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July 7, 2019

Dear First Baptist Church Family,

Happy Birthday! FBC is 109 years old! We started as a Bible study in 1906 and was chartered as an American Baptist Church on July 7, 1910. God planted us in New Castle, Indiana, for His purposes!

This is the 5th letter in FBC's efforts to refocus the congregation on our mission and vision so that we as a church will know who we are and where we are going as we head into 2020 and beyond. This has been called the 2020 Vision Initiative because we want to be fully on mission by 2020.

- Our mission: **transforming stories through the gospel of Jesus Christ.**
- Our vision: **we desire to see communities thriving to the glory of God!**
- To help us focus on how to fulfill our mission and vision by 2020 we have been teaching on seven big words to unite us on what it means to be His Church: **GATHER, FOLLOW, REST, BELONG, LOVE, SERVE, and GO!** If you missed some of those Sundays, you can watch or listen to any of the sermons and/or read the sermon notes on our ever-improving website at www.newcastlefbc.com.
- To help you get involved personally, we have been emphasizing the "**7:1 Initiative.**" Research shows that people feel a church is "theirs" when they have **7** people they are in relationship with and have **1** place to serve where they can help make a difference. To that end, I invite you to take part and grow with at least **7** other people and find **1** place to serve. God designed you for this! Please, be a healthy member of our congregation.

What are your next steps to be on mission with Jesus Christ to bring thriving to our communities to the glory of God? The church does not exist for itself, but for the glory of God! The church does not exist to give its members benefits, but for the members to benefit the community! The church does not exist to be a cruise liner meeting the needs of its clients, but a battle cruiser bringing peace to war-torn communities, families, and individuals. **We are on mission at FBC!** Are you joining us in bringing transformation to our communities? How is God using you to bring thriving to others?

Next year, we are going to make 2020, the year of our **110th Birthday**, a "**Year of Celebration!**" We need everyone focused and committed to be Jesus' church because we are going to show our communities, starting in New Castle, the love and faithfulness of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

I'm so excited and can't wait to see how we all can work together to bless New Castle and our surrounding communities because we have been saved to serve and blessed to bless. Start praying and thinking now of how we can turn our birthday celebration into a way of living and giving generously all year long. FBC has a bright future because God has plans for us, plans that are good, plans that will show His faithfulness to the praise of Jesus' name. *Are you with us?*

Living Eternally Today,

Pastor Jerry Ingalls