

# ARTICLES Of FAITH

## First Baptist Church North



Reverend Ivan Douglas Hicks, Senior Pastor  
Pastor and People: Growing in the Word...Living in the Victory

Volume 1 Issue 2

October 2002

### First Baptist Church, North Indianapolis Pillars of Gold 117 Years Later: Still We Rise

Pastor Ivan Douglas Hicks and the entire congregation respectfully recognize and honor those supportive members who for over 50 years have been instrumental in providing a firm structure for the church and have served with devotion, dedication, and diligence.

Joe Black  
Clarice Botten  
Alberta Buckner  
Beatrice Bush  
Ernestine Cheatham  
Owen Cheatham  
Fannie Colbert  
Virginia Collins  
Mable Collins  
Dorothy Ellison

Virginia Franklin  
Elien Hamilton  
Lucy Blunt  
Lettie Harris  
Eleanor Hayes  
Josephine Holder  
Brandon Hudson  
H. Marie Thomas  
Azalee Kincaid  
Silvaugus Morton

Phyllis Outlaw  
Marquerite Quarles  
Hulda Moore  
Hayes Bransford  
Lee Collins  
Friedricka Daessler  
Hattie Terry  
Norman Webb  
Brenae Walker  
Lois Weaver

Sarah Webb  
Robertine Wells  
Dwight Winters  
Elizabeth Williams  
Helen Williams  
E. White  
Debrae Watkins  
Thelma West  
Bemice Dupree  
Helen James

Mark Cravens  
Don Winters  
Vera Craig  
Linda Jones  
Neal Fitts  
James Ray  
Naomi Taborn  
Marie Young

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### WELCOME to ARTICLES Of FAITH

For most people, seeing is believing. Hence; the purpose of this publication is to provide a written account of the church's vision as it unfolds. By doing so, perhaps faith will increase and God's vision for this church will be fulfilled.

# A Congregational Celebration

On May 5, 2002, Pastor Ivan Douglas Hicks and First Baptist Church, North Indianapolis celebrated three years as Pastor and people. The congregational celebration was truly an anointed affair. The celebration began with a breakfast honoring Pastor Hicks and his family. At the breakfast, a representative from each of the church's ministry presented the Pastor with a gift as a token of their appreciation for his three years of devoted service and leadership.



Pastor and Mrs. Hicks were honored at the Appreciation Breakfast



Erica Edmonds-Davis sings passionate praises to God.



Master Colin Bridgeforth prays for the Music Ministry.



Elder Darryl Jackson exercises his God-given musical abilities.

Immediately following breakfast, the Pastor and people entered into worship. The fact that this was indeed a congregational celebration was reiterated through prayer. Miss Shana Letcher offered prayer on behalf of the Youth Ministry. From the mouth of a babe, Little Master Colin Bridgeforth interceded on behalf of the music ministry. Then, Deacon Phil Moore led the congregation in prayer for Pastor Hicks and his family. In addition to celebration through prayer, the morning service was blessed by the God-given musical abilities of saxophonist Elder Darryl Jackson and soloist Erica Edmonds-Davis.

The morning celebration climaxed with a soul-stirring message from Pastor George W.C. Walker of St. Matthew Gordon A.M.E. Zion Church in Chicago, Illinois. His message, "From Crowd to Congregation", emphasized the fact that God can do more with a congregation than a crowd. He clearly differentiated between the two by proclaiming that crowds consist of fickle folks who operate based on feelings. Crowds gather only during their spare time to hear what they want to hear. Crowds seek to spread gossip and are only on board when the vision doesn't take long to reach fruition. On the contrary, congregations consist of family folks who operate based on faith. Congregations make time to gather and long to hear what they need to hear. Congregations seek to spread the gospel and are faithful to see visions realized no matter how long it takes. In conclusion, Pastor Walker noted that the visions of more churches would be fulfilled if the membership consisted of more congregations who performed the plan and learned to shout even before the walls fall down.



Rev. George W.C. Walker delivers a soul stirring message to the Congregation.

On the eve of the First Baptist Church, North Indianapolis 3rd congregational celebration, the Voices of Joy ministered in their annual spring concert. Under the direction of Mr. Stacy E.L. Penson, the Voices sang melodies from heaven. The songs that were sung ministered to several themes ranging from rejoicing over the present to praising God for the future realizing that "the best is yet to come".

Rebecca Phillips served as the Mistress of Ceremony for the concert. The featured guest was the anointed and gifted Gospel recording artist Mr. Lamar Campbell. Campbell reminded the people that there are benefits to giving God the praise and glory which He deserves. Other soloists

for the evening included Michelle Boner, Lenice Hampton, Maridythe Johnson, and Erica Edmonds-Davis. Also, Michael Johnson ministered through an interpretive spiritual dance. All in all, the concert proved to be an awesome and powerful mechanism to conclude the day-long congregational celebration at First Baptist Church, North Indianapolis.



The Voices of Joy along with special guest, Lamar Campbell, sing melodies from heaven.

## Real Men Serve God

Who wouldn't serve a God like this? Certainly, would the men of First Baptist Church, North Indianapolis. During a weekend-long schedule of activities, these men even turned things up a notch as they celebrated the church's annual Men's Day. Holding on to their competitive edge, the men began the weekend with a basketball game on Friday night and an afternoon of bowling on Saturday. Whether making baskets or shooting air balls, whether bowling gutter balls or strikes, this was indeed a jubilant time of fellowship.

On Sunday, their competitive nature subsided momentarily while the men joined on one accord to offer praise and worship to God. The day began with a breakfast with the Honorable Mayor Bart Peterson as the keynote speaker. After providing words for the men to digest, the Mayor and other members of his Cabinet joined the congregation in worship.

The speaker for the morning service was First Baptist's own, Dr. Edward Wheeler, the distinguished president of Christian Theological Seminary. After quoting horrible statistics such as 1 of 4 black men will be incarcerated, many black men fall victim of homicide, and many father illegitimate babies, and many black men mistreat unjustly their mahogany majestic sisters,



2002 Men's Day Co-chairpersons, Bill Johnson and Ross Whitfield, are shown with keynote speakers, Mayor Bart Peterson and Dr. Edward Wheeler.

Dr. Wheeler assured those present that "everybody ain't doing it". Using the character and faithfulness of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abedego while in the fiery furnace as models to live by, he challenged the men to become distinguished gentlemen. He recommended that they do so by being faithful husbands and loving fathers. Moreover, real men love, trust, and serve God in captivity, prosperity, and even unto death.

## Revived, Renewed, Restored

Each year, the second week of September is set aside for a time of revival, renewal, and restoration. These elements are achieved through devoted study, anointed teaching, and profound preaching. Revival Co-Chairpersons, Donna McCray, Marguerite Watkins, and Rebecca Phillips, made certain that this year would be no different. Each night, classes for all ages were conducted. On Monday and Tuesday, Rev. Edward Moore and Dr. Edward Wheeler co-lectured a series entitled "The Role of Women in the Church". During the remaining three nights, the people in attendance were revived and revitalized through the powerful preaching of one of God's Bad Boys, Dr. William Curtis from Mr. Ararat Baptist Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.



One of God's Bad Boys, Dr. William Curtis

For three consecutive nights, Dr. Curtis meticulously dissected the Word and profoundly unveiled new lessons rooted in familiar texts. On Night One, Curtis recommended that one learn to look beyond the obvious. He went further to proclaim that like David, one may have to walk through rejection in order to receive the table that God has prepared. On Night Two, David's life served to demonstrate "what to expect when you got it going on". Curtis made one aware that success brings about separation from some of the things that one may be accustomed and relationship mutations even amongst those we hold most dear. In his final point, Dr. Curtis explained that while success renders one forever a target, the key to surviving is knowing when to get in your "matrix" position and move. On Night Three, Dr. Curtis expounded on the parable of the lost coin. In his message, "What makes God Shout", he explained that like the person who celebrated after finding her lost coin, God celebrates when we return to Him.

## 2002 Officers In Training



2002 OIT's: (back row) Kim Bradford, Jimmy Adams, Otis Bryant, Eddie Hall, (front row) Liz Gibson, Emma Bryant, Sheila Rea, Cheryl Jelks, and Tracey Gibson. Not pictured: Jackie Edmonds, Robert Letcher, and Gerard Murell. Also shown: Pastor Hicks and Deacon Owen Cheatham

The Officers in Training were selected by Pastor Hicks to go through a year of training for leadership within the church. The training has consisted of roundtable discussions and projects ranging from individual assignments to collective efforts. For example, the OIT's exercised leadership by aiding OIT Jackie Edmonds in planning the Pastor's Anniversary and by working with OIT Eddie Hall as he served as the 117th Church Anniversary Chairperson.

The OIT's will be placed in various positions including Deacon, Trustee, Deaconess, Deacon Emeritus, Finance Committee, and other positions as appointed by the Pastor.

# First Baptist's Scholars

An ongoing ministry at First Baptist Church, North Indianapolis is the education of the youth. For years, the congregation has provided financial support to assist graduating members in furthering their education at an accredited college. Select members serve on the Martha White Scholarship Committee to ensure that this ministry is carried out. The amount of assistance provided has grown from an initial amount of \$250.00 to \$1750.00 for this year.



The 2002 recipients and the institutions that they have chosen to matriculate are as follows: Ashley Green, University of Memphis, Calvin Hart, Tech School; Matthew Johnson, Ivy Tech; Eden Oyewo, Tennessee State; and Adrienne Slash, Hampton University. Also, Slash received the Martha White Scholarship and Oyewo received the Dr. J.R. Bradley Book Award. In memory of Edith Bolden-Holt, who was a member of First Baptist Church for sixty three years, Mr. David Holt presented Daria Parham the Holt Memorial Scholarship. Also, congratulatory praise was extended to the 2002 college graduates. They were: Tia Mooney; Indiana Business College, Jamel Perryman, Purdue University; and Jocelyn Tandy-Adande, IUPUI. Recognition was also given to the middle school graduates. In addition, words of encouragement were extended to all returning college students.

## A Man On A Mission To Educate

In August 2002, Mr. Gary Bartee arrived to Indianapolis, Indiana with a mission to educate. Bartee has been appointed and will serve as the principal of the Imani School for Excellence. This article expresses his personal sentiments concerning the mission of the school.

Bartee states, "the mission of the Imani School for Excellence is to challenge students to achieve excellence and to incite excellence within the community. Our goal is for the children to develop into life-long learners and culturally sensitive citizens. We cannot achieve this goal if we focus exclusively on the intellectual development of the children without nurturing the social interaction and ethical decision-making. We have a responsibility to care for the physical fitness and nutritional development of the children. In addition, our children's



Mr. Gary Bartee

capacity to manage their emotions and adjust to a rigorous school environment is just as critical for our children to achieve success. In order to fulfill our mission we must foster positive and productive attitudes toward learning. We must cultivate in our children a "can do" mind-set that encourages the students to reach for the stars.

I believe that the children should not be expected to develop and grow to their full potential if the community does not participate in a process of continual growth and development. The community must model in their lives the character and productivity we are expecting from our children. Additionally, our children must invest quality time in this lofty endeavor and our families must invest time to support their efforts. Imani means faith in Swahili, and I have the faith to know that the Imani School for Excellence will be a model for quality education."

## 2002 Heritage Day Brunch Speaker



Mrs. Marie Davidson-Young

The 2002 Heritage Day Brunch Speaker was First Baptist's own, Mrs. Marie Davidson-Young. Mrs. Young has been a faithful member at First Baptist since February 1924. She accepted Christ at an early age and was baptized by the late Rev. F.F. Young, who notably shepherded the flock of First Baptist for sixty years. Becoming active at an early age, Mrs. Young made history by becoming the first female to be granted a scholarship from the church. In 1935, she graduated from Lewis Business College. On April 11, 1937, she began fifty-two years of holy matrimony with the late Mr. John Julius Young, the son of Rev. F.F. Young.

The life of Mrs. Young is characterized not only by a rich history, but also by years of devoted service in numerous ministries. For 68 years, she has humbly served on the Usher Board. She rendered 16 years in the capacity of church clerk. A former Sunday School teacher, she can still be found every Sunday in the F.F. Young Sunday School class. In addition, she serves as the financial secretary for the Priscilla Young Missionary Group #4, and she has been the financial secretary for the Capitol City for over 20 years. Many remember the outstanding leadership that she provided as the Chairperson for the 100th Church Anniversary.

Mrs. Young, you are indeed a pillar of strength and undying servitude. We applaud and honor you for your commitment to the work of the Lord!

## The Creative Corner

Because we were made in His image, we are creative beings. The Creative Corner showcases the creativity of some of First Baptist's very own.

### PASTOR HICKS

Prayerful, powerful, prognosticator of the gospel,  
Amazing, awesome, anointer who is able,  
Strong, sincere speaker, sent from above,  
Talented, thoughtful, teacher of love,  
Optimistic, obedient, orator of God,  
Respectful, responsible, rejoicing on the job.

Helpful, humble, the Holy Ghost has him hooked  
Intelligent individual, implementer "The Book",  
Caring, chosen, connoisseur of the Word,  
Kind hearted, knowledgeable keeper, haven't you heard?  
Self-sacrificing servant of God.

by: Teresa Shockley

# Fun And Fellowship

The entire First Baptist church family congratulates the 2002 First Baptist North Softball Team on a great season. We commend you on both outstanding athleticism and sportsmanship. Despite a shaky start, they rallied to place first in their division and third in the tournament.



First Lady Hicks looks on as D'Coby McGuire pitches

The teams unify for a moment of prayer.



Robert Beatty displays his quickness.

## 2002 First Baptist Church Team Roster Gordon Fykes, Coach

D'Coby McGuire	Christia Hicks	Margaret Coffey	Ten-Jon Gray	Dean Tate
Coy Tate	Robert Beatty	Angela Beatty	Thua Barley	Liz Harden
Dolores Scisney	Alex Bridges	Danita Elliot	Nicole Rea	Roell Rea
	Ross Whitfield	Keith Carter		

*Well done team!*



## Memoirs from the 2002

## Church Picnic



Young and old gathered at Riverside Park for food, games, and conversation at the church's annual picnic.

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### **A Prelude to Women's Day**

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High Hatters Tea  
October 19, 2002  
Noon - 4:00 p.m.  
First Baptist Church, NI  
Fellowship Hall

Praise and Worship Service  
Dr. Millicent Hunter  
The Baptist Worship Center  
Philadelphia, PA  
October 25, 2002  
6:30 p.m.  
First Baptist Church, NI  
Main Sanctuary

Pre-Women's Day  
Breakfast  
October 26, 2002  
8:00 - 10:00 a.m.  
First Baptist Church, NI  
Fellowship Hall

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### **Leadership Weekend**

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Tracey A.  
Gibson:  
Publisher  
and Editor

Micheal R.  
Gumell:  
Photo and  
Copy Editor

Leadership Training  
November 9, 2002  
8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Deacon Robert Wright  
COO of Eastern Star  
First Baptist Church,  
NI Fellowship Hall

Leadership Sunday  
November 10, 2002  
4:00 p.m.  
First Baptist Church,  
NI

Photos  
provided  
by:

Mike  
Gumell  
and  
Exposures  
Unlimited

**Tune to AM 1310 Sunday Mornings at 7:30 AM**

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