



# The GOOD NEWS Letter

First Baptist Church, Eau Claire, WI 54703

May, 2010

## Looking Forward...



Pastor Mark L. Vincent

Last month's newsletter featured a narrative of how our congregation spends money in order to host worship services, share generously with our community and world, and to provide a place for Christian education and fellowship. Several of you described your appreciation for seeing our congregation's finances presented in this way. Some even said it made them think about our utility costs in a new light since they are a necessary result of us gathering in worship of God.

Telling the story in this way reminds us that:

- We worship God, not ourselves.
- Worship includes many forms of giving, most especially the firstfruits (first and highest grade) of our income.
- We give in trust that God will supply our needs.
- We are engaged in ministry and service as called by God rather than mere socializing.

Giving to God as a firstfruits act is virtually disappearing in congregations like ours. A recent book (*Passing the Plate*) tells us that Christians now give less than 1% of their income to God's work. No church can be sustained in this way. Worse, life in the Spirit disappears because giving no longer is a function of worshipful trust. Instead, it is charitable giving to a cause that has to keep proving it is worthwhile.

If we want renewal to break out more deeply than it already has in our congregation, it will begin with our worshipful, frequent, hilarious, outlandish, risky, awesome, and lavish firstfruits giving. That giving will provide a substance that can be used in ministry, which in turn gives us many stories to tell of God's work among us. And good stories have a way of attracting ears to listen and hearts ready to obey.

Let's keep asking ourselves, *what shall I render unto God for all his mercy?* And then let the generosity flow!

-mark l vincent

Pastor Mark's Days in the office for May 2010 include: 10,11,17,18,19,20,24

**THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**A New Life 2010 Church**  
416 Niagara St., Eau Claire, WI 54703  
Office Hours: 8-12 Mon. – Thurs.  
715-832-0642

[www.firstbaptistec.org](http://www.firstbaptistec.org)

[firstbaptistec@gmail.com](mailto:firstbaptistec@gmail.com)

[firstbaptistepastor@gmail.com](mailto:firstbaptistepastor@gmail.com)

SUNDAYS: Sunday School: 9 am  
Worship: 10 am



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

3 M. Brown	19 M.. Hamm
5 J. Anderson Sr.	23 A. Best
7 M. Vincent	24 B. Phillips
11 E. Muelling	28 M. Foster
17 L. Bennett	31 E. Ringwald

*[If we haven't included your birthday, please call the church office so we can get your name and date on our records.]*

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE - May

Rev. Mark L. Vincent, Interim Pastor

**May 2** Communion Sunday

**Scripture:** John 6:1-13

Mark 8:14-21

**Sermon:** "Legacy of Hope"

**Guest Pastor:** Rev. John D. Sundquist

**May 9**

**Scripture:** Psalm 99

1 Chronicles 1:7-12

Titus 1:1-5 (*preaching text*)

Luke 24:36-49

**Sermon:** "An apostle's heart"

**May 16**

**Scripture:** Psalm 110

1 Samuel 16:1-13 (*preaching text*)

Acts 1:12-26

John 13:21b-30

**Sermon:** "The prophet's role"

**May 23** Pentecost Sunday

**Scripture:** Psalm 119:129-135

Acts 15:1-35 (*preaching text*)

**Sermon:** "What exactly does a council do?"

**May 30**

**Scripture:** Psalm 8

Proverbs 8:22-31

Romans 5:1-5

John 16:12-15 (*preaching text*)

**Sermon:** "Guided by the Spirit"

## PRAYER LIST

E. Barton  
D. Brill  
J. Carlson  
M. Donnelly  
J. Giles  
C. Gore  
B. Muelling  
L. Vincent  
Families/Military Personnel:  
K. & K. Flanagan  
B. Ganther  
Our Missionaries



Our  
Special  
Seniors

A. Best  
L. Craney  
M. Garsow  
E. Reineke  
N. Schultz  
D. Stewart

## Our Special Ministries

CareLink

Community Table

Good Neighbor Project

Meals On Wheels

Our Campus Ministry



### **FIRESIDE FRIENDS**

Fireside Friends will meet on **Tuesday, May 4, at Noon.** Please plan to join us for a time of fellowship, good food and fun!

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### **ABWM MEETINGS**

The **Morning Literature Circle** will meet on Wednesday, May 19, at 9:30 am, at the home of Peg Hudson

The **Friendship Circle** will meet on Tuesday, May 11, at 1:00 pm, at FBC.

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### **150th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

First Baptist Church will be 150 years old in March of 2011. At the Birthday Dinner last month, the Moderator asked for celebration ideas and volunteers to be a part of the planning for this occasion. Julie Gerrish, Margo Giles, Sue Glenz, Virginia Hilbrich, Peg Hudson, Carolyn Olkives Nancy O'Neill, Jean Schlieve, and Nancy Schlieve agreed to do this. There is still time to make it known that you can help in some way by telling one of these people or calling the church office.

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### **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS**

The Adult Bible Study group is continuing to meet at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall to discuss "Growing Through Life's Challenges."

All of those who would like to take part in these studies and discussions are invited to join the group.

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### **PRAYER GROUP**

The Prayer Group will continue to meet through the month of May. These meetings take place on Fridays at 11:00 am. All are welcome.

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### **CHOIR**

**Choir Rehearsal** will take place during the month of May on Thursdays at 5:00 pm.

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## **SUNDAY, MAY 2<sup>ND</sup>**



Reverend John Sundquist of the American Baptist Foundation will visit us on Sunday the 2nd of May. He will speak during Sunday School, preach in the worship service and be available for Q&A during the Fellowship Hour. We are

privileged to have him as our special guest and I hope you will make it a point to be present.

mark I Vincent

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### **Our APPRECIATION and THANKS to the THOMPSON FAMILY**

for the delicious and beautifully presented Easter breakfast. Those donuts and breads were made by LaVon! Thanks to **Donna** for the pretty spring table decorations and to the **Olkives, Hilbrichs, and Pierces** for clean-up.

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### **LOAD-A-TRUCK SUNDAY**

**May 2<sup>nd</sup>:**

Since 1986 26 churches have participated by bringing food or money to church for "Feed My People Food Bank".

- \$10 donation = \$100 worth of groceries
  - \$15 donation = \$150 worth of groceries
  - \$20 donation = \$200 worth of groceries
  - \$40 donation = \$400 worth of groceries
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### **SPRING ORGAN WALK**

**Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Get out and celebrate Spring!**

Treat your ears to the sounds of birds outside and cheery notes of the pipe organ at 3 Eau Claire Churches.

- 2:30 pm at First Presbyterian Church
  - 3:00 pm at St. Patrick's Catholic Church
  - 3:30 pm at Grace Lutheran Church
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### **CHURCH COUNCIL**

Will meet on Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11:15

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## TWO BAPTISMS

On Easter Sunday **A. Redmond** and **M. Yeazel** were baptized. We want to recognize their decision to follow Christ and support them in their faith journey.

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## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School will be at our church this summer and Bonnie Powell is looking for volunteers. They can contact her via email [sss2fbc@yahoo.com](mailto:sss2fbc@yahoo.com) or call her on her cell phone at 715-829-8523. Bonnie does not have a confirmation of dates yet.

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## PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

Our committee is prayerfully continuing to contact potential candidates and has set up the "Skype" System to do video interviews with interested candidates. We continue to ask for your prayer support for the process as well as for the one whom God has been preparing for us.

**Your Search Committee**

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## EAU CLAIRE GARDEN CLUB

The Eau Claire Garden Club will host a plant sale on Saturday, May 15, in the Fellowship Hall at FBC from 7:00 am through 1:00 pm. Leftover plants will be free after sale; select any you would like then.

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## CHIPPEWA VALLEY SUPER SPRING COMMUNITY BAZAAR

**The Salvation Army – Saturday, May 1, 2010, 8 am to 3 pm.** Family Rummage Sales, Craft Sale, Auction, Kid Inflatable Bouncer, Surprise Booth. Community Bazaar "Vendor" Application Form is available.

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## TRINITEAM CAREGIVERS' JOY DAY Sacred Heart Hospital – Rotunda Thursday, May 20, 2010

Food, Fun and Fellowship for persons who are elderly or have disabilities and their caregivers.

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## ABWM of WI RETREAT

**"Let Everyone Who is Thirsty Come"**  
**At Camp Tamarack**  
**June 4-6, 2010**

Registration before May 15 - \$95, \$20 deposit  
Registration after May 15 - \$100, \$25 deposit  
Housing on site or off site. Use registration form with brochure on bulletin board. For more information, call Mary Schecher at 414-258-7400.

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## *Thank You!*

**Dear Friends,**

*I'd like to personally thank you and your congregation for your generous gifts to the **World Mission Offering and International Ministries in 2009**. You have been part of the effort to help people come to Christ, **grow in Christ and change** their world through Christ. I am very pleased that because of your continued contributions through the World Mission Offering and targeted gifts for missionary support we have been able to maintain our full time missionary team. Please continue to encourage your congregation in their support for our missionaries and partners in their vital work.*

*Yours in Christian Mission,*

**Rev. Reid Trulson & Rev. Ray Schooler**  
**Executive Director & Dir. Of Development**

**Dear First Baptist Church,**

*On behalf of the **Eau Claire Garden Club** I am sending a contribution of \$200.00.*

*The Eau Claire Garden Club (formerly Otter Creek Garden Club) has as its mission to educate members in all phases of gardening and promote the enjoyment of gardening among our members and other people in our community.*

*We truly appreciate being able to use your welcoming and comfortable facility for our membership meetings and our yearly plant sale. We couldn't do it without you. Thank you very much.*

**Sincerely,**  
**Marty O'Halloran, Treasurer**

**Dear Friends at First Baptist Church,**

*I greet you in the name of our risen Lord,  
whose triumph over death brings joy to us all.*

*We have recently received the final report on 2009 giving to United Mission, our ABCUSA family offering. During these challenging financial times, we were delighted and honored to learn that your church, along with 1,111 others, gave more to United Mission in 2009 than in 2008. The average increase in giving among this group was more than \$1,000 each.*

*In the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter of 2 Corinthians, Paul praises the church in Macedonia for its generous spirit of giving. "For they gave...of their own free will, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints." 2 Cor. 8:3-4 This was a great comfort to Paul, both in the physical support of his ministry and in the spiritual support represented by these gifts. Those of you who continue to strongly support United Mission are "Macedonians" to us. Together we are truly **United In Mission** as we strive to serve as the hands and feet of Christ in our regions, our nation, and around the world.*

*Thank you for this tangible expression of your participation in the family known as **American Baptist Churches USA.***

**Rev. Leo S. Thorne, PhD  
Associate General Secretary  
Mission Resource Development**

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**AN AFTERNOON WITH COMPOSER  
JOEL RANEY**

**Sunday, May 16 at 1:30 pm**

**Grace Lutheran Church  
202 W. Grand Ave., Eau Claire**

Join Joel for a light-hearted afternoon of music

- Mini-concert of his own piano compositions
- Listen to some of his commercials
- Learn about his career in music

Joel Raney received a Master's degree from The Juilliard School of Music in New York.

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**Letter From Pastor Scott Miller  
First Lutheran Church  
1005 Oxford Avenue  
Eau Claire WI  
[www.First-Lutheran.org](http://www.First-Lutheran.org)**

Fourth of July Community Worship

I want to update you on the Community Fourth of July Worship Celebration planned for Owen Park. We have secured the park for the event and will have an initial planning session set for May 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm at First Lutheran.

Please start thinking about this event and be ready to provide some ideas. I would like to have a mass choir, perhaps a bell choir, and other things that would enhance this event. I would also like to suggest that perhaps we could have a community picnic following the service. I have secured Matt and Suzie Kendziera who will lead the vast majority of the music. They are involved in developing a downtown ministry called B-Side and are very gifted worship leaders.

I have received confirmation of support for this event from First Congregational Church, First Baptist, First Presbyterian, and First Lutheran. There is still plenty of time to consider being a sponsor for this event. I hope to have a great crowd as we celebrate together as the extended Family of God!

I look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>.

In Christ,  
Pastor Scott Miller

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**FIRST FRIDAY – May 7  
Christ Church Cathedral  
510 South Farwell St., Eau Claire  
The Voice Faculty Quartet**

The resident faculty voice quartet at UWEC will perform pieces from popular Broadway musicals. Free breakfast - 8:30 am; program begins 9 am

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