



The GOOD NEWS Letter

First Baptist Church, Eau Claire, WI 54703

April, 2010

Looking Forward...

Pastor Mark L. Vincent

Narrating our money story

Have you heard of a *narrative spending plan*?

It is not much of an inspiring title, but it is descriptive. It means to tell a story of how you plan to distribute income you receive. In this way the narrator is describing a vision and goals—something far more profound than just trying to make sure their ends meet. So what if our bills are paid. We want to use money for our dreams!

A household can write a narrative spending plan. So can a church.

It is particularly useful for a church to do this so that the congregation remains informed about where the money goes in support of mission and ministry. This is a much better method than simply telling people whether or not a budget is met and bills are paid. Which would you rather hear?

We are behind on our budget (running a surplus for the moment)?

OR

The next money we will raise will help us support our campers at Camp Tamarack?

Here is an example of a narrative spending plan for our congregation, using our actual figures through the end of February:

The 2010 Spending Plan for First Baptist Church

Our congregation's mission *shall be the advancement of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. We shall seek to attain this through public worship of God, the preaching of the Gospel, consistent*

Christian Living by our members, personal evangelism, missionary endeavor, and Christian Education.

In 2010, we plan to spend \$114,531 in support of this mission.

In our missionary endeavor we plan to contribute \$9,950 to the American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin, Camp Tamarack, UW Eau Claire Campus Ministry, Bolton House and other ministries. This amount reflects 9% of the money we intend to spend. Our special offerings for retired ministers and missionaries, One Great Hour of Sharing, Haiti Relief and more will raise this amount substantially, taking us above 10% of all money we receive going beyond the walls of our congregation to plant churches, relieve suffering and provide education.

In our worshipping of God and preaching the gospel, we will host approximately sixty worship services, including our weekly Sunday morning services. A significant portion of our pastor's time and maintaining our facility are dedicated to making this possible. In 2010, we will spend approximately \$57,484 or 50% of the money we spend.

In our efforts to build strong Christian living through Christian education, we offer weekly Sunday School classes, a Friday morning prayer group and all church fellowship events. We also strive to make sure the sick are visited and adequate pastoral care is available when needed. During the first quarter of 2010, we increased our Sunday School offerings to include a class on Inductive Bible Study that includes our youth and other interested adults. Another anticipated event comes in May 2010, when Rev. John Sundquist of the American Baptist Church Foundation will be with us to provide a workshop on estate planning. This reflects approximately 47,097 or 41% of our spending.

Through the end of February, we have received \$17,086, or 15% of this income. This means we have already raised \$1,700 of the money we intend to distribute beyond our congregation.

May God grant us all a new heart to be generous for the work of Christ's Kingdom!

Do you want to know more about how I arrived at these figures? Ask me!

-mark l vincent

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A New Life 2010 Church
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SUNDAYS: Sunday School: 9 am
 Worship: 10 am



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

2 M. Anderson	18 T. Nicolai
4 P. Anderson	21 B. Ganther
16 S. Ganther	26 S. Books
17 M. Burt	27 J. Larson
18 M. Brill	30 A. Webb

[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 - April

Rev. Mark L. Vincent, Interim Pastor

April 1 Maundy Thursday

Scripture: Psalm 116:1-2,12-19
 Exodus 12:1-4,11-14
 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
 John 13:1-15

April 4 Easter Sunday

Scripture: Psalm 118:1-3
 Acts 2:29-36
 Philippians 3:17-4:1 (*preaching tx*)
 John 20:1-18

Sermon: "The transforming power of the resurrected Christ"

April 11

Scripture: Psalm 30
 Jeremiah 32:36-41
 Philippians 4:2-9 (*preaching text*)
 John 21:1-14

Sermon: "Get Along. Rejoice Often. Think Well."

April 18

Scripture: Psalm 23
 Numbers 27:12-23
 Philippians 4:10-23 (*preaching text*)
 John 10:22-27

Sermon: "The fruit of renewal"

April 25

Scripture: Psalm 100 (*preaching text*)
 Acts 13:14,43-52
 Revelation 7:9-17
 John 10:27-30

Sermon: "Glad worship"

PRAYER LIST

M. Baker
 E. Barton
 D. Brill
 J. Carlson
 M. Donnelly
 J. Giles
 C. Gore
 M. Moore (Olkives' nephew)
 L. Vincent
 A. Weidinger
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, April 6, at Noon at FBC** for a Potluck. Please plan to

join us for a time of fellowship, good food and fun!

ABWM MEETINGS

The **Morning Literature Circle** will meet on Wednesday, April 21, at 9:30 am, at Mary Burt's house.

The **Friendship Circle** will meet on Tuesday, April 13, at 1:00 pm, at FBC with Micki Foster hosting.

FBC's 150th BIRTHDAY

The Church Council is looking forward to our church's 150th anniversary in March of 2011. We need to plan how to celebrate and would like to invite interested people to volunteer for the Anniversary Committee. You have the opportunity to decide how to shape the celebration. If you are interested, please talk to Margo Giles, Julie Gerrish, or leave your name in the church office.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

The class will continue a study on "Growing Through Life's Challenges." Feel free to join us in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 am on Sunday morning.

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 or call her on her cell phone at 715-829-8523. Bonnie does not have a confirmation of dates yet.

PRAYER GROUP

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

EASTER SCHEDULE

Thursday, April 1 – Maundy Thursday
7:00 p.m. in Fireside Room

Friday, April 2 – Good Friday
Ecumenical Good Friday Service at 12:10 pm
First Congregational UCC, 310 Broadway

Sunday, April 4 – Easter Sunday
7:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service in Chapel
8:15 a.m. Breakfast
9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Thanks to All Who Contributed to the Celebration of FBC's 149th Birthday!

Many were involved in the planning and preparation for the Birthday Dinner and Program on Sunday evening, March 14. Our sincere thanks to Earl Anderson for ticket sales, Micki Foster and the Carlson family for the table settings, Allen Olkives for cooking the ham and potatoes, Carolyn Olkives for helping in the kitchen, all who brought a dish to share or contributed to the cost of the cake and rolls, the Hilbrichs, the Pierces, the Olkives, and Ray Larson for clean-up, Nancy O'Neill for program, Eila Goins, MC for the evening, program participants Margo Giles, Earl and Bettye Anderson, Tim Ashley, the Choir, and Pastor Mark Vincent.

-The Diaconate

Gift to Bolton Refuge House in honor of Ruth Baker

At a *called* business meeting on Sunday, March 21, First Baptist approved the Diaconate's proposal to give \$10,000 of the Baker Bequest to the Bolton Refuge House Capital Campaign in honor of Ruth Baker, a long-time member of our church. The money will be used to help in the renovation of their new facility on Farwell Street. Bolton House ministers to those who seek refuge from abusive situations. Certainly this is reaching out to a need in our Community.

Thank You!

Members & Friends,

I am writing to you to say a personal word of thanks for your generous gift of \$25,000 for endowment at the Milwaukee Centre of Central Baptist Theological Seminary. As one who, many years ago, became a Christian and was baptized at First Baptist, Eau Claire, I feel especially heartened and warmed by the gift from this church through the generosity of the estate of Ruth Baker. Whenever the word "church" comes into my mind, it is a picture of First Baptist, Eau Claire that still pops into my head even after all these years.

This gift will be valuable, not only in its own right, but because it will encourage other churches and individuals to contribute to a unique project in our region. The Milwaukee Centre is a partnership between an American Baptist Region and a theological seminary that doesn't exist in quite this way anywhere else. Although as American Baptists we are open to all expressions of Christ's Church, we at the Milwaukee Centre are proud to own American Baptist identity.

Now in our fifth year of operation, the Centre began in the vision of dedicated ministers and potential students who knew the need for accredited theological education in our region for those who could not travel to get it, even as far as Chicago. We are a product of the strategic partnership of churches, individuals, and institutions dedicated to providing such theological education here. This May, we anticipate that our first four graduates will receive degrees and diplomas from Central Baptist Theological Seminary. The four graduates will be Melva Bishop, Kim Drost, Joseph McLin, and Joyce Savage, all four American Baptists by the way. Dr. Arlo Reichter, my wife Maxine (Coordinator of Student Services) and myself will accompany these four to the Shawnee campus of Central Seminary for the graduation ceremony on May 15. On Sunday, May 16, we will be back in Milwaukee for a Commissioning Service to be held at 3:00 pm at Community Baptist of

Greater Milwaukee. You will receive a formal invitation to this event soon, but this is just a preview to set aside the date.

Thank you again, for your wonderful gift. Continue to keep us in your prayers, as I will keep you in mind.

Shalom,
Timothy R. Ashley, Ph.D.
Director: CBTS, Milwaukee Centre

Dear First Baptist Church,
Thank you for the generous \$300 donation and for giving your time in service to The Community Table.

The Community Table was built and is supported by our community. It is a place where people come together over food, the most basic of needs, and quench their thirst for companionship, cooperation, and a sense of commonality. Each day, volunteers, staff, and guests share a table, breaking down barriers and feeding not only bodies but also spirits.

This contribution will enable us to continue to serve meals to those in need. You are always welcome at our table.

Yours in Service,
Hollie Moe, Director

Dear First Baptist Church,
Thank you for your gift to the Chippewa Valley Free Clinic. Your partnership provides a critical care link to the patients who turn to us for help.

The last 12 record-breaking months were only possible because of support from you and so many others in the Community.

There is more to be done. Despite all those we do serve, we still are forced to turn away patients every walk-in clinic due to lack of resources. In addition, the efforts of Health Care Reform will not replace the need for our Free Clinic. Your gift helps us to sustain our current services.

Brent A. Hafele, Executive Director

ABWM SPRING DINNER

Tuesday, April 27 at 6:00 pm

Salad Potluck at First Baptist Church in Fireside Room. Installation of Officers with decorations by Busy Hands. All are welcome.

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Your Search Committee has been meeting weekly, prayerfully considering potential candidates. We have now begun the process of communicating with two possible choices. We'll keep you informed as things develop.
-Your Search Committee

AMERICAN BAPTIST FOUNDATION

On Sunday, May 2, The Rev. John D. Sundquist will visit us here at FBC representing the American Baptist Foundation. Rev. Sundquist began his ministry with the Foundation in April 2009. He has extensive experience serving congregations as an interim pastor, associate pastor, and senior pastor. He has also supervised Christian education programs, led workshops on church renewal and stewardship, served on regional committees, and forged institutional partnerships across denominational lines.

The American Baptist Foundation is now in its third decade of encouraging charitable gifts from the assets and estates of numerous American Baptists.

For more information on this foundation, please note a flyer entitled "**Your Legacy Begins Here**" which has been posted on the glass enclosed bulletin board at the Niagara St. entrance.

FROM SURVIVING TO THRIVING

Living with a Chronic Disability

Six consecutive Tuesdays

April 6 – May 11, 2:00 - 3:30 pm

The Healing Place

For Further information or to register, please call The Healing Place at (715) 717-6028. Pre-register by Friday, April 2nd.

JUDY SUTTERLIN

Posted on our "Missions" bulletin board, please find pictures and information from Judy Sutterlin regarding the new Jiangning University District campus' first Christmas.

She has also included information on the Nanjing Union Theological Seminary's new leadership team.

MUSICAL EVENT

Organ Recital Opportunity by Paul Kosower, Professor Emeritus UWEC on **April 18 at 2 pm** at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 810 Pearl Street, Chippewa Falls. Program includes works by Messiaen, Vierne, JS Bach as well as sacred works, "Behold a Host" and "More Love to Thee O Christ".

IT'S TIME TO

"INCREASE YOUR GOODWILL"

Goodwill Industries of North Central Wisconsin (NCW) is in need of any gently used clothing and household items you no longer need. Please bring them to the donation drive-thru at your nearest Goodwill location. Attendants will help you unload, and give you a tax-deductible receipt. Your donation will help fund job training and other programs to assist people with disabilities and other barriers to independence become more fully integrated into the community. In addition to helping those in need, you are helping the planet in the process. Goodwill NCW diverted more than 42 million pounds of material out of the landfill stream in 2009. It's time to increase your Goodwill.

EAU CLAIRE COMMUNITY

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Saturday, April 24th at Owen Park

The Earth Day Celebration will include environmental activities, exhibits, vendors, food, music, and guest speakers! This celebration attracted approximately 1000 people in 2009 and hopes to attract 1200 this year.
