

“Growing Spiritually as Individuals and as a Church”

From Rev. Gene's Perspective:

Final Reflection

This is the final e-messenger and in many ways it is bittersweet. When I started this in 2001, the term “blog” was not widely in use, but today blogs on every issue fill the internet. My blog (the e-messenger) gave me the forum to share my perspective on a wide range of issues, events, and trends. I have all my e-messengers in a couple of binders and they really serve as a personal journal. I plan on using the e-messengers as a major resource for one of the books that I am writing.

Transitions are a part of life for people and for institutions. Some transitions are time-related as one goes through different stages in life: Each stage is filled with challenges and opportunities. It is a little like your first day at high school- you are a little excited but you are also a little fearful. The fear comes from the unknown, while the excitement comes from the knowledge that your life is moving forward. To be alive is know change and to embrace it as a part of our life's journey.

On every level my twelve years at First Baptist were outstanding. We proved to be a great match for each other. From my first week on, I would bring up a project or something that needed to be done and there were always people to come forward. With over 250 people joining the church, the number of willing hands and givers allowed us to move forward on so many different fronts. I hope that my legacy will be related to the connectedness that I had with so many people. Of all the roles that I had, my role as shepherd of a great flock was the most rewarding.

I pray that the church will make a great transition and that it will remain the vibrant church on the hill.

May God Bless You,
Rev. Gene

CIRCLE OF CONCERN Tom Davis, Savanna Garner, Aline Koebernick, Cecil Montoya, Lou Pitt, Ken Sanders, Shirley Welsh, and Craig West.

Our prayers for all people serving in the military

Our heartfelt sympathy go out to the family of Donald Koebernick who passed away on December 24th. May his wife Aline, daughters and son-in-laws MaryAnn, David, Bonnie, Richard, Susan and William feel the love of the Lord and friends during this difficult time.

Donald Koerbernick's funeral will be on Saturday, January 8th at 11:00 AM at First Baptist Church with visitation from 10:00 AM until time of service.

Calendar

Sun. Jan. 2	9:00 AM Adult Study Group
	10:15 AM Worship Service and Choir Cantata
	11:30 AM Refreshments & Fellowship in Gathering Rm
Tues. Jan. 4	7:15 PM Rachel Circle – hostess Carol Egleston
Wed. Jan. 5	9:30 AM Ruth Circle at church – hostess Shirley Swanson
	2-6:30 PM Blood Drive at First Baptist Church
	6:30 PM Bible Study