



# The GOOD NEWS Letter

First Baptist Church, Eau Claire, WI 54703

December, 2009

## Looking Forward...



Pastor Mark L. Vincent

In case you've missed a few weeks of church due to illness or travel, I want to make sure you are updated on several items:

1. The search committee for our next pastor is in the appointment process and will begin work in January. I am going to encourage them to work quickly, building on the work done previously and in cooperation with Arlo Riechter, the Executive Minister of our Region. I believe we may well be considering a candidate this spring. Please continue to make this a matter of prayer.

2. Our Boards have been asked to focus on one item each during the first half of 2010:

**Deacons** - making connections with newer and younger households in our fellowship.

**Trustees** - completing at least one capital improvement project.

**Christian Education** - strengthening our participation in the community vacation bible school.

3. Our worship services during Advent will focus on the songs sung by people like Hannah, Mary, Zechariah and the angels. Our worship services, adult Sunday school, and even our bulletin covers will coordinate to deepen our experience of considering the gift of Jesus Christ. Please plan to participate as fully as possible. And don't forget our Christmas Eve service of carols and hearing the Christmas story.

4. Rev. Patricia Anderson has begun helping me with the organization and planning of our worship services. She is also available to assist with some visitation, when needed.

December is a good time to consider your giving--not just presents to family--but giving to the work of Jesus Christ through this your local congregation. I would like to invite each one to experience the joy of tithing (giving 10% of one's income as a firstfruits gift of worship) as 2010 begins. This is truly a way to make our hearts go where our treasure goes.

May God bless you according to the generosity you show!

-mark l vincent  
Interim Pastor

**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

firstbaptistepastor@gmail.com

SUNDAYS: Sunday School: 9 am  
Worship: 10 am



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3 A. Olkives	24 J. Webb
12 A. Skogstad	25 L. Scott
14 J. Juett	26 M. Donnelly
19 A. Redmond	26 T. McDougall
19 N. Yeazel	27 E. Goins
22 B. Fair	

*[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 - December

Rev. Mark L. Vincent, Interim Pastor

**Dec. 6:** Communion Sunday  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

**Scripture:** Psalm 126  
Judges 13  
1 John 2:20-27  
Luke 1:39-56 (*preaching text*)

**Sermon:** "The Magnificat"

**Dec. 13:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

**Scripture:** Psalm 111  
Isaiah 26:1-9  
Revelation 21:1-5  
Luke 1:67-79 (*preaching text*)

**Sermon:** "The Benedictus"

**Dec. 20:** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

**Scripture:** Psalm 4  
Isaiah 6  
Romans 15:7-15  
Luke 2:1-20 (*preaching text*)

**Sermon:** "The Gloria"

**Dec. 24:** Christmas Eve Service at 4:00pm  
Pastor Mark

**Dec. 27:** Christmastide

**Scripture:** Psalm 121  
Chronicles 28:9-12  
Acts 20:17-24  
Luke 2:25-32 (*preaching text*)

**Sermon:** "Nunc Dimittis"

## PRAYER LIST

M. Baker  
E. Barton  
D. Brill  
J. Carlson  
J. Chalsma (Schlieve family)  
M. Donnelly  
S. Ganther  
J. Giles  
C. Gore  
B. Phillips  
L. Vincent  
A. Weidinger  
**Families/Military Personnel:**  
K. & K. Flanagan (*see note below*)  
B. Ganther  
**Our Missionaries**



Our  
Special  
Seniors

A. Best  
T. Christianson  
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 Christmas Gathering is on **Tuesday, Dec. 1, at Noon at the Fosters**, 4115

Jeffers Rd. (between Truax Blvd. and N. Crossing) for a Potluck lunch, Christmas sing, special ethnic entertainer and Christmas gift exchange (under \$3). Men bring a gift for a man and women bring a gift for a woman. If you need a ride or directions, call Fosters at 835-3200, or the Church at 832-0642.

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## **AB Women's Ministries....**

The **Morning Literature Circle** will not meet this month. They will meet in January at FBC.

The **Women's Christmas Dinner** will take place at the church on **Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm**. The food will be provided by members of the ABWM circles. All women are invited and encouraged to attend!

The **Friendship Circle** will meet at the home of Jean and Nancy Schlieve, 2115 Sherman Creek Rd. at **6:00 pm on Tuesday, December 15**, for our Christmas Potluck. Bring a dish to pass and be ready to join in the singing of Christmas carols.

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## **DECORATING of the CHURCH for CHRISTMAS**

We invite anyone who would like to help with decorating the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall to mark **Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>** on your calendar. We will begin with a soup supper at 5:30 pm and begin decorating about 6:00 pm.

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## **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.

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## **PASTOR MARK'S DECEMBER SCHEDULE**

Pastor Mark will be out of town from Nov. 30 to Dec. 19. During that time the church office will coordinate any need for hospital visitation or other pastoral care issues. **Mark's days in the office during Dec. are: 21,22,23,24.**

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## **CHEER BOXES GOODIES**

If you want to contribute cookies for the Cheer Boxes, please have cookies to the church by **9:00 am, Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**. Thanks for sharing!

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## **Thank You!**

**First Baptist Friends,**

*I want to thank you for the support and encouragement you have given me over the past year as I returned to college. I graduated in September with an Associate's Degree in Massage Therapy, and started working in October. Currently, I am working to build my practice. I am starting that at Body Essentials Massage in Eau Claire. The best way I can think of to market my new business is to let my friends know that I am ready for the new clients! Please keep me in mind and feel free to pass on my business contact information, as I hope that your recommendations will help me build my clientele.*

*Thank you so much,*

**Andrew Redmond**

**Body Essentials Massage**

**715-552-1441**

**Bodyessentialsmassage.com**

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**THANK YOU TO ALL** *who made the FBC*

*Thanksgiving Dinner on November 15 a memorable occasion for the 55 who attended! Our appreciation to the diaconate members who took care of the organizational details, the festive decorations, the clean-up, and the program. Special thanks to those who sang with the choir and the contemporary music group and to Pastor Mark for sharing some thoughts and original poems expressing love and thanks in his eye-catching western attire.*  
-Virginia Hilbrich, Diaconate Chair

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## GOOD NEIGHBOR PROJECT

In November the GNP committee requested the Reading Teacher at Lakeshore Elementary School to order books so that each child at Lakeshore would receive a new book of their own. The grand total was \$798. It was hoped that the books would arrive in time to be distributed near Thanksgiving, giving the children something extra for which to be thankful! Thanks for your part in this gift!  
-Virginia Hilbrich

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## UWEC MINISTRY

The board of the five-church cooperative effort for campus ministry has been working since spring to define our goals and vision for this ministry. The name has been changed from "The Ministries" to "Common Ground". Unfortunately for us but good for him, our campus minister, Nate Oldenkamp, has taken a full time job with Dove Healthcare. We will miss him.

The board will meet Sunday, December 6th at 2pm at First Presbyterian Church for the purpose of prayer, discernment and determining our next steps to take.

Please keep us in your prayers and we will keep you informed about this important ministry.

-Virginia Hilbrich and Sue Glenz

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## FIRST FRIDAYS: Dec. 4 Christ Church Cathedral 510 S. Farwell St., Eau Claire Infinitea Teahouse

Jeffrey Mares and Andrew Seveland, co-owners of Infinitea Teahouse (112 E. Grand Ave.), will introduce us to the art of tea making and small business ownership. With over 150 loose leaf teas available, Infinitea is one of the most unique businesses to recently enter the downtown scene.

- Free breakfast at 8:30 am
  - Program begins at 9:00 am.
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## 2010 RAGTIME FESTIVAL

**This event will Benefit The Community Table** – Eau Claire's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Ragtime Festival, January 8-10, will be a benefit weekend with proceeds donated to **The Community Table**. The Ragtime Festival has donated over \$85,000 to local non-profit organizations in the past ten years. The featured performers this year are Jeff and Anne Barnhart and Carl "Sonny" Leyland. First Congregational UCC, 310 Broadway St. For Tickets, 834-2668, or go to [www.ecragtime.org](http://www.ecragtime.org)

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## ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting this year will be held on **Sunday, January 17, 2010**. The Annual Reports are due in the office by 12/13/2009.

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## WE'VE MOVED!

**Please note our change of address\***  
Feed My People Food Bank  
2610 Alpine Road  
Eau Claire WI 54703

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## PRAYER LIST UPDATE

At Bonnie's request, we have happily removed her sister, K. Flanagan, from the prayer list.

In Kathy's own words:

"Hello everyone: Just wanted to bring you up to date with my good news! After treatment and removal of a tiny amount of malignancy, the pathology reports came back that there was no malignancy left in the remaining tissue in the breast and none in the tissue under my arm. Thanks so much for your love, concern and most importantly for your prayers as I've come through the biggest challenge I've ever faced. Our prayers were answered and for that I am so very, very thankful!" -Kathy

We have added her two sons to the prayer list (K. and K. Flanagan) because both are graduating from Lackland AFB this month. As Kathy has requested: "Please remember them both in your prayers as they face new challenges ahead."

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