

The GOOD NEWS Letter



First Baptist Church, Eau Claire, WI 54703

April, 2009



I Wonder...

Pastor Lynn Scott

This is the month when we cross the threshold from the season of Lent into Easter. Lent, which means "Spring" has been an invitation to be more attentive to the ways of God, to know Jesus Christ more fully in our lives, to let go of all that is blocking a more intimate relationship with God, and to find ways in which we can serve faithfully.

We will gather on Easter morning, April 12th, and celebrate the Resurrection, the new life known in Jesus Christ. It is a kind of "homecoming" both in the gathering of families together for the day, and the coming home to God through Christ.

What opening needs to happen within you that allows space for the new life that Christ comes to bring? What will you choose to lay down so that new possibilities may be present?

This prayer poem is an offering to you, an invitation to prayer, as we move toward Easter Sunday together. May it help us all to prepare for the Great Homecoming, the celebration of resurrection. Pray it slowly, pray it often. And then let's gather on Easter morning with open hearts and minds, ready to receive the gift of Jesus Christ, the new life experienced in resurrection.

O True and Ever-Living God
I repent of all my false and empty gods
I look again into the closets of my life
my mind, my heart
to see what rules me.

Whom do I serve?

What are the possessions
the people, the opinions
the events,
that control my life?

O Welcoming One

I see you standing at the door
of my heart
waiting for me
You gaze at my strange gods
with an eye of compassion.

I am ashamed to invite you
into my cluttered house
yet my heart aches
to be at home with you

My hand is reaching for the door
I hear myself saying, Come on in
I have more room than I thought I had
Come on in, and be the *only* God in my
life.
May this moment of homecoming last
forever.

See you in worship ~

Pastor Lynn

Wiederkehr, Macrina. "A Prayer for Coming Home" in *Seasons of Your Heart*. (New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1991), p. 35

Published Monthly by
THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
A New Life 2010 Church
416 Niagara St., Eau Claire, Wisconsin
54703

Office Hours: 8-12 Mon. – Thurs.
715-832-0642

www.firstbaptistec.org

firstbaptistec@gmail.com

firstbaptistepastor@gmail.com

SUNDAYS: Sunday School: 9 am
Worship: 10 am
Children's Sunday School: 10:15 am

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR APRIL

Rev. Lynn Scott, Interim Pastor

April 5: Palm Sunday

Communion Sunday

Sermon: Rethinking God's Reign

Scripture: Psalm 118:1-2,19-29

Mark 11:1-11

April 12: Easter Sunday (two services)

Sermon: Rethinking Resurrection

Scripture: Acts 10:34-44

Psalm 118:1-2,14-24

I Corinthians 15:1-11

John 20:1-18

April 19: Second Sunday of Easter

Sermon: Rev. Don Frank

Scripture: Acts 4:32-35

Psalm 133

I John 1:1-2:2

John 20:19-31

April 26: Third Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Acts 3:12-19

Psalm 4

I John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36b-48

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Sunday, April 5 – Palm Sunday

Sermon: Rethinking God's Reign

Join in worship with the processional with palms as we begin to make our way into Holy Week.

Thursday, April 9 – Maundy Thursday

7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room

We will gather at the round tables to re-enact the Last Supper and to observe "Tenebrae," a service of darkness through the extinguishing of eight candles; we hear the story told in Scripture and song.

Friday, April 10 – Good Friday

Ecumenical Good Friday Service

12:10 p.m. First Congregational – UCC

Sunday, April 12 – Easter Sunday

7:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise Vigil

8:15 a.m. Breakfast

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Sermon: Rethinking Resurrection

Thanks to All Who Contributed to the Celebration of FBC's 148th Birthday!

Many were involved in the planning and preparation of the Birthday Dinner and Program on Sunday evening, March 15. Our sincere thanks for jobs well done to Sue Glenz, Allen and Carolyn Olkives, Marge Anderson, Donna Pierce, Emily Nicolai, Bettye and Earl Anderson, Julie Gerrish & Company, Eila Goins, Margo Giles, LaVon Thompson, Helen Haas, Virginia Hilbrich, Nancy O'Neill, the Choir, Paul Hilbrich, Travis Nicolai, Nancy Gould, Pastor Lynn Scott and all who brought a dish to share.

-The Diaconate



FIRESIDE FRIENDS

Fireside Friends will meet at First Baptist Church for its monthly meeting on **Tuesday, April 7, at Noon** for a potluck dinner.

PRAYER LIST

Amara (4-yr-old girl) – see Micki Foster
Elise Barton
Meredith Brill
June Carlson
Marilyn Donnelly
Kathie Flanagan (Bonnie's sister)
Jeff Giles
Charles Gore (LaVelle Relative)
Janet Krahn
Mary Ellen Moser (Baker Family
Families/Military Personnel:
Ben Ganther
Our Missionaries



Our
Special
Seniors

Alnora Best
Tony Christianson
Loretta Craney
Marge Garsow
Evelyn Reineke
Nellie Schultz
Dorothy Stewart

Our Special Ministries

CareLink
Community Table
Good Neighbor Project
Meals On Wheels
Our Campus Ministry



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

2 M. Anderson	18 T. Nicolai
3 C. Haywood	21 B. Ganther
13 L. Tomjanovich	26 S. Books
16 S. Ganther	27 J. Larson
17 M. Burt	30 A. Webb
18 M. Brill	

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL DISCUSSION GROUP

9:00 am in the Fireside Room

JOB OR MINISTRY?

Some people have a job in the church.
Others involve themselves in ministry.

What's the difference?

If you do it just because no one else will...it's a job!

If you do it to serve God...it's a ministry!

If you quit because someone criticized you...it's a job!

If you kept on serving in spite of criticism...it's a ministry!

If you'll do it only so long as it doesn't interfere with other things...it's a job!

If you're committed to staying with it, even when it means letting other things go...it's a ministry!

If you quit because no one ever praised or thanked you...it's a job!

If you stay even though no one notices your efforts...it's a ministry!

If you do it because someone else said it needs to be done...it's a job!

If you do it because you sensed God saying it needs to be done...it's a ministry!

It's hard to get excited about a job.

It's almost impossible not to get excited about a ministry!

An average church is filled with people doing jobs!

A great and growing church is filled with people involved in ministry!

-Nancy O'Neill

JOY DAY

AT SACRED HEART

Thursday, April 2, at 1:30 pm

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

ABWM EVENTS



The **Morning Lit. Circle** will meet on Wednesday, April 15, at 9:30 am at the home of LaVon Thompson.

The **Friendship Circle** will meet on Wednesday, April 8 at 1:00 pm at the church. Micki Foster will be the hostess. Jean Schlieve will continue with the book study, "A Woman's Walk with God".

BETTER COMMUNICATIONS

Last month we proposed a simple system by which you could be notified of special events or other important messages concerning our church family. If you would like to be included in these broadcasted e-mail messages we ask you to e-mail the church office (firstbaptistec@gmail.com) with "FBC-mail" in the subject line and we'll include your e-mail address in the list. Persons without e-mail service may just call the church office to have your name included in a telephone call group and receive the information by phone.

We also want to form another e-mail group, similar to the former "prayer chain" which would include those who would be willing to pray for anyone in need of prayer. To join that group, e-mail the office with the words "PRAYER-mail" in the subject line and we'll add you to that list. When the occasion arises, you will be notified of those who need prayer. Those without e-mail may simply call the office and indicate your willingness to offer prayers and you will be included in that telephone call group. As mentioned last month, your e-mail address will not be included in the outgoing messages, so it will be safe with us.
Your INREACH Ministry Team

To Those Who Receive Weekly Sermon Tapes – we haven't been able to record due to severe problems in the sound system. We're working on trying to resolve these problems. In the meantime we are unable to provide tapes. Thank you for your patience. *–Micki Foster*

2009 MEN'S SPRING RETREAT

Camp Tamarack

April 3-4, 2009

8 pm Friday to 3 pm Saturday

Retreat Leader: **Rev. John R. Walton, Jr.**

Cost: \$40 Fri. & Sat.; \$20 Sat. only

Cost includes breakfast and lunch on Sat., and Lodging on Fri. night. To make reservations, email kbyleen@wi.rr.com or call 414-427-5738.

THESE HANDS. . . THESE FEET

is the Biennial theme for the American Baptist Church gathering on June 26-28, 2009, in Pasadena, CA. We will worship together, engage in hands-on mission projects, and view the Mission Fair in the Exhibit Hall. Come and be challenged with our theme text using the words of our risen Lord from John 20:21, "**I am sending you.**" (DVD available – see the Pastor)

DOWNTOWN POST-EASTER STUDY

The downtown churches are hosting a Tuesday Study for everyone in the community. The theme is "Many Parts, One Body" – a study on the Letter to the Ephesians.

April 21st @ Lake Street United Methodist

Presenter: Rev. Rolf Nestingen

April 28 @ Sacred Heart/St. Patrick's (school cafeteria)

Presenter: Father Dhein

May 5 @ Grace Lutheran Church

Presenter: Rev. Graham West

May 12 @ Christ Church Cathedral

Presenter: Father Rademacher

Morning Session is at 10:30 a.m. followed by a light soup luncheon.

Evening Session is at 6:30 p.m. with coffee/goodies following.

Watch for more information regarding cost (possibly \$10) and the availability of nursery care. In addition to the churches who are hosting or presenting, other churches involved are First Lutheran Church, First Baptist Church, and First Congregational UCC.

Rolland Schlieve, former FBC member, died on February 16, 2009. He was a member of the church during the 1930's, 40s and 50s. Although he attended a Methodist Church in Whitewater Wisconsin, he kept his Baptist connection. The greatest compliment he could give a minister was that the sermon sounded Baptist. Rollie was interred at Lake View cemetery on March 14, 2009.

FIRST FRIDAY
Christ Church Cathedral
510 South Farwell St., Eau Claire
Friday, April 3, at 9:00 am

Panelists **Karen Alexander**, a retired elementary school teacher, and **Nancy Hanson-Rasmussen**, lecturer at UW-Eau Claire will highlight the warmth and humor in all of our struggles to be humane with each other, whether we are able-bodied or disabled.

Excerpts from a Letter from
Judy Sutterlin

Dear Encouraging Friends,
Thank you for your interest in the work God is doing in China. I want to tell you about some of the wonderful things that have been taking place for which we are thankful.
Christmas in Nanjing: Looking back with joy on the witness of churches here
Once again, Christmas marked a fantastic time for evangelism in the churches in China. In Nanjing, the number of services held on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day has been steadily increasing in response to incredible numbers of people coming to see what this special event really is that they've only heard about. The Mochou Road Church had planned three Christmas Eve services. However, between the afternoon and the evening service, the sanctuary filled again, and the church spontaneously began an additional service. After the "last" evening service ended at around 9:30, again the sanctuary filled and people waited.

Nanjing Seminary's move to a new campus
Seminary education in China begins at an

undergraduate level. Nanjing seminary, where I teach, has both an undergraduate and a master's degree and draws students from all over China.

The Seminary is now in transition as we move from a very small campus with around 180 full-time students in the city center to a much larger facility capable of serving 500 students in the midst of a university district on the outskirts of Nanjing. You can imagine the work involved in moving an entire school campus. My mailing address will remain the same for now.

Working with the Amity teacher program

I continue to write three articles a month for the Amity Echo, an e-mail publication for Amity teachers. I also traveled to Guangxi province with an Amity staff person to make official visits to the 10 Amity teachers in six different schools.

An award in Ningxia Autonomous Region

The government of Ningxia Autonomous Region awarded me one of their Friendship Awards in appreciation for the 10 village clinics we helped to build there. But this award is not really mine. It belongs to all American Baptists – and especially to you, for your support made this work possible.

A visit to the earthquake stricken area in the Mianzhu area of Sichuan Province

This is in the heart of the area most affected by the terrible earthquake last May. We saw the utter devastation that the quake had brought to some areas. That same afternoon we saw new hope that is growing in people's hearts and new life springing up all around.

Rebuilding is going on everywhere and the Amity Foundation is helping.

My Special thanks to all who partner with me through your interest, with your encouraging cards and notes, in your prayers and in your giving.

Thank you for all your gifts

The ministry in China needs your continued support!

Thank you again for partnering with me at whatever combination and level is possible for you – through your interest in our work in China, through prayer, and/or contributing to my support. Peace, Judy (*To read her entire letter, please see the bulletin board.*)

EASTER BREAKFAST

Plan now to attend the Annual Easter Breakfast on Easter Sunday at 8:15 AM. Please sign up on the poster in Fellowship Hall. It's just \$4.00 per person (children under 10 free!). The breakfast will be prepared and served by the LaVon Thompson family.

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC GROUP

Sunday, April 5th, 11:00 – 12:15 p.m.
Come and join others around the piano (Chris Powell), the drums (Travis Nicolai), the bass (Jay Pierce) and the microphones (singers) to sing Christian contemporary music for fun. . . and with the possibility of offering our gifts to our Sunday morning worship once in a while. We sang in worship on March 29th and look forward to other times. We are adding more songs to our group and it would be great to add your voice (or instrument)!
Check with the Church office for our next practice time (Saturday @ 11:00 a.m. followed by a light lunch.) All ages are welcome.

NEWS FROM THE PEWS –*Jean Schlieve*

Will a course on the history of rock and roll transfer from the University at St Cloud Minnesota transfer to UWEC? That is a question **Joe Lorentz** asked himself when he decided to become a Sophomore plus last fall. His two years in St Cloud were more than a learning experience but he decided to return to Eau Claire where his mother, Amy Skogstad, his step-dad Chad and his grandmother, Shirley Pickerign, live. His brother, Adam, attends the UW Madison. Joe had graduated from Altoona High School where he enjoyed many extra curricular activities such as music and sports, soft ball etc.

Now as a sophomore plus he is majoring in Spanish and international business. Joe feels this combination will lead to a wide field of job opportunities. While going to school Joe has a job at the mall theater where he is a “jack-of-all trades”. His job allows him to enjoy many of the newly released films as well as trouble shooting in the projection room.

Joe manages to fit in other activities such as hunting, fishing with Chad, his step-dad, and downhill skiing with his friends. He also likes to cook - his specialty being gourmet pizza. This summer Joe plans to work at B & B electronics along with his duties at the theater.

Could You Fast for 30 Hours?

A year ago in April, the youth had their first lock-in to celebrate what it is to be a youth. This April, we are recognizing not only what it is to be young and to celebrate that, but what a gift it is and how fortunate we are at this church. Therefore, the youth group is taking a look at World Vision's 30-Hour Famine. While we may not actually participate, we are learning about the gifts we have such as food. Along with this we are discovering what it means to be an American Baptist and to grow and learn more about our faith.

Meeting

We meet every Wednesday night from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. and all youth – 7th to 12th grade – are welcome!

Contemporary Christian Music Group

We are practicing on Saturday mornings – watch for the upcoming dates. We sang for the first time on Sunday, March 29th for the morning worship service. Call or email the church office for more information.

Camping Opportunities for Summer

Camping brochures are available at Church. Check it out and consider a week of getting together with other youth and growing in your faith. It will be a life-changing experience!

Youth Leader Nicole Wolf
crzywolf55@hotmail.com