

The GOOD NEWS Letter

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, EAU CLAIRE, WI 54703

June, 2009



I Wonder...

Pastor Lynn Scott

I am 36-years old, a single mother of three children; two are in school and one is in daycare. I am divorced and live in a home that has a mortgage payment of \$290/month and utilities of \$213/month. I work at the local hotel as a housekeeper, making \$110/week. In order to “make ends meet,” I need to get the children on the bus in the morning, drop off my child at daycare and get to work at the hotel by 7:30 a.m. Child care costs \$100/week. In total, my expenses per month are \$987 and my income per month is \$983. This all includes my bus transportation since my car is old and I don’t have money for repairs.

This is the scenario I lived at the “Poverty Simulation” held in Eau Claire the end of April, sponsored by Americorp Vista. The simulation was set-up so that each of us had a different scenario and we were to live for four weeks (four 15-minute segments).

During the first week, I was ready to go. I had figured out my budget, how to get to work, where to cash my check, and when to get groceries. I was even thinking, “If we work together (I looked at other people in the room who were poor), we might be able to make it. Going it alone could be devastating.” But not everything ran smoothly. The bank wasn’t open when I had time to cash my check and they required \$25 of my \$110 paycheck to be in a checking account in order to cash my check. Yet, the Check Cashing store wanted a percentage of my income in order to cash my check. I didn’t have any money to spare. I couldn’t seem to get everywhere I needed to go (by bus) and get everything done. I felt rushed by the end of the first week.

By the middle of the second week, I was frustrated with a shortness of time and needing to balance it all – without any help. I just didn’t have the energy to network with others – nor did they with me. In the second week, my child had strep throat and I had to keep him home from daycare, thereby not working, and therefore no income of \$110 that week.

By the end of the third week, I was moving so fast to get everything done in the time allotted that I didn’t really know how much money I had or to whom I still owed money. I was told that anyone of us who had not paid something on our mortgage by the end of the third week would face foreclosure. I was trying to put some money on my mortgage, yet I also had to feed my children (go to the grocery store) and it was a very difficult decision.

By the end of the fourth week, I was glad the “Simulation” was over, yet grieving that I had the chance to end the game. This was reality – and not a game - for many people.

The evening continued with a discussion and the sharing of experiences by others in the room. Many felt tired and frustrated. Some of the “teenagers” felt neglected by their parents who were trying to carry so much of the burden of “survival.” I found the man at the Check Cashing store to be one of the most friendly out of all the stores and offices (and someone commented, “Of course, he is making money off of all of us” yet without him many of us could not have lived.)

The poverty rates in Eau Claire county are higher than the state average – 13.4% in the county compared to 10.8% in Wisconsin. My experience was a brief moment of living a life of what others live on a daily basis.

I kept asking the question throughout the evening, “Where is the Church in all this?” There was a Church as one of the “vendors” available to us and they did give out food vouchers. I was more than grateful. . . it was a life-saver.

Our congregation continues to be involved in missions in this community and through the world. Any gift can make the difference in the life of an individual and in the system. Mother Teresa said it well: “We know only too well that what we are doing is nothing more than a drop in the ocean. But if the drop were not there, the ocean would be missing something.” Thanks be to God for the various ways in which FBC is blessed and is offering God’s blessings to others



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1 June C.	10 J. Schlieve
4 J. Lorentz	24 S. Juett
5 S. Glenz	25 S. Peterson
10 B. Powell	27 D. LaVelle, Sr.

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

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A New Life 2010 Church

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

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR JUNE

Rev. Lynn Scott, Interim Pastor

June 7: First Sunday after Pentecost
Communion Sunday

Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm 29
Romans 8:12-17
John 3:1-17

June 14: Second Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: I Samuel 15:34-16:13
Psalm 20
II Corinthians 5:6-10,14-17
Mark 4:26-34

June 21: Third Sunday after Pentecost
Father's Day

Scripture: I Samuel 17:32-49
Psalm 9:9-20
II Corinthians 6:1-13
Mark 4:35-41

June 28: Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: II Samuel 1:1,17-27
Psalm 130
II Corinthians 8:7-15
Mark 5:21-43

PRAYER LIST

Amara (see update below)
Elise Barton
Meredith Brill
June Carlson
Marilyn Donnelly
Kathie Flanagan (Bonnie's sister)
Sam Ganther
Sam Gerrish
Jeff Giles
Charles Gore (Baker Family)
Mary Ellen Moser (Baker Family)
Families/Military Personnel:
Ben Ganther
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

UPDATE – “Amara”

The family of Amara thank you for your prayers on their behalf during these many months of anxiety during her illness.

Amara is 5 years old now and is living at home with her parents and little sister. Although not cured, and still in therapy and treatment, the word “cancer” is not considered – and there are still many questions, but the Lord has been good and your prayers have been a great comfort. Thank you and God bless you all.

A NOTE TO “SPECIAL SENIORS”

Good news! The recording and dubbing equipment have been repaired and should be dependable for another 10 years.

If you want a tape of the Sunday service (weekly or temporarily), call the church office at 832-0642 or Micki at 835-3200, and it will be ready for pick-up by Tuesdays at the church. There is no charge to you for the tapes, but we do request that you return them when you are finished using them so we can recycle the tapes. There is a box placed near the Niagara Street entrance for “return tapes”.

Thank you for your patience and for using this method to keep connected to your church family.

-Micki Foster

ABWM EVENTS



The **Morning Lit. Circle** will meet on Wednesday, June 17, at 9:30 am.

The **Friendship Circle** will meet on Tuesday, June 9, at 12:00 noon at Randall Park for a picnic.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

There will not be a children's and youth Sunday School this summer, yet we will resume in the Fall.

AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN – WI

“To Live Out the Love of Jesus”

June 5-7, 2009 at Green Lake Conf. Center
Keynote speaker is Rev. Sandra Hasenauer, Assoc. Exec. Director of ABW Ministries. We will examine themes of our mission work in Thailand/Burma, work with refugees in the US and Thailand, breaking the chains, and children in poverty. Come for reflection, fellowship, worship, inspiration, renewal. Cost: \$88 for double room; meals are \$38; registration of \$15. Our Church ABW is offering \$25 scholarship for each person attending (to be used for gas or registration). Please contact our ABW President, Jean Schlieve, or the church office.



"Where is our Treasure?"

We're facing tough economic times now. Much of what we understood to be the functioning of our economic system seems to have been turned on its head. Pensions have declined, houses are in foreclosure, and job cuts are making the daily news. It's understandable to focus on what has been lost. But in the midst of these challenging times, it is important to acknowledge all that God has and continues to provide.

Today feels like a very relevant time to reflect on Matthew 6:19-21! When you give your resources-especially in these uncertain times-you demonstrate God's love to a world that is also facing huge challenges. This year as you consider your congregation's contribution to One Great Hour of Sharing offering, do so knowing that the more earthly treasure we share, the more lives will be changed. It is really as simple as that."

Last year this church gave \$473 to OGHS. Let's go over \$500. Your offering will be accepted during the month of June.

Also, in May, FBC gave \$270 to the Feed My People Food Bank as well as several food items. Thanks,
-Sue Glenz

LIBRARY NOTES

We hope you stop in the library to see all the books we have to offer. Our newest addition is: LUKE'S STORY. This is the new book in the bestselling series from the authors of the LEFT BEHIND novels (Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins). In LUKE'S STORY, we follow him from Greek slave to university-educated physician.

Luke wrote his gospel to appeal to women, nonbelievers, and the disenfranchised. The result is scripture rich in the miraculous stories of the Lord's divinity that speak to the hearts of Christians all over the world today.

We thank Jean Schlieve for the gift of this book to our library.

-Margo Giles

THESE HANDS. . . THESE FEET

is the Biennial theme for the American Baptist Church gathering on **June 26-28, 2009**, in Pasadena, CA. Please hold our denomination, the American Baptist Church, and our member, Nancy O'Neill, in your prayers as they make decisions of mission and ministry around the world. They will worship together, engage in hands-on mission projects, and view the Mission Fair, and engage in decisions on behalf of us all. The theme text are the words of our risen Lord from John 20:21, "**I am sending you.**"

GOOD NEIGHBOR PROJECT

The GNP committee has received many "thank you's" from the children at Lakeshore and Longfellow schools for the help we have given. During the past year donations from the four churches – First Baptist, Lake Street United Methodist, First Lutheran, and First Congregational UCC – have covered news magazines, classroom snacks, hygiene items, clothing items, student supplies, 300 books for participants in the Reading Partner program, and more. This summer we plan to invite teachers to meet with us to share ideas of their needs and to make them aware of the GNP funds available to them. There will also be a fund raising event this summer.

ABC International Ministries:

FBC of Eau Claire is on the support team for missionary, Judy Sutterlin, who serves in Nanjing, China. She teaches at a Chinese seminary, helps with Amity Foundation's English teachers, and works with orphaned children.

During the month of June there is an opportunity for individual donors who have not contributed to International Ministries before to double their money with a donation to Judy or any missionary of their choice. Whatever you give as a tax deductible gift will be matched 100% by the Luther Rice Matching Gift Fund.

Check with our church office for a gift card.

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A "**Clean up the Church**" Committee has been formed to start looking in all the rooms, closets, nooks and crannies, for things that are outdated, broken or no longer of use to us. We would like to recycle or give away much of what we find before we resort to a dumpster. We plan a "give away" area for church members who just might find something they want to take home. We may be able to give some things to the Hope Gospel Mission. We hope to have this finished sometime this summer and want to have a clean church celebration when we finish.

We will keep you informed, ask for your help on dumpster day (or days), and if you want to join the clean team, ask Sue Glenz or Donna Pierce.

-Sue Glenz

SUMMER CAMP

A week at camp makes a difference in the life of Christian disciples! This summer, we have four from our church participating in the American Baptist Camping Program at Camp Tamarack. Please hold them in your prayers and ask them about their experiences when they return. Tony and Bart Carlson are attending camp in July; Jenny Carlson is attending camp in June; and Nicole Wolf is the director of a camp in June.

THE MINISTRY – Taking the Next Step

For six years, First Baptist Church (along with First Congregational UCC, Chapel Heights UMC, First Presbyterian, Hope UMC, and Lake Street UMC) has been part of an ecumenical ministry to students on the UWEC campus. We have enjoyed capable and exciting leadership from part-time staff as we have established a presence on campus.

Over this summer, *The Ministry* is undertaking a feasibility study from June 9-11 to evaluate our support as an ecumenical body for a full-time campus ministry. We will engage a consultant to host a focus group and to interview congregational leaders within each church body. The consultant will then assist *The Ministry* to create a clear vision to move into the future.

There will be a **Launching Event** and a light meal on **Tuesday, June 9th** from **5:30 – 7:00p.m.** at the First Presbyterian Church where we will all meet the consultant, Blair Anderson, and hear “The Twelve Essentials for Developing Dynamic Leadership in Your Congregation.” Anyone holding a church office is especially encouraged to come.

Each one of you is invited to share your hopes and concerns through this process during our **Congregation’s Focus Group on Tuesday, June 9th, from 11 am – 12:30 pm at FBC, lunch included.** We want the outcome and vision to reflect the heart of our congregations. Please contact Virginia Hilbrich at 834-5897 or hilbripd@uwec.edu (email) if you would like to participate in the focus group or the Launching Event.

Thank You!

Thank you to Jan and Carl Haywood for the rose bush outside the Niagara Street door and to Meghan and Andy Redmond for the scripture verse on the wall in the Fellowship Hall. We will appreciate both of these gifts.

WELCOME BASKETS

American Baptists have a long history with Burma - it was our first foreign mission field headed by the Judsons. Today, the Twin Cities has one of the largest populations of refugees from Burma. The First Baptist Church of St Paul is also a Karen Church (Karen is the hill tribe in Burma with whom the Judsons first worked and gained their first convert). The second church service each Sunday is a Karen service.

We have been looking for ways to assist this church in its mission to aid the newly arrived refugees from Burma. Rev Bill Englund, pastor of the First Baptist Church of St Paul, suggested help with their welcome baskets. There are many organizations in the cities set up to help the refugees but they need some supplies to help get them through the time of their arrival until services can be provided through the various agencies.

This is particularly nice because people can bring in any items - they can be purchased or gently used (as they say). When we have a welcome basket full we can start on another. Currently we have started two baskets.

For each basket we need:

2 sets of sheets: twin and full
3 or 4 bath towels, Kitchen towels, 4 wash clothes, 2 blankets, 4 plates, 4 bowls, 4 cups/glasses, 1 stainless steel cooking pot (big enough to make soup), Mixing bowls, Good cutting knife, 6 spoons, 2 serving spoons, 1 or 2 knives and forks, Large wooden spoon, Ladle, Wood cutting board, Toilet paper, Laundry detergent, Shampoo, Dish soap, Cleaning fluid (like 409), 2 sponges, Bar bath soap, Tooth paste, 4 tooth brushes, scissors.

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SPRING DINNER - APRIL 28

We have talent in our ranks. Ben Thompson, a freshman at UWEC, the grandson of LaVon Thompson, gave a spectacular juggling performance for the women of the Mission Society. He not only juggled, but played a

video game using a dance mat on the floor while doing it. He was assisted by a college friend.

The ABWM Spring dinner began on April 28th with a blessing by Pastor Lynn followed by a menu of assorted spring salads and a variety of desserts by Bonnie Powell. Nancy O'Neill lead the honoring of the officers for the year. Virginia Hilbrich was elected as vice president and program coordinator and the rest of the board was fulfilling the second year of their terms. Nancy Schlieve gave some insights on our mission in Burma and Thailand.

A motion was made to give the first 8 people registered for the Green Lake Women's Conference a \$25 scholarship, seconded and approved. A suggestion to place a handicap button at the Niagara Street entrance was presented. The Trustees will be consulted.

The kitchen help (Ray Larson and John Glenz) did their usual superlative job.

A great beginning for the New Year



NEWS FROM THE PEWS

When you look at a yellow school bus, have you ever wondered who is driving that load of tussled-headed youngsters? This job needs a kind of person, who is sensitive and understanding enough to take this job. One of our newest worshipers is such a person.

J. Celander calls herself a professional school bus driver (9 years in all, 3 in Wisconsin). She moved to Eau Claire from Clinton, Illinois three years ago and began attending First Baptist in January. She is well acquainted with our American Baptist churches coming from an American Baptist in Lincoln, Illinois, located about "as central a location in Illinois as you can get." In her Lincoln church she taught Sunday School, worked in Bible school and helped out with White Cross work, always enjoying the fellowship.

Julene's family consists of her 3 children; daughter, Stacy, who has two daughters and lives in MO near the Iowa

border; her son, Paul, who has one daughter and lives in Illinois; her son, Jason, who is in the Navy stationed in North Carolina. Last month, Julene had an opportunity to visit Jason, who is in a two-year training program for nuclear maintenance.

Besides her work as a bus driver (she has 2 routes to the North High/Locus Lane area), Julene enjoys cooking and sewing. On warm spring and summer days she likes to go fishing, finding the pleasant atmosphere of Half Moon Lake a great place to relax and enjoy herself.

When asked what she likes most about Eau Claire she smiles and replies, "the friendly feeling of places like the farmer's market where I can get all the fresh produce I need." She likes to preserve tomatoes and green beans. She also uses fresh berries to make jelly and jam.

Now, when you see a school bus drive by, wave and smile, you might be seeing Julene (or Carolyn Olkives) driving by.

but that's another story.

-Jean Schlieve

YOUTH GROUP

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

Bart Carlson, Tony Carlson, and Jenny Carlson are attending Camp Tamarack for a week of camp this summer. Nicole Wolf will be directing one of the camps. Please hold them in your prayers as they learn more from God's Word and grow as Christian disciples. Church camp can be a life-changing experience!

Youth Leader Nicole Wolf
crzywolf55@hotmail.com