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FRESH FOLKS

Meet Mike & Pam Sigafoose: Passion for Prayer, Heart for Service

By Victoria Fleenor

Pam Sigafoose reminds me of my mom. Those of you who know my mother (Linda Johnson) will understand that immediate evidence of close, constant communion with God, a heart for others, and a genuine concern accompanied by a quick and easy show of emotion. The best snapshot into Pam's life would be a recent one—at the Kent County Fair in Lowell (August), she grew tired of sitting at our church booth and decided instead to wash fair-goers' feet! At one point, she had

9 ladies in line waiting for their turn! I imagine that both Pam and my mom are a pleasure to the Lord, as they remain sensitive to the Lord's leading and follow it wholeheartedly. What a great example for all of us!

Mike and Pam Sigafoose have been attending First Baptist since the early '90s, right around the time that Roger Quiggle went Home after his accident. Attending primarily Bible Studies at first, Pam grew to love the FBC church family before she and Mike joined in 2006 at the Lord's leading (and Pastor Margesson's recommendation to seek it). Mike is currently serving

(Continued on page 2)



The Sigafoose family, from left to right: Ryan, Brandei, Brad, Blaine, Mike, Andrea (Andi), and Pam

CHRISTMAS IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

Christmas is a happy time for me and it's when I work the hardest. I've been working on Banquet, an Open House, New Years and yes, Christmas itself.

What I would like to bring to your attention is the fact that we are in planning for our phenomenal FBC Christmas Banquet. It is going to be a time that no one will dare to miss. I'm putting out a call for 5 people who would like to underwrite the price of a table or two. That would be \$120.00 for a table of eight or \$240.00 for two, etc. That way our siblings in Christ who cannot afford the ticket can still come, or maybe a couple can afford 1 ticket but not two. Doesn't this sound like having the FBC family Christmas Spirit? Those five people can call me (897-6609) or e-mail me (ilajean113@yahoo.com). Put your money in an

envelope and hand it to me in church starting now. The sooner the better so when requests come in for free tickets, they will be available

Another fun thing is the table decor. Yes ladies you can once again bring out those Christmas dishes and use them one more time during the holidays. Let me know if you are going to decorate your table to fit your dishes or if you would like me to decorate around your dishes. No need to be concerned about napkins because we have them to match the linen table cloths. Are we up scale or what? What we need is plates, cup/saucers or mugs, stemware and silverware

Thanks---Happy Holidays---IlaJean.

(Continued from page 1)

as a deacon in our church, and Pam is helping head up the new "Mercy Team." They have been with Bible Study Fellowship International (an interdenominational organization) for eight years, and Pam was just asked to begin teaching within the organization. Together, they have a true passion for the Lord, His work, and for the power of prayer. As Pam exclaims, there is "nothing too great for the Lord!"

Blessed with three grown children, Brandei (the oldest at 34, married to Ryan), Blaine (33, married to Andrea), and Brad (29), the Sigafoose family is close in heart even if not in geography. Brandei, a medical doctor, currently lives with her husband out east. She was honored this past summer by acceptance into the Cardiology & Disease path of internal medicine. Blaine works in real estate, both closings and title work. Brad, the youngest, is employed at Pine Rest (here in Grand Rapids), and is wrapping up his Master's in Counseling. Not bad for a mother whose only schooling beyond high school was the "College of the Bible," says Pam!

"I raised my kids on Ephesians, Titus 2, and Psalms & Proverbs," recalls Pam. The firm foundation of the family's upbringing and faith was tested just recently as Brandei's first baby was born too early (just beyond 20 weeks), and died in her arms shortly after birth. Mike and Pam were already headed to visit with Ryan and Brandei, and felt God's comfort as well as the many prayers of His people as their trip quickly turned to one of grieving for the loss of their first grandchild. Pam and Mike both rejoice in the spirit of love, joy, and thanksgiving that prevailed through the toughest

affliction their family has faced thus far.

Mike works for Ferrellgas, servicing residential hookups in Lowell, Grand Rapids, and Hastings. Pam sometimes helps with jobs; when we talked, she was just heading out to paint several of the propane tanks in Lowell in preparation for distribution. Pam is a hairstylist by trade.

The Sigafoose family is very active—they love many outdoor activities, including golfing, bike riding, inline skating, skiing (though not downhill anymore), fishing, pheasant hunting, and more. They also enjoy quiet time at home together reading, decorating and other home improvement jobs, and board games.

The Sigafoose family was initially drawn to First Baptist because of the warmth and hospitality they found there. "We have so much to offer!" says Pam, "□ a true spirit of unity, so many great programs, and great music!" Her one desire is to see the prayer group grow on Tuesday evenings. "Prayer is the furnace that builds the church," she says. "If we all start praying, there is nothing God can't do!"

As the Mercy Team gets up and running at our church, Pam envisions more than just carry-in meals for those in need or bereavement. She envisions couples routinely visiting shut-ins, not necessarily taking food or gifts, but just sharing and praying with them, reading the Bible together, and sharing God's mercy and love. Her desire is to "serve the Lord, love Him; never be lukewarm, but always on fire" to do His work. May we all echo this passion!

If you have not yet met Mike & Pam Sigafoose, I encourage you to do so! You will be blessed as I have been in know-

THIS IS A TIME OF THANKSGIVING

What a joy I have been having organizing the PM Snax. I have been amazed at how quickly your classes watched for your scheduled times in the bulletin and were ready to provide the snax, set up, tear down, and clean up. You are an awesome bunch of God's people in the service of the King.

Thank you-----IlaJean

Marvels of the Mind

Can you read this? Only 55 people out of 100 can. Creatively twisted minds can read it easily.

I cdnuolt blveiee that I cluod aulacly uednatnrd what I was rdanieg. The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid, aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it dseno't mtaetr in what oerdr the lttteres in a word are, the olny iproamtnt tihng is that the frsit and last ltteer be in the rghit plcae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can still raed it whotuit a pboerlm. This is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the word as a wlohe. Azanmig huh?

Sohocl trecahes will hate me for swihong this to you. It pvreos that sleplng isn't nrelay as imtoprant as they wnat us to beevlie. Auactly, it shows that at laset some hmaun minds are cpabale of stratenighing out even the most cunfseod and cvolonuted tnghis. If you fnoud it easy, mabye we sulhod send you to Wotgnashin.

Alpha Women's Center of Lowell 3rd Annual Friendship Banquet

The mission of Alpha Women's Center is to affirm and promote the sanctity of human life, the value of the family, and Biblical sexuality in our community. You can support this urgently needed work at a time when our highest governmental leaders are calling killing babies a fundamental human right.

Make your mark for LIFE by attending the Center's fundraising banquet here at FBC on October 29, 2009. Hear guest speaker, Catherine Behrendt, an adoptive mom, tell her personal story. Come prepared to make a financial contribution to this life saving ministry. Invite friends, family, co-workers ☐ anyone who shares you passion for the sanctity of life.

Please call the Center at 987-9533, or talk to Earl Pomeroy or Doug Folsom if you are interested in underwriting the banquet or sponsoring a ta-

Of Cows, The Constitution, and The Ten Commandments

COWS

Is it just me, or does anyone else find it amazing that during the mad cow epidemic our government could track a single cow, born in Canada almost three years before, right to the stall where she slept in the state of Washington? And, they tracked her calves to their stalls. But they are unable to locate 11 million illegal aliens wandering around our country. Maybe we should give each of them a cow.

THE CONSTITUTION

They keep talking about drafting Constitutions for Iraq and Afghanistan.... Why don't we just give them ours? It was written by a lot of really smart guys, it has worked for over 200 years, and we're not using it anymore.

THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

The real reason that we can't have the Ten Commandments posted in a courthouse is this -- you cannot post 'Thou Shalt Not Steal' 'Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery' and 'Thou Shalt Not Lie' in a building full of lawyers, judges and politicians ... It creates a hostile work environment.

BANK OF HEAVEN

PROMISSORY NOTE

Date _____

Pay To: print your name here – A fully vested and empowered child of God

Amount: My will to become completely and utterly your will

By Authority of: Jesus Christ

Account Number: John 16:23

You are authorized by the maker of heaven and earth to cash this demand note on the Bank of Heaven at any

Trunk & Treat

Join the Community Outreach fun. Bring your decorated car trunk full of treats on October 31, All Saint's Day, (Halloween night). That's when hundreds of kids and their parents from the area will be roaming around our church parking lot. They will be participating in games and activities and checking out your trunk for treats. Be there and get in on the fun. Please check contents on the treats you buy to avoid nut products. Many children have allergies to these.

Be sure to let Beth Tarchala (897-4198) or Evelyn Zalis (897-0695) know that you will be bringing your car or truck to participate.

Wanted

More Greeters are needed to make our guests and church family feel welcome. If you love Jesus, can smile, open a door, shake hands, say hello, and be helpful, you qualify. To join this group of happy servers, call IlaJean at 897-6609.

A Parable

A holy man was having a conversation with the Lord one day and said, "Lord, I would like to know what Heaven and Hell are like."

The Lord led the holy man to two doors.

He opened one of the doors and the holy man looked in. In the middle of the room was a large round table. In the middle of the table was a large pot of stew, which smelled delicious and made the holy man's mouth water.

The people sitting around the table were thin and sickly. They appeared to be famished. They were holding spoons with very long handles that were strapped to their arms and each found it possible to reach into the pot of stew and take a spoonful. But because the handle was longer than their arms, they could not get the spoons back into their mouths.

The holy man shuddered at the sight of their misery and suffering.

The Lord said, "You have seen Hell."

They went to the next room and opened the door. It was exactly the same as the first one. There was the large round table with the large pot of stew which made the holy man's mouth water. The people were equipped with the same long-handled spoons, but here the people were well nourished and plump, laughing and talking. The holy man said, "I don't understand."

"It is simple," said the Lord.

"It requires but one skill. You see they have learned to feed each other, while the greedy think only of themselves."

Musings on Psalm 23

It occurs to me that the flow of thought in the first two verses of the Psalm is so direct and straight forward that it is easy to miss the point. What is it from which an individual or corporate body needs to be restored? Simply put -- WANTING. Wanting, grabbing discontent is at the root of everything that generates the need for restoration. Wanting is set in juxtaposition to resting. It is the restlessness of desiring what our craving fallen souls accuse the Good Shepherd of not providing.

I want my sensitivities tended to. I want my way, my preferences honored, my comfort tended to, my perceived needs met, my reputation built, my stomach filled, my music played, my car washed, my house painted, my grass cut, my neighbor's dog quieted, my bank account reinforced, my street paved, my children recognized, my doctor to hurry past his other patients to see me, my job promotion, my salary increase, my day off, my mate to be quiet, my mate to say something, my new toy, my God to hurry up and answer

my prayers.

When my twisted soul is craving rather than resting in the goodness of the Shepherd, and when because of the jangling in my head I am unable to hear his voice calling me back to the quiet centeredness of trusting Him, He graciously MAKES ME LIE DOWN. When his strong hand has forced me to lie down, then after He has held me there against my will long enough to quiet down, I can begin to see what it is that I have been nervously trampling on all this time - the lush green grass of his pasture and the quiet waters. Now as I begin to contemplate all His provision and His goodness I am restored in my relationship to Him and to the other sheep into whom I have been recklessly crashing in my wanting.

What needs to be restored is my belief in the goodness of the Shepherd. It does no good to express proper theological assent to His goodness. I must internalize that belief and bring it to bear on every aspect of my thought and being and on my interactions with the

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FBC Mission Statement

We endeavor to...

Magnify

The Lord, by bringing people to Jesus Christ and

Membership

In His Family, seeking to develop them to Christ-like

Maturity,

Equipping them for their

Ministry

In the Church.... And their life

Mission

In the world.

October Birthdays and Anniversaries

Name	Happy Birthday to..	Happy Anniversary to..
Lorri Gabrion	10/01	
Angie Ingram	10/01	
Jessica Ryder	10/02	
Mike Burnham	10/03	
Sue Raimer	10/03	
Betty Deans	10/06	
Don & Lynn Green		10/06
Tammy VanderHeide	10/07	
Michelle (Berrington) Lester	10/08	
Dennis & Dianne Kennedy		10/08
Doug Folsom	10/09	
Sara Tarchala	10/09	
Roy Schwarcz (M)	10/09	
Jeanne Shores	10/14	
Jeffrey Silva	10/14	
Sue White	10/18	
Don McQueen	10/19	
Mike & Pam Sigafoose		10/20
Bob & Karen Bennett		10/21
Pat Reed	10/21	
Mark & Tammy VanderHeide		10/22
Dale & Pat Reed		10/23
Margie Miller	10/26	
Christine Berrington	10/27	
Bob & Joyce Oberlin		10/29
Mike Sigafoose	10/30	

*I have set the Lord always before me.
Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.
Psalm 16:8*