

# The GOOD NEWS Letter



First Baptist Church, Eau Claire, WI 54703

February, 2009



## I Wonder...

Pastor Lynn Scott

Lately, I've been getting reacquainted with a book I read about five years ago - *The Present Future: Six Tough Questions for the Church*, by Reggie McNeal (Jossey Bass, 2003). In this provocative book, McNeal debunks several of the old assumptions about what it means to be church today. He will often state the assumption in the form of a question – what he calls the “Wrong Question” and then offer an alternative of what he calls the “Tough Question.” Here is an example:

Wrong Question: How Do We Grow This Church? (How Do We Get Them to Come to Us?)

McNeal writes of how the “church growth movement” has jumped headlong in to the customer service revolution bringing a demand for seminars offered in church growth “insights,” “principles,” and “prescriptions.” “The focus was on methodology – how to catch peoples’ attention, sign ‘em up, keep ‘em busy, and get ‘em to contribute money, talent, and energy to church efforts.” “Unfortunately, several decades of the church growth movement’s emphasis on methodologies have conditioned church leaders to look for the next program, the latest ‘model,’ the latest fad in ministry programming to help ‘grow’ the church. . . . The focus of the church is on itself, on what it takes to succeed.” (p. 25) “More energy expended on the church’s survival or success is misplaced.” (p. 26)

McNeal moves to the “Tough Question”: How Do We Transform Our Community? (How Do We Hit the Streets with the Gospel?)

“Churches that understand the realities of the present future are shifting the target of ministry efforts from church activity to community transformation.” (p. 26) He says one of the reasons this is a tough question is that it is turning the church inside out.

“Problem is, what most churches practice won’t fare too well outside because they are selling membership packages (institutional wrapping: membership, fellowship, members services).” He writes that we can continue to try to give people what we have or we can offer what they need. “They need what people always need: God in their lives.” “I am talking about a missional spirituality. Missional spirituality requires that God’s people be captured by his heart for people, that our hearts be broken for what breaks his, that we rejoice in what brings him joy (see Luke 15).” (p. 27)

I wonder what it means to shift from church activity to community transformation? I wonder what it looks like to shift from survival of the institution to transforming the community? I wonder what is happening in our community that breaks open God’s heart? What are your thoughts and ponderings in these questions?

In gratitude for our ministry together ~  
Pastor Lynn

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

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY

Rev. Lynn Scott, Interim Pastor

**Feb. 1: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**  
Communion Sunday

**Scripture:** Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
Psalm 111  
I Corinthians 8:1-13  
Mark 1:21-28

**Feb. 8: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

**Scripture:** Isaiah 40:21-31  
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c  
I Corinthians 9:16-23  
Mark 1:29-39

**Feb. 15: 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

**Scripture:** II Kings 5:1-14  
Psalm 30  
I Corinthians 9:24-27  
Mark 1:40-45

**Feb. 22: Transfiguration Sunday**

**Scripture:** II Kings 2:1-12  
Psalm 50:1-6  
II Corinthians 4:3-6  
Mark 9:2-9

## LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

The Lenten Season will begin with an Ash Wednesday service on February 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Watch for more information about other Lenten opportunities in March and April.



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 C. Powell	23 E. MacLBarck
7 P. Pierce	24 G. Schlieve
11 P. Hudson	27 K. Frank
11 J. Pittman	27 E. Reineke

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

## PRAYER LIST

Amara (4-yr-old girl) – friend of Micki Foster  
Elise Barton  
June Carlson  
Jeff Giles  
Charles Gore (LaVelle Relative)  
Janet Krahn  
Families/Military Personnel  
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



## FIRESIDE FRIENDS

Fireside Friends will meet at First Baptist Church for its monthly meeting on

**Tuesday, February 3 at**

**Noon.** After a potluck dinner, the group will hear a representative from the Aging and Disability Resource Center who will give an overview of the center's program and services.

## 148<sup>th</sup> FBC Birthday Dinner

This event will be held on **Sunday, March 15, at 6:00 pm.**

## Good Neighbor Project 2009

### Donations help Longfellow and Lakeshore Students

Longfellow and Lakeshore schools are very appreciative of the ways we help low-income students through the Good Neighbor Project.

The successful fundraiser we had this summer has paid the school fees of 232 Lakeshore students and 161 Longfellow students this school year. But that's not all. Because the four Good Neighbor partner churches raised \$3,314 beyond the amount needed to cover those fees, we are able to do so much more.

The Good Neighbor Project's mission is to provide items that low-income students need to participate in classroom and school activities. Here's what we've provided so far this year:

- Classroom magazines such as Weekly Reader and National Geographic
- Kindergarten rest mats
- Underwear and socks to have on hand in case of accidents
- Snacks for many classrooms
- Toothbrushes and deodorant
- Head lice treatment items
- Clothing and shoes for a homeless student
- Payment for lost library books so a student can check out books again
- Snow pants, boots, insulated gloves and mittens
- Gas card for a family

We have plenty of money to keep on helping students.

The principals, partnership coordinators, guidance counselors, and teachers want you to know how helpful it is to have Good Neighbor Project funds available when they learn of a student in need.

**Another way to help:** If you are cleaning out your closets, Longfellow could use your child's outgrown sweat pants in sizes 8-14 and gently used tennis shoes in sizes 12-5. Please deposit them in the box at the Niagara Street entrance.

*-Virginia Hilbrich*

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## News From the Pews

### A Tale from Two Cities:

It may not seem like a long distance between Wausau and Eau Claire, but it was a life-changing experience for Beatrice (Bea) McCullough who made that journey last spring. She had lived all her life in Wausau where she attended church, worked as a nurse's aide in the hospital, then as a medical typist. During her years in her local church she served as a Sunday school teacher and superintendant. She worked in the Women's Ministries and played the organ and piano. One of her favorite hobbies is quilting, mostly making baby quilts.

Bea's family now consists of three boys, Joel who lives in North Dakota and though he is retired, still works with the oil industry, Renee who lives in Minnesota and Steve who teaches in Elk Mound. Her other child, a daughter, Lorraine, is a missionary teacher in Africa.

Her decision to move to Eau Claire (she lives in the Grace-Barstow apartments) came when she developed problems with her legs which made walking difficult. Steve suggested that she move to Eau Claire where he and his wife could help her more easily. Although she has a car and can drive, she does not wish to do so in the winter.

Bea is still unfamiliar with Eau Claire and has yet to visit the Senior Center and Oakwood Mall. Her main concern now is how to do her taxes. We welcome her into our fellowship and are looking forward to introducing her to more of the activities Eau Claire has to offer.

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### Winter Weather Blues:

It has been really cold outside. The pipes in Beth Ures' basement felt the pressure and burst, filling her basement with water. Her mother, Joanne Ures-Halvorson, reports the clean-up will take a while.

*-Jean Schlieve*

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## ABWM EVENTS

**Morning Literature Circle,**  
Will meet on Wednesday,  
**February 18, at 9:30 am.**

**The Friendship Circle** will meet at Nancy O'Neill's home at 3145 Neptune Avenue on **February 11 at 1:00 pm.**

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### JOY DAY AT SACRED HEART

**Thursday, February 19, at 1:30 pm**

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

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### FEED MY PEOPLE FOOD BANK OPEN HOUSE

**331 Putnam Street, Eau Claire**

**Thursday, February 12, 4:30-6:30 pm**

Enjoy tours, information, and treats provided by the Board of Directors.

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### FIRST FIRDAY

**Christ Church Cathedral**

**510 South Farwell St., Eau Claire**

**Friday, February 6, at 9:00 am**

Join **Pat Heins** as she shares a true story, rooted in medieval times and still unfolding today, wearing her own "Pearly Queen" costume. Free continental breakfast at 8:30

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### TAIZE WORSHIP SERVICE

"Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10). Would you like to worship in a quiet, contemplative setting with Scripture, prayerful music, and silence? A non-denominational service will be held on Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Trinity Lutheran Church (Claremont Avenue). Taize music and worship began in France during WW II by the youth of Europe who sought to be peacemakers. The community now draws thousands of people every week. Taize music is known for its prayerful, centering, chant-like quality and is a wonderful way to experience the Presence of God.

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## Thank You!

**Dear Friends,**

*A big thank you for my cheer box and also to Sue and Pastor Scott for bringing it, and for our visit. With Christian Love,*

**Alnora Best**

**First Baptist Church,**

*I would like to thank all who furnished, worked and delivered the Christmas boxes. My family was here and we all appreciated it.*

*Thanks again,*

**Loretta Craney**

**First Baptist,**

*Many thanks to all for the beautiful, tasty cheer box of treats. I'm very thankful to Micki for delivering the box.*

*Love & Blessings,*

**Dorothy Stewart**

**Dear Members of FBC,**

*Thank you so very much for hosting our January Joy Day. All your help was greatly appreciated and the guests really enjoyed the delicious treats.*

*We appreciate your continued support in hosting this event. You really help to make Joy Day possible. We look forward to working with you again next year. Sincerely,*

**Julie Mead,**

**Triniteam Program Assistant**

**Dear Members of FBC,**

*On Behalf of the Eau Claire Interfaith Hospitality Network, the Board of Directors, volunteers and staff, I would like to thank you for your donation in the amount of \$250.00 to our organization. We appreciate your support to assist struggling families. Sincerely,*

**Ms. Kelly Christianson,**

**Executive Director, Beacon House**

**Dear First Baptist Church,**

*Thank you very much for your recent contribution of \$200.00 to the Eau Claire Hmong Mutual Assistance Ass., **Food Pantry.** Your contribution will be used to buy rice for those who are low income or lost their jobs.*

**Yong Kay Moua**

**Interim Director**

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**HOSPICE PROGRAM  
of Northwest WI HomeCare  
Chippewa Falls Public Library  
105 W. Central Street, Chippewa Falls  
Thursday, February 12, 1:00-4:00 pm**

Program includes basic hospice philosophy and services provided. For more information or to register, call 715-831-0106 ext. 80271

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**TRAINING**

Emotional and Spiritual Care in Disasters  
February 20-21, 2009 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Gospel Baptist Church, Sparta, WI  
A great Critical Incident Stress Management course for anyone who is called to respond to a crisis, large or small; good for clergy, chaplains, and church disaster response teams. For more information, see bulletin board.

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**FEED MY PEOPLE  
EMPTY BOWLS**

**Thursday, March 12, 2009  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Eau Claire  
Dine-In or Carry-Out – 11:00 am – 7:00 pm**

Bowl & Meal - \$18; Meal Only - \$8;  
Kids 10 & Under – Free

Purchase a handmade ceramic bowl and meal to help support Feed My People Food Bank.

Tickets available at: Feed My People Food Bank, UWEC Servicenter, Trinity Lutheran.

*(Quantity of bowls is limited. Advanced ticket purchase is recommended.)*

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**MEALS ON WHEELS**

The Aging & Disability Resource Center of Eau Claire County's program, Meals on Wheels, urgently needs regular, substitute and summer volunteers to deliver meals  
Contact Debbi Johnson, Volunteer Coordinator at 839-4763 for more information.

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**Youth at FBC**

**Do you like to sing?**

Watch for more information on a first practice for singing some contemporary music (with piano and drums); singers will include youth, and other interested persons from the Church. Talk with Pastor Lynn for more information.

**“Soul Mates – Friends for the Journey”**

Welcome back to Jenny Carlson and Liz Ringwald who attended the Winter Youth Retreat for the ABC of Wisconsin in January. The centering Scripture was “Be devoted to one another in brotherly/sisterly love. Honor one another above yourselves.” (Romans 12:10) Thanks to Sue Glenz who was the driver to/from Camp Tamarack.

**Meeting**

All youth and their friends are welcome to the youth group gatherings on Wednesday evening at 6:00 p.m. at the Church. Sometimes we listen to Christian music and discuss the song's lyrics and how it connects with our faith. We are also looking at getting involved in some service projects. Come and join us.

**Youth Leader Nicole Wolf**  
crzywolf55@hotmail.com