



The GOOD NEWS Letter

First Baptist Church, Eau Claire, WI 54703

July, 2009



I Wonder...

Pastor Lynn Scott

Conflict is inevitable. Some of you have heard me say that whenever there is more than one person in a situation, conflict can happen. We know it personally and we know it in our world situations – war in Iraq, tribal differences in Africa, greed that brings economic disaster, drive-by shootings in neighborhoods, disagreements in the workplace, broken relationships in families, and more.

It is my belief that the Church, the community of God's people, is one place in which we can practice ways of moving through conflict and into wholeness. But it is always a practice. It is always a grace of God. It is always a choice.

As a United Methodist, we follow three rules for our daily living: "Do No Harm," "Do Good," and "Stay in Love with God." One of my bishops, Rueben Job, writes on "Do No Harm."

"Each of us knows of groups that are locked in conflict, sometimes over profound issues and sometimes over issues that are just plain silly. But the conflict is real, the divisions deep, and the consequences can often be devastating. If, however, all who are involved can agree to do no harm the *climate* in which the conflict is going on is immediately changed. How is it changed? Well, if I am to do no harm, I can no longer *gossip* about the conflict. I can no longer *speak disparagingly* about those involved in the conflict. I can no longer *manipulate the facts* of the conflict. I can no longer *diminish* those who do not agree with me and must honor each as a child of God. *I will guard my lips, my mind and my heart so that my language will not disparage, injure or wound another child of God. I must do no harm, even while I seek a common good.*" (22)

"This act of disarming, laying aside our weapons and our desire to do harm, is revealing in other ways as well, We discover

that we stand on common ground, inhabit a common and precious space, share a common faith, feast at a common table, and have an equal measure of God's unlimited love. When I am determined to do no harm to you, I lose my fear of you; and I am able to see you and hear you more clearly. Disarmed of the possibility to do harm, we find that good and solid place to stand where together we can seek the way forward in faithfulness to God." (23-24)

Of course, just when we agree to do no harm, we are faced with the challenge to "Do Good."

". . . it is God who loves all. . . So, this decision will mean that I must seek good for all. I must seek what is best for those whose position and condition may be far different than my vision for them. It will mean that I will seek to heal the wounds of my sisters and brothers, . . . It will mean that the words and acts that wound and divide will be changed to words and acts that heal and bring together. It will mean that movements that seek to divide and conquer will become movements that seek to unite and empower all. It will mean that the common good will be my first thought and what is good for me will become a secondary thought.

Of course, this is a challenging way to live. To love God with my whole being and to love my neighbor as much as I love myself was never declared to be easy; but it was declared to be essential to our spiritual life, our life of faith, and our life with God." (42-43)

I wonder. . . are these helpful for your own life? For our life in community and in the world? I wonder. . . what are the situations in our lives that invite us to "Do No Harm?" I wonder. . . who is waiting for us to "Do Good" so that relationships may be healed or justice may be experienced?

Job, Rueben P. *Three Simple Rules*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2007.

The er



JULY BIRTHDAYS

3 Ralph C., Sr.	9 David F.
3 Harry H.	9 Charlene M.
3 Joanne H.	12 Gwen B.
4 Emily N.	14 A. Barton B.
5 Loretta C.	18 Fay G.
6 Lauren B.	20 Jackie G.
6 Lila P.	22 Tim G.
7 Megan M. B.	24 Jacqueline J.

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

Published Monthly by

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

A New Life 2010 Church

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54703

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

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR JULY

Rev. Lynn Scott, Interim Pastor

July 5: Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Outdoor Worship (off-site)

Scripture: II Samuel 5:1-5, 9-109

Psalm 48

II Corinthians 12:2-10

Mark 6:1-13

July 12: Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Communion Sunday

Scripture: II Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19

Psalm 24

Ephesians 1:3-14

Mark 6:14-29

July 19: Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: II Samuel 7:1-14a

Psalm 89:20-37

Ephesians 2:11-22

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 26: Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: II Samuel 11:1-15

Psalm 14

Ephesians 3:14-21

John 6:1-21

PRAYER LIST

Amara (see update pg. 3)

Elise B.

Meredith B.

June C.

Marilyn D.

Kathie F. (Bonnie's sister)

Sam G.

Sam G.

Jeff G.

Charles G. (Baker Family)

Mary E. M. (Baker Family)

Families/Military Personnel:

Jason C.

Ben G.

Our Missionaries



Our
Special
Seniors

Alnora B.

Tony C.

Loretta C.

Marge G.

Evelyn R.

Nellie S.

Dorothy S.

Our Special Ministries

CareLink

Community Table

Good Neighbor Project

Meals On Wheels

Our Campus Ministry

SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2009

IN THE NEWS

**Church Service
10:00 AM
at the home of
John and Julie G.
4303 County Highway M
874-5147**

Followed by fellowship and Potluck!

Bring a dish to share
and a lawn chair if you have one.
Dishes, utensils, etc. will be provided,
as well as coffee & lemonade.

***In case of rain, call Julie at 874-5147 or
Virginia at 834-5897 before 9:30 am.***



Amara W.

*Amara's beautiful porcelain doll from First Baptist Church in Eau Claire, WI
She Loves it!*

Amara, the little girl who has been going through treatment, and for whom we have surrounded in prayer, has special photos on her "Caring Bridge" website – one which names First Baptist Church as a prayer partner in her healing. If you would like to view more pictures of Amara and read more about her story, you may find more information at www.caringbridge.org/visit/amaraweidinger

Jenny Carlson, after a week of Church Camp, returned from Camp Tamarack – and is excited about her experiences and her deepening faith. Ask her about her experience! Thanks to the Boards of Diaconate and Education for the scholarship money.

Tony and Bart Carlson are heading to Camp Tamarack in July. Please pray for them as they seek to grow in their faith in Christ and living as disciples.

The Church building is getting a major cleaning. A group of persons is cleaning out different rooms of the church, making ready for the new and the possible. Soon, there will be a "give-away of the extras" in one of the rooms on the First Floor. Watch the bulletin for more information on the date and time.

ABWM EVENTS



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

The Friendship Circle will not meet in July.

UWEC "THE MINISTRY"

Thanks to those of you who participated in the campus ministry feasibility study on June 9th – 11th.

Blair Anderson, consultant, will return on July 9th to give us his report. Anyone interested in ministry at UWEC is invited to Lake Street United Methodist Church at 6:00 pm to hear his ideas about the future of this ministry.

COMMUNITY TABLE

Help is needed on July 8 to serve at 11:00 am.

ABC of WISCONSIN – 165th ANNUAL GATHERING

Put the dates on your calendar and plan on being in Milwaukee for the annual gathering of Wisconsin American Baptists. This year will include mission projects at various sites in the city.

Dates: October 9-10, 2009

Theme: "I Am Sending You" John 20:21

Location: Milwaukee at Progressive Baptist and Calvary Baptist

Schedule: We begin Friday evening with opening worship and business at 7:00 p.m., Everett Mitchell, preaching. Saturday will include various mission projects, a Bible Study with John R. Walton, Jr., workshops (Burmese Baptists, Prayer Quilt Ministry, White Cross), Mission Tours, a 35th Anniversary Reception for Rainbow Acres, and the closing celebration at 4:00 p.m.

Housing: Quality Inn-Brookfield 262-785-0500 (Mention ABC of WI when making your reservation—\$59.95/night includes continental breakfast.)

Thank You!

Dear Lynn:

Thanks for your part in honoring my parent's 60th wedding anniversary yesterday. They were delighted to be back where their marriage journey began and to have their day remembered by you and your congregation. My mother also raved at the kindness of the church women who prepared the beautiful reception after the service.

Please let the congregation know how much this meant not only to them but to their family scattered throughout the U.S.

I send you a warm aloha from the Big Island of Hawaii!

Peace,

Jerry Leggett (sent by email June 8th)

SUNDAY SCHOOL DISCUSSION GROUP

Will not meet at 9:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room.

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

As we approach the beginning of the summer season, our resident poet, John Anderson, reflects on his feelings of the joys of Spring.

"Spring"

Hear the pitter pat of rain drops and see the grass turn Green!

It is spring again. See the colorful blooms shooting thru the ground,

Making beautiful bouquets. Yes, it is spring again!

The trees shoot out their leaves and the birds Sing their songs in tune. Yes, it is spring again!

The sun is warm after a long winter cold.

The animals come out and become bold.

Yes, We see the things that GOD has made.

They tell us not to be afraid like spring he is.

Life, comes anew.

Looking up the sky's more blue. Yes spring is here I'm glad to say.

Warmer weather is here to stay, Yes Spring is Here Again!

John and wife Marge joined First Baptist with their family in the 1990s.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2009



**First Congregational
United Church of
Christ
310 BroadwaySt.
Sunday – Thursday,
August 2nd – August 6th
5:15 pm – 7:30 pm**

Sponsored by: First Baptist Church, First Congregational Church and Lake Street Methodist Church.

There are forms for registration both in the office and in the Fellowship Hall. Registration is requested by July 12, although walk-ins are welcome.

If you have further questions, Bonnie Powell is our FBC representative.

MEMBERSHIP

Gabriel Schlieve was welcomed into membership on May 31st, after he was baptized during the morning service. We pray that he may grow in faith and love as he seeks to be a follower of Jesus Christ. Gabriel is 14 years old, the son of Nancy Schlieve, and grandson of Jean Schlieve.

Julene Celandor was welcomed into membership on June 21st. She has lived in Eau Claire for the past few years, is attending the Adult Sunday School class, likes to work with children, is willing to serve at Community Table, and looks forward to continuing to grow in her love of God through this congregation. She was baptized in the American Baptist Church in her 20's.

Jan and Carl Haywood have withdrawn from the membership of First Baptist Church, effective June 18th. They have served faithfully here for many years, including their ministry with the Diaconate (Carl) and Trustees (Jan) in the past year. We pray that they may find a faith community in which their service to the world continues to change people's lives.

Meeting

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

Camping Opportunities for Summer

Jenny Carlson attended camp in June; Bart and Tony Carlson are attending camp in July. Let's celebrate these ministries and how lives grow deeper in Jesus Christ during these church camp opportunities.

Youth Leader Nicole Wolf
crzywolf55@hotmail.com

PASTORAL LEADERSHIP

Pastor Lynn's interim was to end on June 30th. The Diaconate and Pastor Lynn have agreed to extend her contract to July 31st. In the first week of July, a letter will be sent to everyone on the mailing list with information on the next steps of interim ministry and the search for a permanent pastor for our congregation.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH'S GIFT TO THE COMMUNITY TABLE

In January of this year, FBC's Diaconate voted to recommend to the Church that we make a donation of \$25,000 to The Community Table. The money would come from the Pfafflin and Baker bequests: two wonderful gifts we have received in the last 5 years.

FBC has served at The Community Table for the last 15 years by providing a monthly meal and donating money through our mission budget. By August of 2009 The Community Table will move from the EC Parks and Recreation Building on 1st Avenue to a larger location on Putnam Street to better serve the growing number of people who are hungry in our area. Our money will help with food, kitchen renovation and relocation costs.

The Church had two discussion sessions, the Diaconate and Trustees met with TCT's director and treasurer, and on May 31 voted to become "Gold Plate" donors of TCT's relocation campaign.

Our ABC Mission Statement encourages us to care for the needy, the weak and the oppressed. The Gospels remind us that Jesus was continually on the margins, reaching those most in need, and our Church feels that this is the right thing to do. This gift allows our Church an opportunity to alleviate hunger and reduce the effects of poverty in Eau Claire.

You will see more publicity about our gift and TCT as we talk with them about sharing the mission of FBC publicly.

-Sue Glenz, Diaconate Chair

THANK YOU

The following letter is in response to our Congregation's letter indicating we had voted to give \$25,000 to The Community Table.

Your generous gift of money to The Community Table is greatly appreciated and will be wisely used. Your agency has made an important contribution to the development of our new Community Table through your support of our agency. The monetary donation gave our agency a "boost" in our campaigning right when we needed it.

Thank you for supporting us and the guests of The Community Table. Our collaborative relationship is assuring to us as a board, and we value the assistance we receive from you. We are a step closer to meeting the goals of our capital campaign thanks to you.

Sincerely,
Staci Heidtke, Member
The Community Table Board of Directors

HAVE YOU MET JUDAS ASPARAGUS?

A child was asked to write a book report on the entire Bible.....through the eyes of a child....

The Children's Bible in a Nutshell

In the beginning, which occurred near the start, there was nothing but God, darkness, and some gas. The Bible says, "The Lord thy God is one", but I think He must be a lot older than that.

Anyway, God said, "Give me a light!" and someone did. Then God made the world. He split Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, but they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet.

Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eden...Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars then.

Adam and Eve had a son, Cain, who hated his brother as long as he was Abel. Pretty soon all of the early people died off, except for

Methuselah, who lived to be like a million or something.

One of the next important people was Noah, who was a good guy, but one of his kids was kind of a Ham. Noah built a large boat and put his family and some animals on it. He asked some other people to join him, but they said they would have to take a rain check.

After Noah came Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob was more famous than his brother, Esau, because Esau sold Jacob his birthmark in exchange for some pot roast. Jacob had a son named Joseph who wore a really loud sports coat.

Another important Bible guy is Moses, whose real name was Charlton Heston. Moses led the Israel Lights out of Egypt and away from the evil Pharaoh after God sent ten plagues: frogs, mice, lice, bowels, and no cable.

God fed the Israel Lights every day with manicotti. Then he gave them His Top Ten Commandments. These include: don't lie, cheat, smoke, dance or covet your neighbor's stuff.

Oh, yeah, I just thought of one more: Humor they father and thy mother.

After the Old Testament came the New Testament. He was born in Bethlehem in a barn. (I wish I had been born in a barn, too, because, my Mom is always saying to me, "Close the door! Were you born in a barn?" It would be very nice to say, "as a matter of fact, I was.")

During His life, Jesus had many arguments with sinners like the Pharisees and the Democrats. Jesus also had twelve opossums. The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him. Jesus was a great man. He healed many leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount.

Anyways, Jesus died for our sins, then came back to life again. He went up to Heaven but will be back at the end of the Aluminum....His return is foretold in the Book of Revolution.