	728-2761
Shirley Rogers	728-7792
Pam Guyot	728-7734
Karen Stathers	728-8896
Judy Feist	728-4997
Nylene Hughes	728-7645

**MISSION OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF**

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF  
SULLIVAN, ILLINOIS**

*215 East Harrison  
Sullivan, Illinois 61951*

*Phone: 1-888-594-7273 & 728-2761  
Web Site: <http://www/fbc61951.org>*

**WORSHIP SERVICES**  
SUNDAY SCHOOL-Sunday 9:00 A.M.  
CHURCH SERVICE-Sunday 10:00 A.M.  
BIBLE STUDY-Wednesday 6:30 P.M.  
YOUTH GROUPS – Wednesday 6:30 P.M.  
  
WELCOME!

**CHURCH MISSION**

*The mission of First Baptist church, Sullivan, Illinois is to increasingly know God as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and to continually make Him known through worship, witness, nurture and ministry.*

**YOUTH MINISTRY MISSION**

*The purpose of the First Baptist Youth Ministry is to invite young people into God's presence, minister to the young people's needs, stretch young people's faith while providing support from the church body and to worship God in all that we do.*

**Pastor Gene Godfrey  
First Baptist Church  
215 East Harrison Street  
Sullivan, Illinois 61951**