



## A SEASON OF ANTICIPATION

Good Morning Church,

We had a wonderful turnout for “Trunk or Treat.” The community showed up in droves, and First Baptist trunks were waiting for them. Thank you to all our volunteers, staff, and trunk-bringers for hosting a great community event!

I’m excited about the coming season. I love Thanksgiving, because...food! And I adore Christmas, because of all of it! The holiday season can never get here fast enough for me. Which is appropriate for advent. Advent is about waiting, anticipating the coming of a child. That is my prayer, hope and challenge for all of us at First Baptist this advent season. I want us to anticipate the coming of Christ, but I also want us to anticipate the coming of children.

I’m still quite new here, but I have been around long enough to know that your hearts long for the sounds of children running through the halls. I believe that time will come again. We just have to prepare ourselves. Just like we’ll prepare for the coming of Christ, we must prepare for the coming of all God’s children.

In the coming months, we’re going to be asking for volunteers, servants and teachers to plug into our children’s ministry. Our Christian Education Board and current volunteer staff are all incredibly hard workers, but they can’t do everything by themselves. As a church we have to serve together. Just like those ancient people of God long ago, we wait upon a child that we can only hope appears. But we hope so strongly and so fiercely that we not only pray, we prepare, because we anticipate their coming.

So join me in this season of waiting and preparing. Join me in praying for First Baptist and the children of our community. Let the leaves fall, let the holidays come, and with them bring good tidings of great joy.

Serving Together,  
Pastor Rob Collins

**Contact Us:**

Dr. Robert Collins, Sr. Pastor  
Mark Grizzard, Music Dir./Youth. Leader  
Dr. Joshua Russell, Organist  
Leigh Grizzard, Bell Choir Director  
Sandy Johansen, Church Secretary

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## WORSHIP SERVICES

10:00 A.M. WORSHIP & CHILDREN'S SS ■ 11:00 A.M. FELLOWSHIP TIME

NOVEMBER 11, 2018

### "CALL ME MARA: OVERCOMING BITTERNESS"

Ruth 1:16-22

Has life ever beaten you up so much that all you were left with is a bitter heart? That can happen to any of us. It certainly happened to Naomi. But with a lot of faith, a dedicated friend and the mercy of a loving God, Naomi found a path toward healing. The same path lies waiting for all of us.

**Music:** "Won't You Come In" —Higher Ground  
"What A Friend We Have in Jesus"

—Sally Tiessen, Jo Sternberg, Bobby Courtney, Doug Miller

**Welcome Center:** Mary McAlearney

Nov. 18, 2018

### "LIFTED FROM THE ASH HEAP"

1 Samuel 2:1-10; Mark 13:1-8

Jesus' words in Mark paint a scary picture of apocalyptic fashion, but they are actually words of hope. Sometimes it is only after the tough days that something new and beautiful can be born. Hannah's song is a wonderful testimony of her experiencing this very truth. Her song interprets the callous world through her own eyes and experience of God's mercy.

**Music:** "Bound for the Promised Land" —Chancel Bells  
"Thy Will be Done" —Leigh Grizzard

**Welcome Center:** Jean Currie

## PRAYER CONCERNS

Tom Maulding	Paul Phillips	Char Austin
Helen Nicol	Sharon Stanard	Rose Kimpling
Pam Orrill	Jim Ashton	Rosemary Walk
Alyssa Russell	Wally Webber	Mary Hinch
Jacquelyn Kellogg		

Don Middleton (Jim Middleton's son)  
Dick Sternberg (Jo Sternberg's husband)

## In Honor Of

Church Women United Illinois has established the "Lois Joan Criswell Memorial Educational Scholarship." The scholarship will run in perpetuity to honor Joan's 50-plus years of membership and service in CWU and her many hours of volunteerism in local charities.



## Consecration 2018

## The Next Chapter

It is a great time to be involved in the ministry of First Baptist Church of Peoria. To quote Dr. Collins, "Our best is not behind us, it is right in front of us." As "The Next Chapter" is beginning, we hope you will prayerfully consider the part you will have in its development. All that we are and have comes from God. "Based on the gift each has received, use it to serve others, as good managers of the varied grace of God." —1 Peter 4:20.

Now is the time for us to experience the Grace of Giving by honoring Him with our gifts. These gifts will enable us to continue and enhance our ministry. Please bring your pledge cards on Consecration Sunday, Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>, and plan to join us for lunch following worship.

Paul and Nancy Phillips

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## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Listed below are individuals who have been nominated and the boards for which they are nominated.

### Executive Committee

Moderator—Joe Sexton  
Vice Moderator—Tim Austin  
Clerk—Carolyn Ihnken  
Treasurer—Paul Grove

### Diaconate\*

Virginia Bott

### Mission Board

Judy Ryan  
Jean Brown  
Bob Atwater

### Trustees

Cindy Courtney  
Nancy Koller  
Bob Klimko  
Terry Phillips

**\*Still need 3 members. Contact Doug Miller.**

We will vote on these nominees at the Consecration Sunday meeting immediately after worship on Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup>.

Joe Sexton, Nominating Committee Chair

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## A NOTE OF THANKS

Dear First Baptist Friends,

Bruce and I thank you for your prayerful support and all the visits, calls and cards we received during Bruce's illness. May God richly bless our church and congregation.

Lovingly,  
Bruce & Carol Ingersoll



## Mary Little

By Gay Barton

From her birth in Nigeria to First Baptist-Peoria, Mary Little has had a long, and quite interesting, journey. Mary's parents were instrumental in establishing the missionary station in Okuta, Nigeria, and eventually a church, primary school and clinic. Her mother was a Certified Nurse Midwife who "delivered a lot of babies at the Okuta Baptist Child Welfare and Maternity Center," according to Mary. Her dad was a minister, evangelist and mechanic, keeping all of the necessary machinery in running order.

After age nine Mary attended a boarding school in Oshogbo, some 200 difficult miles to the south. Her parents' furloughs were in Nashville, Tenn., where Mary's grandmother lived. When high school time arrived, the family moved to Louisville, Ky., where her mother and father were house parents at a small group home for missionary children, mostly from Nigeria and Ghana.

College years were at Belmont in Nashville. After marrying, she moved to a nearby rural area, where her family grew to include two children. But, after a few years, "I suddenly was in charge of providing for myself and two small children without a way to do that," Mary states. "That's when I discovered my life's work as an occupational therapist." However, she needed to move to Texas to get the O.T. training she needed.

With a degree from Texas Woman's University in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area, she began working at a skilled nursing and rehab facility associated with St. Paul Medical Center-Dallas. "A few years later, I met my beloved second husband, Ray Little, with whom I enjoyed ten delightful years," she states. He died in 1997.

Eventually Mary and daughter Amy moved to St. Louis, Mo. After Amy married, her husband's work brought them to Peoria, and Mary decided to move as well. Son Glenn makes his home in middle Tennessee.

Mary explains her search for a spiritual home like this: "My quest has been of varying intensities and has included Presbyterian USA in Tennessee, United Methodist in Texas – and more recently a church in Chillicothe, where my daughter and husband are quite involved. While all of these churches have been filled with wonderful, welcoming people, for reasons difficult to explain, my involvement fluctuated. Looking back, I see my attendance was often out of a feeling of obligation – not a good basis for sustained involvement and spiritual growth."

After her retirement at the end of 2017 Mary missed the interaction she had with patients and the chance to provide loving care and consideration for others. She was feeling the need to find a church where she could get involved. That's when her daughter read and shared with her the newspaper ads First Baptist was running. Mary recalls, "Amy was on target in realizing FBC is special and in just the right ways for me!"

After deciding to try First Baptist this summer, she says, "I was hooked from the beginning not only by the intriguing sermons and genuine expressions of welcome and friendship from everyone I've met, but I've been coming back – not out of obligation – but because it was what I wanted." She's become part of several groups she finds enjoyable and challenging in her spiritual growth. "Every Sunday I wake up thinking I want to go to church because I don't want to miss anything!" And we are so glad she does.

Mary officially became a member on October 7, Dr. Collins' first Sunday here.

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*This profile is part of a series on First Baptist Church's newest members and those who have held membership the longest. The series is the work of a church committee headed by Barb Drake. Please let her know if anyone has been overlooked.*

  
**First Baptist Church**  
OF PEORIA  
*Gathered in God's Word, Scattered to God's World*  
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**THE MISSION OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IS TO MINISTER TO OUR CONGREGATION, THE COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD, SO THAT ALL MAY EXPERIENCE THE LOVE AND GRACE OF GOD.**



## 2018 For FRIENDSHIP HOUSE

During the month of November, we will be collecting non-perishable food stuff for the Friendship House pantry. Every Friday night people in need come to Friendship House to get food to take home for the week. Friendship House runs out of food before the year is over.

Last year during this Stuff-A-Bus campaign, First Baptist Church was so generous that we filled up a huge box, a grocery cart, a large table top and the floor around with food items. This year City Link provided us with two huge boxes. Can we fill both up? I think we can.

If you need ideas of what to bring, pick up a slip of suggested items. These slips are at the Welcome Center. You have until the end of November to stuff two boxes for the Stuff-A-Bus campaign. Thanks for your generosity.

Cora Lynn Green, Mission Board

## ABW NOVEMBER CIRCLES

**Circle of Friends** will meet Tuesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, at 12:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

**The Evening Literature Circle** will meet Tuesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. in the church parlor. The book to be reviewed is Varina by Charles Frazier.



## HOLIDAY POINSETTIAS

We are once again taking orders for holiday poinsettias to decorate our Sanctuary during the Advent and Christmas season.

Plants cost \$15 each and may be ordered through Sunday, November 25<sup>th</sup>. Order forms will be in the Sunday bulletins. Completed orders and payments can be left in the warm room on Sundays in November and in the church office during office hours; 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday—Friday.

