

The **GOOD NEWS** Letter



First Baptist Church, Eau Claire, WI 54703

March, 2009



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ –

This is “Birthday Month” for the First Baptist Church. We observe and remember the pioneers and faithful folks who have gone before us. . . all the way back to 1861! Birthdays give us opportunity to look back with gratitude and forward with possibilities and dreams.

Birthdays remind us of the gift of Life that God has given to us.

Birthdays remind us that God is ever-giving birth through the gifts and talents we offer for the sake of the world. Everyday is a “birth-day” in God.

Thanks be to God!

This past five months with you has felt like “birthday” in seeing possibilities of Life and giving thanks to God. Some of you have heard me say that I tend to listen to what is on the hearts and minds of people, then I “throw out seeds” and see what lands on fertile soil.

For example, on my first Sunday, I heard one of you talking about playing an instrument and I wondered aloud how that gift might be used in a dynamic way. We played with all sorts of possibilities, . . . smiling at our creativity! At the Thanksgiving dinner, I was awed by two youth who shared

I Wonder...

Pastor Lynn Scott

special music with us and I wondered aloud how that might lift other people’s spirits. Some of you watched the seeds being tossed, and added some thoughts and reflections and interest. So, this month, a few musicians will gather on Saturday March 7th, to try out the possibilities and see what might come to fruition. Birthing, laboring, celebrating.

I wonder. . . what are some of the talents and skills that you have that might continue the ministry of FBC? What do you love to do? What gives meaning in your life? How might that be ministry in and around our community? Join me in conversation and I may toss out a few seeds. . . and see what takes root.

Birth-days happen every day as we open ourselves to the creative power and love of God. We celebrate our 148th year as a Baptist Church in Eau Claire; yet we continue to celebrate birth when our ministries, our skills/talents are brought to the greater good of God’s love in the world

Happy “Birth-day!” See you in worship and at our Birthday Dinner on March 15th.

In gratitude for our ministry together ~
Pastor Lynn

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THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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 MARCH

Rev. Lynn Scott, Interim Pastor

March 1: 1st Sunday of Lent

Communion Sunday

Sermon: Rethinking Repentance

Scripture: Genesis 9:8-17

Psalm 25:1-10

I Peter 3:18-22

Mark 9:1-15

March 8: 2nd Sunday of Lent

Sermon: Rethinking Covenant

Scripture: Genesis 17:1-7,15-16

Psalm 22:23-31

Romans 4:13-25

Mark 8:31-38

March 15: 3rd Sunday of Lent

Sermon: Rethinking Boundaries

Scripture: Exodus 20:1-17

Psalm 19

I Corinthians 1:18-25

John 2:13-22

March 22: 4th Sunday of Lent

Sermon: Rethinking Grace

Scripture: Numbers 21:4-9

Psalm 107:1-3,17-22

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 3:14-21

March 29: 5th Sunday of Lent

Sermon: Rethinking Sin

Scripture: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalm 51:1-12

Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Sunday, April 5 – Palm Sunday
Sermon: Rethinking God's Reign

Thursday, April 9 – Maundy Thursday
7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room

Friday, April 10 – Good Friday
Ecumenical Good Friday Service
12:10 p.m. First Congregational – UCC

Sunday, April 12 – Easter Sunday
7:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise Vigil
8:15 a.m. Breakfast
9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
Sermon: Rethinking Resurrection

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES – “PRAYER”

Please see the bulletin contained within this newsletter.

PRAYER LIST

Amara (4-yr-old girl) – see Micki Foster

Elise Barton

June Carlson

Jeff Giles

Charles Gore (LaVelle Relative)

Janet Krahn

Families/Military Personnel

Our Missionaries

Alnora Best

Tony Christianson

Loretta Craney

Marge Garsow

Evelyn Reineke

Nellie Schultz

Dorothy Stewart



**Our
Special
Seniors**

Our Special Ministries

CareLink

Community Table

Good Neighbor Project

Meals On Wheels

Our Campus Ministry

Special Prayer Request – for the Micky Johnson family in Eau Claire who recently lost their son Michael in a car accident.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

2 B. Phillips	16 M. Redmond
7 D. Stewart	18 D. Frank
9 D. Donnelly	21 L. Thompson
12 B. Moore	21 B. Ures
14 G. Thompson	28 B. Pickerign

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



FIRESIDE FRIENDS

Fireside Friends will meet at First Baptist Church for its monthly meeting on **Tuesday, March 3, at Noon** for a potluck dinner.

March 11

Bob Phillips, who is heading up the crew for the **Community Table**, would appreciate help because several of the "regulars" are gone. You may reach Bob at 715-726-1246.
Thanks, Sue Glenz

Sunday, March 15, First Baptist Church's 148th Birthday Dinner

Come celebrate our birthday at 6:00 pm. Allen Olkives will cook the roast and potatoes; Marge Anderson will make the birthday cake. You are asked to bring a small salad or vegetable dish and \$2/person to cover the above costs. This will be a great time to celebrate our long history, fellowship with your FBC friends, and enjoy a short birthday program. Please **RSVP at the Office.**

ABWM EVENTS



The **Morning Lit. Circle** will meet on Wednesday, March 18, at 9:30 am at the home of Peg Hudson.

The **Friendship Circle** will meet on Wednesday, March 11 at 1:00 pm at the home of Eila Goins.



GIVE TO THE
America for Christ
Offering 2009

America for
Christ
Offering

http://www.nationalministries.org/afc/clip_art.cfm
The America for Christ offering will be received during the month of March. You will be getting information in your bulletin each Sunday and an envelope on **March 1**.

For 176 years ABC National Ministries has assisted people throughout the U.S. as they have confronted their spiritual and physical needs: evangelism, reconciliation, church planting, refugee resettlement, pastoral counseling, natural disasters, children in poverty, intercultural fellowship and many others.

They are still providing support for those devastated in hurricanes Rita and Katrina. Assistance is given to refugees from all over the world: most recently the Burmese Karen people living in St. Paul and Milwaukee. They help provide education for children in poverty and support various church-school-partnerships and children's homes. New Life 2010 speaks directly to the mandate for evangelism in all ABC churches as they face the new millennium. The list goes on and on.

Last year our church donated \$500 to this offering. Let's make it larger this year. The generous support of ABC churches and individuals allows for this ongoing and life-transforming outreach.

-Sue Glenz

2009 MEN'S SPRING RETREAT

Camp Tamarack

April 3-4, 2009

8 pm Friday to 3 pm Saturday

Retreat Leader: **Rev. John R. Walton, Jr.**

Cost: \$40 Fri. & Sat.; \$20 Sat. only

Cost includes breakfast and lunch on Sat., and Lodging on Fri. night. To make reservations, email kbyleen@wi.rr.com or call 414-427-5738.

IMPROVING COMMUNICATIONS

Your **INREACH MINISTRY** Team would like to set up an e-mail system which would notify members (and friends of the church) of urgent messages or other important events in the life of the church. When information needs to be sent out, one message would be sent to all enrolled members simultaneously. If you would like to be included, just **e-mail the church office** at firstbaptistec@gmail.com with the words "**FBC-mail**" in the subject line indicating your willingness to enroll. The originating e-mail address in your message will then be included in the group. **NOTE:** Broadcast messages sent out via FBC-mail will not show e-mail addresses of all recipients - only your own. So if you have an address which you would not want to share with everyone, it will be safe to use for this purpose. If you do not have access to e-mail, you can call the office and request that your telephone number be added to a list of those who will be called by phone.

Another system which we might call "**Prayer-mail**" would include those who would agree to pray for a member or friend of the church when the occasion arises. If you are willing to be a "prayer warrior" **send a message to the church office** with "Prayer-mail" in the subject line and you will be enrolled in that group. Again, your e-mail address will be safe and not be included in any e-mail but your own. Those of you without e-mail who are willing to join this group may call the church office indicating your wish to be included.

Jay Pierce, INREACH MINISTRY Coordinator

JOY DAY AT SACRED HEART

Thursday, March 5, at 1:30 pm

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

Entertainment: Norma Buitenhoff

Bingo: Door prizes donated by Luther Midelfort employees and others.

Host: Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

CAMPUS MINISTRY at UWEC

Hello Campus Ministry Supporters:

I'd like to thank those who have already stepped forward and volunteered their time to support our college students. Please prayerfully consider if you also would like to get involved with the students in one of the following ways:

*Prayer Ministry: Pray for and encourage some of our students.

*Relational Ministry: Meet with and care for a student over lunch or coffee.

*Vocational Ministry: Share your life calling and career path story with students.

*Team Ministry: Be a volunteer and take part in our events or gatherings.

E-mail me (Nate) at: theministry@uwec.edu or call me: 715-271-0122 if you are interested or have questions. Resources and support regarding these ministries are available and will be distributed as needed.

Thank-you,
Nate Oldenkamp

SUNDAY SCHOOL DISCUSSION GROUP

Will not be meeting during the month of March. Come, join us for the study led by Pastor Lynn in the Fireside Room. See Lenten Bulletin.

CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATION SUNDAY, MARCH 29 AT 11:15

The Congregation will convene for a discussion of the following: the use of the monies from the Ruth Baker Estate, an update of the Pastoral Search Committee, and other areas of your interest.

This conversation will not be a decision-making meeting, but rather will be an opportunity for us to share our thoughts with one another.

First Friday – March 6, at 9 am at Christ Church Cathedral. Join Jonathon Halbesleben, professor at UWEC for a discussion on stress and stress reduction.

Happy 400th Birthday, Fellow Baptists!

This is a special year for Baptist believers. In 1609 in the city of Amsterdam, Holland, a small group of English Christians seeking religious freedom baptized adults who professed their faith in Christ. In this way, the congregation that was to become known as “Baptists” began. 2009 marks the celebration of 400 years of “The Baptist Experience.” (By the way, the name “Baptist” was given by detractors, and was not the name of choice, but it stuck!)

I am proud to be among those who call themselves by that name, especially when I look at our roots. For many people the word “Baptist” is connected to legalism or even “fundamentalism.” But, the main stream of Baptist thought has always been to focus on *each individual* having a *personal, life-changing relationship* with God through the work and person of *Jesus Christ*. This experience of a relationship with Christ is made possible by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, informed and directed as He speaks through Scripture and circumstances.

In a world where labels and stereotypes are common, we Baptists really make a mess of things. We often simply refuse to fit others’ attempts to label us. The reason is simple. We are, first and foremost, followers of Jesus Christ.

As I understand Jesus’ teaching, both from the written Word and the living Word within, our first responsibility is to be in love with Him: *“Love the Lord God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength”* Mark 12:30 NIV. This is not just an emotion, it is an all consuming, life-transforming commitment that calls us to engage Jesus in every part of our lives. It is indeed a “crazy love.”

Then, out of this love Jesus guides us to experience the next part of our relationship with Him *“Love your neighbor as yourself”* Mark 12:31 NIV. Jesus further defines that

love when he says, *“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another”* John 13:34-35 NIV. So then, these two commands are the core of following Jesus. As they are lived out, Jesus tells us they are to become the trait by which we are known.

Everything else is summed up by the apostle Paul in this way:

“...continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life...” from Philippians 2:12-16 NIV. (Just a reminder that this passage follows Paul’s plea to “have the mind of Christ,” the One who gave everything for those He loved.)

When people ask “are you a liberal or a conservative” I’m not really sure how to respond. As we try to live our Jesus’ love we do find that those who call themselves “liberal” have some things on which we agree...issues of striving for peace and justice and a true separation between church and state for a few examples. Self-labeled “conservatives” have some things in common with us: like the desire to see one’s faith lived out in a way that pleases Jesus, or a dependence on the Word for guidance. But, as a group, we Baptists defy labeling. We seek only to be obedient to our Lord.

From the start we Baptists have held dear another person’s right to interpret Scripture as the Spirit leads. If they come to a conclusion we find faulty we attempt to convince them out of love for them. We hold reason to be a gift from God. But out of love we respect another’s right “to be wrong.” But, as “liberals” and “conservatives” or whatever we are, we must work together to show Jesus’ love to others.

On that we should all agree.

Proud to be a Baptist? Yes, I am. Because I believe this framework that calls people to come to Jesus and relate to Him without interference from government or formal rule, in total freedom, is absolutely necessary for a true expression of our faith. We are not foolish enough to believe that everyone else is absolutely wrong. We are just in love enough with Jesus to believe that this framework is the one He has given us. We embrace it wholeheartedly.

Put a label on us? I am praying for the one that was given to the early church: **Look how much they love each other.**”

May the Lord make us Baptists, make me, no matter what else, worthy of *that* label!

-Thanks to Pastor Mark Pittman of the Open Door Baptist Church in Tomah, Wisconsin for this article.

**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)

**Our Prayers for Former FBC Members
who have passed away.**

Jean Grudem died Jan. 24 in FL. She is the wife of Arden Grudem, 2536 Long Iron Court, Longwood, FL 32779.

Rolland Schlieve died Feb. 16 in Whitewater. He is the brother-in-law of Jean Schlieve.

Ruth Welch died Jan. 13. She is the wife of Jim Welch, PO Box 713, Clinton WI 53525.

Youth at FBC

Do you like to sing? Do you like pizza?

Come for both on Saturday, March 7th beginning at 11:00 a.m. for singing contemporary Christian music followed by pizza at 12:15 p.m.

“Soul Mates – Friends for the Journey”

Did you know that there were 41 youth (26 males) from ABC’s across Wisconsin who attended the Winter Youth Retreat for the ABC of Wisconsin in January? That is up from an attendance of 26 in 2008. Welcome back to Liz Ringwald and Jenny Carlson who attended from FBC and 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

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC GROUP

Saturday, March 7, 11:00 – 12:15 p.m.

Do you like to sing? Come and join others around the piano (Chris Powell) and the drums (Travis Nicolai) to sing Christian contemporary music for fun. . . and with the possibility of offering our gifts to our Sunday morning worship once in a while. This is our first time and everyone is invited. We will try songs such as: “Shine, Jesus, Shine,” “Change My Heart, O God” and “Shout to the Lord.”

Our time will conclude with pizza for lunch at 12:15 p.m. All ages are welcome. Let’s try it out and see what happens!

If you are planning to come, please let Pastor Lynn know so that we set-up for space for everyone and we have enough pizza ordered!

GRIEF SUPPORT OFFERINGS

Eau Claire, 833-6028

The Healing Place offers a number of support groups, both time-limited and on-going. Please check the community board for offerings such as Spouse Loss Groups, Adult Loss of a Parent, Parents Grief Group, Suicide Survivors Group, and more.

LENTEN LABYRINTH WALK

Sunday, March 29 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Monday, March 30 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. or 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Pastor Lynn, Director of Sabbath Way, LLC, will be hosting a labyrinth walk for the Eau Claire area.

Brochures/registration available
