

# ***First Baptist Communiqué***

St. Johns, Michigan

JUNE 2018



## Articles included in this edition:

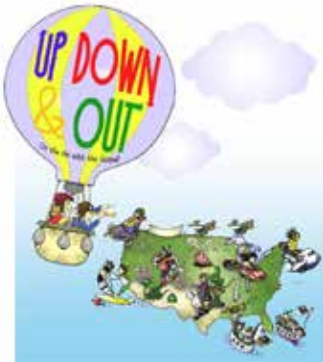
Articles included in this edition:

1. Teen Missions Trip - Pittsburgh, PA pg 1
2. Vacation Bible School – Up Down & Out pg 2
3. What is Our Policy–Sound & Multi-Media Equipment pg 3
4. Food for Thought – The Gospel in 3 Words. . . pg 4
5. Beacon of Hope – Beacon needs **YOU** one day a month pg 6
6. Library – How to Safely Return Items pg 7
7. Mighty O.A.K.S–Mark Criss from Lansing City Rescue Mission pg 8
8. Missionary of the Month – Brandon & Rachel Buser pg 9
9. Missions News-Read about the great response to our missionary’s need for help pg 10
10. Calendar pg 11
- 11 Birthdays pg 12
12. This n That – Looking Ahead...July 1st pg 13
13. Schedules pg 14



This summer, 27 our teens and leaders will head to Pittsburgh, PA for their summer missions trip from June 30th to July 6th. They will be working in a neighborhood that houses people from many nations, including refugees from Somalia and Egypt. Our ministry will consist of work projects, sports ministry, and children's ministry. This will be a unique opportunity to shed the light of the gospel in an "American" community that has a great impact on the Nations. This trip is a couple days longer than our normal trips, so the cost for each individual will be \$425, which will cover transportation, housing, and their meals.

It is our church's desire to have as many teens experience these trips as possible, and we try to keep their costs down and provide help as needed. So, we would ask that you please be praying for our group as we prepare, as well as consider giving financially toward the trip. Please make your check out to First Baptist Church, and mark your giving envelope "Teen Trip." You may also give online. Make sure to click on "Teen Missions Trip" and your donation will go to be divided up for the team. The last Sunday to give will be June 18th. Also, if you have jobs that you would like to hire teens for that have financial needs, please contact Pastor Chad.



## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**UP Down & Out**  
**On the Go with the Gospel**

**June 18-22**  
**9am - 12 noon**

**Mark your calendars**

**Start inviting family & friends.**

**Join us for VBS at First Baptist Church!**

Debbie Price from Rural Bible Mission will be leading our VBS this year. This summer we are looking at the book of Acts with all the exciting stories about the early church and the first missionaries. Jesus goes up into Heaven, then the Holy Spirit comes down to dwell in the believers, and the disciples go out spreading the Gospel everywhere they go. They are persecuted, but they keep on going telling others the good news about Jesus.

VBS is for any child who finished Kindergarten through Sixth grade.

### **We need your help!**

**Prizes are needed for both Boys and Girls!!** We will be collecting them throughout May until Wednesday, June 6. Cost for prizes should be \$1-\$10. Please drop off your donations in the large box marked "Vacation Bible School" by the church offices. If you cannot purchase items, you may give a monetary gift. Please choose "VBS Prizes" for your online giving or mark your giving envelope "VBS Prizes" and place in the offering.

**Volunteers are needed** for a variety of areas including teaching, game time, and snacks. If you are interested in helping out, or if you would like more information, please call Laurie Ordway (989) 834-6119 or Pastor Chad (989) 224-3110.

## “BY THE WAY, WHAT IS OUR POLICY ON.....”

### SOUND AND MULTI-MEDIA EQUIPMENT

God has been very gracious to our church in acquiring the necessary equipment for our ministries to function at their highest level. Through the work of many dedicated volunteers, we have appropriated top-notch equipment through the years. In order for us to steward wisely the resources that we have been given, it is the desire of the church that this equipment not be used by people who have not been **properly trained**. Therefore, unless you are a qualified sound team member, please stay out of the sound desk area. If you need assistance, please contact the church office.

To ensure that our equipment lasts as long as possible, sound equipment is **not** to be used for non-church related events outside of the church property. This includes all sound systems and microphones as well as video projectors and multi-media equipment.

Because a wedding is considered a church-related function, sound equipment is available to brides and grooms if they are married at our church. If the wedding ceremony is held at our church, but the reception is held off-site due to size, you may use sound system equipment at the reception if one of the church's sound technicians physically takes the equipment to the reception and is responsible for the equipment during the reception, and then returns it to the church building following the reception.

If you plan on using any multi-media presentation for your wedding, you must have a multi-media/lighting person as well as a sound technician. They must be people who are our regular sound/multi-media church people.

# Can You Explain the Gospel in 3 Words?

APRIL 26, 2018 | [Russell Moore](#)



Could you explain the gospel to an unbeliever using only three words?

That was the challenge someone posted a couple of weeks ago on social media. “One can’t explain the whole gospel in only three words,” I mumbled to myself. “That’s why we have a canon of 66 books.” The more I thought about it, though, the more my mind changed, and I became open to taking up the challenge.

I think I could explain the gospel in three words, so long as I would have follow-up time to explain all three words. And those words would be “Lord Jesus Christ.”

## 1. Lord

The word “Lord” would mean pointing to the Godness of God, what it means to speak of God as sovereign king and as loving Father. This would entail a discussion of God as Creator, what it means for us to be his creatures. This would involve a discussion of what God has revealed to us about his lordship as Creator. That he designed all things by and for Jesus Christ ([John 1:1-5](#); [Col 1:16](#)).

It would also include our human predicament as idol-makers, who consistently choose other lords and gods and Pharaohs and Caesars, thinking they will be better to us, all the while cutting ourselves off from our only source of life, God himself.

## 2. Jesus

The second word, “Jesus,” would entail a discussion of what the name means: “She will bear a son and you shall call his name ‘Jesus,’ for he will save his people from their sins” ([Matt. 1:21](#)). Who is this speaking? He is the Creator God, the covenant God of Israel. To whom is he speaking? He is speaking to Joseph, of the lineage of Abraham, of the house of David. This would communicate both the sending of salvation by God the Father through the Holy Spirit, and also the covenant history behind this. The story here is that of Israel, summed up now in this person, the seed of Abraham and son of David.

Then the word “Jesus” would necessitate the definition of “save” and of “sins.” Why do we need saving? What has happened to us? What does it mean that we are sinners before a holy God? This would mean unpacking something of the wrath of God against sin, the love of God in providing salvation, and the way

the two come together in the cross of Christ ([Rom. 1–3](#)). This would mean a discussion of the curse that has come upon us for our sin, and how, through substitution and sacrifice, Jesus bore that curse for us ([Gal. 3](#)).

The name “Jesus” would also necessitate defining the words “his people.” Jesus is the Word, that which holds the universe together, become flesh. He has joined us in our humanity, fully one of us, except without sin. He is therefore able to be our priest, to mediate for us in the heavenly temple with his own blood, his own prayers, his own life. This would also entail defining what it means for God to say, over and over, “You will be my people, and I will be your God.”

## We cannot say the word ‘Jesus’ without speaking of his church. . . . We are saved to be a people.

In Jesus, all the promises of God find their “Yes” and “Amen” ([2 Cor. 1:20](#)). Jesus is the heir of God’s promises to Abraham, and if we are hidden in him, those promises become fully ours ([Gal. 3:29](#)). Those of us who were outsiders to God’s promises are now, in him, by the blood of his cross, “brought near” to God ([Eph. 2:13](#)). We are all now, in Jesus, “no longer strangers and aliens” but “fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God” ([Eph. 2:19](#)).

That means we cannot say the word “Jesus” without speaking of his church, united to him by the Spirit as a head to a body. We are saved to be a people.

### 3. Christ

The final word is “Christ,” which I would explain is not Jesus’s last name but a *title*, meaning “Anointed One.” Anointed with what? The Spirit of God. Anointed by whom? The Father God. Anointed for what? Kingship. Jesus is the rightful covenant king, fulfilling the missions of the fallen kingships of Adam and David. The kingdom of God, then, is the present reality and future hope of God’s will being done on earth as it is in heaven. This kingship is demonstrated in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, as the firstborn of an entire family freed from death and hell ([Rom. 8:29](#)). In the word “Christ” we look backward to our story as the people of Israel promised deliverance. We also look forward to our future as joint-heirs with Jesus, ruling over the entire created universe. In this way, Christ Jesus sums up all of God’s purposes for the universe ([Eph. 1:10–11](#)) and hands over a completed cosmic mission to his Father, so that God may be all in all ([1 Cor. 15:28](#)).

We groan as we see the wreckage of the fall all around us, but we also joyfully enter into it in the present as we are formed by the Spirit, and as we embody together in the church, the demonstration site of the coming kingdom. We love and forgive and serve one another, and live on mission toward the outside world, as ambassadors for the coming king.

There’s much more to be said, of course. That’s why we need 66 books of God-breathed Scripture. That’s why we need the Spirit of Christ to teach us how to hear from him in that Scripture. We need many words, and God has given us many words. But we can start the conversation, I think, with three: “Lord Jesus Christ.” And, if we do, it might train us for what all of us one day will confess, on bended knee, “Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” ([Phil. 2:11](#)).

**Russell Moore** (MDiv, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary; PhD, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary) is president of the [Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission](#) of the Southern Baptist Convention and a Council member of The Gospel Coalition. He has authored many books, including *Onward: Engaging the Culture without Losing the Gospel*. He is married to Maria.



## Beacon of Hope Update

### **Beacon of Hope needs YOU one day a month!**

**Are you a “people person?”** Then you would love working in the Learn & Earn store or playroom! Store volunteers help participants keep track of the credits they are spending then check them out when they are done shopping. Playroom volunteers keep kids safe and busy so moms and dads can meet with Advisors and do their shopping.

Are you a **“behind the scenes person?”** Then consider helping with unloading and stocking shelves on Monday mornings from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. (depending on the amount of food coming from the Food Bank). It’s just like putting groceries away at home, that is if you feed over 200 people a week!

Beacon has a **CRITICAL** need for women to serve as **Advisors** – those who meet one-to-one with participants. You must be a member of First Baptist for this role.

If you can help or want more information, contact Karen Leif.

### **Grow a Row for Beacon!**

Beacon participants greatly appreciate the fresh produce they receive in the food pantry. If you are a gardener, please consider growing extra for Beacon or bring in your overflow at harvest time.

### **Letter Carrier Food Drive**

Beacon of Hope received over 1200 pounds of food from the food drive. This will help keep the shelves stocked for several weeks. Thank you to all who donated!

### **Beacon can always use...**

If you are out shopping for your family or see a Meijer 10 for \$10 sale, here are a few items Beacon of Hope can always use: pasta sauce, Hamburger Helper, ketchup, soup, cereal, and canned fruit in the Food Pantry; shampoo, conditioner, women’s deodorant, baby wipes, and dish soap in the Learn & Earn store.



**Library News!**  
**Check it out!**

**Check your church library catalog to plan your summer reading! You can find it at:**  
<https://www.librarycat.org/lib/FBCSaintJohns> Make sure to bookmark the link!

Thanks to our trusty cataloging volunteers nearly all of the library materials are now findable in one place from any device connected to the Internet. There are just a few odds and ends left. That's 2,654 items to choose from! Thank you volunteers!

**How to safely return items to Your Church Library:**

There are TWO safe places to return library materials. Because borrowers are responsible for the replacement of materials they check out, please use one of the safe return locations.

- 1) The library drop box is now located by the library entrance. The drop box is locked, so materials cannot be easily removed from it.
- 2) During library hours, materials can be brought into the library and handed to one of the library volunteers, or laid on the white work table near the children's picture books.

Materials left in any other place in the church can be and often are removed by anyone. Library staff cannot be held responsible for materials that are left outside the library or outside the library return box. Please return items properly.





## *MIGHTY* *O.A.K.S.*

On June 12th, the Mighty O.A.K.S. will meet in the gym for a carry in lunch at noon. Please bring a dish to pass.



Mark Criss, Executive Director of The Lansing City Rescue Mission will share about the Mission. We would like to give The Mission a love offering that day. You can give monetary or food donations to Kay Schmidtman or Fran Whitlock.

Also, bring a graduation picture of yourself or one close to that time of your life. Be sure to sign up at the Information Area!

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Our July 10th, get together will be at the home of Nick & Andrea Bancroft. Their son, Paul, will be giving the devotional and some of the youth will be part of the program.

## Missionary of the Month Brandon & Rachel Buser



### Field address:

New Tribes Mission  
P.O. Box 625  
Wewak, E.S.P. 531  
Papua New Guinea

### E-mail:

Brandon\_Buser@ntm.org

**Brandon:** 8/24/78

**Rachel:** 3/5/79

**Married:** 8/18/01

### Home Church:

Clairemont Emmanuel  
Baptist Church

### Children:

**Briana:** 11/18/02

**Brady:** 3/1/05

**Gracie:** 8/23/07

**Ruby:** 8/28/15

**Sadie:** 5/27/17

**Ministry:** Tribal Church Planting and Bible Translation

Brandon grew up in Papua New Guinea where his parents were missionaries with New Tribes Mission. He grew up with the Iteri tribe, which allowed him to see the power God's Word change the lives of the previously unreached Iteri. Brandon was saved when he was four years old. Through the help of his father, he clearly understood his lost state and need for a Savior. When Brandon was about 16, he started to recognize God calling him to bring the Gospel to those who have never heard. Later, he attended Christian Heritage College where he met Rachel and graduated with a degree in Mathematics. Shortly afterward, he and Rachel were married, worked for two years, and then joined New Tribes Mission's training program.

Rachel was raised in a loving Christian home in the United States. Through godly parents she saw what it meant to be a Christian and was saved at an early age. In high school the Lord opened her heart to the possibility of serving Him in full-time missions. During her years at Christian Heritage College her eyes were opened even further to the vast number of people groups that had not yet heard the Gospel.

In August 2003, Brandon and Rachel joined New Tribes Mission to train to plant indigenous churches in Papua New Guinea. Their vision was to work among one of the many unreached people groups in the Sepik Region of the country. The 18 years Brandon spent growing up in the Sepik gave him a good understanding of the culture, though the task of learning a specific tribal language, translating the scriptures, teaching the Gospel, nurturing the body of believers, and equipping the church to be self-sustaining and self-propagating is immense even with this familiarity.

Brandon and family departed for Papua New Guinea in **July 2006**. God has orchestrated the timeline of their ministry thus far: **June 2008:** First trip to Biem Island. **August 2008:** Committed to live among the 2,000 Biem islanders, learn their language and culture, and teach them God's Word in their own language. **February 2009:** The families moved to Biem. **June 2010:** The final language check was passed. **January 2012:** Start of the literacy program. The first Biem literacy class graduated 21 students in March and 20 more in May (praise for the excitement among the Biem people who are learning to read and write in their own language for the first time!). **July 2012:** Chronological Bible Teaching in the Biem language began. **September 2012:** Final teaching day – the Lord reaped a harvest for Himself among the Biem. The joy of new life came to many of the 150 men and women attending the final teaching (including the Biem Chief). Praise God for the joy and privilege for the team (Busers, Depners & Chens) to see God's hand move among the Biem people. There is now a clear group of Biem folks that have embraced the teaching. **September 29, 2013:** 11 Biem men and women were the first to be baptized. In **October 2016:** The first Biem Elders were marked...5 men that had been through 3 years of leadership training and exhibited the Biblical marks of shepherd-leaders.

They have been located on the mainland for this last season as they allow the Biem Church to stretch new spiritual muscles without the missionary team on site. They continue to dialogue with the elders almost daily over HF radio, and they visit the church about every 3 months. Their last visit was very encouraging as they see the body continuing to grow and work through issues in a Biblical manner. After the purity of the Gospel, their biggest prayer is for unity amongst the body. Praise God that He continues to lead the 5 elders and the rest of the body forward in healthy fellowship.

# MISSIONS NEWS . . . .

## BUSY HANDS FOR MISSIONS

On May 15th there were 5 ladies present, and we processed a total of 178 ditty bags for Youth Haven Ranch which included 113 already filled by Ruth Feliu- special thanks to her for doing this for us. We will be needing tooth-brushes, washcloths, and combs in order to fill more bags. If you would like to help with this please place items in the totes in the lost and found closet or on the table in the Busy Hands room. Thanks to all who help in this way.

We will meet again on June 19th at 9:30 AM. Hope you will join us. Bring your lunch and join our fellowship after our work is done.

## CRAFTS to the RESCUE FOR STEVE & ROWENA BARNES

**Steve and Rowena Barnes** are hosting a 4 Day Pastors Family Vacation Retreat for those in their fellowship this coming June. Rowena yelled, "HELP!, I need crafts for women and children of a variety of ages." **Busy Hands** got busy and cut fleece into pillow size shapes to be tied and stuffed with poly fill. They also created various felt animal kits to be made into finger puppets. **The Young Moms Group** put together wind chime kits with extra beads for making bracelets. **L.E.** went to her "got it on sale closet" and provided the new kind of coloring books with a variety of colored pens and pencils (for quiet time). Also included were "Dollar store" puzzles for competition for the children with balloons as prizes. With the Lord's hand of blessing this will bring added joy to their Retreat. Everything's been mailed!

## PACKAGES MAILED OUT THIS MONTH

Nan Mosher  
Patty Zemmer

## MISC. ITEMS WE COLLECT

Good Condition Suitcases on Wheels  
Unopened Kids Meals Toys  
Old Buttons, Old Handkerchiefs, Old Lace (these can also be new)

## MISSION CLOSET

We want to thank those who supplied bath towels and a large selection of Tupperware.  
Items Needed: Twin Sheets (all cotton and dark colors are most requested)

## LANSING CITY RESCUE MISSION

Below is a list of items that the Mission could use at this time. If you would like to donate any of these items, please place them in the yellow barrel located in Room #13 in the lower level.

Shaving Cream  
Twin Blade Razors  
Deodorant  
Combs and Brushes

Lotion  
Shampoo and Conditioner  
(full size bottles)  
Socks

Underwear  
Men's Undershirts  
Slippers  
Flip-Flops

# JUNE BIRTHDAYS

01	Tom Edsenga Emily Knaus	09	Derek Eilert SuAnn Prince Landyn Reava	23	Davey Fore Jay Peterson Faith Wood
02	Debbie Goward Titus Konieczny Louise Law Pearl Nichols	10	Dee Chapman	26	Lane Bargeron Jim Gill RuthAnn Halstead Justus Holben Reid Holben
03	Isabelle Morse	11	Stan Lutz		
04	Cara Brun Ronald Showers Wyatt Stuart	12	Roxanne Burnham Maya Kresge	27	Paul Bancroft Emily Brun
05	Levi Mead Dorotio Pena	13	Barbara Jones	28	Bryan Feldpausch John Taylor Jacob Underwood Joshua Underwood Nita Wallis
06	Deb Cressman Mike Underwood	14	Malia Coffelt		
07	Erika Gunnell Derrick Ostrander Faith Robbe Doug Smith Marie Woodhams	15	Gabriel Richardson	29	Chris Bouck Doug Merignac
		16	Lynn Dutcher Connie Phelps		
08	Kathy Garrison Mishelle Pagels	18	Nora Kresge	30	Alice Bouchey Roger Crowell Ann Mason Norman Moinet Laurie Ordway Jade Schafer
		19	Steve Bricker		
		21	Jill Keilen		
		22	Linda Brooke Ethan Painter		

# FIRST BAPTIST THIS 'N' THAT

Please make these changes to your  
FBC Phone Directory:

- Paul & Barb Case  
New Address:  
801 Hampshire Drive  
St. Johns, MI 48879
- Keith & Michelle Cornell  
New Address:  
#481  
2265 W. Parks Road  
St. Johns, MI 48879
- Lisa Rudy  
New Cell Phone #:  
989-443-0802
- Sherry Schultz  
New Cell Phone #:  
989-224-0040



Births in the Church Family

Congratulations to Jeremy & Emily Brun on the birth of their daughter, Lynlie Mae. Lynlie was born on Wednesday, May 9, 2018. She weighed 7 lbs. 4 oz.

Congratulations to Aaron & Nicole Stine on the birth of their daughter, Paisley Ann. Paisley was born on Sunday, May 13, 2018. She weighed 6 lbs. 13 oz. Her Grandparents are Marc & Ann Hufnagel. Her Great-Grandparents are Tony & Mart Feldpausch.

Congratulations to Andrew & Brittany (Gudbrandson) Teasley on the birth of their daughter, Hadley Brielle. Hadley was born on Friday, May 18, 2018. She weighed 6 lbs. 4 oz. Her Grandparents are Doug & Dawn Gudbrandson.



## Thank You Notes

*With thankfulness to First Baptist Church family for all of the prayers that were extended to Cheri and our family during her illness and since her passing.*

*Thank you also for all of the cards, Gideon Bibles, and visits.*

*In His Love,  
Pat Walker*

### Adult Sunday School for the Summer



The Adults will be meeting in the Auditorium during Sunday School for the summer beginning Sunday, June 3rd.

This summer's video series will be "Time to Grow Up" - Study of the Book of James, by Tony Evans.

# SCHEDULES FOR JUNE

## NURSERY

03 SS Emily Knaus, \*Sarah  
Thomas, Pat Wright  
AM \*Sarah & Sylvia Thomas,  
SuAnn & Savannah Prince,  
Linda Kresge  
PM \*Cheryl Haviland, Elizabeth  
Davis  
10 SS Emily Knaus, Lori Knaus  
\*Denelle Merignac  
AM \*Lisa & Evelyn Crandall,  
Diana VanOrsdol, Bethany  
Konieczny, Linda Kresge  
PM \*Holly Merignac, Carrie  
Schmidtman, Leah Konieczny  
17 SS Emily Knaus, \*Bernadette  
Richardson, Laurie Walters  
AM \*Becky & Grace Peterson,  
Kay Schmidtman, Chara  
Walters, Linda Kresge  
PM No Service  
24 SS Emily Knaus, \*Becky Becker,  
Helen Kresge  
AM \*Becky & Rachel Becker,  
Mandi & Mckenna Briggs,  
Linda Kresge  
PM \*Karen Leif, Jen Simon,  
Tori Harps

\*Denotes Nursery Checkin Worker

## TODDLERS

03 AM Andrea, Paul & David Bancroft,  
Emily Bargeron  
PM Grace Kresge, Traci Brooke  
10 AM Lori Knaus, Michelle Cornell,  
Ellen & Ben Kresge, Valorie  
lung  
PM Sarah Bouck, Alyssa  
Thompson  
17 AM LouAnne Kingsley, Isabella,  
Gabby, & Andi Gunnell,  
Eileen Feldpausch  
PM No Service  
24 AM Rebekah Becker, Jill  
Shackelford, Hannah & Faith  
Robbe  
PM Davey & Katie Fore, Ben  
Simon, Jazmine Harps

## TODDLER COOKIES

03 Sheila Robbe  
10 Mary Ann Rademacher  
17 Eileen Feldpausch  
24 Marcia Feldpausch

## USHERS

03 AM \*Rick Davis, Rick  
Robbe, Ryan  
Shackelford, Joe  
Ondrusek, Monte Ely,  
Harold Lichte  
PM \*Dean Feldpausch,  
Ted Beck  
10 AM \*John Leif, Scott  
Darragh, Chris Bouck,  
Ron Showers, Jimmie  
Harps, Jim Cyrus  
PM \*Doug Merignac,  
Chris Bouck  
17 AM \*Scott McCorvie,  
Derrick Ostrander,  
Preston Nichols, Phil  
Burkhart, Duane  
Schafer, Dennis Eilert  
PM No Service  
24 AM \*Julius Motz, Shane  
Kidd, Norm Moinet,  
Doro Pena, Ted Beck,  
Leon Mills  
PM \*Jim Ashenfelter,  
Chris Ordway

\*Captain

## GREETERS

03 \*Foyer Ron & Jill Keilen  
\*\*Office AM-Joel Seling  
PM-Diana VanOrsdol  
10 Foyer Mike & Tammy Underwood  
Office Jay & Becky Peterson  
17 Foyer Tom & MaryBeth Moldenhauer  
Office Joe & Vicky Ondrusek  
24 Foyer Roger & Rosanne Schafer  
Office Chris & Sarah Bouck

**\*AM Foyer Greeters** please be at your door by 10am.  
**Stay in Foyer until the Sermon begins.**

**\*\*AM Office Greeters** please be at your door by 9am.

**Everyone Greets in the PM Service unless  
otherwise stated.**

**NO PM Service on the 17th.**

