



The GOOD NEWS Letter

First Baptist Church, Eau Claire, WI 54703

October, 2009



Looking Forward...

Pastor Mark L. Vincent

Greetings to all who consider First Baptist Church their spiritual home, and to all who are giving it consideration—

In a few weeks we will meet each other and begin a nine month companionship I hope will be both memorable and fruitful.

If I were already part of your congregation I imagine I would be a bit jaded after such a long interim period with so many interim leaders, and with several recent efforts to initiate a process to move First Baptist Church from where it is to where it feels called by God to go. After such a long process it would take a little something extra to help me get excited about yet another interim experience or do anything new, simply because yet another interim pastor called for it. Preparing for this role, I wondered what would move me to become engaged all over again were I in your shoes.

Here is the list I developed:

A clear, engaging and consistent biblical message to be preached each week.

An experience of worship strong enough that I cannot help but tell my friends and neighbors what is taking place at my church.

New confessions of faith, new baptisms and new faces in church.

A renewed vitality to follow Jesus among the long-time members of the church .

Accomplishing a number of the steps detailed through previous efforts to formulate vision and action for the congregation.

A strong relationship with our Region—strong enough that the deep experience of our Regional Minister is drawn upon and trusted as we develop a new call process and ultimately extend a call to our new pastor.

Excitement that these efforts set the stage for the next pastorate, and that this new pastorate would be an extension of what takes place in these next nine months.

It will be my ardent endeavor to make this list a reality. I ask you, even now, to make this the common focus of all our prayer and effort these next nine months.

-mark l vincent

WELCOME, MARK VINCENT!

The Reverend Doctor Mark Vincent will begin as interim minister at First Baptist Church on Sunday, October 11, 2009. He is the founder of a ministry consultant organization known as Design Group International. His ministry has been with American Baptist Churches USA, the Mennonite Church USA, and Assemblies of God. He comes with a strong recommendation from our Wisconsin Executive Minister Arlo Reichter as a result of working successfully with several churches in various capacities in our state.

With the in-put of the members of the Diaconate and the Church Council at an on-site visit, Dr. Vincent presented us with a nine-month strategic plan designed specifically for our church. The plan emphasizes stewardship and leadership development. There will be expectations of our congregation as we proceed together to achieve goals set forth in this plan.

Please pray for God's presence in the life of Mark Vincent and the people of our church that together we may continue to *Share God's Love in An Ever Changing World.*

OCTOBER 11 COFFEE HOUR TO WELCOME MARK VINCENT

Pastor Vincent would like to meet and greet you after his first worship service on October 11 during our fellowship time downstairs. Please make every effort to be present for worship and the welcoming time afterward!



FIRESIDE FRIENDS

Fireside Friends will meet on **Tuesday, October 6, at Noon** for a Potluck. Please plan to join us at FBC for a time of fellowship, good food and fun!

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

5 Katie G.	15 A. Webb
7 R. Hudson	17 K. Salter
8 D. LaVelle Jr.	18 C. Cleasby
10 M. Yeazel	27 M. Giles
11 T. Malnick	29 D. Pierce
12 P. Carlson	31 M. Yeazel
14 N. Schultz	

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



ABWM EVENTS

The **Busy Hands** will meet at FBC on **Tuesday, September 29, at 9:30 am.**

The **Morning Literature Circle** will meet on **Wednesday, October 21, at 9:30 am** at FBC with Gwen Barneson hosting.

The **Friendship Circle** will meet on **Tuesday, October 13, at 1:00 pm** at Marilyn Donnelly's, 4848 S. Lowes Creek Road/

GOOD NEIGHBOR PROJECT (GNP)

September was *Back to School* month with a fundraiser for Lakeshore and Longfellow student needs. GNP encouraged sponsoring a child or children with a \$5.00 donation per child. At this time you have given \$145.00 to sponsor 29 children. It is not too late to give! Your gift can be put in the offering plate or turned in at the church office with designation for GNP. Thanks for your concern for the school children in our neighborhood!
Virginia Hilbrich
GNP Representative

DIACONATE MEETING

The Diaconate will meet on Friday, October 9th at Noon.

PRAYER GROUP

Fridays @ 11:00 a.m. at the Church
"Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain." (Ps. 127:1)

Come and join others on a weekly basis to pray for the church, individuals, and the world. Prayer is certainly nothing new or unique to FBC. This is a church that believes in prayer and desires God's will in all that we do. The Bible indicates there is even more power in prayer as God's children come together in unity and seek knowledge of God's plans for the church. We at FBC desire to know God's will as we move forward in our ministries and in important decision making policies. Therefore, we gather for prayer. All are welcome.

HOPE IN IMPOSSIBLE PLACES

Thursday, October 29th at 7:00 p.m.
Lake Street United Methodist Church
It's your special opportunity to hear an award-winning speaker on international issues. Angela Mason, Women and Children's Advocate for WorldVision, will present "Hope in Impossible Places." Through an engaging story-telling style, Angela takes her audience around the world, speaking as a voice for children who cannot speak for themselves. Angela's message is one of transformation, resilience, and hope. In her presentation, Angela will feature the work of Hagar International, which is a WorldVision partner in Cambodia, Afghanistan, and Vietnam. Hagar's US-based support office is based in Eau Claire. The event will serve as a fundraiser for Hagar's work, with donations accepted at the event. Admission is free, refreshments will be provided, and child care is available. Please RSVP to the Hagar USA office by October 22 to reserve a seat. Call 715-514-2294 or email usa@hagarinternational.org

Please note:

Representatives from our committee will be on WHWC, 88.3FM, "The West Side" with Mary Jo Wagner, 5:00pm on Thursday, October 8 for more information about Hagar and "Hope in Impossible Places."

IN THE NEWS

This month is a time of transition and so we offer blessings to **K. Giles** who started classes at Hamline University (St. Paul) for her first year of college – and we offer congratulations to **A. Redmond** who graduates from Globe University on September 24th and who has secured a job in the Eau Claire area.

A "Thank You" to **Jay** and **D. Pierce** for filling in as custodians while B. Fair was on vacation the end of August.

B. Phillips is on the Caring Bridge website (www.caringbridge.org) and you can catch up with him through his journal – and you can write a note to him and his family on the "Guestbook" page.

We celebrated the ministry of **N. Wolf**, who served both the youth and children in her 18 months with First Baptist. Due to school changes, she needs to work at the University and resigned from her ministry here on August 31st. God's blessings and our appreciation to Nicole.

Thank you for the **ABW** and to **Rev. JoAnne Juett** for American Baptist Women's Sunday on September 13th.

L. Craney and **M. Garsow** are both recuperating from hip surgery and continuing rehabilitation. Our prayers remain with them. Three members of our congregation, **Jean Schlieve**, **Nancy Schlieve**, and **Gabe Schlieve** are experiencing life in Egypt and learning about missions around the world. They will return around Thanksgiving.

News has been received that **B. Ganther** is back in the United States after serving for a period of time in Iraq.

The American Baptist Church of Wisconsin is meeting on October 9-10th in Milwaukee for Bible study, worship, workshops, and to engage in mission projects across the city. Please hold **N. O'Neill** and **S. Glenz** in your prayer, along with the denomination, as they seek to worship and witness together.

Our UWEC campus ministry, under the direction of **Nate Oldenkamp** and with the support of our church, along with five other churches, has changed its name to **Common Ground**.

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Another Story

Driving a school bus may be a daunting experience for some but to Carolyn Olkives it's a job she really enjoys. She has assumed a new job recently as an aid monitor for special students which has helped her understand that "everyone is special".

Her other "job" is as state chair of the Americanism section of the VFW, taking a special interest in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance - no comma after one nation (,) under God and the ability of service people to salute during the pledge when not in uniform.

Carolyn spent her childhood in Florida and during her adulthood she has traveled to all 50 states (not on the school bus). Carolyn's family includes her husband Allen, their two sons Mike and Lyle, and a daughter Sharon. Carolyn has 7 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. Mike and Lyle live in the Minneapolis area and Sharon lives in Eau Claire.

...and that, as they say, is the rest of the story.

EAU CLAIRE CROP HUNGER WALK 1, 3 OR 5 Miles

This year's CROP Walk will be held at Carson Park on **Sunday, October 11**, (south end of main parking lot). Registration at 1:30, Walk at 2:00. Mark your calendars to walk and/or contribute – CROP Walk raises money for Church World Service (75 percent) and our local Feed My People Food Bank (25 percent).

For more information, contact Paula Utphall at 832-8692 or Janet Carson at 834-3835.

WORLD WIDE COMMUNION SUNDAY

This event will take place on Sunday, October 4th at 10:00 am.

Thank You!

Friends at FBC,

Thank you for all the cards, love and encouragement for Bob and I. We truly love you all! You are an amazing group of people!
Love, Bob & Becky Phillips

To the Parishioners of First Baptist Church,

Thank you for the wonderful donation of school supplies for our Lakeshore teachers.

Many children come to school without the necessary supplies because they can't afford them. Often the teachers reach into their own pockets to give their students what is needed to complete their everyday work.

The staff was overjoyed to have so many quality items to choose from and it was snapped up in a heartbeat!

*We have nothing but praise for what you give to Lakeshore through the **Good Neighbor Project!***

Thank you for thinking of our students and school...because of your compassion and caring our students win hands down every time!

Sincerely, Deb Lewis, Partnership Coordinator, Lakeshore Elementary

Dear Members of First Baptist,

Thank you for the generous donation to The Community Table's Relocation Campaign. This generous contribution from a local congregation demonstrates the power of a small group of people to make a huge difference in the community.

For over fifteen years, The Community Table has been serving hot food and hospitality to those in need. We offer daily, balanced meals on a no-questions-asked basis. Your support enables us to continue to provide this much-needed resource.

Thank you for your support. Please visit our website (www.thecommunitytable.org) to view events, updates, and our on-line calendar. We are now in our beautiful new home at 320 Putnam Street. Please stop by and see it; you are always welcome at our Table.

Yours in Service,
Hollie Moe, Director TCT

Dear Friends of Judy Sutterlin,
We are happy to send you this letter from Judy. You can see from her letter that financial support for last year was exceptionally generous. We hope that you will continue your generous support of Judy's outstanding mission work in China in this next year. Judy has begun the 2009-2010 year at the seminary and has a very full load. She will be teaching general English, third level English, Biblical English for juniors and Theological English. Your support allows Judy to concentrate on her mission.

Sincerely,
The Sutterlin Missionary Partnership Team

Dear Friends and supporters one and all:
I give thanks and praise for God's awesome power at work in every aspect of our lives, and I thank and praise God for you, for your commitment to our service together around the world and specifically for your generous hearts that have poured out tangible expressions of love and support for me and for our ongoing ministry here in China.

My MPT and I have some fantastic news to share with you! God has taken, blessed and multiplied the gifts that you have shared; and together we have reached and even exceeded the target goal for support for my ministry here in China for the current fiscal year from October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009. Thank you one and all.!

What does this mean? It means IM now has funds to cover the "target" part of the financial support for my continuing service in teaching at the seminary here in Nanjing, in providing pastoral care for other Amity teachers and in serving as our liaison to the various Amity projects we support like the village clinics we relate to in Ningxia and Gansu Provinces and the AIDS orphans we sponsor in Henan Province.

What is your role now? Give thanks and praise to our God for this miracle at work in our midst. Give thanks and praise to God for the opportunity to be a part of our ministry here in

China and around the world. Continue to pray for all the ministries we do together.

This summer has been lively and full in our work here in China. On July 7, 93 students graduated from JinLing Union Theological seminary here in Nanjing. Most of the 51 bachelor's degree students were in one of my English classes over the past two years. In addition, there were 34 pastors who completed a master of ministry course and eight graduate students completing a master's in theology.

Continue to pray for and support all of the work that we do together. Thank you again for all your commitment and support and for all that you do.

Peace,
Judy Sutterlin
(The complete letter from Judy may be found on the bulletin board).

THE 3/50 PROJECT

Save your local economy. . . *three stores at a time.*

3 Think about which three independently owned business you'd miss most if they were gone. Stop in and say hello. Pick up a little something that will make someone smile. Your contribution is what keeps those businesses around.

50 If just half the employed U.S. population spent \$50 each month in independently owned business, their purchases would generate more than \$42.6 billion in revenue.¹ Imagine the positive impact if ¾ of the employed population did that.

68 For every \$100 spent in independently owned stores, \$68 returns to the community through taxes, payroll, and other expenditures. If you spend that in a national chain, only \$43 stays here. Spend it online and *nothing comes home.*

1 The number of people it takes to start the trend. . . *you.* Visit the 350project.net

¹ Employment statistics from U.S. Dept. of Labor/Bureau of Labor Statics, 2/6/09.