



# The GOOD NEWS Letter

First Baptist Church, Eau Claire, WI 54703

February, 2010

## Looking Forward...



Pastor Mark L. Vincent

When I was preaching on Jesus' teachings about the gospel, just prior to the Christmas season, we considered Peter's confession of Jesus as the Messiah. In response, I invited the congregation to write down their own confessions and to place them in the offering plate as something they might offer back to God. Here are examples of what some of us wrote:

- Jesus is my Lord and Savior!
- Jesus is Savior, Comforter, Guide, Protector, Master, Son of God, my Shepherd.
- I (and all of us) should want to be more committed to the will of God and not our own ways.
- Jesus is a role model—one who has been faithful to his calling. I can follow him and will.
- God is my guide home. When my life seems to be going in a direction without any guidance; if I've made a wrong turn, I turn to God for my direction home.

There were many more of us in worship that Sunday than written confessions we received. I don't attribute a small, yet beautiful response to the lack of belief in our congregation. The problem is one so many congregations run into: not talking about God anymore. We become so unpracticed in discussing the work of God openly that we expect the pastor to do it on our behalf, and even resist it when we are asked to share how we are living Christian faith, or to lead out in prayer, turning our anxiety over to the Lord.

In preparation for our next pastor it is important for us to get past this obstacle. When we give voice to our faith and point to what we see God doing, we are able to invite others to join us. If we continue to resist we have no hope to offer others.

What is God doing among us? What is God doing in you? Give voice to it and let us rejoice with you.

-mark l vincent

**Pastor Mark's Days in the office for February 2010 will be:**

15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 22

**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

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE - February

Rev. Mark L. Vincent, Interim Pastor

**Feb. 7:** Communion Sunday  
**Scripture:** Psalm 138  
Chronicles 6:40-7:4  
Philippians 1:1:11 (*preaching text*)  
Luke 5:1-11  
**Sermon:** “Thankful, confident, yet filled with longing”

**Feb. 14:**  
**Scripture:** Psalm 99  
Jeremiah 17:5-8  
Philippians 1:12-30 (*preaching txt*)  
Luke 6:20-26  
**Sermon:** “Worthy conduct”

**Feb. 17:** Ash Wednesday  
**Scripture:** Psalm 51:1-17  
Isaiah 58:1-12  
2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10  
Matthew 6:1-6,16-21

**Feb. 21:**  
**Scripture:** Psalm 91:1,2  
Deuteronomy 26:1-11  
Philippians 2:1-4 (*preaching text*)  
Luke 7:36-50  
**Sermon:** “If....Then....”

**Feb. 28:**  
**Scripture:** Psalm 27  
Genesis 15:1-6  
Philippians 2:5-11 (*preaching text*)  
Luke 13:31-35  
**Sermon:** “Liking Christlikeness”



### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

7 P. Pierce  
11 P. Hudson  
11 J. Pittman  
23 E. MacLaughlin-Barck  
24 G. Schlieve  
27 Karen Frank  
27 Evelyn 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

M. Baker  
E. Barton  
D. Brill  
J. Carlson  
J. Chalsma (Schlieve family)  
M. Donnelly  
J. Giles  
C. Gore  
B. Phillips  
L. Vincent  
A. Weidinger  
Families/Military Personnel:  
K. & K. Flanagan  
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 will meet on **Tuesday, Feb. 2, at Noon at FBC** for a Potluck. Please plan to join us for a time of fellowship, good food and fun!

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The **Morning Literature Circle** will meet on Wednesday, February 17, at 9:30 am, at FBC with Virginia Hilbrich hosting.

The **Friendship Circle** will meet on Tuesday, February 9, at 1:00 pm, at FBC with E. Goins hosting.

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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 M. Giles, J. Gerrish, or leave your name in the church office.

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## **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS**

A new Adult Bible Study group will begin on Sunday, February 14, and will meet at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall for 12 lessons. The title of this particular study is "Growing Through Life's Challenges."

All of those who would like to take part in the studies and discussions are invited to join the group. Materials can be picked up in the Fellowship Hall beginning on Sunday, January 31.

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## **ADDITIONAL BIBLE STUDY CHOICE**

Pastor Mark has also been leading classes on the Inductive Bible Study method. Feel free to join in these sessions at any time which take place in the Fireside Room on Sunday at 9:00 am.

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## **ANNUAL MEETING**

FBC held its annual meeting on January 17 after the worship service and a lasagna lunch. The budget for 2010, as printed in the annual report, was passed.

J. Giles and J. Pierce, with S. Pickerign as alternate, were elected to the Search Committee. They will join R. Carlson, Sr., N. O'Neill, and B. Powell who had been elected by the boards they serve. Dr. Arlo Reichter will be here for worship on January 31 and will meet with the Search Committee to get them started.

A motion by the Diaconate to donate \$25,000 from the Ruth Baker bequest to the Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Milwaukee Centre's endowment fund, was approved by the voting members. The money will be given to Dr. Reichter when he comes on the 31<sup>st</sup>. We will request that it be added to the endowment in R. Baker's name.

Other suggestions for the Baker bequest were for the Bolton Refuge House and Haiti relief. They were given to the Diaconate for further consideration.

*-S. Glenz, Clerk*

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## **PRAYER GROUP**

The Prayer Group led by Julie Gerrish will continue to meet through the month of February. These meetings take place on Fridays at 11:00 am.

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## ***Thank You!***

**Dear Friends,**

*Thank you so much for the gift card at Christmas. It is a privilege to serve you! Thank you most of all for your friendship and care.*

**Love, N. O'Neill**

**Dear FBC,**

*Thank you for the gift basket of fruit & diet candy. It's so thoughtful.*

**N. Schultz & Cleasby Family**

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**Dear First Baptist,**

*Thank you for all the prayers, cards, letters and visits while I was in the hospital and recuperating afterwards. It was very much appreciated.*

**L. Thompson**

**Dear Friends and Family of T. Christianson,**

*I am writing for Dad to thank each of you collectively for the Christmas cards and remembrances you sent this year. He is always happy to open his mail and especially find the words of encouragement you give him.*

*This has been a long winter for him and his moods change each time I visit him. He is very sharp for his 98-1/3 years of age. I do see him forgetting more of his short term memory. What amazes me is the story he can tell, have an interruption, and remember where he was with it and complete it!*

*He is disappointed that he cannot use his legs to stand or walk. His hearing is not good, his eyesight is failing as well. Yet he keeps up a good front with most of us, especially the nurses. When they come into the room to help him, he lights up like a ray of sunshine, usually with a compliment to them.*

*Keep your good wishes coming. It means a lot to him. Thank you again. We're looking forward to seeing you at another birthday party this year!*

*Happy New Year to all,*

**C. Christianson) Clausing for Tony**

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### **UPCOMING CONCERT**

**Sunday, March 7 at 2pm and 7 pm**

A combined chorus of church choirs and community members will present "Songs of Faith and Love."

The music is written by Warren Hermodson and directed by Gary Rambo. All proceeds will go to Feed My People.

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**YOU ARE INVITED TO EMPTY BOWLS  
A Benefit for Feed My People Food Bank  
Thursday, March 11, 2010  
Continuous serving 11:00 am – 7:00 pm  
Dine in or Carry Out  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
1314 Lexington, Eau Claire**

**Feed My People Food Bank** will host their 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraiser. For a donation of \$18.00 you can enjoy a delicious meal of soup, bread, beverage and a dessert; and select a beautiful hand-crafted bowl to take home. The meal without the bowl can be purchased for \$8.00. Children age 10 and under are free.

Tickets are available at Trinity Lutheran Church, Grace Lutheran, Lake St. UMC, Feed My People Food Bank, UWEC Service Center, or at the door.

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### **TRINITEAM CAREGIVERS' JOY DAY Sacred Heart Hospital – Rotunda Thursday, February 18, 2010**

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

#### **Neighbors Need Your Help**

Triniteam's Caregiver Program ("Caregivers") connects neighbors in need with neighbors who can help. Caregiver volunteers help people who are elderly or have disabilities. Give just a few hours of your time to provide:

- Transportation to medical appointments
- Assistance with grocery shopping
- Visitation or Respite Care

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### **American Baptist International Ministries**

Attached please find a letter from Benjamin Chan summarizing the American Baptist International Ministries' response to the earthquake in Haiti.

Benjamin Chan is the Area Director of East Asia and India for this organization.

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