

The Visitor

March 2021

Interim Pastor Candidate Presented for Voting on March 3

On March 3, at 6:45 p.m., just before the Wednesday night Facebook prayer session, we will hold a virtual business meeting. The members of FBC will have the opportunity to vote on Dr. David Hinson as the new interim pastor of our church. The set up will be just like the previous two meetings. You can watch from the FBC [YouTube Channel](#) or [website](#). You will then be able to call or text in your vote.

Dr. Hinson is just completing an interim assignment at First Baptist Church, Plainfield, where he has served for the past year. In previous years he served in interim capacities at American Baptist Churches in Petersburg, Greencastle, Seymour, and Vincennes, Indiana, for periods ranging from three to sixteen months.

Dr. Hinson has pastored several churches during his career, ranging from pastoral assignments in the '80s and '90s in Georgia to a twelve-year stint as pastor of First Baptist Church in Frankfort, Kentucky. At that church, he is known for his many partnerships with local organizations and churches serving adults and children, helping marginalized people with food, housing, dental care, and the like.

He holds degrees from Middle Georgia College, Mercer University, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, most recently a doctor of ministry. In addition, he received an honorary degree from Liberia Baptist Theological Seminary in Liberia, West Africa.

Currently, Dr. Hinson is employed as a Retirement Benefits Consultant, helping ministers, missionaries, and churches plan for church staff benefits. The group is headquartered in Louisville and serves Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky, and West Virginia. Although Dr. Hinson does much of his work virtually, his responsibilities would require that he be in Muncie only on weekends.

Brian Green, Cheryl Flaherty, Emily Anderson, and James Heimlich, all members of CCT, served as the search team for finding an interim pastor, and all enthusiastically support the idea of calling Dr. Hinson to be with FBC as we seek a permanent pastor. They feel that he is extremely well-qualified and very personable and “checks all of our church’s boxes.”

The group watched several of his sermons and also interviewed him remotely. According to Brian, “His sermons are Bible based and his preaching is with fire and passion.” Brian went on

to say that Dr. Hinson had watched our final service with Pastor Wade and sensed our sadness in Wade and his family's leaving. He told Brian that he is praying for us as we process Wade's departure.

As a consideration in calling Dr. Hinson, in view of his personal schedule, CCT has discussed the member care that is also part of a permanent pastor's job responsibilities and is prepared to work with members of the congregation to fill in those gaps until a permanent pastor is called to our church.

Altered Publication to Emerge in June

The Visitor, a long-term part of First Baptist Church's communications tools, is making a change. You've likely seen the new up-to-the-minute format of the *Wednesday Weekly*, an emailed news blast containing the most recent updates, announcements, birthdays, thank-you notes, prayer chain lists, etc. *The Visitor* is becoming a new quarterly (rather than monthly) publication, showcasing feature stories, photographs, and graphics about FBC's church family; historical stories about our past; and articles about the Bible, worship, and Christian life. We will call upon people in the congregation to share opinions, thoughts, and articles to help us produce the quarterly newsletter.

"When you see *The Visitor* around June 1, you will see a new look and feel a new 'vibe' that we hope you will enjoy," said Molly Flodder, who will coordinate this publication.

This seventy-five-year-old publication falls under the purview of our Communications Team, comprised of Colleen Massoth, Julie Davis, and Molly Flodder, with proofreading assistance from Kelli Petroviak and Michelle Heimlich. The newest member of this team is featured next. Read on!

Katie Braswell Becomes New FBC Staff Member

Beginning March 1, FBC's new Digital Communications Specialist will begin her new position, working ten hours per week to complete some of the communications tasks that are emerging and assist in managing the tools that are part of the church's lineup of software, including our church management system, Planning Center.

That person is Katie Braswell, a former member of our church. Katie and her husband, Casey, and their two boys attended the second service and left Muncie in 2015.

If you know the Braswells you might be thinking, "Oh, great, they are moving back!" No. Because of Casey's work, they are still in North Carolina and planning to stay there. The beauty

of 21st century communications is that they can be virtual, which is just how this arrangement with Katie will work.

Katie brings skills in visual, written, and oral communication, social media, technologies & platform processes and in several technology-based systems. She has served as an independent contractor to several organizations in her area.

“Katie is just what we need to help us fill the void after Pastor Wade’s departure,” said Colleen Massoth, church clerk. “Wade did so much of our technologically-related work, and Katie brings that expertise to help us fill in and to assist in the new tasks I am already performing. We are learning as we move forward and our Church Coordination Team (CCT) leadership group as well as our communications team are so pleased to have Katie starting with us in March.”

Snells Prepare for New Ministry



(L to R): Chloe (15), Jacob (18), Grace (20), Meredith, Matt, Anna (16), Caleb (12), Emma (21)

Matt and Meredith Snell have their ministry assignment and are almost ready to begin their new work for Cadence International. Meredith, formerly Meredith Songer, is the middle daughter of Joe and Gayle Songer and grew up in First Baptist Church. Her husband, Matt, was

recently retired from the Army as Lieutenant Colonel, having served twenty-one-and-a-half years.

The Snells will be working for and have been assigned to Ft. Drum in Watertown, New York, where they served from 1998–2001. They greatly benefitted from the work of Cadence during their time there.

As an earlier article described, Cadence is an evangelical mission agency dedicated to reaching all branches of the military of the United States and of the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ. The Cadence model involves a home-centered ministry, sharing a common table in weekly potlucks and Bible studies, exploring the geographical area, and participating in service projects. The Snells look forward to serving young, searching, impressionable families who are in the armed forces during some of the most strategic moments of their lives. Three of their children will be living with them in the hospitality house. The older three are in college.

First Baptist Church is a ministry partner as we are helping support them with our missions budget. Annually, the church denotes 11 percent of its budget for giving to a variety of causes. The American Baptist denomination, missionaries, local organizations, and education are all considered. We have allotted \$3,600 to the Snells, a small part of what they are raising to finance their work.

Meredith recently wrote to our church:

Thank you so much for partnering with Matt and me as we begin serving with Cadence International. Certainly FBC has been so foundational in my own life and faith and that of my family. It has been so meaningful to have your support during our time in the Army and now in our new ministry to the military as well.

Gratefully,

Meredith and Matt Snell and family