



The GOOD NEWS Letter

First Baptist Church, Eau Claire, WI 54703

March, 2010

Looking Forward...



Pastor Mark L. Vincent

Our ongoing study in Philippians during Sunday worship services serves as an encouragement for us to press on to completion with our faith, rather than try to survive on beautiful memories of past experiences. In my opening sermon in this series we invited the following possibilities for response in moving forward:

- Following the example of Jesus in baptism. Some might even wish to be rebaptized to emphasize their renewed commitment to follow in the way of Jesus. We have scheduled a baptismal service for Easter Sunday.
- Become a member of the congregation if you have not yet done so. Membership, while not a biblical symbol, is a way the church is able to know that you agree to help the congregation reach out as a church family, or whether you are still one of those persons we are trying to reach.

- Covenant to pray with the congregation. Nearly 30 persons have already agreed to do so. If you have not yet received a prayer card, they can be found by the Niagara Street entrance of the church.

Please consider your response.

And please be bold enough to encourage someone else to make their response, even to the point of offering to stand with them in the baptismal waters. Tell them your story of receiving baptism or deciding to join the church.

I think Easter Sunday is going to be a surprising morning.

-mark l vincent

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

1, 2, 12, 17, 18, 19, and 22-26



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

firstbaptistec@gmail.com

firstbaptistepastor@gmail.com

SUNDAYS: Sunday School: 9 am
Worship: 10 am

WORSHIP SCHEDULE - March

Rev. Mark L. Vincent, Interim Pastor

March 7 Communion Sunday

Scripture: Psalm 63
Exodus 3:1-15
Philippians 2:12:18 (*preaching text*)
Luke 14:25-35

Sermon: "Giving each other a shiner"

March 14

Scripture: Psalm 32
Joshua 4:19-24
Philippians 2:19-30 (*preaching text*)
Luke 15:8-10

Sermon: "We are not alone"

March 21

Scripture: Psalm 126
Isaiah 43:16-21
Philippians 3:1-11 (*preaching text*)
John 11:45-57

Sermon: "When is it OK to be a fanatic?"

March 28 Palm Sunday

Scripture: Psalm 22
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Philippians 3:12-16 (*preaching text*)
Luke 19:28-44

Sermon: "Imperfectly perfect"



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

6 Dorothy S. 18 Don F.
9 Davis D. 21 LaVon T.
12 Barbara M. 21 Beth U.
14 Glenn T. 28 Brett P.
16 Meghan R.

[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

Michael B.
Elise B.
Debby B.
June C.
Marilyn D.
Jeff G.
Charles G.
Lorie Vin.
Amara W.
Families/Military Personnel:
Kenny & Kelley F.
Ben G.
Our Missionaries



**Our
Special
Seniors**

Alnora B.
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 on **Tuesday, March 2, at Noon at FBC** for a Potluck. Please plan to

join us for a time of fellowship, good food and fun!

ABWM MEETINGS

The **Morning Literature Circle** will meet on Wednesday, March 17, at 9:30 am, at FBC with Karen Frank hosting.

The **Friendship Circle** will meet on Tuesday, March 9, at 1:00 pm, at FBC with Nancy O'Neill hosting.

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 Margo Giles, Julie Gerrish, or leave your name in the church office.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

A new Adult Bible Study group began on Sunday, February 14, and is meeting 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.

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.

EASTER SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 28 – Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 1 – Maundy Thursday
7:00 p.m. at FBC

Friday, April 2 – Good Friday
Ecumenical Good Friday Service

Sunday, April 4 – Easter Sunday
7:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service
8:15 a.m. Breakfast
9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship Service

A PRAYER REMINDER

Currently 28 people have returned their card committed to be in regular prayer support for First Baptist and its search for a new pastor.

As I pray, I will ask God to:

- help me seek His will for what I will do through First Baptist Church.
- show me how I might work more deliberately for the unity of our church family.
- enlighten and strengthen the Search Committee for their task.
- meet the needs within our church family, that hearts would be strengthened, bodies healed and eyes turned again to the Lord.
- guide my life as a generous person. (Is there a greater level of giving or volunteerism God is calling me to?)
- guide the new pastor He has for us, that together we will listen to the call of God in our lives.
- show me how to bless the lives of families and young adults who will one day call First Baptist their church home.
- provide grace, strength and wisdom for all the leaders of our congregation, and for myself as well.

(Feel free to add to this list)

PRAYER GROUP

The Prayer Group will continue to meet through the month of March. These meetings take place on Fridays at 11:00 am. All are welcome.

Thank You!

**Dear First Baptist Church of Eau Claire,
Thank you, thank you!**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the generous donation of \$300.00. This contribution enables us to continue to assist abused women and children in the community.

*Your gift will help address the immediate needs of our clients and their children. **Bolton Refuge House** provides safe shelter, support groups, economic and legal advocacy, children's programs, a transitional living program, and other services that would not be possible without generous contributions such as yours.*

The Board Members, Staff, and Volunteers of Bolton Refuge House wish to thank you.

Sincerely,
Gerald L. Wilkie
Executive Director

Dear Margo & members of First Baptist,

Thank you so very much for co-hosting our January Joy Day at Sacred Heart Hospital. We so appreciate your faithful help, and the guests certainly enjoyed the tasty treats.

We appreciate your continued support in hosting this event. Wonderful folks like all of you are an essential part of Joy Day events! We look forward to working with you again next year.

With great appreciation,
Julie Mead
Program Assistant

COMMON GROUND

Common Ground, formerly known as **The Ministry**, is our mission to students at UWEC. Representatives from five churches have been meeting to form a new board with officers and have rewritten their bylaws. They have been working on possible budgets and the ways to meet that budget. They are searching for other churches who might want to join our ministry.

The board is looking at an "Acknowledgement and Request for Future Commitments" from the cooperating churches to know what resources we have presently and how firmly committed these partnership churches are at maintaining support at today's level or increasing it for the future.

First Baptist Church currently supports this ministry with \$1500 provided by ABC of Wisconsin. None of our church's funds go to their support. We would like the members of FBC to consider their interest and commitment to this ministry so we might add it to our budget if you so choose. The board hopes to have a presence on campus by the fall of 2010.

Thank you for your past support,
Sue Glenz and Virginia Hilbrich

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School will be at our church this summer and Bonnie Powell is looking for volunteers. They can contact her via email sss2fbc@yahoo.com or call her on her cell phone at 715-829-8523. Bonnie does not have a confirmation of dates yet.

149th BIRTHDAY DINNER AT FBC Sunday, March 14th at 6:00 pm

Earl Anderson will be collecting the money for this event. The cost of the dinner itself is \$3.00. Meat and potatoes will be provided. If you would like to, you can contribute \$3 for the cost of the cake and rolls, or you may prefer to bring a salad or vegetable dish to pass. In either case sign up for a great meal and help FBC celebrate its birthday.

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Dear Friends,

Your search committee is progressing well.

We have received our first profiles and will begin studying their content.

Your continued prayer support is appreciated.

The Search Committee

AMERICA FOR CHRIST

America for Christ gifts support Christ-centered ministries that are transforming lives across the United States and Puerto Rico – from addressing Children in Poverty initiatives and resettling refugees violently driven from their homelands to providing evangelism training, developing discipleship resources and leading ministry workshops and conferences.

America For Christ will be our communion offering for the month of March.

TRINITEAM CAREGIVERS' JOY DAY

Sacred Heart Hospital – Rotunda

Thursday, March 4, 2010

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

UPCOMING MUSICAL EVENTS

Sunday, March 7 at 2pm and 7 pm

Trinity Lutheran Church

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

Sunday, March 7 at 3:00 pm

First Congregational Church

Eighth Annual Marianna Scott Organ Scholarship Recital.

FROM SURVIVING TO THRIVING

Living with a Chronic Disability

Six consecutive Tuesdays

April 6 – May 11, 2:00 - 3:30 pm

The Healing Place

For Further information or to register, please call The Healing Place at (715) 717-6028.

Pre-register by Friday, April 2nd.

STUDENTS GRATEFUL FOR FREE BOOKS

"I get to KEEP this book?" Many Longfellow and Lakeshore school students asked this in amazement as they received their free book from the **Good Neighbor Project**.

Because of generous donors like you, the Good Neighbor Project was able to provide one free book to every Lakeshore and Longfellow student this year (about 660 students). Lakeshore distributed its books at Thanksgiving, and Longfellow near Valentine's Day.

Numerous thank you notes have arrived from students, some of which are posted in the Fellowship Hall. Consider these notes and students' verbal appreciation to be a personal thank you to YOU for supporting the Good Neighbor Project!

So far this year the Good Neighbor Project has also:

- Paid school fees for 183 students
- Paid field trip fees for students who couldn't pay them
- Covered shortfalls in student's school lunch accounts
- Bought snacks for many classrooms
- Provided clothing and school supplies for students
- Provided gas money for a child to get to school

The Good Neighbor Project also has a new partnership with the Eau Claire County Department of Human Services. If a Longfellow or Lakeshore family receiving services from the department has a need that affects their child's ability to participate in school, Good Neighbor Project funds can be used to meet the need.

Good Neighbor Project partners are First Congregational Church, First Baptist Church, Lake Street United Methodist Church, and First Lutheran Church.

**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
Trinity Lutheran Church, 1314 Lexington,**

Feed My People Food Bank will host their 10th 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.

**2010 MEN'S SPRING RETREAT
American Baptist Men of Wisconsin
Men of God, Men of Character
8 pm Friday to 3 pm Saturday, April 9-10
At Camp Tamarack, Waupaca WI 54981
Retreat Leader: Rev. John Nehs, Pastor of
Bridge Point Church, Green Bay, WI.
For registration or information, please call or
email Karl Byleen, **by March 21**, at:
414-427-5738 or kbyleen@wi.rr.com**

**FIRST FRIDAY, MARCH 5
Christ Church Cathedral, 510 Farwell St.
Arlyn Anderson, Asst. Professor of
Communication and Journalism, will explore
the origins of the alphabet and the Greek and
Phoenician influence. Free breakfast at 8:30.
Program begins at 9:00.**
