

A close-up photograph of several bright yellow tulips with green leaves, serving as the background for the top half of the newsletter cover.

March Monthly Newsletter

First Baptist Church

2018

"To Know Him and Make Him Known"

Pastor's Paragraph *"Billy Graham"*

Billy Graham is enjoying his hard-earned eternal rest and everlasting reward. He preached to more people than anyone else in the history of the world. He personally met with thirteen U.S. presidents, going all the way back to Harry Truman. He has been so influential, that some have dubbed him the "Protestant Pope." Everywhere you go, you will find believers who were saved under his evangelistic ministry. In my limited experience, I have known people in our church in LeClaire, Iowa, that had come to know Christ through Graham's preaching. And, I know people in Nebraska City who share a similar testimony. No matter where you are, you are not far away from a Billy Graham convert.

There are many reasons why I respect Graham's ministry, but I would like to focus on a few that are the most important.

1. He always focused on the gospel. He was unwavering concerning the main message of the Scriptures. He could preach for an entire hour and cover a lot of topics, but the central message was always crystal clear. God loves you. Jesus died for you. You must accept Jesus to be saved. Billy Graham understood the power of the gospel. He was just a messenger. The life-changing power was in the eternal truth of the message. He never backed down from that core message. No matter what the crisis was, the gospel was the answer.

2. He maintained his godly character. Many lesser men have fallen. Famous evangelists have been seduced by materialism and greed, using their fame and influence to build up personal wealth and fund a lavish lifestyle. Other great evangelists have succumbed to sexual temptations and fallen into immorality, bringing shame and disgrace upon their ministries. Billy Graham intentionally avoided even the appearance of anything improper. He demanded strict financial accountability, and only drew a modest salary from his own ministry. He refused to ever be alone with a woman other than his own wife, and expected the same standards from those who worked within his ministry. In all of his years of ministry, there were no personal scandals that brought embarrassment to his supporters. He preached the gospel, and he lived the gospel. He was a godly man.

3. He finished well. Sometimes great thinkers and preachers eventually soften their message, or are influenced by the culture in which they live. Billy Graham stayed strong and true to the end. I'm sure that he faced tremendous pressure to be more tolerant toward sin or more accepting of false teaching. And, he just kept preaching the gospel. He spoke the truth in love.

Obviously, Billy Graham was not perfect. I'm sure he said some things that I disagree with. Undoubtedly he made some poor decisions. Many have criticized Billy Graham for many different things. However, there is only one Critic that counts! God welcomed Billy Graham home with a heart-warming greeting, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" That is my goal in life and ministry. ~Pastor

March



2018

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

1

2

3

Trustees' Mtg
8:00 AM

4 Communion

5

Choir Practice

6

Deacons' Mtg
7:00 PM

7

AWANA
6:30-8 PM

8

9



Teen
March
Madness
Fri-Sat
Hastings, NE

10



11
Daylight Savings
(Spring Forward)

12



Choir Practice

13

14



AWANA
6:30-8 PM
Goofy Glasses
Night!

15



16

17

Happy
St. Patrick's
Day!

18

Choir Practice

19

20

21

AWANA
6:30-8 PM

22

23

24

25 Palm Sunday
First Responders
Breakfast

26

27

28

AWANA
6:30-8 PM

29

30

31

[Cantata at the
Ambassador]

Choir Practice



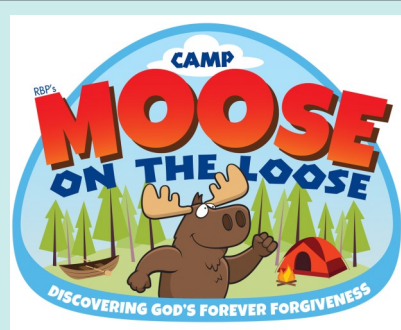
YMCA (Champions) in Hastings, NE
Friday & Saturday, March 9-10

8 PM On Fri. thru 6 am on Sat.

7th-12th Grade Teens

Cost: \$30/teen (at the door)

March Madness



Vacation Bible School

June 4-8 9 AM-Noon
Ages 4 through 6th Grade



We will once again host a special breakfast on Palm Sunday, March 25th! We will honor our First Responders in Nebraska City by having them as our guests! Everyone is invited to attend this special breakfast that will be held during the Sunday School hour (from 9:15-10:15 a.m.). Be watching for a sign-up sheet!



Easter Sunday, April 1st Morning Services

8:00 AM Communion
8:30 AM Continental Breakfast
9:15 AM Sunday School Hour
10:30 AM Easter Cantata

*The perfect age: When kids are
old enough to shovel snow but are
not old enough to drive.*



January Finances

Balance Forward 1/1/2018

Deacon's Fund	\$698.29
Designated Fund	\$156.42
General Fund	\$36,976.66
Checking Account	\$37,831.37
January Income	\$14,302.83
December Expenses	\$11,300.96
Net Increase	\$3,001.87

Balance 1/31/2018

Deacon's Fund	\$698.29
Designated Fund	\$2,008.38
General Fund	\$38,126.57
Checking Account	\$40,833.24